



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 1998

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 1998.

The objectives of the proposed Regulations are:

- (a) to set application and renewal application fees for an authority to cultivate and possess low-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) cannabis; and
- (b) to set fees and charges that inspectors may impose; and
- (c) to authorise inspectors to impose those fees and charges.

The reasons for the proposed Regulations are to recover costs for services related to the issuing of authorities for the cultivation and processing of low-THC cannabis for commercial or research purposes.

The RIS examined two alternatives to the proposed Regulations. One was to raise the same amount of revenue from inspection services by imposing a flat annual fee on each authority holder. The other alternative was to reduce the costs of services by reducing the number of inspections of crops or the intensity of scrutiny of applications. The RIS demonstrated that holders of authorities will benefit from the provision of services intended to minimise the risk of criminal activity which would jeopardise the holder's opportunity to develop a profitable hemp enterprise. It concluded that it is equitable and efficient that holders of authorities pay the full cost of the services received where those costs are built into the business cost structure and can be recouped.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Natural

Resources and Environment, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, 3002, telephone (03) 9637 8080, between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., or on the Internet at <http://www.nre.gov.au.ris/>.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and must be sent to Mr John Blackstock, Principal Analyst Plant Industries (Phone 9637 8487), Level 15, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, 3002 or email john.blackstock@nre.vic.gov.au by not later than 5.00 p.m. on 29 September 1998.

PATRICK McNAMARA
Minister for Agriculture and Resources

Gazette Services

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