

**CANNABIS — ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

*Statement*

**HON DR BRIAN WALKER (East Metropolitan)** [9.44 pm]: I will keep this short; it has been a long day. Today, I made a change in my usual approach to talking about cannabis. Up until now, I have spoken about the medical and indeed the social benefits, but I now have the honour to present to the world at large the economic benefits of legalising cannabis. I think this is something that everyone here deserves to see. If we look at the budget papers that are coming out, I have prepared something very similar, if you like, to the reasoning behind —

A member interjected.

**Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER:** I know; it is green, of course. It is beautiful; it is actually very well prepared. I will soon ask for leave to table this report for everyone's benefit. It points out that we now have around about \$1.25 billion in the four-year forward estimates, which is something we should not ignore, as one of the economic benefits for legalising cannabis. There are many more benefits, but I think every one of us deserves to have a close look at this, because the question is: am I completely wrong? The invitation to government is: will members of the government look at this for themselves and see whether our figures, conservative as they are, might not be supported—indeed, improved—if the Treasury were to look at this in some detail? That would go some way to fulfilling some of the needs we have yet to fill in our current budget, with moneys we could easily obtain by legalising a healthy, healing herb. I seek leave to table this report.

[Leave granted. See paper [2212](#).]

**Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER:** I also seek leave to distribute a copy of this to all members in the chamber.

**The PRESIDENT:** Member, you do not need to seek leave to do that. You may wish to advise members that copies are available in the members' lounge for them to collect.

**Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER:** Thank you, President, for your advice.