

HEMP — MILITARY UNIFORMS

**295. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Defence Industry:**

I refer the minister to recent tender processes in the United States whereby the military is actively considering hemp as a new component in its camouflage suits for snipers, citing its light weight, durability and domestic growth as factors under consideration.

- (1) Is the minister aware of any similar consideration here in Australia, either at a local or federal level, to utilise hemp as a clothing material for our troops?
- (2) Will he commit to flagging this possibility with his state and federal colleagues?
- (3) Can the minister confirm whether he has brought this or any other opportunity to the attention of any local hemp producers here in WA; and, if he did, how did their bids fare; and, if he did not, will he commit to monitoring these types of opportunities going forward?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Defence Industry. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Defence Industry.

- (1)–(3) The Western Australian government is not responsible for the procurement of clothing for the Australian Defence Force. It is suggested that the honourable member contact the Australian Minister for Defence, Hon Richard Marles, MP, and the Minister for Defence Industry, Hon Pat Conroy, MP, in relation to this question.