

Seamons, Colleen

From: Lauren McWhirter [lmcwhirter@fmgl.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2011 11:39 AM
To: standards management
Subject: FSANZ Application A1039 Hemp Foods for Australia

To whom it may concern,

As a vegetarian traveller, I have come into contact and tasted the wide variety of hemp food products available in the USA and Canada. I feel that they should be available within Australia due to their high nutritional content. I also work in the mining industry where we are regularly alcohol and drug tested and obviously I wouldn't want to be ingesting any food group that would give me a positive on a drug test for fear of losing my job. It has been shown that false positive testing does not occur by ingesting hemp foods at usual levels of consumption. Although formal studies are lacking, around the world many elite athletes consume hemp health foods, often in generous quantities, to assist in the management of their gruelling physical schedules. As a group they are subject to close chemical monitoring. No incidence of false positive testing has arisen as far as can be ascertained.

My preferred regulatory option is that of minimal intervention, leading to a rapid normalisation of the hemp food industry. The stated aim of the food regulations is to protect the health and well-being of the Australian population. This is best done by expediting the introduction of hemp foods, whose ample nutritional profile will greatly benefit the population. The imposition of unnecessary, vexatious or expensive conditions are to be avoided. Most progressive social legislation faced the barriers of ignorant criticism and fear-mongering when they were first proposed. Consider the resistance placed in the way of what we now consider self-evident truths, such as female suffrage and equal rights for all racial groups, when they were first introduced. What we are seeking is not radical or ground breaking change, but simply to join the world community in adopting a safe and beneficial food.

Kind regards,

Lauren McWhirter
118 Dunedin Street
Mount Hawthorn
WA 6016

Lauren McWhirter

Geologist - Resource Modelling and Estimation
Technical Services (Perth)

Ph: (08) 6218 8481
email: lmcwhirter@fmgl.com.au
Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
Level 2, 87 Adelaide Terrace
East Perth, WA 6004

