

CYCLONE GEORGE — PILBARA WORKERS — DEATHS

**317. Hon JON FORD to the Minister for Commerce:**

I refer to the deaths of workers and others injured whilst sheltering from cyclone George in a workers' camp built for Fortescue Metals Group in the Pilbara.

- (1) Are there any outstanding investigations or planned prosecutions of companies, individuals or relevant authorities involved in the approval, construction or running of this camp?
- (2) If yes to (1), what and/or who are they?
- (3) Who, or which authority, does WorkSafe believe is responsible for these worker fatalities and injuries?
- (4) What has been or is currently being done to ensure workers are not subjected to similar circumstances in the future?

**Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:**

I thank the honourable member for notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) WorkSafe's role is to investigate matters to identify potential breaches and take action, which may include prosecution, consistent with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. It is the role of the courts to attribute responsibility, not WorkSafe.
- (4) WorkSafe made information available to the public and to other agencies during the course of the investigation; issued a safety and health alert and safety bulletin; met and sent reminders to local government authorities on WorkSafe's reporting requirements for building and construction projects; and undertook consultations with agencies responsible for emergency preparedness and response. WorkSafe understands that many companies subsequently reviewed their accommodation in the region, including checking and improving tie-downs on transportable accommodation, or dongas.