

Migloo

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Written submission for the Standing Committee on
Environment, Resources and Development
Tasmanian Hemp Industry Inquiry

This submission focuses are, hemp mulch, organic food, looking at the possible impact of the issues *i.e.* "a viable industrial hemp industry" included in the terms of reference.

The opportunity to make a submission has been made possible because of the united/agreed push for the need to reform the Tasmania Hemp Industry which in turn would create a safe space to expand said industry into the future.

'Awakening to the importance of *Growing Forward & Growing Your Profits!'

*16 Mar 2012 – In Canada, agriculture policy is coordinated through a 5-year Fed/Provincial/Territorial initiative called *Growing Forward*.

For most Australians HEMP continues to be perceived as a complex, confused & far from being a good thing topic/issue, this **inquiry** in Tasmania, is part of the journey that seeks to encourage debate on the need for regulation reform. The inquiry in itself delivers no guarantees that proposed policy/regulation changes or recommendations will be achieved and that - in particular - when deciding what works for farmers when this issue for example "associated value adding opportunities" that are obtain by effort.

"Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion our **farmers** are the contemporary heros of Tasmania's economy. Recently they faced major change in climatic conditions; a world crash in wool prices; Asian markets being skewed by America's economic programs, and still **they're in there**, working long hard hours, walking finacial tightropes and changing their businesses smoothly to international best practice - and in most cases, with their lifestyle extremely modest." *R. Hidding MP Inaugural speech 23 April 1996*

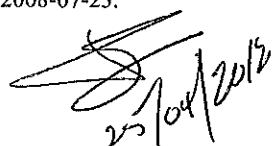
Farmers and their non-farming neighbours share more than fence lines. Both parties have a vested interest in local soil and water quality. Both want their community to thrive economically . Both prefer a safe/secure rural way of life. And like people everywhere, they value harmonious relations with their neighbours.

As a fast-growing annual, hemp is a renewable, reusable and recyclable resource. Changing environmental in the world's business community are helping to turn these green attributes into a valued quality.

Hemp is one of the earliest domesticated plants known.*

Hemp is legally grown in many countries across the world including Canada, Spain, China, Japan, Korea, England, France, Africa, North Africa, Egypt and Ireland. Hemp is commonly associated with **marijuana** (hemp's THC rich cousin). Since 2007, commercial success of hemp food products has grown considerably.

* "Information paper on industralia hemp (industralia cannabis). www2.dpi.qld.gov.au. Archived from the original on 2008-07-23.


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"On the north-west coast the food industry is an area that I think has great opportunity. Particularly when you look at some of the discussions that have been carried out about overseas markets. I think it is an area that again government has not really got itself involved in and I do not think that we have taken a full handle on the opportunities that exist. I believe the situation is ripe there for expansion. In the electorate of Braddon we have some of the best farming land around and we have got some factories there at the moment that are capitalising on that, but we need to work a bit harder in those area." *Brenton BEST MP*
Electorate: BRADDON Inaugural speech: 24 April 1996

Picking up from Mr. Brenton's observations on 'best farming/some factories for his part of the island, I feel & believe that these observations are transportable in other parts of Tasmania. Mr. Brenton continued to comment on.."but we need to work a bit harder in those areas ENTER....Hemp is one of the faster growing biomasses known,* producing up to 25 tonnes of dry matter per hectare per year.** A normal average yield in large scale modern agriculture is about 2.5–3.5 t/ac (air dry stem yields of dry, retted stalks per acre at 12% moisture). Approximately, one tonne of bast fiber and 2–3 tonnes of core material can be decorticated from 3–4 tonnes of good quality, dry retted straw.#

*Dewey & Merrill, Hemp Hurds As Papermaking Material, USDA Bulletin No.404, 1916, p. 3. **Struik, P.C.; Amaducci, S.; Bullard, M.J.; Stutterheim, N.C.; Venturi, G.; Cromack, H.T.H. (2000). # *Journal of Industrial Hemp* (London: Taylor & Francis, Informaworld) 9 (2) Retrieved 2011-04-20

In the Australian states of Victoria, Queensland and, most recently, New South Wales the state governments have issued licences to grow hemp for industrial use. The state of Victoria was an early adopter in 1998, and has reissued the regulation in 2008.^ Queensland has allowed industrial production under licence since 2002, where the issuance is controlled under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986.^^

Most recently, New South Wales now issues licences under a law, the Hemp Industry Regulations Act 2008 (No 58), that came into effect as of 6 November 2008.

^"Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2008" (web.site dms.dpc.vic.gov.au) ^^ "Drugs Misuse Act 1986". (web. site legislation.qld.gov.au)

The big question is will the committee have the political will (Tasmanian Parliament) to reform the regulatory situation here in Tasmania. Then there will need to be that same sort of thinking around what needs to happen at the Federal Level to assist Tasmania to expand the growing of hemp for industrial use.

"Australia is the ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE THIS HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS FOOD is still banned. Even the USA—where hemp cultivation is still against the law—allows consumers the numerous benefits of hemp."

Quote from Did you know that HEMP FOOD IS STILL ILLEGAL IN AUSTRALIA! Hemp Australia Pty Ltd. 15 Willow Avenue Kingston 7050 Tasmania hemp@hempaustralia.com.au



Opportunities for exploration

Garden Mulch

Made from hemp grown and processed in Tasmania, this eco-friendly mulch will provide a "carpet" for your soil. Just watch the earthworms find a new home beneath this easily spread mulch.

The formation of a group that aims to unite the representatives of companies with common goals export, acting independently, but together with a common purpose to improve their strengths and minimize their weaknesses in international trade. The suggestion is that Garden Mulch could be one of the first products for the new group to pilot in the area of international trade.

i.e. Tasmania is the place to buy your HGM(hempgardenmulch)

Organic Food Production

Hemp grain is a source of food oil and meal and has many applications for human and animal food products. Hemp oil contains a unique mixture of omega 6 and omega 3 fatty acids, as well as gamma linolenic acid (GLA), an acid involved in the synthesis of prostaglandins in the body. The oil is being used in cosmetic creams and food products.

The main drawbacks at the present time are hemp's relatively *low yield* of grain, *oil extraction technology* and stability of the oil.*

Is there an opportunity for Tasmania to position itself as a leader in the research & development in the areas of increased yield of grain?

Explore what manufacturing/job creation that could happen if Tasmania were to take on development of oil extraction technology?

*Growing Industrial Hemp in Ontario Fact sheet Agdex: 153/20 Order# :00-067

