

## **Total Donations received \$1400**

### **Expenditure Summary**

<b>Deposit</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<b>Printing</b>	<b>\$214.80</b>
<b>Adverts</b>	<b>\$329.50</b>
<b>TV advert</b>	<b>\$1795.20</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$1681.87 (@57cents K)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$74.1</b>
<b>Misc</b>	<b>\$72.53</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5168</b>

**Need to plant 50 – 80 trees to offset this expenditure [as stated in stat.dec.]**

### **Summary of Campaign of Climate Emergency Independent Peter Gardner**

1. Travel for meetings, pamphlet distribution etc to Orbost, Sale(X4) Morwell (X3) Briagolong, Bruthen(X2) and Seaspray. I spoke at 5 of these meetings. I also intend to speak at the Declaration of the Polls.
2. Pamphlets were distributed/letterboxed at Orbost, Nowa Nowa, Lakes Entrance, Newlands Arm, Metung and Bairnsdale. A small number were posted.
3. A small number of coloured A4 posters designed by Deidre Jack were placed on noticeboards, windows and back windows of vehicles. Two T shirts with the poster front and back were done. PG in one appeared on the front page of the Gippsland Times when the ballot was drawn and possibly briefly appeared on Win TV during an event in Morwell.
4. A TV advert designed to educate and summarise the campaign slogan was screened on prime TV X 40 mostly in the off-peak daytime viewing period. As well as being downloadable from my website the advert was placed on youtube which received about 270 hits up to election day.
5. Small adverts were placed in Community Newspapers/Newletters in Churchill, Heyfield, Stratford, Buchan, Omeo, Bruthen and Mallacoota.
6. Radio interviews (X4) were done with 3TR, the ABC and GI FM – the latter both quite lengthy. The Get Up meeting at Morwell at which I spoke several times was also broadcast by this station. A brief audio only interview was done by a Prime journalist but it is not known if anything happened with this.
7. I issued 8 press releases during the campaign. The releases went to a large number of journalists but as far as I am aware were only used by the media within the electorate. Most releases were used completely or in part by one of the East Gippsland Newspapers (The Snowy Mail, The Lakes Post, the Bairnsdale Advertiser and the East Gippsland News) and fairly often by the Gippsland Times(the No CSG release was printed by this journal in full). A few mentions were made in the Latrobe Valley Express and there was one brief early account in the Yarram Standard.

8. I received a number of donations and these helped finance the campaign though our plan to finance the TV advert from funds from Solar Retailers and Installers unfortunately (with one notable exception) did not materialise. My thanks to all those who did so as well as those who helped in some way with the campaign and to those who helped gather the required 100 nominators.
9. As you are aware at the ballot I received top position but doubt that the donkey vote was significant. My primary vote at 2.2% was disappointing and well below the required 4% for return of the deposit and public funding. This will possibly curtail my future election campaigning. I do intend however to speak at every opportunity I can on climate change.
10. I signed a stat. dec. prior to the election stating I would run a carbon neutral campaign to the best of my ability. I will be planting 50-80 trees to cover the expenditure of just over \$4000.

## **VOTE CLIMATE VOTE SOLAR in the Gippsland Electorate**

### **VOTE 1 GARDNER, Peter**

The problem of global warming dwarfs all other political issues.

Since 1950, each decade has been warmer than the one before it. In the last 100 years, the average temperature of the planet has risen nearly 1 degree Celsius. It may seem like a small rise, but we can see alarming impacts. The extent of Arctic summer ice has been dramatically reduced. Despite recent wet years Victoria is now a drier and hotter place, more vulnerable to bushfires. The CSIRO (Report 1989) was warning us of these dangers more than 20 years ago. We should not continue to ignore the predictions of the climate scientists. Recent (2012) scientific studies have confirmed the warming trend and have attributed most of this to human activities. One study in particular has directly attributed recent extreme weather events around the globe to climate change.

