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MEDIA RELEASE

CESSNA T188C AIRCRAFT, VH-NAB, RIGHT-HAND MAIN WHEEL BEARING COLLAPSE LEADING TO WHEEL ASSEMBLY DESTRUCTION DURING LANDING AT DARU AIRPORT, WESTERN PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

The PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) has commenced an investigation into a serious incident that occurred today involving an Australian aircraft Cessna T188C agricultural aircraft, registered VH-NAB, operated by Liddle's Aerial Spraying Pty Ltd, at Daru Airport, Western Province, Papua New Guinea.



The AIC was notified of the occurrence by Niusky Pacific Limited via a phone call at 09:11 on 19 December 2025.

From initial information gathered, the aircraft was on a ferry flight from Australia to Ramu, PNG, transiting through Daru Airport from Horn Island, when during landing at Daru Airport it sustained a right-hand main wheel bearing collapse which led to the right-hand main wheel assembly being destroyed. The event was reported to have occurred at about 08:36 local time.

There was one (1) person on board; the pilot and there were no reported injuries.

AIC's assessment of the information showed that the aircraft sustained damage to the bearing, wheel hub assembly and brake caliper assembly.

The AIC will be deploying a team of investigators to the accident site tomorrow to conduct onsite investigation activities.

The occurrence has been classified as a 'Serious Incident' and will be conducted in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*. The investigation will include but not be limited to the Aircraft and Pilot Performance, Airstrip Conditions, Weather, Maintenance and Serviceability of the aircraft, Organisational Aspects and Regulatory Oversight.

The AIC's investigations are conducted independent of any other agency or person for the sole purpose of determining the circumstances and contributing factors so that vital lessons are learned, and similar occurrences are avoided.

More information about this investigation can be found at www.aic.gov.pg

Authorised for release by:

Maryanne J. Wal
Chief Commissioner