



Speech by

## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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### SHEN NENG 1, MILLER REPORT

**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.45 am): The Bligh Labor government has learnt little from its mistakes with a report into the *Shen Neng 1* catastrophe revealing that disaster management was plagued by uncertainty and disorder. The independent review revealed that in the 13 months since the *Pacific Adventurer* oil spill in Moreton Bay, the long-term Labor government had failed to fix holes in the state's disaster response. This report shows the government sat on its hands for more than a year. Rather than learning from the biggest oil spill disaster to hit Queensland's coast, disaster management agencies were still unaware of their role and reporting arrangements required when the *Shen Neng 1* hit the Douglas Shoal. Maritime Safety Queensland is supposed to be the lead agency in the time of an oil spill, but the report indicates that joint arrangements had still not been finalised and formalised and local governments lacked sufficient guidance on their role in the disaster.

If we look at the *Pacific Adventurer* report, it states that the command and control arrangements used in the *Pacific Adventurer* incident were a hybrid model that evolved over time resulting in role ambiguity, and it goes on to talk about lack of certainty and clear control which was a hallmark of that incident. The report into the *Shen Neng 1* incident states that there was some confusion regarding the role and reporting arrangements for disaster management agencies. The role, command and control and reporting arrangements for disaster management agencies were initially uncertain and evolved as the incident progressed.

It is simply not good enough that there was 12 months between one incident and the next and that there were the same hallmarks of a disorganised government putting our coastline and environment at risk. Those in Maritime Safety Queensland should have known that there was a clear line of control and command in place through to the land based agencies in relation to coordination. That had not been done. Queenslanders deserve better, the environment deserves better and this report reveals yet another disgrace.