Burning coal, particularly brown coal, produces large amounts of carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas. Coal, like asbestos, should be left in the ground. The same applies to CSG and other unconventional fossil fuels. Australia is wasting billions of dollars on research chasing the fantasy of "clean coal" rather than funding the implementation of tried and tested alternative energy sources.

Urgent action is required at all levels of government to adopt a wide range of policies that mitigate global warming by reducing our waste and output of greenhouse gases and that adapt to the consequences of the warming we are experiencing now and further warming predicted in the future.

## **VOTE CLIMATE VOTE SOLAR**

# **VOTE GARDNER for Gippsland**

## **VOTE CLIMATE VOTE SOLAR**

### **VOTE 1 GARDNER for Gippsland**

#### Some policies to help mitigate warming

- Encouraging the erection of solar panels on residences and businesses
- A carbon levy on all fossil fuel exports
- Replace all current coal fired electricity generators within 10 years with a mix of renewable energy principally solar and wind
- A new carbon levy on carbon imports principally on energy intensive imports like aluminium
- Cancel subsidies to the mining Industry (\$10 billion a year)
- Oppose ALL new fossil fuel developments including CSG
- Redistribute the funding currently allocated to Carbon Capture and Storage projects to renewable energy research and development
- Funding for the establishment of pyrolysis generators on farms, plantations and other sites for the production of renewable energy and biochar fertiliser
- Establish a green corps to start planting and nurturing trees across the nation, as well as being involved in practical programs of adaptation to climate change such as the fire protection of towns.
- Establish Solar Bonds to part finance many of the renewable projects
- Interest free loans to dairies to purchase solar hot water systems
- If elected my main priority will be dealing with climate change, then as an Independent serving the needs of all Gippslanders. In the small number of contentious issues not connected with climate I will vote with the status quo or abstain.

For further information contact Peter at [ngarak@skymesh.com.au](mailto:ngarak@skymesh.com.au) or follow him on twitter at [twitter.com/peterdgardner](https://twitter.com/peterdgardner) or visit his website at [www.petergardner.info](http://www.petergardner.info)

#### **About the Candidate**

Peter Gardner has lived in East Gippsland for 40 years - in his own built house powered by wind and solar energy since 1982. He has worked as a teacher, labourer, and prospector and for the last 20 years as a bookseller. He has served on the Ensay Primary School and Swifts Creek High School Councils, the Ensay Football Club and Social Club Committees, was twice Captain Coach of the team and was treasurer of the Tambo Film Society. He is currently a Friend of the East Gippsland Shire Library, and a member of Bairnsdale U3A, the East Gippsland Historical Society, Ensay CFA, Swifts Creek/Ensay Landcare Group and the Gippsland Environment Group. As a regional historian he has written extensively on a number of aspects of Gippsland history.

Authorised by Howard Reddish Mt Markey Winery and Brewery Cassilis  
Printed by Black Rainbow Gelantipy Rd W Tree on 100% post consumer recycled paper

#### **Press Release No. 9 4.9.13**

#### **From Peter Gardner Independent Candidate in the seat of Gippsland**

#### **Media and Main Parties Ignore Climate Change – the Elephant in the Room?**

As weather records tumble across Australia the major parties and most of the media seem intent on ignoring the huge problem of man-made climate change. The last twelve months have been the hottest on record, it was the warmest winter in Victoria since records began and the warmest start to spring in many locations. Experts have predicted an above average bushfire season for much of the country including East Gippsland.

Tim Colebatch and Peter Hannam writing in the Age stated “Australia's record warming comes towards the end of an election campaign from which global warming has gone missing. Opposition Leader Tony Abbott never mentions it, although in every speech he promises to repeal the carbon price intended as Australia's contribution to the fight against it. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who once called climate change the greatest moral issue of our time, rarely mentions it on the campaign trail...”

In effect neither of the main political parties has the political will to even attempt to face, let alone try to solve, this problem. As James Hansen, the world's most well known climate scientist has said “governments are in the hands of the fossil fuel industry.” Hansen and others have noted that if we are to avoid a low level runaway Greenhouse effect it is imperative that we wean ourselves off fossil fuels as quickly as possible. Such an effect would make large parts of the planet unliveable. As wind solar and perhaps geothermal energy are the only technologies that can be applied immediately it is time to bring on the ‘solar revolution’.

