

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES AND AGENCIES  
**TOPIC:** ANNUAL REPORTS  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**QUESTION No.SI-82**

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate; what date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament?

**ANSWER**

The DITR Annual Report, including IP Australia and Geoscience Australia, was tabled on 25 October 2006. NOPSA's Annual Report was tabled on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Tourism Australia Annual Report was tabled on 7 December 2006.

**QUESTION No.SI-83**

**Senator Ludwig** asked about:

1. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:
  - a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.
  - b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:
    - i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.
    - ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
  - c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the department provide:
    - i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension.
    - ii. The reason given for granting the extension.
    - iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted.
    - iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.
  - d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:
    - i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision for alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.
- ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the agency's Annual Report."

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**ANSWER**

1.
  - a. The Tourism Australia Annual Report was tabled on 7 December 2006.
  - b. No, the agency's legislation does not provide alternative time frames.
  - c.
    - i. Yes, the report was to be presented to the Minister on or before 17 November 2006.
    - ii. Significant organisational changes which have occurred since the beginning of the financial year.
    - iii Documents were provided to the Senate and the HoR on 1 November 2006 for tabling.
    - iv A copy of the Minister's statement is attached.
  - d. N/A