

14th October 2022 – Meeting Key Takeaways & Outcomes

Hon Mark Furner - Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
and Minister for Rural Communities
Shop 14, Ferny Grove Shopping Village
51 McGinn Road
Ferny Grove
QLD 4055

Attendees:

Hon. Mark Furner MP	Minister of Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
Dan McIntyre	Chief of Staff – Office of Hon. Mark Furner MP
Robert Gee	Director General – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Salvo Vitelli	Acting General Manager – Agriculture Policy
Lauchlan Grout	President – Queensland Hemp Association
Rob Eccles	Vice President – Queensland Hemp Association

During this meeting, we covered the following points with key takeaways;

1. Local industry legislation harmonization
 - a. Currently Queensland is the only remaining state whereby legislation is under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1986 which has no correlation to the industrial hemp industry or it's activities. This act is for governing Police & or Drug related regulations instead of agriculture.
 - b. We are asking for it to be regulated under the QDAF to align with all other states whose departments of agriculture conduct the regulating.

Key Takeaways & Outcomes

- a. We have identified a core issue with the current Industrial Hemp legislation and regulation for Queensland, we must adopt new foundations.
- b. Reviewal of comparable states Industrial Hemp legislation (e.g. New South Wales) with the aim of submitting a new/separated legislation dedicated to the Queensland Industrial Hemp industry.

2. Working alongside government to grow industry collectively
 - a. Industry development in regional areas for both crop production and processing. Much like cotton and sugarcane, where primary processing needs to be carried out in the same region as it is grown.
 - b. Understanding hemp agronomics and the benefits involved. Working with QDAF regional offices to understand how to better adapt industrial hemp BMP to their specific climates and taking advantage of QLD's latitudes for wider seasonal growing windows.
 - c. Creating a circular economy with Treasury assistance.
 - d. Identify research needs and participations in the Hemp CRC.

Key Takeaways & Outcomes

- a. Significant industry growth is already underway, wider education is demanded by Queensland farmers on the benefits of rotational cropping systems using Industrial Hemp.
 - b. How do we highlight the emerging end markets regarding hemp products ie. Hemp biochar, plastic and building composite materials all carbon neutral and a source of locking CO2 up in biomass.
3. Industrial Hemp added to the ESG approved list of plants for sequestering carbon.
 - a. Analytical data collected by renowned Universities to back up carbon sequestration capabilities.

Key Takeaways & Outcomes

- a. We have identified Industrial Hemp as a very efficient carbon sequestration and soil remediator (heavy metals).
- b. Reviewal of Industrial Hemp as an approved biological plant within the ESG list of approved plants for carbon sequestration. Once approved, accounting standards must be adopted by the Clean Energy Regulator to ensure correct regulation and certification of carbon credit units is ensured.

Kind regards,

Lauchlan Elliot Grout - **President of The Queensland Hemp Association**