

**MS *FINNMARKEN* ACCOMMODATION VESSEL — COLLISION AT BARROW ISLAND**

*Statement*

**HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport)** [5.42 pm]: The matter that Hon Jon Ford referred to relates to MS *Finnmarken*, which was being used as an accommodation vessel for the Gorgon project at Barrow Island. I am advised that in the course of bad weather the vessel was holed by a barge. I am advised also that there were no injuries or environmental pollution. That is all good. Nonetheless, it is concerning whenever there is an incident of this type and it needs to be investigated, particularly to detect whether there are any systemic causes that may give rise to further incidents of this type if they are not dealt with. I do not know that at this stage. I have been in Parliament and attending parliamentary duties all day and indeed until late last night. However, I can advise the house that the vessel is in Dampier undergoing repairs, which are being oversighted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority—the classification society—and the Department of Transport. The incident is, as the member suggested, under investigation by the Department of Transport and the vessel will not return to duty until it is satisfactorily repaired. When this sort of thing happens, it is standard practice for the department to thoroughly investigate the incident. The member and other members can have confidence that that is the case and will remain the case.