



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 558195/1, 2465243

1 APR 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 7 March 2014 regarding Petition No. 2209-14, presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly, petitioning for the legalisation of cannabis sativa, indica and ruderalis for recreational use in Queensland for persons over the age of 18.

I note that the Petition seeks the legalisation of cannabis use for recreational purposes based on the proposition that it causes less harm and side effects than other legal drugs. Clearly, strong and diverse views are held across the community about the use and legality of cannabis.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the community from the harm caused by dangerous drugs. This Government is of the view that existing legislation and the current policy position strikes an appropriate balance between competing community concerns being the need for deterrence against illegal drug use and community protection, and harm minimisation.

I note that the current drug laws make provision for the commercial production of industrial cannabis sativa fibre and seed (also known as industrial hemp) only. Within prescribed limits, the drug legislation allows for the growing, plant breeding and research of cannabis sativa for use as commercial fibre and seed products.

The Queensland Government does not have any plans to decriminalise the unlawful possession, production, supply or trafficking of any type of cannabis for any purpose.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice