

Seamons, Colleen

From: Brian Mitchell [btbjmitchell@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, 4 April 2011 11:06 AM
To: submissions
Subject: SUBMISSION Hemp Review

Categories: Blue Category

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I fully support the removal of the ban on hemp seed consumption in Australia. There is no good reason to continue the ban, and every reason to lift it. Hemp seed is a nutritious and safe product and for that reason alone the ban should be lifted.

On a wider note, hemp is a magnificent agricultural product that deserves to once again find its place in the world market, particularly as we learn to deal with Peak Oil and its implications for petroleum-based products. The uses for hemp are great and varied and lifting the ban makes sense both environmentally and economically.

Given the hemp we are talking about is of absolutely no value as a drug, it seems to me incomprehensible that we could even contemplate continuing the ban on its cultivation, processing, sale and consumption.

The western world's ban on the use of hemp over the past half-century or so has represented a victory for the petrochemical industry's profit interests over those of the community. By succeeding in lobbying the US Congress to ban hemp (a ban that spread to international fora via US influence in the UN) the petrochemical industry destroyed the development of a natural rival for its synthetic range of products. The sole reason given for banning hemp's cultivation and processing has been over its use as a drug. If the same logic had been applied to petrochemicals we would have no petrol, which can be sniffed, nor spray paints and similar products.

The time has come to end the war on hemp and to allow Australian farmers, processors and consumers the opportunity to benefit from all that this plant has to offer.

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Please note: I have no economic interests in the hemp industry. This is a personal submission based on personal opinion formed out of research I have undertaken over the years, and from interviews I have conducted—as a newspaper journalist—with hemp industry advocates.