

## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROWTH CENTRE

### MEMBER PROFILE

MIRRECO™

MIRRECO™ is a Perth-based company established in 2018 to commercialise new hemp processing and numerous product technologies.

Founder and CEO Richard Evans has spent three decades in the construction industry. While delivering a project in the UK, Evans met a farm owner near Bath, who turned him on to the many benefits of hemp production.

"The farm owner had seen what we were doing, and invited me to his property, showed me hemp for the first time and said, 'This is going to change the world,'" recalls Evans.

"At the time I thought, 'This sounds crazy.' But from that date, and that was over 10 years ago, I started to research it quite seriously."

**“We can use the biomass of the plant, the woody core and the outer fibre to create products. On top of that, the seed itself contains valuable oils that are used for medicine, as a food, and as a protein. The sheer potential of this plant is quite unrivalled.”**

Evans is not the only person in WA who has noticed hemp's potential. Its abilities lie in storing carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>), improving soil condition, making countless products, and more. A season for the fast-growing plant is only 100–120 days, with in excess of 10 tonnes yielded per hectare.

According to Western Australia's HempGro cooperative, the number of licensed WA growers went from 77 to 193 between 2017 and 2018. A change to the allowable threshold of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive compound in hemp, from

0.35 per cent to 1 per cent has helped. The next step is in educating the public on the plant's economic contribution, and correcting an unwanted association with recreational cannabis, which has up to 30 per cent THC.

MIRRECO's place within the state's hemp ecosystem includes development of a mobile hemp processor and numerous product technologies, initially carbon storing building products. MIRRECO plans to sell or rent out its super-fast onsite hemp processing machinery once ready for commercialisation. According to HempGro, a lack of processing is a major impediment to the industry flourishing.

The second part of MIRRECO's operations is its hemp-based CAST® (Carbon Asset Storage Technology) building products, the early part of a vertically-integrated business, says Evans.

"The farmers would grow hemp, and then we would take that and convert it into various products. But to do that, we need to create a lot of downstream demand," he explains.

"So, the flooring, walling, partitions and the roofing [are applications]. But on top of that, it is a very successful store of carbon with several performance characteristics that are higher than anything else on the market."

MIRRECO™ has partnered with numerous suppliers, collaborators and advisers from the private and public sectors to deliver its groundbreaking LUMECAS<sup>®</sup> anchor dwelling in Knutsford East

Village, Fremantle. This development is a springboard for a range of globally significant technologies including MIRRECO's CAST® blockchain platform to track carbon, from a 'humble hemp seed' to 'final fit out' for eventual carbon trading initiatives/offsets.

Whilst trading under the name 'Cybannac', MIRRECO's prototype hemp insulated panels were a runner-up in the product category the 2017 Sustainability Awards, building further credibility and collaboration.

**“You have to carefully manage and collage some fantastic ideas in order to make something a commercial reality,”** explains Evans.

**“We need to develop the conditions where not only our industry can grow, but MIRRECO can get traction and credibility in the market.”**

Membership of the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre is part of the effort to leverage the awesome potential of industrial hemp.

"We are very big on collaboration," explains Evans.

**“And we must value add to our market offerings through those collaborations.”**



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**Richard Evans**, Founder and CEO