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Categories: Blue Category

**FURTHER SUBMISSION TO FOOD STANDARDS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND RE
LIFTING THE BAN ON HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF HEMPSEED RE APPLICATION A1039**

8th January 2012

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I just wish to reiterate the reasons why low THC hemp should be allowed for human consumption in Australia which I set out in my earlier submission (see below) and to add that many States in the USA are now debating whether to allow the cultivation of industrial hemp and if Australia does not act soon to establish world markets they will beat us to it and we shall lose out on a fantastic opportunity for countless new clean green jobs and the lucrative source of income created by the myriad of value-added products this amazing plant could provide.

Industrial hemp has been grown successfully for centuries until the mid 20th century when its decline can be attributed to the 20th century campaign by industrial giants like DuPont who wished to promote their own synthetic fibres and by the misconception mainly in the USA that it was akin to marijuana.

However it is regaining popularity and now in many countries worldwide hempseed/oil is used safely as a food. Since 1992 a number of European countries including, France, the Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Spain and most recently Germany have passed legislation allowing for the commercial cultivation of low THC hemp. In fact, the EU has recently been promoting hemp cultivation by providing subsidies. India, China, Russia, Korea and Romania are major producers as in these countries the cultivation of hemp has never been prohibited. In 1998 Canada legalised hemp and since then production has sky rocketed creating \$millions in national benefits and 100,000's of jobs all in a decade. One third of the Canadian product is organic (Source <http://realneo.us/content/recommendation-legalize-commercial-hemp-production-soon>)

There is a worldwide need to lessen the use of agricultural chemicals and reduce water usage and hemp is ideally suited to these conditions. It is an amazing plant; grown in rotation with legumes not only can it can produce crops for fibre and seed but researchers have discovered it can also be used to clean up sewage effluent, solve salinity problems and could be processed using converted saw mills. It was also used to detoxify the ground following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Industrial or low THC hemp produces seeds which are extremely nutritious for human consumption containing as they do an ideal balance of omega fatty acids. They also contain perfectly combined proteins; Albumin, the major protein of plasma whose main function is to regulate colloidal osmotic pressure of blood and Edestin a highly digestible globular protein which the body uses to manufacture antibodies, hormones, haemoglobin and enzymes. Carbohydrates as well as necessary minerals and trace elements, important vitamins, chlorophylls and a few aromatic substances are also found in hemp seeds. **They do not contain any poisonous or hindering substances like those contained by soy- cotton- or rape- seed and so can be consumed raw.** Hemp seed cake does not need to be refined or pasteurised so must be cheaper and easier to produce. **Neither the seeds themselves nor the stalks contain the psychoactive ingredient THC (Delta –D-Tetrahydrocannabinol); these are mainly found on the glands of the leaves in the blossom-fruit area of the female marijuana plant; low THC hemp’s cousin.**

The oil once extracted can be used in many ways; cooking, paints, varnishes, detergents, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and lubrication. Left over seed casings can be ground into flour. So nothing need be wasted, hence industrial hemp’s excellent value-adding potential.

Hempseed/ oil therefore has the capacity to produce hundreds of new jobs and a considerable boost to Australia’s economy with its countless value added opportunities and considering that it had already been passed for human consumption way back in 2002, but was knocked back by short-sighted State and Federal Politicians, I ask that you lift the ban on human consumption of this extraordinarily useful food source without delay.

Once this is accomplished Australian States should then remove the red tape involved in growing industrial hemp, negating the need for licences at each stage of the process. Treating industrial hemp as a normal agricultural crop would give the necessary boost to the industry without which and with any further delays could stymie Australia’s potential in world markets.

Sincerely

Estelle Ross