

Communique – NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce

18 July 2024

The A/Chair, Dr Alison Bowman welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce, on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider how Commonwealth legislation and regulatory frameworks interact with the production and use of hemp-based products in NSW.

The Taskforce noted:

- The complexity of the national legislative framework and its interaction with state-based regulation for the cultivation and supply of hemp.
- That this complexity can act as a barrier to the growth of the industry through its impact on the production, manufacture and sale of various hemp-based products into both domestic and international markets.
- There are opportunities to learn from the different ways regulation of industrial hemp occurs in other Australian jurisdictions.

To support this discussion, the Taskforce discussed the relevant regulatory frameworks and the barriers and potential impacts on a range of potential uses of the industrial hemp plant such as for food, fibre, fodder, extracts and carbon.

As part of the discussion the Taskforce investigated opportunities to improve outcomes for NSW hemp producers through appropriate biosecurity risk management arrangements.

The Taskforce continues to refine its proposed objectives for the NSW industry.

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be Thursday 29 August 2024.