

HEMP — SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

**822. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the government's commitment to phase out a wide variety of single-use plastics by 2026.

- (1) Is the minister aware of new research published in the United States that suggests that hemp can be used to not only produce biodegradable packaging materials, but that those materials can either be composted or used a second time as a feedstock for biofuel production?
- (2) What is the Cook government doing to encourage hemp replacements for plastic packaging materials; and, will the minister circulate this latest research to those advising him on these issues to ensure that Western Australia gets the best possible replacement technologies in a timely manner?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1) Innovation and new products entering the market, such as hemp-based packaging, are welcome and anticipated as part of global attention to reduce the impact that plastic has on the environment.
- (2) The Cook government is tackling the problems caused by single-use plastics with nation-leading regulations via Western Australia's Plan for Plastics. Programs to support the adoption of alternatives to plastic are being provided, including consideration of alternative packaging technology and a reduction in the need for packaging itself. Alternatives to plastic packaging are being considered by business and government in the implementation of the Plan for Plastics. The Plan for Plastics and supporting programs encourage a waste-hierarchy approach that promotes avoiding waste as a first step, with encouraging re-use and recovery as second and third-order actions.