

Seamons, Colleen

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Sent: Wednesday, 13 April 2011 2:52 PM
To: standards management
Subject: Submission: FSANZ Application A1039

Categories: Blue Category

Hi,
my name is Jack Verbeek.
I own & operate Kew Organics in Melbourne.

A source of intense frustration for my learned customers (and indeed, me) is that Hemp food products are banned in Australia.

Of course there are numerous environmental benefits in growing Hemp food but the health benefits are also numerous.

Hemp seeds are perhaps the purest, most nutritionally dense food on our planet. They are rich in vitamins and minerals, and are also the only edible seeds with gamma-linolenic acid (GLA), which is an essential fatty acid. In fact, its essential fatty acid ratio is absolutely perfect for our bodies. This is one of the many unique nutritional benefits of Hemp.

For some reason the issue of THC levels in Hemp food seems to be a reason for concern for authorities, in particular, our politicians.

I'm assuming that those at the FSANZ know that THC levels are negligible and not worth discussing.

In my shop the majority of my customers understand that they wouldn't "get high" if they consumed Hemp food products (or smoked them). Surely our politicians are clever enough to also understand that?

To argue, which has been done previously, that to legalise hemp foods would be to "send a wrong message" to our youth is ridiculous.

Most people already understand that hemp food products and marijuana are two different beasts.

For those that don't understand this they will quickly and easily learn when presented with facts (as opposed to treated as ignorant people who need protection from themselves).

The environmental and health benefits of Hemp are too important to allow this opportunity to slip by again.

many thanks
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