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Media Release

### **Tasmania Moves Forward on Hemp**

The Australian Hemp Council (AHC), acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the Tasmanian Government in supporting the Tasmanian hemp industry.

It is well known that state governments are constrained in their efforts to bring about changes to hemp legislation because of restrictive legislation and regulations at the federal level. This is also the case in Tasmania.

The AHC is pleased to see that the Tasmanian government has committed to support the hemp industry to advocate nationally for complementary pathways, compliant with the Commonwealth Drug Regulatory Scheme, to potentially allow for greater use on non-medicinal products from industrial hemp such as extracts and resins.

It is AHC policy to enlist the support from all state governments in urging the federal government to bring about regulatory and legislative changes which will allow the states governments to provide further opportunities for Australian hemp farmers.

Two key changes that help the Tasmanian hemp industry includes:

1. Allowing hemp farmers to supply hemp mulch for horticultural businesses, providing extra revenue streams to crop returns.
2. In the case of a crop exceeding the 1% THC level, the bill calls for the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE Tasmania) to direct crop destruction or alternative actions. The proposed change prevents the wasteful destruction of fibre and other crops, which have only marginally exceeded the THC levels and still has no drug value.

We still have a long way to go in giving the hemp industry a fair go, Tasmania is setting a good example for other states such as Victoria and Queensland which still have no dedicated hemp legislation in place.

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