



Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp

(a) the current barriers to pharmaceutical and nutraceutical use of cannabinoid products;

The WA Health Department has barriers in place that prevent patients obtaining Cannabis, if they have a history of substance abuse or a criminal record.

The current situation is that patients are not allowed to grow their own plants for medicinal use which may include - cooking, juicing, smoking or vaping, making "Rick Simpson" Cannabis oil (which has demonstrated positive effects on pain management, anxiety, weight loss, insomnia, PTSD, and nausea).

Because patients with any criminal record or substance abuse histories are not allowed a prescription of a medicine, which in all likelihood is their best path to wellness, it leads to either criminal interaction or the necessity for them to travel outside of Western Australia.

(b) medicinal cannabis, its prescription, availability and affordability

Many individual doctors won't prescribe, predominantly due to a lack of education, and preconceived biases. Additionally, the TGA often rejects applications.

Some medical practices have policies of not prescribing Cannabis which may in part be due to pressures exerted by pharmaceutical companies.

(c) the potential benefits and risks of permitting industrial hemp for human consumption

There are numerous studies concluding that for the vast majority of people, Hemp (Cannabis) is completely safe and significantly beneficial. It's worth remembering that prior to the effective anti-cannabis campaign waged by the USA last century, Cannabis was *the* most widely used 'remedy' in the world. This included treatment for a huge range of afflictions and was actively promoted by the medical profession. It was also an agricultural crop of significance. The stringent laws surrounding the use of Cannabis are the result of political, racial and financial prejudices that no longer have validity.



Food security is becoming more of a significant issue throughout the world. WA has vast tracts of lands unsuitable for most crops or livestock. Hemp can be grown in these areas quickly (and in all likelihood with a minimum of two crops a year). This can be done using considerably less water and pesticides than other traditional crops. The almost endless range of products that can be produced is impressive: fresh stock feed, animal bedding, fuel, cloth, paper, plastics and many more. Agricultural sustainability and decarbonisation are also of increasing importance. Hemp uses significantly less water and pesticides than traditional crops. These benefits demonstrate its value to both Australia, and in particular WA.

Cannabis' rapid growth makes it one of the fastest CO₂ - to - biomass conversion tools available, easily outcompeting trees, for example. It stores carbon in the vegetative material and also in the soil via a complex interaction between the root system and the earth. This significantly remediates poorer soils, adding to their biomass, ability to hold and store water and actually promoting "till-less" farming. This safeguards the soil therefore from further degradation. Bi-annual harvest cycles are considerably more financially attractive than 10-20 harvest cycles.



"No-till" farming is an agricultural technique for growing crops or pasture without disturbing the soil via mechanical means. This decreases the amount of soil erosion tillage causes, particularly in dry and or sandy soils.

Once a fully integrated industry has been established, the opportunities for all types of businesses become possible, with attractive financial benefits to WA.