

## Communique – NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce

**21 March 2024**

The Chair, Kate Lorimer-Ward, Deputy Director General Agriculture, welcomed members to the second meeting of the NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce, on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture.

The purpose of this meeting was to begin the process of identifying the short-, medium- and long-term commercial objectives of the NSW hemp industry, in both the domestic and international market.

The Taskforce discussed the strengths and attributes of NSW hemp production, with the Taskforce particularly noting the strength of the NSW regulatory framework, and access to agricultural production expertise.

The Taskforce sought to identify and prioritise the barriers, constraints, risks and opportunities for the different industry segments, and the NSW hemp industry as a whole. The areas of focus for this discussion were:

- Biosecurity
- Competition
- Consumer knowledge
- Crop Science R&D
- Financing
- Hemp-based product and industry R&D
- On-farm infrastructure
- Plant agronomy
- Regulation
- Supply chain

The Taskforce has begun the process of identifying and refining the NSW hemp industry objectives, and will be looking to test these through its forward work plan.

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23 April 2024.