

HEMP — LIVESTOCK FEED

440. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer the minister to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development release issued in December entitled “Opening the gates to hemp fed livestock in Australia”, which gave details of a plan to test hemp as a new summer forage option for ruminants. Welcoming the move, I ask the following.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this project and any outcomes that may have emerged from the second phase of testing, which was scheduled to conclude in March this year?
- (2) Can she outline any plans for further research, presuming the second phase concluded successfully?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Opening the gates to hemp-fed livestock in Australia is a Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development–led project, with the aim to provide data on the nutritional value of hemp and THC residues in tissues from sheep fed industrial hemp to assist the development of regulations on its use as a forage crop. Phase 2 has been extended and is now due for completion in November 2023. It will provide information on the half-life, or breakdown, of THC in livestock.
- (2) The direction of future research will be dependent on the outcomes and results of phase 2 of the project.