

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Drag the statements below to reorder them. In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria to consider:**

Accessing and using cannabis, Mental health, Social impacts, Education, Young people and children, Public health, Public safety, Criminal activity

**What best describes your interest in our Inquiry? (select all that apply) :**

Individual

**Are there any additional themes we should consider?**

Agricultural industry impact, Environmental impact, Energy use impact, Harm reduction: encouraging use of dry herb vaporizers and edibles instead of smoking

### YOUR SUBMISSION

My submission is focused on part D of the terms of reference, dealing with the commercial cultivation point of view and expanding into existing industry, environmental and geographical concerns. It discusses how utilization of smart technology like greenhouses provides not only security but efficient production that will naturally price out growers using existing illegal cultivation methods.

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:**

This is just a short piece I've penned to outline my broad concerns, I believe an in depth study should be commissioned if large scale commercial cannabis industry is going to be achieved in this state.

**Select all that apply.**

**Do you think there should be restrictions on the use of cannabis? :**

Personal use of cannabis should be decriminalised.

(Decriminalised: there are no criminal or civil penalties instead a person is referred to a drug diversion program or other health/ treatment service), Personal use of cannabis should be legal. Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated. Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal. Other – please explain.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:** /home/parliament/public\_html/tmp/5ec4c02dd06ca-How a fledgling cannabis industry.docx

How a fledgling cannabis industry can be a 'good neighbour' in the current and future environmental crisis

There are several challenges facing a commercial cannabis industry apart from usage of the product. Cultivation needs to establish minimum standards particularly if any form of licensing is involved. Despite numerous places legalizing cultivation, there exists no industry best practice. Mainly this is due to technology evolving and legacy attitudes and practices from the illegal cultivation. We need to do better as Australia faces unique challenges regarding sustainability.

#### 1. Water usage

Cannabis crops use a vast amount of water and allowing licensed premises near where they can interfere with food and other crops, even housing is a mistake. Ideally, they should have their own water catchment or have access to a supply free from downstream complications, or a mix of both. Usage of recycled water should be investigated, but is likely not viable for a consumer product, only hemp.

#### 2. Land usage

It is far easier to regulate plants using pots, so this means a commercial operation can go virtually anywhere there is empty space, even if the natural soil conditions are poor or contaminated. This is by far the biggest consideration as using arable land for this purpose not ideal as we will need to feed our future population.

#### 3. Energy usage

For year-round production it is unavoidable that usage of lights is required. Cooling and air flow is also a major contributor to power usage. On top of that heating is also a factor because during the night cycle there is no heat being produced from the lights. Solar/wind incentives would be very beneficial.

#### 4. Waste products

Most of the waste produced by an operation is from used product packaging. Stems and roots can be composted or recycled in some other manner. There is minimal water run-off as it should utilize a design that recycles, reducing environmental impact. From a carbon pollution aspect, the only addition to the load would be from transport, as it is literally planting many tiny trees in a constant cycle, many of which will not be combusted.

#### 5. Security

From a sustainability aspect, various states of the USA are seeing benefits from using greenhouses over warehouses and open-air seasonal growing. They not only utilize natural sun but have engineered features to control the climate. They also provide an amount of security, providing a solid barrier and 'disguise'. These structures are 'go anywhere' and can be built to withstand wind and even snow however bushfires would remain a concern as they would anywhere.

Establishing these sustainable and economic practices would also help in preventing unlicensed growing. Due to the low overhead costs and efficient operation, the price of the product will come down to a point where it is not cost effective to do it any other way. This will also save many work hours in policing.