



# Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into the industrial hemp industry in Victoria

**Hearing Date:** 11 September 2023

**Question[s] taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Collective Fashion Justice, Emma Hakansson

**Received Date:** 25 September 2023

## 1. **Bev McARTHUR, page 4**

### **Question asked:**

Tell me where you have established that hemp could be grown where there is wool being produced currently.

### **Response:**

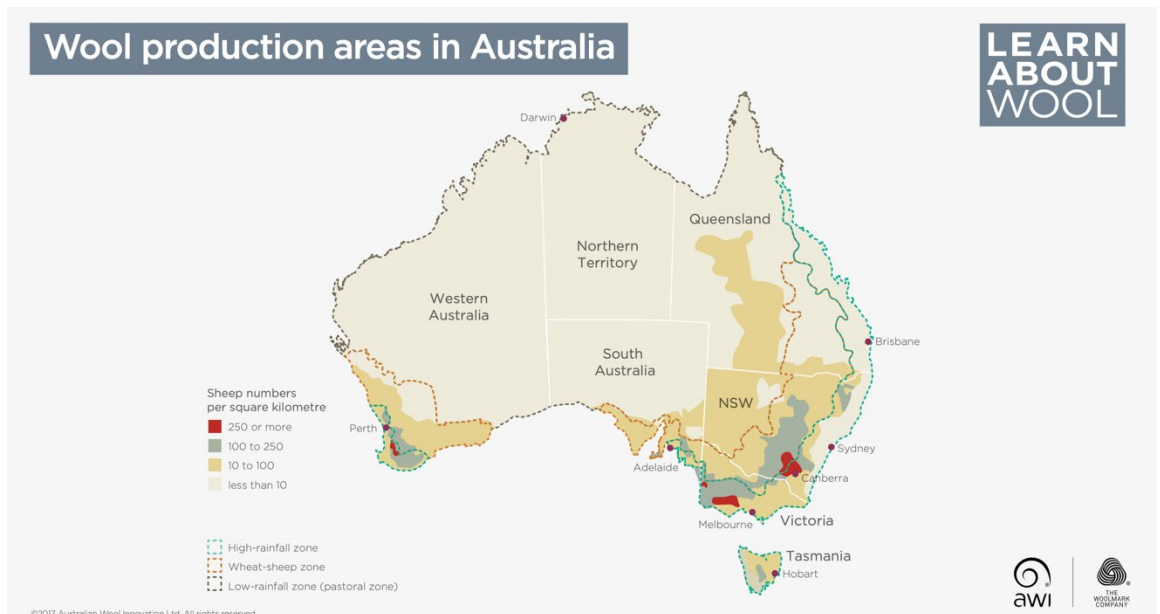
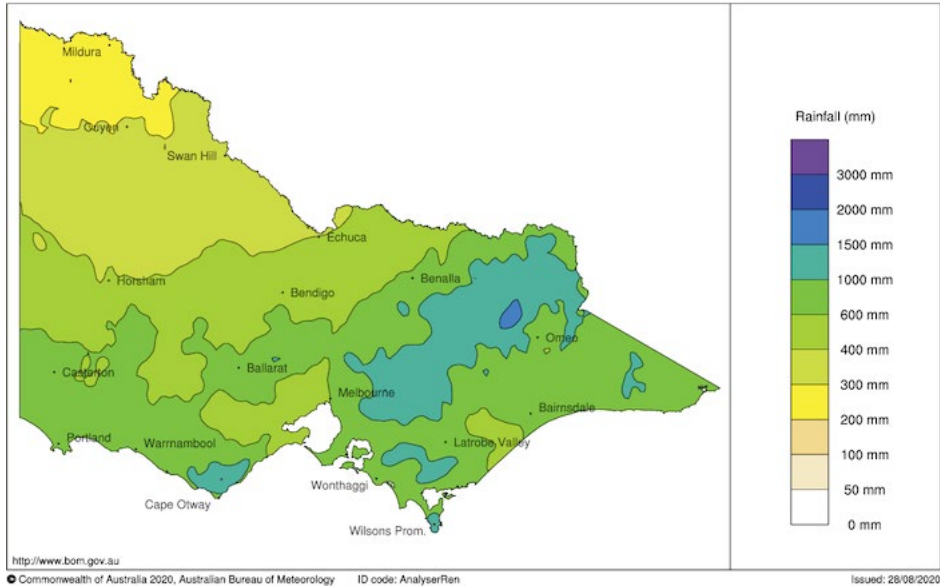
Gippsland is **considered** a fantastic area for hemp production to develop further (and where it already exists at a small scale). Gippsland is also home to a large number of wool producers, with the industry estimating 10 to 100 sheep per square kilometre across the entire region (see map below). This region is a part of the 'high rainfall' wool production area, which means that irrigation would be less likely to be required by producers transitioning to hemp to support the climate.

In the Central Victorian region where 100 to 250 sheep per square kilometre is recorded by the wool industry, some of the **older** (more than a decade old) hemp farms exist, for example, in Lauriston.

Additionally, according to [AgriFutures](#), without irrigation hemp "grows in temperate, subtropical and tropical climates. Adequate moisture during the first six to eight weeks of crop It generally prefers a mild climate (optimum temperatures for establishment is important to ensure maximum growth are 15–27 °C), a moderately humid atmosphere and rates and early canopy closure for the effective suppression rainfall of at least 600–700 mm per year."

Areas of Victoria with adequate rainfall (but not too much rainfall) are plentiful and overlap with current wool production zones (see maps). As **noted** by the Government, Victoria has a moderate climate favourable for plant growth. AgriFutures states that hemp can be sown from October through to April. There are numerous parts of Victoria where the correct temperatures noted above would be suitable for hemp production during this time. As you can see through map comparison, many of these areas intersect with areas where sheep production (for both wool and meat) currently occurs.

Average annual rainfall 30-year climatology (1981 to 2010)  
 Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Source: [https://www.learnaboutwool.com/globalassets/law/resources/posters/gd2139-a2-education-posters\\_3.pdf](https://www.learnaboutwool.com/globalassets/law/resources/posters/gd2139-a2-education-posters_3.pdf)

2. **Bev McARTHUR, page 51**

**Question asked:**

Well, I am all for removing the barriers to entry. I think governments create the problems in these areas, totally. Perhaps you would like to also take on notice all the regulations that you would like amended so that we can make the recommendations.

**Response:**

Our submission summarises the current regulation relating to hemp production in Victoria that we would like to see amended, particularly in relation to licensing accessibility.