

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 9**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question after the hearing on 31 October 2006:**

With regard to the electronic copies of the Department's Annual Report listed on the Department's website, could the Department:

(a) Confirm that none of the hyperlinks for the contents of the 2004-05 Annual Report available at <http://www.ag.gov.au/agd/WWW/agdHome.nsf/AllDocs/36AEB1951AEBA745CA257099001A178E?OpenDocument> were functioning on 3 November 2006? If so, could the department also indicate: (i) how long the hyperlinks have not been functioning for and why; (ii) whether this means that the 2004-05 Annual Report is currently not available through the department's website and why; and (iii) when the problem was resolved?

(b) Confirm that the financial statements in the 2005-06 Annual Report are embedded as an image rather than as both searchable and extractable text? If so, could the department indicate why this is the case? If not, could the department explain why none of the information contained in the financial statements can be found through an electronic search nor copied as a string into an alternative file?

(c) Confirm for each of the 2003-04, 1998-99, 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1995-96 Annual Reports, that the financial statements are embedded within them as searchable and extractable text? If so, could the department also provide an explanation for the reduced functionality in the 2005-06 Annual Report?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

(a) The 2004-05 Annual Report is currently available through the department's website. Due to a system error the hyperlinks for the contents of the 2004-05 Annual Report were not functioning on 3 November 2006. The hyperlinks were corrected at 3pm on 7 November 2006.

(b) The Department can confirm that the Financial Statements in the 2005-06 Annual Report are published to the website as PDF files and that these files are not searchable. For the 2005-06 Annual report the contractor was asked to scan the original official Audit Office Independent Audit Report Letter and Financial Statements to eliminate design re-formatting errors. This process removes the ability to search the content of the report.

(c) The Department can confirm that the financial statements in the 2003-04, 1998-99, 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1995-96 Annual Reports are searchable and extractable. For the 2005-06 Annual report the contractor was asked to scan the original official Audit Office Independent Audit Report Letter and Financial Statements to eliminate design re-formatting errors. This process removes the ability to search the content of the report. The originals are kept by the Audit Office to remove any risk of omissions or commission