



28 May 2009

Media Release: Immediate release

Shipping Australia concerned at recent maritime incidents

'Recently there has been a spate of incidents with a barge having gone aground in Tasmania, a ship which hit a wharf and put the wharf out of commission in South Australia and even last weekend a barge lost its tow in Northern New South Wales with a tug being ordered from Newcastle to assist' Mr Llew Russell, Chief Executive Officer of Shipping Australia said today.

'These vessels are all Australian owned and manned and one would have thought that given the level of training in Australia and our high standards, that we can avoid these kind of incidents which can seriously impact on the safety of others, raise the potential for pollution and as clearly has happened, damage port infrastructure.

'Shipping Australia will be discussing with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority what can be done to improve the performance of these types of vessels and it underlines the importance of AMSA becoming the national regulator for commercial vessels throughout Australia' he said.

Mr Russell pointed out that this is an issue that has long had the support of SAL members as we seek to encourage the adoption of national standards, wherever possible and it is commendable that the Council of Australian Governments is encouraging these kind of developments.'

For further information:

Llew Russell, CEO SAL, 0414 958 247