

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

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

I refer to the announcement of a third round of funding by the Cook government of \$2.77 million for the carbon farming and land restoration program aimed at futureproofing Western Australia's vital agriculture industry through carbon farming. Considering that industrial hemp has been scientifically proven to absorb more CO₂ per hectare than any forest or commercial crop and is therefore the ideal carbon sink, I ask the following.

- (1) What role does the Cook government see hemp playing in its carbon sequestration strategy?
- (2) To what extent will projects involving hemp farming be considered and prioritised in this funding round?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

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

- (1)–(2) The carbon farming and land restoration program supports carbon farming projects that use at least one eligible carbon farming method under the Australian government's Australian Carbon Credit Unit scheme. Hemp is not an eligible sequestration activity under the ACCU scheme.