

A Bill for an Act relating to Renewable Energy Transition Scheme Bill 2020.

To be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

## **Renewable Energy Transition Scheme Bill 2020**

A Bill for an Act to start the transition away from non-renewable to renewable energy. The intention of this Bill is to establish an effective transition plan for non-renewable energy workers changing into the renewable energy industry. This transition will enable workers to gain the skills required to work in the renewable energy industry. Furthermore, it shall enable workers to be supported through the transition period of moving across industries. This Bill shall also establish new carbon neutrality targets, as well as closing non-renewable energy plants that are in operation. The land that the non-renewable energy plants are operating on shall be repurposed.

This Bill was written for the purpose of transitioning Victoria to the use of more sustainable infrastructure and to reduce the state's carbon footprint, thereby combating the imminent threat of climate change. It also aims to support non-renewable energy workers in the transition to alternate employment, whether that be in the renewable energy industry or elsewhere.

## Part I—Preliminary

### Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are —

- (a) to transition from coal to renewable energy infrastructure in Victoria;
- (b) to create new carbon neutrality targets;
- (c) to create financial incentives for coal workers to transition from work in the coal industry to renewable energy plants;
- (d) to close current coal energy plants.

### Clause 2 Commencement

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

### Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill, we define the following to mean—

- (a) **renewable energy** means energy that is collected from renewable resources that are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat;
- (b) **coal plants** means a thermal power station which burns coal to generate electricity;
- (c) **non-renewable energy** means a type of energy whose sources cannot be replenished and include coal, crude oil, and natural gas;
- (d) **renewable energy employment** means employment in the areas including but not limited to solar power, wind power and hydropower;
- (e) **RVO** means the Renewable Victoria Organisation.

## PART II—Establishment

### Clause 4 Establishment of an organisation

4.1 The Renewable Victoria Organisation (RVO) is to be established.

4.2 The RVO shall provide oversight for the following—

- (a) the closure of all current non-renewable energy plants;
- (b) meeting and maintaining the carbon neutrality targets.

4.3 The RVO shall also be responsible for the assistance and training of workers in their transition from non-renewable energy employment into renewable energy work.

4.4 The RVO shall be delegated the authority to issue penalties for non-compliance.

- (a) Penalties shall start at 400 penalty units and shall increase by 50% each month in succession.

**Clause 5      Updated carbon neutrality targets**

- 5.1      Victoria shall have a net zero greenhouse gas emission by 2040.
  - (a)      The RVO shall be responsible for monitoring and reporting on Victoria's greenhouse gas emission on a 5-yearly basis;
  - (b)      A report shall be created by the RVO every 5 years to track progress.
- 5.2      All energy shall be created through renewable means by 2030.

**Clause 6      Closure of current coal plants**

- 6.1      All current coal plants are to be closed for the production or generation of electricity using non-renewables by 2025
- 6.2      The land that is occupied by coal plants is to be re-purposed by the RVO at their discretion.
- 6.3      Penalties for non-compliance shall apply at the discretion of the RVO.

**Clause 7      Creation of new jobs**

- 7.1      New jobs shall be created in the renewable energy sector on land repurposed by the RVO.
- 7.2      Jobs created shall be prioritised to workers of non-renewable energy plants at the discretion of the RVO and the renewable energy plants.

**Clause 8      Financial incentive**

- 8.1      Any workers made redundant from the closure on non-renewable energy plants shall receive remuneration as tailored by the RVO until re-employed.
- 8.2      Non-renewable energy companies shall also receive financial packages from the RVO to compensate for closure.