

29<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Mr Charles Casimaty  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment,  
Resources and Development  
Parliament of Tasmania  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Mr Casimaty

**Re:- Tasmanian Hemp Industry Inquiry**

Thank you for the Committee's invitation to make a submission to the Inquiry.

Poppy Growers Tasmania supports the production and value adding of industrial hemp in Tasmania.

In addition to the identified markets for hemp fibre and hemp oil, hemp is also an excellent break crop providing a good barrier to pests and diseases.

In the United Kingdom it has been of particular use as a break crop in situations where resistant grass weeds are becoming a problem. Its deep roots are quite beneficial for soil structure.

The principal regulatory regime in our view would be to ensure growers are licensed and seed is sourced from accredited suppliers of low (0.35%) or less of Tetra Hydro Cannabinol (THC).

THC is the psychoactive drug in cannabis. Visually hemp plants are identical to illicitly grown cannabis and therefore industrial hemp is controlled in the U.K. and Canada and growers have to be licensed in both countries.

PGT believes a similar regulatory regime should prevail in Tasmania.

The Poppy Advisory and Control Board (PACB) which is administered by the Tasmanian Department of Justice would in our view be the most appropriate regulatory body.

Yours sincerely



**Keith Rice**

Chief Executive

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