



**MEMBERS UPDATE: 23 May 2025**

## The 2025 Regulatory Review

Since February's announcement, we have been following up on our strategic proposal and working with the Ministry for Regulation (MfR) to answer their questions regarding the regulatory review. For a detailed update, please see [our blog post here](#).

Shortly, more details of the scope and recommendations of the review will be publicly available, and targeted industry stakeholder consultation will begin in June 2025.

Your efforts are working - we have gained a lot of traction with your help and MPs are paying attention!

Every letter is making a real impact. But we need to keep the pressure on.

If YOU haven't contacted your local MP yet, now is the time. Make your voice heard today. We've made the process easy by creating a letter template and supplying the [contact lists for MPs and Mayors here](#).



## What is the feedback from Government?

Although the MfR refers to a [comprehensive review](#) on their website, their [press release](#) says they are going to "reassess these nearly 20-year-old regulations."

Minister Seymour has agreed "in principle" to go with 'Approach 1' and look at the secondary legislation only. Therefore, MfR will be making recommendations on the licencing of iHemp based on the Misuse of Drugs Act (Industrial Hemp) Regulations (2006).

The latest view of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and MfR that iHemp is of little (if any) risk should help the supply side of the industry by making it easier to grow iHemp.

**We await the recommendations from MfR. If you would like to be included in the targeted consultation with industry, please email [admin@nzhia.com](mailto:admin@nzhia.com).**

## Next Steps

The NZHIA and coalition partners have [written to the Minister](#) asking him to reconsider and add iHemp to the review timetable, as this approach would include the objectives in the "[Hemp Strategic Proposal for Regulatory](#) Change." We are yet to receive a reply.

The 5 objectives in the "Strategic Proposal" prompted a lot of industry consultation to be done with a range of Government Ministries during the lead-up to the announcement of the MfR review.

Despite this recent work and the MfR officials' advice to take a broader look, it seems Minister Seymour (presumably in consultation with cabinet/other ministers) is likely to take a simple/minimal approach to focus on the licencing regime.

Of course, removing the need for a licence, changing to a permit/registration system, or making licencing easier (a lighter touch pathway to reflect the low risk of iHemp) will be useful for the supply of iHemp, but restricting markets and co-product uses may not improve the demand side.

The NZHIA is committed to getting iHemp out of MoDA. We have begun to arrange meetings with government agencies not included in the review, such as MPI - the Agricultural Compounds Veterinary Medicines (ACVM), regarding access to the companion animal market and trials with production animals, to make use of the available co-product from the food industry.

## Potential Timeframes

The potential time frame for the review will be something like:

- May - MfR - formulate their proposals for the review, with input from relevant government agencies including the Ministry of Health and Ministry for Primary Industries
- Late June – Targeted consultation with industry and other stakeholders
- July - 1st recommendations to relevant Ministers and then Cabinet, seeking permission to draft the legislation
- Parliamentary Drafting Office work on the amendments to the regulations and any consequential secondary legislation changes
- 2nd presentation to Cabinet to have the changes adopted
- Changes released and made into law, before the end of 2025

The NZHIA has been discussing the workability and interpretation of the iHemp regulations with MOH for years, so the review now gives us a timeline and opportunity for the Government to improve the legal framework, reduce compliance, and help legitimise the industry.



### Supporting Documents:

#### [Primary Production Committee Briefing](#)

April 2025 - an "interim report" from the Primary Production Select Committee: feedback from the PPSC following the presentation by the NZHIA in November 2024 and the briefing they requested from MOH, MPI (and brief comments from MfR). It is great that the PPSC are monitoring the review with great interest, showing the cross-party political goodwill for the iHemp sector.

#### [Official Information Request - NZHIA Response](#)

9 April 2025 - the cover letter explaining the advice given to the Minister For Regulation, and the Ministers preferred option.

#### [Briefing Paper - Appendix](#)

23 Jan 2025 - the briefing paper given to the Minister for Regulation (9 pages) detailing the 3 approaches to consider.

### Reference links:

- Ministry For Regulation – [Press Release](#)
- [NZHIA Investor Report](#) and [introduction interview](#) with Dr Marsh (2020)
- MPI Report mentioned in the Ministry of Regulation Publication, [see page 98](#)
- Briefing by MPI, MOH and MFR to the [Primary Production Select Committee](#)
- NZHIA Media Campaign – [Overview](#)
- NZHIA Media Campaign Part II – [Lets get regulations changed to allow a new horticultural industry](#)



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