

## **Lisa Yeates' Submission to the Standing Committee on Tasmanian Hemp Industry.**

Dear Committee

I apologise for being so late with this submission and will keep it as brief as possible. I understand other people have already made submissions which detail projected volumes and costs and benefits so will just stick to dot points focusing on Hemp for Fibre and Building.

- It is well recognised that Tasmania desperately needs to establish new income earning industries to employ its citizens. Industrial Hemp could certainly play a very significant role in this.
- There are potentially three different arms to this Industry and very importantly each requires very different varieties of the hemp plant:-
  - 1: Hemp for Seed to produce oil and meal.
  - 2: Hemp for Fibre to produce paper, fibre and building material
  - 3: Medicinal Marijuana. Just like the poppy industry, being an island, Tasmania is ideal for this industry, but would have more obstacles in getting it established.
- Currently a lot of focus has been on growing Industrial Hemp for seed. Mostly, I understand, because it can be easily shipped for processing in Maleny, Southern Queensland. This is a fantastic product and should be developed, but I would like to focus on Hemp for Fibre.
- I believe there is a wonderful opportunity for Tasmania to develop this as well. I see it can have two streams from the one crop.
  - 1: The separated outer fibre being used to for paper making and to create a spinning and weaving industry.
  - 2: The inner Hurd being used to create Hemp Crete as a very effective building material.
- To begin with the focus should be just on growing and processing enough for the state to use locally until larger markets can be identified that will justify the shipping costs to other states. We could never compete with the Chinese or Eastern European producers on the global market.
- I have been advised that for only \$500,000 we could buy a machine that will separate the fibre from the hurd. This machine would be appropriate in the development stage of the industry and a fully commercial version is available for around \$3 million.
- This machine could be installed somewhere central to where Fibre Hemp is being grown. Already there are quite a few farmers in the North who have expressed great interest in this industry. The separated products would then be distributed to factories for further processing such as hemp yarn/fibre, paper-making and Hempcrete production.
- Ideally these could happen in factories that have been closed due to the downturn in the timber/woodchip industry and the woollen mills and use the skills of people who have been retrenched but would be familiar with the necessary machinery; all be it that there are some differences and so retraining would be required.
- I have identified an immediate market for hemp hurd for building. Already there have been suggestions of building a model retirement village in the Meander area, which would demonstrate the best in, energy efficient, solar passive design and sustainable building methods. A major feature of this project would be the use of Hempcrete as well as solar HW & Power.

For more information on this may I direct you to Klara Marosszeky's website [www.hempmasonry.com](http://www.hempmasonry.com).  
Also for an outline on the status of Industrial Hemp in NSW: <http://www.northernrivershemp.org/>

I have also attached a very useful chart outlining the different hemp product options.

Thanking you for your time.

If you wish for more information please contact me  
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