

A Bill for an Act relating to Mandatory Rooftop Gardens on Government Buildings in the CBD Bill 2021.

To be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

## **Mandatory Rooftop Gardens on Government Buildings in the CBD Bill 2021**

A Bill for an Act to implement Mandatory Rooftop Gardens on Government buildings in the CBD. The intention of the Bill is to place a greater emphasis on reducing negative human impacts on the environment. This Bill addresses the factors which contribute to a rise in climate change, such as the Urban Heat Island Effect, within our city, and the increasing number of greenhouse gases and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions being released into our atmosphere.

With the number of reflective surfaces increasing as our city grows, the inner areas are being severely impacted by heat. Gardens and vegetation do not absorb as much heat and therefore allow for more moderate temperatures. Rooftop gardens are also a mechanism of water sensitive urban design, which allows us to use our water effectively whilst development and growth occurs. Pollution in our waterways will be reduced, due to less runoff water, and it will allow for water to be used as a resource rather than a waste product. Through this, Melbourne will be able to play a role in adhering climate change and will significantly contribute to improving the dire conditions of the environment. With the successful implementation of rooftop gardens within the city there will be greater control of the excessive emissions of carbon.

## PART I—Preliminary

### Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to implement rooftop gardens on all Government buildings in Melbourne’s CBD;
- (b) to reduce the effects of the Urban Heat Island Effect;
- (c) to involve the wider community in environmental conservation.

### 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) **CBD** means the Central Business District of Melbourne City;
- (b) **Government building** means any building that is owned by the State of Victoria or the Commonwealth Government;
- (c) **CERG** means the Commission of Establishing Rooftop Gardens;
- (d) **climate change** means a change in global and/or regional changes in climate patterns and can be attributed to man-made emissions and neglect of ecology;
- (e) **community garden** means gardens that are shared by a community of people and invite contribution from all members of the community;
- (f) **mandatory** shall mean required by law;
- (g) **rooftop garden** means man-made gardens that are planted on the roofs of government buildings as means of improving ecological health, as well as providing aesthetic beauty to the location of the roofs.

## **Part II—Establishment**

- Clause 4 Establishment of the Commision of Establishing Rooftop Gardens**
- 4.1 The Commission of Establishing Rooftop Gardens (CERG) shall be established.
- 4.2 The CERG shall comprise of 4 departments—
- (a) expert panel of environmentalists;
  - (b) department of architecture;
  - (c) a landscaping firm;
  - (d) a department of human relations and public education.
- 4.3 The role of the Commission shall be to monitor the development and sustainability of rooftop gardens, as well as to contribute suggestions with as to more effective development strategies.
- Clause 5 Establishment of rooftop gardens on Government buildings**
- 5.1 All Government building in the CBD shall have a rooftop garden built on the rooftop of the structure.
- 5.2 The CERG shall be responsible for the planning and execution of all rooftop gardens, in consultation with building owners.
- 5.3 The CERG shall reserve the right to engage preferred contractors to build the rooftop gardens.
- 5.4 All Government buildings shall have rooftop gardens by the end of 2025.
- Clause 6 Monitoring and maintenance of gardens**
- 6.1 All gardens shall be monitored by the CERG's expert panel of environmentalists and department of architecture.
- 6.2 The actual planting and maintenance of rooftop gardens shall be undertaken by the CERG's landscaping firm.
- 6.3 Communal style gardens shall be maintained by the community, in collaboration with the contracted landscaping firm.
- Clause 7 Societal integration**
- 7.1 The implementation of gardens shall give way to community involvement through—
- (a) providing communities subsidised education and information sessions in regards to the development of rooftop gardens;
  - (b) a heavy reliance on community involvement in the implementation of rooftop gardens, especially the community rooftop gardens;
  - (c) surveying members of the community on their views of the gardens.

- 7.2 The CERG shall establish a community action board, to be made up of volunteers in the community. They will recommend to the CERG various ways to improve their practice.

**Clause 8 Collection and use of water**

- 8.1 The water used in rooftop gardens shall be collected for recycling. This shall be done through the use of—
- (a) rainwater tanks, subject to the size of the rooftop garden;
  - (b) subterranean pipes, connecting the rooftop gardens to their designated tanks.
- 8.2 The water collected shall be used on rooftop gardens themselves.
- 8.3 In the event that there is excess water, other permissible uses of collected water include—
- (a) using water as toilet water;
  - (b) watering another rooftop garden;
  - (c) filtering water and using it for household purposes.

**Clause 9 Post-implementation assessments**

- 9.1 The CERG shall employ strategies to stay informed about the effectiveness and community satisfaction of rooftop gardens.
- 9.2 The CERG's environmentalist shall provide annual reports on the efficiency of rooftop gardens, inclusive of—
- (a) a progress report determining the extent to which rooftop gardens are controlling the level carbon in the CBD atmosphere;
  - (b) statistical evidence regarding the productivity of rooftop gardens;
  - (c) data collated by the CERG regarding the amount of water wastage and the amount of rainfall in the CBD region, both before and after the implementation of rooftop gardens.
- 9.3 Monthly samples of local climate will be taken for collection and analysis.
- 9.4 Surveys with local residents, business workers in the region and passers-by about rooftop gardens shall be conducted.