

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 60**  
**Asked on 13 February 2014**

**MR HOPPER** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MR McVEIGH)–

**QUESTION:**

Why is there such a delay in the processing of brand applications?

**ANSWER:**

The LNP government has delivered on one of its key election commitments to provide Queenslanders with a dedicated, stand-alone Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – a department that is focussed on working with individual producers and larger farm businesses to provide the best services possible in a professional and timely manner.

As such the inference of the Member's question is rejected.

On average, 44 brand applications are received by the department each week.

Each application requires a detailed checking process to ensure that the brand or earmark applied for conforms to the requirements of the *Brands Act 1915*. This includes checks that a brand or earmark is not similar to or easily converted into any other brand or earmark likely to be used in the same locality.

The majority of applications also require follow-up with the applicant to obtain information omitted or to clarify details provided.

The above process takes time and this is reflected in the information on the departmental website which nominates 45 working days for the processing of brand applications. Apart from a transitional period in late December 2013, where a new Registrar of Brands was appointed, applications are usually processed within this timeframe.

If the Member has any factual information, rather than hearsay, of any overly-lengthy delay in the processing of an application then it would be appreciated if he provided those details to the Minister's office for full checking.