

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE FLAG — HEMP

726. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Treasurer:

With WA Day behind us and 4 July fast approaching, I refer the Treasurer to reports from North Dakota, where the state legislature recently passed a resolution encouraging the purchase of United States flags made of hemp, noting that historians assert that the first United States flags were made from hemp, with the end product being both stronger than cotton and fading less than other fabrics.

- (1) How many state flags does the government purchase annually, and at what cost?
- (2) Have any inquiries been made as to the practicality of purchasing more durable, hemp-based flags going forward?
- (3) Will the government back local hemp growers and manufacturers by encouraging WA residents to buy sturdy and cost-effective local hemp products whenever possible; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the minister representing.

- (1) It is not possible to provide this information in the limited time available. I encourage the member to place this part of the question on notice if he desires a considered response.
- (2) No.
- (3) The WA government will always support local manufacturing and local jobs, in all industries.