There are a number of minor parties and independents for whom climate change is the most pressing problem facing humanity. They are advocating a range of policies to tackle the global warming problem. They too have gone unnoticed in the media in a boring, ‘dumbed down’, presidential style campaign.

Peter Gardner, campaigning in Gippsland as a ‘climate emergency’ Independent has called on voters to send a message to the major parties that they can no longer ignore climate change. In this election it is the ‘elephant in the room’ and whoever is elected the problem will not go away. It will gradually get worse with intermittent severe weather events – heat waves, storms, floods, droughts and related bushfires – predicted to become more frequent and damaging by up to ten times.

### **Press Release No.8 31.8.13**

### **Candidate Statement of Peter Gardner Independent in the seat of Gippsland**

#### **Time for the Major Parties to get Serious on Climate Change**

As an Independent candidate I have campaigned on a Vote Climate Vote Solar ticket. Climate change is far worse than either the media or the politicians are telling us and dwarfs all other political issues. The summer Arctic ice minimum continues its downward spiral - the earth's air conditioner may disappear within a single lifetime.

I have campaigned against future fossil fuel developments such as Coal Seam Gas as they will only make the warming worse. Changing the Latrobe Valley from fossil fuel based electricity generation to renewables and manufacturing must be done as quickly and as seamlessly as possible. A “Snowy Mountains” type scheme will be needed to achieve this. Measures have been advocated to finance this change. Such a scheme will achieve full employment.

I have advocated a number of farm based measures including pyrolysis generators to produce electricity and bio-char from waste, interest free loans for solar hot water on dairies (manufactured in the Valley?), support for a 'Green Corps' with members working on climate change projects and for improvements to be made in the Carbon Farming Initiative.

Climate change is making extreme weather events both more frequent and more severe making droughts, heat waves, storms and related bushfires worse. Gippslanders are, and have been, experiencing these changes. A huge effort is required to minimise the warming as much as possible, to adapt to what we can, and to prepare for the worst.

If elected I would concern myself primarily with climate change and secondly vote in the best interests of Gippsland. In the small number of contentious issues not concerned with these matters I would vote with the status quo or abstain. Vote climate, vote solar; your preferences will send a message to the major parties that climate change should be treated seriously.

### **Press Release No 7: 28.8.13**

#### **Independent candidate says Heatwaves and Bushfires Immediate Problem**

Independent candidate Peter Gardner is campaigning on a Vote Climate Vote Solar ticket and is concerned that the threat of climate change is far worse than either the media or the politicians are telling us. Bushfires have always been a part of the Gippsland landscape but the problem has been made worse by climate change. This is influencing extreme weather events making them both more severe and more common.

“Three fire events in Gippsland in the last decade can be classified as 1 in 100 year events according to their area, ferocity, property damage and casualties. The fire season has become much longer – by as much as two months with the 2006/7 fires extending across the summer from November. In parts of the USA the frequency of bushfires has also increased over the last four decades by as much as 4 times. The combined factors of more hot days, extended periods of drought interspersed with periods of heavy rainfall, increased storm and winds and heatwaves that suck the moisture out of the land are all contributing to this increased fire danger.

“Aside from the threat to property and person bushfires are a continuous threat to the tourist industry. A bushfire almost anywhere in the region often deters people from visiting the district though the fire may be a hundred miles or more from their destination. As a tourist dependent shopkeeper I lost substantial income in both 2003 and in 2006/7 due to the bushfires. With the frequency of fires increasing this loss of income is likely to be felt across the tourist industry.

“Heatwaves in Paris (2003) and Moscow (2010) killed an extra 15,000 and 11,000 people respectively. The Moscow heatwave was called in the press a one in one thousand years event. Often it is the hotter nights where the temperatures fail to drop significantly that are so threatening to life. Cities and towns also act as heat banks making the problem worse. Mortality figures indicate that the heatwave prior to 'Black Saturday' caused 374 extra fatalities mostly amongst the elderly.

