

4th August 2023

The Committee Manager,
Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

The AHC wishes to endorse our Victorian Council representative Regenerative Hemp Victoria submission to the Victorian parliament inquiry.

The AHC represents over 200 hemp industry stakeholders across Australia which includes growers, processors and researchers through the following organisations:

Tasmanian Hemp Association

iHemp NSW

Industrial Hemp Association of South Australia

Queensland Hemp Association

Norther Territory Farmers

iHemp Western Australia

Regenerative Hemp Victoria

The AHC acknowledges that the Victorian regulatory framework has actually restricted the Victorian hemp industry establishment and development. This has occurred to the degree that Victorian hemp businesses have sourced raw material from other states, much to the benefit of Tasmanian and New South Wales growers at the expense of the Victorian farmers.

In support of the submission by Regenerative Hemp Victoria, the AHC sees that the Victorian Government must actively support the hemp industry through at least three key policy areas:

1. Regulation: - Changes in state regulations and legislation to allow growers to exploit all commercial components of industrial hemp, including food fibre, fodder, extracts and carbon.
2. Research: - Major financial support for industry research. This includes production, processing areas and support in developing industry standards (leading to established national standards) for products throughout the hemp production system. The hemp industry already has a comprehensive R&D plan facilitated by Agrifutures.
3. Provide support to Regenerative Hemp Victoria as a communication conduit between industry, Government and community, thus facilitating sound establishment and development of a vibrant Victorian hemp industry.

We look forward to progressive policy outcomes which will be of benefit to Victorian agriculture, environment and the community in general.

The AHC will be available for further consultation in support of Regenerative Hemp Victoria.

Yours sincerely

Tim Schmidt
President




w: www.australianhempcouncil.org.au