



21 December 2021

Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC

Att: Tracey Sharpe

Committee Clerk

Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp

Legislative Council

Email: scch@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair

RE: Inquiry into cannabis and hemp

On behalf of the Western Australian Hemp Growers' Co-op (HempGro), representing 22 licenced hemp farmers, I would like to make a formal submission in regards to the Terms of Reference for the Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp. At our recent strategic planning meeting on 15 November 2021, the HempGro Board reviewed the Terms of Reference and agreed that it lacks the inclusion to address the impact on the agricultural sector. In WA, hemp farmers are highly regulated and the current legislation limits market opportunities by supporting the trade of seed and stalk only, all leaf and flower cannot be used for production when growing industrial hemp in WA.

HempGro imports stable seed varieties from France, who have been growing industrial hemp successfully for over 30 years using dryland farming practices. Since 2018, HempGro has imported 25T of French seed varieties which equates to 625 hectares seeded on WA farms. Currently, there are hemp farmers in WA growing successful summer break crops for regional hemp food industry companies. However, food is only one saleable commodity from the hemp plant. If legislation supported farmers to access the pharmaceuticals nutraceuticals markets, the whole plant could be harvested with the potential to be utilised for many different sustainable products, thus supporting a huge new growth in the agricultural sector.

We believe that point 2 (c) of the submission can be misinterpreted, as industrial hemp is already supported for human consumption, because in November 2018, the ANZ Therapeutics Goods Association approved the use of hemp seed for food. Our recommendation is for point 2(c) to specifically add leaf and flower thereby expanding upon the already supported seed for human consumption legislation.

Furthermore, we would like to see the cannabinoid (CBD) industry regulated with sound governance, ensuring consumers are informed of the true nature of the product, its origins and a quantity listing of any



substance in the product, along with carrier ingredients. Currently, CBD products are available on the black market with no guarantee as to what is being consumed.

What WA grown industrial hemp can do for the pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, cannabinoid market is provide the manufacturers of CBD products direct access to certified industrial hemp, low in THC, high in CBD, grown by WA farmers. This will mean locally grown, chemically free industrial hemp which has a provenance and will reduce the risk of relying on unregulated imported products. It will also mean that WA farmers are being given the kudos they deserve as good, sound growers who are adjusting to climate change and adopting sustainable practices and crops.

It is important for the industry to develop standards for CBD products with consistency across the nation. This crop has the potential to grow regions and support agricultural expansion under regulation and in line with the established protocols for licenced hemp farmers.

The WA Hemp Growers' Co-op would see value in a representative from our organisation to appear at a hearing to further expand upon the impacts this can have on WA farmers and the industrial hemp industry.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Botica

Independent Board Member, WA Hemp Growers' Co-op