

Submission from Industrial Hemp Association of Tasmania (IHAT)

Legislative Council Inquiry into Legalised Medicinal Cannabis

Under the guidelines of the terms of reference, the Industrial Hemp Association of Tasmania submit the following under point 5:

5. The Potential Impact on Agricultural or other sectors within Tasmania.

a) Proponents of IHAT believe there will be an adverse effect on industrial hemp products if a clear delineation is not made between medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp to the detriment of developing and marketing a viable industrial hemp industry.

b) There is already an industrial hemp industry in Tasmania (and Australia) which since 1998 has been developing an industry based on plant fibre and seed oil from the plant *Cannabis sativa* that is of low THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol content below .35%). Medicinal cannabis is a potential new industry with no relationship to industrial hemp and needs to be treated as such.

c) There is a risk that medicinal cannabis may be confused with low THC industrial hemp by the general community and some legislators to the detriment of industrial hemp industry development.

d) Since FSANZ recommended the use of industrial hemp seed oil and other products as a food for human consumption we express concerns that medicinal cannabis which can contain high levels of THC may be confused by the public in general with industrial hemp which has negligible medicinal value.

e) Products from industrial hemp crops can be defined as having nutraceutical value whereas medicinal cannabis is a pharmaceutical commodity. They should never be referred to as being allied in any way.

f) The industrial hemp industry is based on a broad acre and minimum regulation crop management system grown by primary producers with no adverse effects on the general community. The medicinal cannabis will be grown in a controlled and strictly regulated and constant surveillance management regime (e.g. greenhouse) and does have the potential to adversely impact on the community.

g) The industrial hemp industry is expected to benefit a broad range of primary producers in their farm cropping rotations whereas the medicinal cannabis production will benefit an extremely small number of producers and will not necessarily be part of a significant farm management plan. Medicinal cannabis will never contribute to the expansion of the industrial hemp industry.

6. Any other matters incidental thereto

a) Medicinal cannabis has the potential to detract from the health giving and marketing benefits of low THC industrial hemp products. The terminology must always denote a clear differentiation between the two Cannabis production options.

b) There is concern that under the recommendations of the House of Assembly Standing Committee Inquiry into the Tasmanian Industrial Hemp Industry, a simpler regulatory regime be introduced for the industrial hemp industry and this may be impacted upon by the regulations and licensing required for the proposed new medicinal cannabis industry.

c) The current industrial hemp industry is very concerned about the potential for the media to distort facts regarding each industry and more to the detriment of the marketing of industrial hemp commodities for the developing industry.

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