

INDUSTRIAL HEMP VARIETY TRIAL FIELD DAY

12. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

Congratulations to the brand new minister.

I refer to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's very successful Industrial Hemp Variety Trial field day, held on 2 February in Manjimup in conjunction with AgriFutures Australia.

- (1) Is there scope within the current project, which only measures seed production, to also measure fibre production within the trialled varieties?
- (2) Given the level of interest at the event from farmers wanting to grow hemp, will there be any future events that encourage growth of the hemp industry in Western Australia?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1) Measurements in the variety trials, 2021–2023, currently include total plant biomass, dry matter percentage and seed yield. Although not specifically measuring the fibre quality and type, biomass production is the first indication of an economically viable fibre yield for a fibre specific variety of hemp.
- (2) Yes. The next hemp trial extension activity is being planned for June, associated with DPIRD variety trials in Kununurra at the Frank Wise Institute for Tropical Research, and a pre-season agronomy workshop for hemp growers in the south west of WA. All research undertaken will be delivered in association with communication and engagement activities.