

CANNABIS — LEGALISATION

Statement

HON SOPHIA MOERMOND (South West) [6.41 pm]: Before I start my member's statement, I would like to refer to my question without notice asked today relating to FOGO and composting. Hemp can be used to make fully compostable products. Hemp plastics can be added to home compost bins and FOGO bins. It would be great to see that happen at some stage.

Anyway, this is members' weekly reminder that cannabis will be legalised, hopefully sooner than they think, because it is becoming clearer that it is what people want. Legalisation means regulation and that means harm reduction. It is harm reduction for not only minors, but also adults who use non-medically prescribed cannabis and our society in general. When we look at who is growing commercial quantities of cannabis for the illegal market, it is not the backyard grower with a couple of plants; it is organised crime. The proceeds from the illegal sale of cannabis go toward other criminal activities, including sex trafficking and the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. I realise that the money from criminal activity can be worth its weight in gold; however, the cost of policing needs to be taken into account when making sensible policies in relation to cannabis. Individuals affected by the current unfair laws around cannabis consumption may lose their driver's licence or their job or may be negatively affected by presence versus impairment testing even when on medical cannabis, and that societal cost needs to be taken into account as well when making sensible policies in relation to cannabis regulation.