

## Communique – NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce

16 May 2024

The Chair welcomed members to the fourth meeting of the NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce, on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the supply and value chain needs and opportunities for the industrial hemp industry in NSW.

The Taskforce commenced its consideration of supply and value chain needs with presentations from Mr Travis Ryan-Salter, Chief Technical Officer, Carrfields New Zealand and Mr Filip Janakievski, Senior Engineer at CSIRO, Agriculture and Food. The Taskforce noted the value that the presentations brought to their discussions and thank both Mr Ryan-Salter and Mr Janakievski for sharing their time and expertise.

The Taskforce then discussed supply and value chain needs, with industry specifically focused on the following themes:

- *Roadblocks and barriers* - including a discussion on what is limiting industry from realising its supply and production potential, including legislative barriers, investment, and market access. The Taskforce noted that addressing roadblocks is a current focus for the Australian Industrial Hemp Alliance and the Australian Hemp Council.
- *Preferred models for growing processing capacity* – including how this could potentially be done in a sustainable way through farm-based processing and strategically-located regional hubs that can support current industry needs but is readily adaptable to future growth and market opportunities.
- *Research and development to improve efficiency and quality* – including how increased adoption of cultivation practices to meet market specifications can improve whole plant use and create opportunities to sell to different markets, including for high value textiles.
- *Growing market access and demand* – including through opportunities for NSW to improve production for high quality fibres for integrated use with other natural fibres (to create ‘super-fibres’), and the regulatory obstacles to accessing international markets including realising the full potential value of the industrial hemp plant, noting that it has a wide range of uses.

The Taskforce has resolved to revisit this theme at its next meeting and continue to refine industry objectives based on its discussions to date.

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20 June 2024.