“Floods and droughts are also on the increase in both frequency and severity. With each degree of increase in average temperature the air can hold a further 7% of moisture. Unfortunately this does not mean it will fall on you although occasionally it will – in excess. The rainfall that fell on Australia in 2010-11 causing record floods also caused the gradually rising ocean to temporarily retreat by 7mm. Gippsland has also experienced lengthy droughts during this century.

“There is need to prepare for future extreme weather events and related catastrophes like floods and bushfires,” Mr Gardner said. “And there is a need for the major parties to recognise the seriousness of the problem and for responsible action instead of jockeying for political advantage. The approach to climate change should be bipartisan and directed by the best science and not by the lobbyists of the fossil fuel industry. A rapid transfer from fossil based energy to renewable energy is one of the many ways we can attempt to mitigate climate change warming.

## **Press Release No 6: 23.8.13**

### **Independent Candidate in Gippsland Opposed to CSG**

The only Independent candidate in the seat of Gippsland, Peter Gardner, has spoken out strongly against any development of Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and other fossil fuel developments.

Gardner pointed out that any methane leakage from wells was one hundred times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and rather than being a clean energy source was actually worse than coal. Obviously methane leakage will make climate change worse.

“As such I am a close ally of all the community groups opposed to CSG, tight gas and shale gas exploitation at Sale, Seaspray, Longford, Mirboo North, Morwell, Glengarry, Briagolong and other places. These include “Lock the Gate” groups at many of these locations. CSG exploration licences extended as far as Marlo and covered most of Gippsland,” he said.

Gardner noted that we had only burned about 10% of the earth’s fossil fuel reserves. According to the most reputable of climate scientists James Hansen, “our governments are working for the fossil fuel industry” and “if we burn all the fossil fuels more than half the planet will become uninhabitable... We are already experiencing more extreme events like floods and droughts but the long term consequences are far worse.”

In a similar vein Prof. Steven Sherwood of the University of NSW stated in the New Scientist (17.11.12)“... if we fully ‘develop’ all of the world’s coal, tar sands, shales and other fossil fuels we run a high risk of ending up in a few generations with a largely unliveable planet”.

Jobs are always touted by developers as a major benefit for projects such as CSG but renewable energy projects provide far more employment without destroying or

disrupting valuable farmland. The choice should be clear - business as usual means humanity has no future. Choosing to develop renewable energy instead of fossil fuels gives humanity a chance.

Gardner made a plea for politicians to serve the public faithfully rather than pursuing personal ambition, for all parties to take climate change much more seriously, for them to jettison climate change deniers from their ranks and to once more take on a constructive bipartisan approach to this huge problem.

“Does the National Party represent the mining companies or does it represent the farmers and ordinary citizens of Gippsland?” he asked.

### **Press Release No 5: 20.8.13**

### **Current Climate Change equals Four Hiroshima Bombs per Second**

Peter Gardner, formerly of Ensay and now living in Bairnsdale, is running as a “climate emergency” Independent in the seat of Gippsland. He said that “climate change was difficult to visualise because of its mostly gradual nature. But it was happening now and affecting us all.”

He quoted David Holmes of Monash University who recently stated that the “planet is building up heat at the equivalent of four Hiroshima bombs worth of energy every second. And 90% of that heat is going into the oceans” and that “representing climate change and ocean warming as Hiroshima bombs attracted the attention of the news media around the world.” This is a simple way of illustrating how much extra heat the planet is absorbing.

Climate change remains the greatest threat to humanity we have ever faced. It has almost certainly been happening for more than 100 years and probably since the industrial revolution began burning fossil fuels at an unprecedented rate. Since 1780 the amount of carbon dioxide – the major greenhouse gas - has increased from 280 parts per million (ppm) to 400ppm. The last time the planet experienced these high levels of greenhouse gases was 3 million years ago. Then the planet was 3 degrees warmer and sea levels were 23m higher than today. The major parties have chosen to ignore climate change during this election.

