

HEMP — COLLIECRETE

916. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Regional Development:

I refer to the latest round of the Collie Futures small grants program, under which \$100 000 has been awarded to Murdoch University to produce a low-carbon product called Collicrete, about which the South West Development Commission is in talks with a south west hemp business to combine hemp fibre with the geopolymer cement, quoted as likely to be a game-changing winner.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the South West Development Commission is working with hemp on this groundbreaking project?
- (2) Would the minister consider reinstating the industrial hemp grants scheme initiative that invested \$200 000 in projects that can deliver industry-wide benefits to the industrial hemp industry in Western Australia?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1) The South West Development Commission is not working directly with any proponent on the use of hemp in concrete.
- (2) This program was administered under the agriculture and food portfolio and there are no plans to recommence it under the regional development portfolio.