

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Feb 2006

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: CP 01

Division/Agency: Corporate Policy

Topic: Briefs to DPP

Hansard page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05?
 - a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?
2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to;
 - a. Bring charges against the accused party
 - b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
 - c. Return the brief for no further action
3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.
4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details

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Answer:

	Q1	Q1(a)	
	Briefs Forwarded to DPP	Briefs Returned without Action	Briefs Returned Actioned
2001-02	15	3	12
2002-03	14	2	12
2003-04	16	5	11
2004-05	12	3	09

Q 2(a)	Average time to bring charges against the accused party	Minimum time to bring charges against the accused party	Maximum time to bring charges against the accused party
2001-02	17 weeks	6 weeks	39 weeks
2002-03	16 weeks	12 weeks	22 weeks
2003-04	06 weeks	01 week	12 weeks
2004-05	16 weeks	06 weeks	28 weeks
Q 2(b)	Average time to formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges	Minimum time to formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges	Maximum time to formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
2001-02	62 weeks	16 weeks	117 weeks
2002-03	46 weeks	23 weeks	84 weeks
2003-04	30 weeks	12 weeks	57 weeks
2004-05	27 weeks	20 weeks	35 weeks
Q 2(c)	Average time to return the brief for no further action	Minimum time to return the brief for no further action	Maximum time to return the brief for no further action
2001-02	07 weeks	07 weeks	07 weeks
2002-03	22 weeks	22 weeks	22 weeks
2003-04	20 weeks	20 weeks	33 weeks
2004-05	09 weeks	09 weeks	12 weeks

3. No.

4. No.

* Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) also forward briefs to the DPP in relation to illegal fishing in Australian waters etc, and have advised that the current case management system used by AFMA only records case files proceeded with by the DPP and to answer the questions on notice, AFMA would have to physically check over 1500 individual case files which would take a significant diversion of resources to answer.