The changes we are beginning to feel are more abrupt. This century in Gippsland has experienced an increase in both the frequency and severity of extreme events – droughts, floods, storms, heatwaves and related bushfires. This was predicted by climate scientists in the 1980s. Imagine the next heatwave with “Black Saturday” conditions or worse followed by bushfires and power failures. It is not a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’.

In his “Vote Climate Vote Solar” campaign Gardner has offered a wide range of policies to reduce the production of greenhouse gases and for adaptation to the further warming we are bound to experience. These policies include reduction of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, a levy of the export of fossil fuels, a cut in funding in carbon capture and storage programs

and positive support for solar and other forms of renewable energy. These policies can be viewed on his website.

#### **Press Release No 4: 17.8.13**

##### **Candidate challenges major party candidates to debate climate change**

Independent candidate in the seat of Gippsland Peter Gardner today challenged both the National and Labour party candidates to debate climate change. He stated

“Climate Change is the Elephant in the room this election. The major parties are doing their best not to mention it.

“Climate change is not just some distant future catastrophe – it is happening now. It is causing more extreme events and for them to occur more often. These include heat waves, floods, droughts and related bushfires. The heatwave that preceded the Black Saturday bushfire tragedy caused a further 374 extra fatalities – mainly amongst the elderly.

“All these extreme events have a profound effect on Gippsland disrupting business and trade at best and sometimes causing loss of property and life.

“As carbon dioxide is long lived in the atmosphere there is a lag time before its full effects are felt. This means that climate change with its extreme events and numerous other effects will continue to worsen even if we stopped burning fossil fuels now. Industrial nations, including Australia, continue to burn and export fossil fuels at an ever-increasing rate.

“The current solar revolution is one of the few bright spots in this unrecognised ‘climate emergency’. Yet the action of all the Liberal and Coalition state governments has been to clamp down and restrict renewable energy.

“An Abbott government promises to get rid of most of the positive climate achievements of the Gillard government and has a policy of ‘direct action’ which by itself will achieve little.

“Both Labour and the Lib/Nats have done nothing about the damaging emissions they are exporting in the form of coal.

“Like the elephant in the room climate change will not go away because we ignore it. Each day of delay will make it progressively worse and more difficult and expensive to alleviate.

“Aside from denial or dismissing Climate change as a ‘fad’ what have the other candidates got to say about the greatest moral, political and economic problem of our times?”

#### **Press Release No 3: 9.8.13**



## **A Statement by Peter Gardner a “climate emergency” Independent candidate in the Seat of Gippsland**

“Human induced global warming is being felt now in the form of more extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, storms and related events such as bushfires. The records for these extremes continue to tumble across Australia and Gippsland. The earth’s air conditioner – the Arctic ice sheet – is continuing to melt rapidly and some scientists forecast an ice free summer Arctic ocean within the next decade.

The changes are being driven by burning fossil fuels that took millions of years to form. In burning carbon combines with oxygen to produce carbon dioxide(CO<sub>2</sub>) – a powerful greenhouse gas that lasts in the atmosphere for many years. Scientists have established a close correlation between levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the earth’s average temperature. This year carbon dioxide topped 400 parts per million in the atmosphere up from 280 ppm before the start of the industrial revolution. When CO<sub>2</sub> levels were that high previously the earth’s average temperature was 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer and sea levels were 23 metres higher.

In the face of established science the major political parties appear hell bent on developing coal and coal seam gas(CSG) in Gippsland. Is the constituency of the National party big business and obscenely wealthy miners or is it farmers, workers and country residents? In the last week the Liberal/National government of Victoria has narrowed the tenders for a massive development of brown coal at the same time as doing their best to discourage renewable energy. A Federal Liberal National government appears poised to abolish the Climate Commission, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Clean Energy Council. The new Esso gas conditioning plant at Longford will emit one million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> straight into the atmosphere every year with no environmental offsets. The Federal member for Gippsland Darren Chester is in favour of CSG as it will bring jobs – so of course did asbestos mining, or does growing opium poppies for heroin. In fact the burning of fossil fuels is far more threatening to us all. And the transformation to renewable energy – such as by a massive Snowy Mountains scheme – will provide far employment than all the mining projects put together.

If you are worried by the antagonism of the Liberal Nationals to renewable energy or the mindless development of coal and coal seam gas by the major parties or suspect that climate change is far worse than either the media or the politicians tell you send a message to both Labour and the Nationals in Gippsland by voting 1 Peter Gardner.”

**Press Release No 1: 27.6.13**

**Federal Election in the Seat of Gippsland**

**‘Climate Emergency Independent’ Candidate Peter Gardner**

**Vote Climate Vote Solar Vote Gardner for Gippsland**

As a climate emergency independent I am running a 'Vote Climate Vote Solar' campaign in response to the threats posed by climate change. Adopting a wide range of alternative energy sources will help reduce our carbon footprint. The Latrobe Valley Plan 2013 (available as pdf from my website) offers a rapid and seamless way to convert from harmful fossil fuels to renewables such as solar, wind and producing power from green waste. Wind projects can provide income for both landholders and the community as well as permanent jobs. The process of converting to renewables and adapting to climate change will provide employment for everyone who wants to work.

Indications are that global warming is happening more quickly than mainstream scientific projections and at the worst case upper limits of their predictions. The best science is now linking polar warming directly with more frequent extreme weather events. It is these extreme weather events - droughts, heat waves, storms, floods - and related events like bushfires, that pose the most immediate threat to Gippslanders.

During the 2003, 2006/7 and 2009 bushfires much of Gippsland was threatened and burned. We worked as communities to protect ourselves and our assets. Imagine if either of the earlier major events had been accompanied by the prolonged extreme heat and winds of 2009 and widespread power failures. It is human nature to hope for the best but wise to prepare for the worst. Urgent action is required at all levels of government to both mitigate global warming and adapt to it.

If you are at all concerned about climate change and/or wish to see the promotion of solar energy I urge you to give me your first preference. Vote one solar is a small step in this direction. On a personal note I have lived and worked in the Ensay and Swifts Creek districts for 40 years and been involved in various sporting, educational and cultural activities. I now live in Bairnsdale.

(Advert.)

**Vote Climate Vote Solar**  
**Vote Gardner in Gippsland**  
<http://petergardner.info>

Authorised. by Howard Reddish, 1346 Cassilis Rd Cassilis 3898

Dear friend,

This is to let you know that I will be standing in the Federal Election this year in the seat of Gippsland as a "Climate Emergency Independent".

The slogan for the campaign will be:

**VOTE CLIMATE VOTE SOLAR**  
**VOTE GARDNER for GIPPSLAND**

A statement of the aims, platform and how you can help can be found on my website at

<http://petergardner.info/outline-of-political-issues/>

For further information I can be contacted at the postal address above or the electronic address below.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gardner

[www.petergardner.info](http://www.petergardner.info)

[inquiries@petergardner.info](mailto:inquiries@petergardner.info)

[twitter.com/peterdgardner](https://twitter.com/peterdgardner)

Outline of My Campaign as a Climate Emergency Independent for the Federal Election of 2013

Vote Climate Vote Solar  
Vote Gardner for Gippsland

State of the Climate

Global warming is the greatest problem mankind has ever faced. It is affecting us now making heat waves, droughts, floods and bushfires more common and more severe. "Extreme is the new normal. The wild weather that greeted the New Year is here to stay. All eyes have been on Australia in recent weeks as a blistering heatwave triggered huge wildfires. .... But Australia's fires are just the most dramatic of a cluster of ongoing extreme weather events, including droughts in the US and Brazil and a lethal cold snap in Asia. ... Scientists have warned for years that extreme weather would become more common, and

now it is." (New Scientist 19/1/2013) We are in a climate emergency. Urgent action is required at all levels of government

