

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question No. AE16/048

Senator Bilyk asked the following written question at the hearing on 9 February 2016:

1. In Senate Estimates on 24 November 2015, the Department of Agriculture advised that a brief of evidence with respect to its investigation into Serana Pty Ltd was submitted to the CDPP on 9 April 2015. Can you confirm that you received that brief of evidence?
2. The Department of Agriculture implies that the CDPP has not yet made a recommendation. Can you confirm that you have not yet made a recommendation? Can you confirm that you have not sought a further brief of evidence?
3. Can you advise when you are likely to be making a recommendation; given it has been 10 months since you received the brief of evidence?

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

- 1-3. The CDPP confirms that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources submitted a brief of evidence to the CDPP in relation to its investigation into Serana Pty Ltd on 9 April 2015. The brief of evidence is being assessed in accordance with the Prosecution Policy of the Commonwealth and the CDPP is not able to advise a timeframe for its completion. A further brief of evidence has not been sought.