



INTERIM STATEMENT

AIC 21- 1002



Hevilift PNG Limited

P2-MHM

MIL 8

Loss of control - In-flight

Gobo, Jimi area, Jiwaka Province

Papua New Guinea

15 May 2021

About the AIC

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) is an independent statutory agency within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The AIC is governed by a Commission and is entirely separate from the judiciary, transport regulators, policy makers and service providers. The AIC's function is to improve safety and public confidence in the aviation mode of transport through excellence in: independent investigation of aviation accidents and other safety occurrences within the aviation system; safety data recording and analysis; and fostering safety awareness, knowledge and action.

The AIC is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation in PNG, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving PNG registered aircraft. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations.

The AIC performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As amended)*, and the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1951*, and in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk. AIC investigations determine and communicate the safety factors related to the transport safety matter being investigated.

It is not a function of the AIC to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include relevant factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. At all times the AIC endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why it happened, in a fair and unbiased manner.

Interim Statement

In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.6*, the Accident Investigation Commission has, hereby, released this interim Statement in relation to investigation AIC 21-1002.

AIC 21-1002 is in relation to an accident that occurred on 15 May 2021, involving a Mil 8 helicopter, registered P2-MHM, owned by Captston Aviation PTE Limited and operated by Hevilift PNG Aviation Limited, while departing Gobo, Jiwaka Province on a VFR charter flight to Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, impacted ground following loss of control after take-off.

At the point of release of this interim statement, the investigation continues, with relevant evidence gathered, analysis is nearing completion and the *Draft Final Report* is being finalised. The *Draft Final Report*, when completed, will be disseminated to all involved parties for comments and consultation in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. Comments will be due 60 days from the date of draft dissemination, with consideration given to significant and substantiated comments, the AIC will, thereafter, release the *Final Report* in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Paragraph 6.5*.



Captain Aria Bouraga, MBE

Acting Chief Commissioner

15 May 2022