

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE Thursday 14th April 2022

Hemp Insights Field Day 2

Tuesday 29th March 2022

As part of Western Murray Land Improvement Group's (WMLIG) AgTrends series, a second opportunity was provided to visit our Industrial Hemp Trial Site on Tuesday the 29th of March for a field walk and presentations on growing hemp, and future processing opportunities. Further information and question and answer sessions with multiple industry experts were held at the Wakool Club, creating a full day of industrial hemp from sowing to end value added product applications.

Over one hundred participants from around Australia attended over WMLIG's two Hemp Insights Field Days (held 10th February 2022 and 29th March 2022). Industry experts provided attendees with a vast amount of knowledge from their wealth of experience. All stages of cropping industrial hemp were covered including soil structure, preparing the ground, sowing, weed and pest control, irrigation, fertiliser application through to harvesting and value-added products.

This emerging crop can grow in many climates in well drained soils such as sandy loam where other crops such as lucerne thrive. Ideal as a complimentary break crop, hemp has also shown the ability to improve soil health. Seven hectares were sown with 5 varieties for the industrial hemp trial, 30km north of Barham in Tullakool on the 10th of December 2021. Harvest commenced on the 4th of April for Hemp Seed with a standard harvester and Biomass being cut and baled with hay equipment up until the 8th of April. Mature plants ready for harvest varied in height from 1.5 metres to 4.0 metres tall dependent on variety.

The future for Industrial Hemp is positive with its green footprint. Carbon sequestration of 22 tonnes of CO₂ per 120-day crop make it an ideal option for conscious consumers seeking healthy and environmentally friendly materials. The main direction for a local hemp industry would be to provide product for the construction and building industry. From this, interest is gaining from local landholders with a Hemp Cluster Group being formed to further investigate viability. Presently, processing options for the crop are limited with the intent of the Hemp Cluster Group to explore the formation of a co-operative for the growing of hemp and the creation of local processing to produce value added products.

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**Western Murray
Land Improvement Group**

More information on WMLIG's Industrial Hemp Trial and registering interest for Industrial Hemp can be found on our website at www.westernmurraylig.org.

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