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Kia ora,

Welcome to your **NZHIA October/November Public** newsletter; here's a preview of the news, and events in this issue:

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ACT NOW: What Can You Do?
- Association News: Government Committee Update
- Industry News: Summer Media Campaign & the NZHIA 2024 iHemp Catalogue

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 20 November 2024
NZHIA Executive Meeting
- 25 - 26 June 2025
[Hemp-Connect](#)
An Australian Hemp Council Forum - Opportunities, Growth & Solutions for hemp in modern construction

We thank our new 2024 sponsors





ACT NOW FOR IHEMP: What can YOU do to support the industry?

Write a letter: This is our call to action

We want you to send a letter to your local MP.

We are NOT a drug crop. We are an economic and environmental good news story.

A new primary arable and horticultural industry for Aotearoa/New Zealand.

We need to grow up and stop having a juvenile approach to iHemp just because of the stigma around marijuana cannabis.

A very powerful tool that the wider [Hemp Army](#), and those involved with the iHemp industry can use to force change is the humble letter. We need you to make first contact on behalf of iHemp, by writing to your local MP, mayor, industry leaders or the media.

MP's who receive even just two letters from people in their electorate start noticing the issue and with more interest they are emboldened to look into the matter and take action on behalf of their electorate/people interested in the iHemp industry.

We are here to help and have some ideas to help you write letters - see the bottom of the [media campaign Part II post](#) and if you need more help we have a personalised letter writing service you can use, [here](#).



Working with the Government to remove iHemp from control under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1975) we should not be a "Prohibited Plant"

We have begun communicating with the Government about removing us from the Misuse of Drugs Act - MODA (1975).

After a round of meetings with 14 interested MP and Ministers in October, the next step is a presentation to the Primary Production Select Committee in November. This will lay the foundation for a followup presentation to the Health Select Committee in February 2025, with a view to having the coalition caucus review the regulations and exempt us from being a prohibited plant.

This would create a new horticultural industry to compliment the growing arable industry.

The industrial hemp regulations define industrial hemp (iHemp) as having less than 0.35% THC, and only iHemp can be made into hemp products.

This definition makes it possible to exempt low THC iHemp from MODA (THC as a controlled drug) and the Medicines Act (CBD as a prescription medicine). We are very low risk as we are not a drug crop and should not be controlled as a prohibited plant; we should be a permitted activity and allowed to develop markets and products from all parts of the plant.

We still have to comply with the food or building codes and other regulations appropriate for the end use, however, we should not be hobbled by the burden of regulation and the uncertainty around new product development.

An exemption would give us a level playing field to become a new sustainable ingredient or raw material for the food, fibre and wellness sectors. Government recognition and support would remove uncertainty and allow us to bring a new primary industry into the regional economy and farming rotation.

Full plant utilisation would improve the economics, eliminate waste and lead to iHemp being a basis of a bio-based circular economy.

Looking overseas we see an industry growing at double digit annual compound growth rates, which is a great trend for an emerging primary industry. This good news story should be embraced in New Zealand given our reputation as great farmers and suppliers of high quality food, fibre and health products.

The NZ iHemp industry
is being held back by
outdated regulations!



Lets remove this regulatory burden
restricting our farmers.

Help us make change for iHemp NOW



INDUSTRY NEWS

Summer Media Campaign - Lets get Regulations Changed to allow a new horticultural industry!

The 2006 iHemp regulations must be reviewed to ensure we have an enabled and thriving industry.

To grow, we need regulations that work for farmers, businesses, and investors.

[Part II of the media campaign](#) kicks off this month. Our industry is handcuffed by the regulations and their interpretation, and many products and entire markets are inaccessible due to the stigma around cannabis, which unfortunately affects even low THC industrial hemp (iHemp).

The iHemp industry is building goodwill with MP's, especially those involved with agriculture. The most common thing we hear from them and the public at large is, "its a no

brainer", meaning it is such a great opportunity we should be doing more.

We need to continue to raise awareness, so this summer we are encouraging supporters of the industry to get involved! By buying NZ made hemp products and writing letters to local MP's asking them if they will support the iHemp industry, we can help [here](#),

Our iHemp regulations need to be reviewed as they are not meeting their objective to "enable" an industry and are no longer fit for purpose. Back in 2006 when they came out we were assured this would happen within 10 years, but it didn't, and medicinal cannabis got all the attention. Well now it is the turn of iHemp! A fully enabled iHemp industry has a lot to offer the economy and the environment.

iHemp can help the government meet, their targets for exports, housing, water, carbon, health, regional development, infrastructure use, employment, business, you name it and we can help; a thriving iHemp industry will add value in all these areas and more.

Ministry of Health hold all the levers to enable this to happen; they know all about pharma and little about farming, they should stick to controlling medicinal cannabis and get out of the way and stop slowing down the iHemp industry!

We are in the wrong place and along with a review, the other promise made was to move us to another ministry - Ministry of Primary Industries MPI or even Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment MBIE would be better, given how many sectors we affect.



The NZHIA Aotearoa iHemp Catalogue is launching this Summer

The NZHIA 2024 iHemp Catalogue will be released over the summer. It will promote the suppliers of iHemp products and services, and celebrate those people and organisations who are doing exciting work in the emerging industry.

The catalogue will let the public know about iHemp products and where to get them.

It will be a chance to record all the companies involved in the Aotearoa/New Zealand iHemp industry. There will be many NZHIA member businesses involved and we encourage every one with a hemp product to get in touch so people know about them and where they can buy their products.

If you spot a iHemp product that needs to be in the PDF catalogue then please get in touch with admin@nzhia.com so we can invite these suppliers to be involved and promote their business and hemp products.

Help us to identify as many products available in Aotearoa/NZ as we can, to show the range of end uses and move us from talking about the potential for iHemp to displaying the actual industry and uses of this miracle plant.



iHemp industry news from Aotearoa and around the Globe.



AgriFutures Opening the gates to hemp-grazed livestock: Phase 2

Phase 2 of the "Opening the gates to hemp-grazed livestock in Australia" project examined the nutritional value and cannabinoid pathways in sheep fed hemp during its flowering stage, assessing its potential as summer green feed and studying the metabolism, storage, and excretion of cannabinoids in sheep.

[Read more via Agrifutures](#)

by Dr Bronwyn Blake, Assoc. Prof. Gaye Kiebis,
Dr Chris May, Sarah Stevens, Kenneth Dods
and Beth Paganoni
December 2023



RNZ

Plea for surplus hemp by-product to be used as animal feed

[See More +](#)

Rural News

Ancient fibre could rebuild the regions

[See More +](#)

NZ Herald

Rotorua's Outdoor Gravity using wool and hemp to make hot tubs more sustainable

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Promoting the Economic, Environmental, Health and Social Benefits of the NZ Hemp Industry

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