

United Nations approves World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to reschedule cannabis

ECS Botanics Holdings Ltd (ASX:ECS or Company) is pleased to report on the landmark decision that the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on Wednesday accepted a World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation to remove cannabis and cannabis resin from Schedule IV (to Schedule I) of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The previous classification listed cannabis alongside highly addictive opioids like heroin.

This signals a major advancement in the perception of cannabis and enables nations around the globe to more easily establish medicinal cannabis frameworks, with many including Australia looking to these conventions for guidance.

Alex Keach, ECS Botanics Managing Director says:

"The long-standing scheduling assumed cannabis was a much higher threat and danger to the reality, these changes verify the lower risk nature of medicinal cannabis. We believe these changes will create a much larger global market, and increase research into cannabinoid medicines. It's another step to normalising cannabis and there may also be several flow on effects to the existing regulations around the scheduling of cannabis, operating and security requirements and more. All in all these changes are pro-cannabis and pro-business. On a global basis the Australian industry is set to benefit comparatively well, we have a best of breed medicinal cannabis framework backed by Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), which has EU recognition. Although Australia has been slow to the global race, unsurprisingly this is now looking to become our biggest strategic advantage. All of this bodes extremely well for ECS's business model."

About ECS Botanics

ECS Botanics is an industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis business, cultivating (own and contract growers) and processing hemp for the wholesale market and its own retail food brand. The company's main operations are conducted in Tasmania, Australia. ECS has the necessary licences to cultivate, supply and manufacture industrial hemp in Tasmania as well as a grower licence in Queensland. ECS holds import and export licences with the Office of Drug Control (ODC) as well as having been granted licences for the cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis. ECS owns a farm in Tasmania for commercial cultivation of hemp, research and as the site of its next generation approach to medicinal cannabis, which is currently under construction. ECS owns a strategic stake in TapAgrico for the logistics, drying and storage of hemp seed.

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