

# Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment



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## **RE: Call for Submissions – Proposal P1042**

I refer to the call for submissions regarding a proposal to develop a food regulatory measure to permit the sale of food derived from the seeds of low delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol varieties of *Cannabis sativa* (low THC hemp), and the draft food regulatory measure.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment notes that the Tasmanian Government has expressed the view that the Australian and New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) should be amended to allow for the consumption of food derived from low-THC hemp seed.

To develop as a viable and profitable agricultural industry sector access to the higher value seed and seed-oil markets for human consumption is critical. Without access to these markets it is highly unlikely that the Tasmania industrial hemp seed industry, and indeed the Australian industry, will see significant commercial expansion.

It has been tested, proven and agreed that foods derived from the seed of low THC hemp are safe for human consumption at the recommended maximum levels of THC content. The Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) research projects into marketing and labelling issues, legal and Treaty implications and maximum levels of cannabidiol (CBD) in relation to low THC hemp have not identified issues that warrant the continued prohibition of low THC hemp as a food.

Whilst the findings of the research study into the effects – if any – on roadside drug testing procedures are still to be finalised, the FSANZ process is important to ensure that once testing is complete the food regulatory measure to permit the use of low-THC hemp in food can be formally considered at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is noted that industrial hemp as a food is allowed in many jurisdictions including; United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Italy, Austria, Netherland and New Zealand to name a few. The United Kingdom and Belgium both use the same road-side drug testing programs as some Australian States.

The Department thus supports Proposal P1042 and the draft food regulatory measure.

Yours sincerely

  
John Whittington  
**SECRETARY**