

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

187. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the licensing of industrial hemp by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the associated costs such as seed testing that have been identified as a barrier for licence holders to grow industrial hemp.

- (1) Is there an avenue for DPIRD to encourage industrial hemp growers to apply for an exemption for fees associated with growing hemp?
- (2) If not, would the minister consider such a scheme to remove barriers and increase the number of current licence holders to grow hemp?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) No. The Industrial Hemp Act 2004 requires that a licence application be accompanied by the prescribed fee. There is no provision in the act for the registrar to waive an individual fee.
- (2) The fees associated with growing hemp enable DPIRD to achieve a degree of cost recovery in line with the government's cost-recovery guidelines. The current fees seek to achieve a balance between cost recovery and supporting industry development.