

2nd September 2025

To: Committee Secretary Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Subject: Support for the Development of a Hemp Industry in Australia

I am writing to express my strong support for the growth and development of a sustainable hemp industry in Australia. Hemp has enormous potential to contribute to our economy, environment, and regional communities.

Hemp is a versatile, low-input crop that can thrive in Australian conditions while sequestering carbon, improving soil health, and providing farmers with a profitable alternative. Its applications span construction, textiles, food, health products, and emerging bio-based industries such as bioplastics and biofuels. Globally, demand for hemp products continues to grow, creating a unique opportunity for Australia to position itself as a leader in this sector.

However, current regulatory barriers, limited processing infrastructure, and low public awareness are holding back industry growth. By streamlining regulations, investing in research and development, and supporting regional processing facilities, Australia can unlock the full economic and environmental benefits of hemp.

I urge the government to prioritise policy reform and investment in this emerging sector. With the right support, hemp can drive innovation, create jobs, strengthen rural economies, and help Australia meet its sustainability targets.

Thank you for considering this submission.