

Prosecution Bulletin no. 6/2015

Summary

- A Brisbane company was fined \$9,500 for wildlife-related offences and ordered to pay legal costs of \$500.
- The sentence was delivered by Magistrate Cornack in the Sandgate Magistrates Court on 17 June 2015.
- The company was charged with a total of thirty offences under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2006* and *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*.

Facts

The defendant was the holder of a commercial wildlife licence that permitted it to keep and sell live birds, reptiles, spiders and scorpions.

The charges concerned a period from late 2012 to July 2013 during which time, the company failed to comply with various obligations primarily record keeping requirements under the Act and Regulations. In summary the company traded whilst unlicensed, failed to record information in its fauna record book by the required time, failed to give a return of operations for its licence, failed to give certain documents to the administering authority by the required time and failed to report the theft of wildlife.

Outcome

On 17 June 2015, the company entered pleas of guilty to all charges and was sentenced by Magistrate Cornack at the Sandgate Magistrates Court.

The defendant was fined \$9,500 and ordered to pay \$500 legal costs. No conviction was recorded.

In sentencing, Her Honour noted that:

- the company was struggling to keep going;

- given the defendant's experience, the defendant should have all the skills needed to keep proper records;
- people have to work within the record keeping system; and
- the offences are designed to protect wildlife.

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