#### The Aims of the Campaign

1. To make global warming an important issue
2. To focus the electorate on the need for urgent action on global warming
3. To propose steps to reduce the impact of global warming
4. To propose steps to adapt to global warming, e.g. no new public infrastructure on low lying land
5. To highlight the link between recent global weather extremes to global warming
6. To expose the strong link between the National Party and the coal lobby

#### Platform

1. Replace all current coal fired electricity generators within 10 years with a mix of renewable energy principally solar and wind
2. Cancel the diesel subsidy to the mining Industry ( \$10 billion a year)
3. Put a new Carbon levy on carbon exports –principally on, and commencing with, coal, coal seam gas and shale gas and oil
4. Put a new Carbon levy on carbon imports principally on energy intensive imports like aluminium
5. Redistribute the funding currently allocated to Carbon Capture and Storage projects to renewable energy research and development
6. Financial and technical support for the establishment of geothermal energy beneath the coal in the Latrobe Valley (see 2010 campaign below)
7. Financial and technical support for the establishment of pyrolysis generators on farms, plantations and local council sites for the production of renewable energy and biochar from the combustion of waste (see 2010 campaign below)
8. Establish a green corps to start planting and nurturing trees across the nation, as well as being involved in practical programs of adaption to climate change such as fire protection of towns.
9. Make the Carbon Farming Initiative more user friendly
10. Establish Solar Bonds to part finance many of the renewable projects

#### How You Can Help

1. Bookmark this page and check regularly
2. Promote the campaign at home, with friends, in the workplace and on the social media
3. Write letters to the local media on climate change and the renewable energy solutions
4. At a later date both a pamphlet and poster will be provided for general distribution in PDF format. Possibly some video material may also be provided.
5. Make a donation. Depending on funding the campaign may extend to the old media including radio and TV. Cheques may be made to the "Peter Gardner" or Ngarak Press and posted to Tom Jack, PO Box 214 Swifts Creek 3896
6. I am willing to speak to any genuine group – small or large – in the electorate of Gippsland about climate change

Authorised by Howard Reddish, Mt Markey Winery & Brewery

<http://www.omeo.org.au/mtmarkey/markey.htm> Cassilis Rd Cassilis via Omeo 3898

**VOTE CLIMATE**

**VOTE SOLAR**

**VOTE  
GARDNER**

**for**

**GIPPSLAND**

<http://petergardner.info/outline-of-political-issues>

## **A Statement by Peter Gardner a “climate emergency” Independent candidate in the Seat of Gippsland**

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The changes are being driven by burning fossil fuels that took millions of years to form. In burning carbon combines with oxygen to produce carbon dioxide(CO<sub>2</sub>) – a powerful greenhouse gas that lasts in the atmosphere for many years. Scientists have established a close correlation between levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the earth’s average temperature. This year carbon dioxide topped 400 parts per million in the atmosphere up from 280 ppm before the start of the industrial revolution. When CO<sub>2</sub> levels were that high previously the earth’s average temperature was 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer and sea levels were 23 metres higher.

In the face of established science the major political parties appear hell bent on developing coal and coal seam gas(CSG) in Gippsland. Is the constituency of the National party big business and obscenely wealthy miners or is it farmers, workers and country residents? In the last week the Liberal/National government of Victoria has narrowed the tenders for a massive development of brown coal at the same time as doing their best to discourage renewable energy. A Federal Liberal National government appears poised to abolish the Climate Commission, the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Clean Energy Council. The new Esso gas conditioning plant at Longford will emit one million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> straight into the atmosphere every year with no environmental offsets. The Federal member for Gippsland Darren Chester is in favour of CSG as it will bring jobs – so of course did asbestos mining, or does growing opium poppies for heroin. In fact the burning of fossil fuels is far more threatening to us all. And the transformation to renewable energy – such as by a massive Snowy Mountains scheme – will provide far employment than all the mining projects put together.

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