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Hemp Association of Tasmania (HATas) is very happy that at last the Health Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation has endorsed the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) recommendation to allow low-THC hemp to be legally designated as a food, matching the situation in other countries in the world.

In 6 months Australian consumers will have legal access to the highly nutritious superfood industrial hemp.  Hemp is high in omega 3, 6 and 9 oils, naturally low in sugar, high in protein and essential fatty acids, contains no cholesterol and is gluten free.

Known to be excellent in farm rotations and as an exceptional soil conditioner, requiring few chemicals, the decision to permit domestic consumption and farming of hemp for consumption, is also positive in terms of the potential for improved land management and increased opportunities for Tasmanian farmers, not to mention the significant flow on benefits in terms of employment and building regional resilience.

The President of the Industrial Hemp Association of Tasmania, Tim Schmidt, commends the work carried out by FSANZ, and is grateful for the fantastic support from within the State Government to help bring about this result.

“ This is a great win for all Tasmanians, brought about by support from all Political Parties and in particular the efforts of both Ministers Rockcliff and Ferguson in driving these changes through the Ministerial Food Forum”.

“There is now much work to be done in further development of the hemp industry in Tasmania. IHAT will be looking to assist by promoting research, development and investment, with the help of Government and Industry. There are many challenges ahead that will need to be dealt with as our fledgling industry matures.”

“Last season almost 300 ha of hemp had been grown in Tasmania, this year the area is set to double and present growers with new cropping opportunities.  These developments will also bring us closer to the possibility of establishing a fibre and hempcrete industry within the state.”

“Tasmania is the largest grower of industrial hemp seed in Australia, we have been growing hemp down here since the 1990’s, cooler climate seed crops provide a better oil profile and that can also lead Tasmania to having a premium 100% Australian product.  We can use our clean green reputation to market quality hemp seed to local and international markets.”

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http://foodregulation.gov.au/internet/fr/publishing.nsf/Content/forum-communique-2017-April