

HEMP — ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION

758. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Lands:

I refer the minister to the response I received to question 580 asked on Thursday, 18 May 2023 concerning the phyto-remedial properties of hemp and its potential to assist in the clean-up of asbestos contamination.

Given the open-mindedness of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to the science —

- (1) Will the minister consider inviting researchers to undertake small-scale trials on the edges of Wittenoom in the first instance to see whether growing hemp crops on that contaminated land can effectively degrade asbestos contamination over time?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1)–(2) The Wittenoom asbestos management area covers more than 46 000 hectares. It is unlikely to be technically feasible to remediate the total area from contamination, and this will be considered by the Wittenoom Steering Committee, which includes the Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation.