

## Seamons, Colleen

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**From:** Made in Hemp <info@madeinhemp.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 April 2011 8:32 AM  
**To:** submissions  
**Cc:** info@madeinhemp.com.au  
**Subject:** Application A1039 - Low THC Hemp as a Food

To Whom this may concern,

In response to your request for public comment with regard to the abovementioned application. Our business is *Made In Hemp* which has been actively promoting and supplying hemp products since its inception in 2004. Our customers are by and large people wishing to make an improvement to the planet and themselves. They cover all demographics from professionals to trades people, clerics & hippies and everyone in between, all with a common goal to make a positive difference and create less burden on the generations yet to come.

Generally these people tend to be well read and search further afield than their own backyards looking for guidance to help them achieve such ambitions. Whilst Australia in recent times has been relatively slow in the understanding and endorsement of the industrial hemp movement, you don't have to look to far to neighbouring countries to see the wide range of benefits that are realised when Industrial Hemp is given proper consideration. Again, these benefits, are to people , agriculture, health, economies and governments etc etc. Even though this application is purely focused on hemp foods and that is the main topic we wish to address in this submission, it is hard to ignore the complete range of products and benefits that the Industrial Hemp plant is famous for.

For many years now there has been much discussion about hemp foods and the widely acknowledged research that has highlighted the nutritional value of consuming foods containing hemp seed & hemp seed oil. Even previous FSANZ research documented these aspects. This ongoing discussion has certainly raised awareness and encouraged even more people to investigate this information, where it is easily found that many other nations are already promoting the ingestion of these "super foods". Some nations such as Canada grow, produce and make available to their own population as well as exporting all over the world whilst others like USA purely import and make available to their own people.

These practices have made it possible for Australians that travel or wishing to import their own Hemp foods to enjoy the benefits and spread the word. We speak to these people nearly every day where we are asked when will this be freely available in Australia? and why can't we have Australian Made? The only response we can offer is that whilst FSANZ recognised the suitability of hemp foods in Australia the Ministerial Council blocked the change in legislation fearing it would send mixed messages about Marijuana use. So this discussion has become very commonplace and we find consumer comments are by and large the same. That is clearly most people that we communicate with are better educated than they are being given credit for. The common comparison is with poppy seeds/rolls etc which are widely recognised to be from opium poppies yet have no opiate effect from ingestion. Nor are people that eat poppy seeds thought to be "getting high" or creating a predisposition to try opium of any kind.

There is clearly a green mindset gaining momentum around the world and it appears clear to us that many people are embracing this to one extent or another. This includes looking for natural alternatives that have a documented efficacy as opposed to the synthesised products that have been all to freely made available. Conversations with the general public reveal a greater understanding and inclination towards natural healthy foods as opposed to the junk & fast foods that are also made available far to freely and conveniently. This greater understanding is at least

in part due to government initiatives that have introduced & encouraged greater education through the ever expanding marketing mediums as well as initiatives as seen with our own school children as part of their mainstream education. We would hope that these initiatives will continue to expand and educate people about the benefits of super foods such as hemp whilst also highlighting the dangers associated with bad foods, tobacco and recreational drugs etc.

It is of great concern to me personally as the father of four children as well as a business proprietor that we are allowing many recognised dangerous foods, preservatives, colouring and additives into our food that other educated countries have banned whilst simultaneously prohibiting recognised superfoods. The Aldi food chain have made headlines on several occasions, most recently over Easter to ban foods that have ingredients that are known to be prohibited in other more proactive countries. Whilst they should be commended for such action, I personally would like to see our own government more instrumental in this practice. Surely the time has come to reverse this situation through further government initiatives and make a change for the better. Remove the prohibition on Hemp Foods now!

Yours sincerely,

Darius Dunn

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