

VARANUS ISLAND GAS PLANT — ALLEGED INCIDENT

**1322. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the March 2022 oil spill near the Varanus Island gas-processing facility when about 25 000 litres of oil leaked into the ocean. It has been more than 18 months since that leak occurred and eight months since a whistleblower made allegations of a cover-up by Santos. When will the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety complete its investigation of this incident; and what, if any, enforcement action has been taken to date?

**Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

I am advised by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety that it responded at the time with compliance action to ensure that the operator had appropriate measures to mitigate the risk of any further spills. The investigation into the incident and other matters raised is ongoing.