

Increased Environmentally Sustainable Strategies

Bill 2023

A Bill for an Act to establish strategies to prevent and resolve issues caused by man-made technology and resources that impacts the ecosystem of Australia. This includes the establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Board who will ensure provision of methods to utilise waste as a resource and address the methane and trash pollution produced by landfills, and expand access throughout Victoria to recycling plants, community bins and community gardens. This Bill aims to address the diminishing quality of local plant and animal life as well as quality of life for Victorians and diminishing limited power resources by incorporating more renewable power sources like solar.

Within Victoria alone, the average temperature across the state has warmed by just over 1.0°C since official Bureau of Meteorology records began in 1910, most likely as a result of climate change and the industrialisation of society over the course of 100 years. By implementing further efforts into recycling, greenhouse gas emissions shall be reduced as a result of reduced energy consumption. This shall improve quality of life all over the state, for people, flora and fauna.

A Bill for an Act relating to Increased Environmentally Sustainable Strategies
To be enacted by the Y's Victorian Youth Parliament.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are;

- (a) To improve Victorians' knowledge on recycling methods;
- (b) To implement further methods of recycling in Victoria to prevent climate change and the negative effects it has on the ecosystem;
- (c) To encourage a caring attitude towards wild and plant life in communities across Australia;
- (d) To improve quality of life for Victorians based on environmental factors.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill;

- (a) **Green waste** means food, plant or animal matter, and other such matter that can undergo decomposition;
- (b) **Local Government Area (LGA)** means an administrative division of a country;
- (c) **Methane** means the gaseous form of the chemical compound CH₄ which is produced within landfills containing organic waste;
- (d) **Recycling** means the process of converting disposed items or materials into reusable material;
- (e) **Recycling plants** means a factory that has the technology to perform recycling on an industrial scale;

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- (f) ***Regional and rural areas*** means a zone with a RRMA class between 3 to 7, in accordance with the 1994 Rural, Remote, and Metropolitan Area classification system.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)

- 4.1 The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) shall be established.
- 4.2 The ESB shall be comprised of;
- (a) Three diverse young people across Victoria;
 - (b) Indigenous Elders;
 - (c) A representative from each Local Government Area (LGA);
 - (d) Any external stakeholders deemed relevant by the above mentioned members.
- 4.3 The ESB shall be responsible for furthering sustainability awareness among Victorians, through methods including;
- (a) Greater publicity such as;
 - (i) Social media posts;
 - (ii) Pamphlets;
 - (iii) Public notices.
 - (b) Information about initiatives and companies such as the Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF).

Clause 5 Recycling Education

- 5.1 Information shall be made available on the ESB website and updated with the following requirements;
- (a) Regular online responses to community questions;
 - (b) Information on objects that can and cannot be recycled listed in great detail;
 - (i) Information shall include which bin contaminated objects should be disposed of in and what plastics are recyclable.

Clause 6 Access to Recycling Plants

- 6.1 Recycling plants shall be implemented throughout regional and rural areas of Victoria.

- 6.2 There shall be public notices regarding the exact location of the recycling plants for all Victorians living in the same LGA.
- 6.3 The recycling plants shall provide instructions of how to use the resource;
- (a) The instructions shall be exact;
 - (b) The instructions shall be uncomplicated and understandable;
 - (c) The instructions shall be illustrated;
 - (d) The instructions shall be available in multiple languages, such as;
 - (i) Mandarin;
 - (ii) Vietnamese;
 - (iii) Greek;
 - (iv) Italian;
 - (v) Spanish.

Clause 7 Community Gardens

- 7.1 Community gardens shall be implemented in parks and playgrounds in residential areas.
- 7.2 Community gardens shall be made from items sourced from rubbish dumps and/or industrial areas. Items shall include;
- (a) Plastic tubs;
 - (b) Worn out tires;
 - (c) Wooden pallets.
 - (d) Empty oil bins;
 - (e) Refrigerators;
 - (f) Coolers or eskies;
 - (g) Large water filter bottles.
- 7.3 Volunteer donations shall be welcome. Donations shall include;
- (a) Plastic bottles;
 - (b) Cans.
- 7.4 Excess green waste from local residents shall be used in compost bins to organically create plant food for the gardens. Excess green waste includes;

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- (a) Cardboard;
 - (b) Food scraps, including;
 - (i) Vegetables;
 - (ii) Garden Scraps;
 - (iii) Meat.
 - (c) Paper;
 - (d) Straw;
 - (e) Sawdust.
- 7.5 Any garden produce shall go towards the local homeless population and food banks, and shall be distributed by volunteers.
- 7.6 The gardens shall be maintained and kept by;
- (a) Volunteers;
 - (b) Gardening clubs;
 - (c) School clubs;
 - (d) Elders groups.
- 7.7 Adverts and fliers shall be posted in places such as;
- (a) Community spaces;
 - (b) Schools;
 - (c) Social media;
 - (d) Farmers market circles.
- 7.8 The gardens shall include seasonal fruit, vegetables and herbs such as;
- (a) Spinach;
 - (b) Tomatoes;
 - (c) Onions;
 - (d) Garlic;
 - (e) Rosemary;
 - (f) Potatoes;
 - (g) Carrots;
 - (h) Small fruit trees such as;
 - (i) Apples;
 - (ii) Oranges;
 - (iii) Apricots;

(iv) Peaches.

Clause 8 Utilisation of State-Run Landfills as an Energy Resource

- 8.1 Energy shall be harvested and used as a resource in state-run landfills.
- 8.2 Solar farms shall be installed on top of all landfills;
 - (a) Landfills shall be sealed over as they reach capacity on rubbish;
 - (b) Solar energy generated shall be directed straight into the energy grid closest to the solar farm.
- 8.3 Methane Capture Infrastructure shall be installed according to the guidelines set by the Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator.
- 8.4 Methane gas sourced shall be sold for use within combustion energy production to recuperate the funds used to install the initial capture infrastructure.

Clause 9 Clothing Recycling

- 9.1 Supervised drop-off points shall be established to exchange clothing and fabrics for money while the clothing and fabrics are used for other products.