

2021

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia<sup>1</sup>

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

## **Green Australia Scheme Bill 2021**

### **No. , 2021**

*Written by The Hon. /u/RMSteve MP*  
*Drafted by The Hon. /u/RMSteve MP*

**A Bill for an Act to establish the Green Australia  
Scheme Commission, and for related purposes**

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<sup>1</sup> This publication is a part of AustraliaSim (r/AustraliaSim), a reddit based simulation of Australian politics. This has no connection with the Australian Government, nor intends to imply such a connection.

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# A Bill for an Act to establish the Green Australia Scheme Commission, and for related purposes

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

## Part 1—Preliminary

### 1 Short title

This Act is the *Green Australia Scheme Act 2021*.

### 2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provision(s)	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this Act	The day this Act receives the Presidential Assent	

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally enacted. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this Act.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this Act. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this Act.

### 3 Schedules

Legislation that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect according to its terms.

## 4 Objects of this Act

The objects of this act are:

- (a) Establish a Green Australia Scheme Commission to oversee various environmental replenishment schemes;
- (b) Establishment purposes for the various aspects of the Green Australia Scheme; and
- (c) Enable the government to act by legislative instrument to execute the Green Australia Scheme.

## 5 Definitions

In this Act:

***Scheme*** means the Green Australia Scheme.

***Commission*** means the Green Australia Scheme Commission.

***Land*** means all territory in Australia owned by the Commonwealth and the States.

***Australia*** means the entirety of the Commonwealth, including the States, Internal Territories, and External Territories.

***Office of Reforestation*** means the subsidiary branch of the Commission established in Section 18.

***Office of Irrigation*** means the subsidiary branch of the Commission established in Section 20.

## 6 Commonwealth to be bound

- (1) This Act binds the Commonwealth in all its capabilities.
- (2) The Act does not make the Commonwealth liable to be prosecuted for an offence.

## 8 Extension to external Territories

This Act extends to all external Territories.

## **9 Extension to the States**

This Act is made under section 106A of the Australian Constitution.

## **Part 2—Green Australia Scheme**

### **Division 1—Purposes and Goals of the Scheme**

#### **10 Findings**

Parliament finds that:

- (a) In the financial year 2019, 8.3 million hectares of native forests were burnt by the 2019 bushfires.
- (b) In FY 2019, 130,000 hectares of plantations were burnt by the 2019 bushfires.

#### **11 Purposes**

The purposes of the Green Australia Scheme are:

- (a) Replenish the amount of trees and flora in Australia through replanting schemes;
- (b) Preserve natural ecosystems that have been damaged by deforestation and wildfires; and
- (c) Reverse the desertification of farmland and expand irrigation schemes.

#### **12 Goals**

The goals of the Scheme are:

- (a) Plant more than or equal to 30 million new trees and associated understorey across Australia by 1 January 2022;
- (b) Replenish more than or equal to 50 million hectares of farmland through irrigation programs and construction of artificial bodies of water by 1 January 2022;
- (c) Have three new forests established by the Department of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (hereafter referred to as the Department of the Environment) by 1 January 2022; and

- (d) Enact any other suggestions or recommendations from the Green Australia Scheme Commission.

### **13 Government action**

The Government is authorised to enact legislation or issue legislative instruments that aid in the proper execution and enforcement of the Scheme.

## **Division 2—Scheme Commission**

### **14 Establishment**

Herein is established the Green Australia Scheme Commission.

### **15 Membership**

- (1) The Commission is composed of ten people, with five from the Department of Rural Affairs, Droughts, and Water (hereafter referred to as the Department of Rural Affairs) and five from the Department of the Environment.
- (2) The ten people must have a background in environmental science or substantial knowledge in environmental science.

### **16 Responsibilities**

The Commission is responsible for advising the Government on the most effective and efficient methods for enacting the purposes of the Scheme.

### **17 Funding**

Parliament appropriates \$3 billion for the Commission and its subsidiary branches.



## **Division 3—Office of Reforestation, Office of Irrigation, and Office of Green Industry**

### **Subdivision 1—Office of Reforestation**

#### **18 Establishment and membership**

- (1) The Office of Reforestation is established as a subsidiary branch of the Commission.
- (2) The Office consists of as many members appointed by the Commission as needed to perform its responsibilities.

#### **19 Responsibilities and powers**

- (1) The Office is responsible for executing Government directives issued by legislative instruments.
- (2) The Office is empowered to:
  - (a) Purchase seed for trees and land for replanting; and
  - (b) Implement local and State police forces to protect replanting sites and enforce government authority within those sites.

### **Subdivision 2—Office of Irrigation**

#### **20 Establishment and membership**

- (1) The Office of Irrigation is established as a subsidiary branch of the Commission.
- (2) The Office consists of as many members appointed by the Commission as needed to perform its responsibilities.

#### **21 Responsibilities and powers**

- (1) The Office is responsible for executing Government directives issued by legislative instruments and legislation.
- (2) The Office is empowered to:
  - (a) Establish an application process for farmers to seek help for irrigation;
  - (b) Purchase land to build projects on;

- (c) Survey land that is needed for development of projects;
- (d) Develop man-made bodies of water as reservoirs for irrigation purposes; and
- (e) Hire contractors to perform development of projects.

### **Subdivision 3—Office of Green Industry**

#### **22 Establishment and membership**

- (1) The Office of Green Industry is established as a subsidiary branch of the Commission.
- (2) The Office consists of as many members appointed by the Commission as needed to perform its responsibilities.

#### **23 Responsibilities and powers**

- (1) The Office is responsible for executing Government directives issued by legislative instruments and legislation in regard to green zones, articulated in Subdivision 4.
- (2) The Office is responsible for acquiring or selling land used as a green zone.
- (3) The Office is empowered to:
  - (a) Create reports advising the Government on the location and boundaries of a green zone;
  - (b) Purchase land required for a green zone;
  - (c) Sell or lease land that composes a green zone to private entities; and
  - (d) Implement law enforcement to enforce penalties prescribed in Section 26 below.

### **Subdivision 4—Green Zones**

#### **24 Establishment**

- (1) The Government may, by legislative instrument:
  - (a) Establish the location of a green zone;
  - (b) Establish the location of a green zone; and
  - (c) Establish the ownership of a green zone.

- (2) The Government is authorised to negotiate with private entities for the price of a green zone to be sold to them and the initial price as well as the interest rate of a green zone to be leased to them.

## **25 Restrictions on designation**

A green zone may not be designated as such if:

- (a) It is within 20 kilometres of any land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence;
- (b) It is within 20 kilometres of a forest; or
- (c) It is within 20 kilometres of a wildlife sanctuary or habitat.

## **26 Purpose and penalties**

- (1) The Government is empowered to create zones specifically for the development of industries devoted to the production of electricity and goods using renewable or alternative energy, hereafter referred to as “green zones”, by legislative instrument.
- (2) No entity is permitted to develop a green zone for any other purposes other than that prescribed in subsection 1.

Penalty: 370 penalty units

- (3) No entity is permitted to develop a green zone not under their ownership or jurisdiction.

Penalty: 370 penalty units

- (4) No entity is permitted to develop beyond the boundaries of their green zone.

Penalty: 370 penalty units