



Interim Factual Statement

Circular Quay

4 March 2005

Collision



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Maritime Safety Investigation

Collision of Sydney Ferries Manly Passenger Ferry 'Collaroy' at Number 3 West Circular Quay on 04 March 2005

Overview

At 0638 on 04 March 2005 the 70 metre long, double-ended, Manly service passenger ferry 'Collaroy', operated by Sydney Ferries Corporation, struck the arrestor buffering timber backboards as the vessel was being manoeuvred into its berth prior to beginning its daily services.

There were no injuries reported and only superficial damage sustained by the ferry, but the backboard structure was extensively damaged. The vessel was removed from service for examination and the ferry berths affected were taken out of service until the safety buffers have been repaired.

Investigation

OTSI investigators deployed to the incident site and their preliminary investigation has identified that the ferry's propulsion control system malfunctioned as the vessel made a slow approach on the final stages of berthing. The Ferrymaster in charge was unable to prevent the loss of control or to avoid striking the backboards, due to the vessel's proximity to the wharf.

OTSI has commenced a detailed investigation and seeks to establish the following:

- a) the factors, both primary and contributory, which caused the accident;
- b) whether the accident might have been anticipated and the effectiveness of any strategies that were in place to manage the related risk/s;
- c) the effectiveness of emergency actions in response to the accident; and
- d) any other matters arising from the investigation that would enhance the safety of maritime ferry operations.

Once completed, OTSI's investigation report will be tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Transport as required by Section 46D of the Passenger Transport Act 1990.