

Council Election Candidacy Archives Nov. 2016

I have decided to run again for local council in the October Election. The campaign will be low key run mainly on the social media and by word of mouth. I will be adding electoral material to this page over the next month.

Media Release 10.10

Candidates in East Gippsland sign Science Pledge

A science pledge was recently circulated to the large field of candidates in the East Gippsland Shire Elections by Peter Gardner. Gardner, also a candidate in the election, copied the pledge from Shawn Otto's book *The War on Science* held by the EGS Library. Otto noted that "Science is our very best tool against prejudice and unexamined attitudes..."

There are five major proposals in the pledge but the main purpose of it is to base shire decision making on evidence and best science. That public-policy decisions are based on "well-established evidence produced by science" and NOT by personal opinion, political objectives, ideological positions or economic interests. It is probably the latter that holds sway in local government at the moment.

Six candidates have signed the pledge to make a "commitment to science and evidence as the foundation of the democratic process" and "as the basis for sound, effective and equitable public policy." They are Jes John of Bruthen, Deb Foskey of Bonang, Jackson Roberts of Bairnsdale, Jeremy Schroder of Paynesville, Catherine Pirrie of Mallacoota and Gardner, formerly of Ensay and now resident in Bairnsdale.

I have signed a science pledge, which requires me, if elected, to vote according to the best evidence available, based on science and knowledge. I hope to circulate the pledge to other candidates in East Gippsland and encourage them to sign it.

Science Pledge

A renewed commitment to civic leadership based on the principles of freedom, science and evidence.

Whereas democratic countries have accomplished great things by setting freedom, knowledge, and science as the basis for sound, effective and equitable public policy;

Whereas preserving freedom and solving policy challenges requires elected leaders to make a renewed commitment to science and evidence as the foundation of the democratic process;

I hereby pledge that:

PUBLIC DECISIONS MUST BE BASED ON EVIDENCE I will support public-policy decisions based on well-established evidence produced by science, which may be informed by economic interests and personal values but never superseded by personal opinions or political objectives.

KNOWLEDGE MUST NOT BE SUPPRESSED I will protect and defend the basis of freedom – the scientific consensus of knowledge – against political forces that seek to deny it, suppress it, or substitute for it rhetoric or opinion.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY MUST BE PROTECTED I will oppose all efforts to reduce freedom by holding back or altering scientific reports or evidence that conflict with personal opinion, ideological positions, economic interests or political objectives.

FREEDOM OF INQUIRY MUST BE ENCOURAGED I will oppose acts that attack, intimidate, prosecute, disparage, or silence scientists and academics whose research or reports conflict with personal opinions, economic interests or political objectives.

MAJOR SCIENCE ISSUES MUST BE OPENLY DEBATED To demonstrate my commitment to these principles, I will participate in one or more substantive, nonpartisan, public, independently moderated debates on the science issues I may encounter if elected.

I hereby make this pledge on the _____ day of _____, 2016 at _____

Signed by Candidate _____

Candidate Name _____

Office Sought/Held East Gippsland Shire Councillor

(based on p.407 The War on Science by Shawn Otto copy held EGS Library)

The Science Pledge has also been signed by the following candidates (in no particular order)

Jes John of Bruthen

Deb Foskey of Bonang

Jackson Roberts of Bairnsdale

Jeremy Schroder of Paynesville

Catherine Pirrie of Mallacoota

As a local government candidate I am a Signatory to the Climate Emergency Declaration Petition.

Candidate Statement

My priorities are to have Community Renewable Energy Projects (CREPs) across East Gippsland and making shire finances sustainable. I want CREPs to boom especially in small towns and remote locations, and for the Shire to work towards 100% renewable energy in 10 years. Financial reorganisation should be a key part of CREPs and fine tuned to the region's benefit, including boosting local employment, investments and sourcing finance, supplies and contractors locally. The aim is to rejuvenate the district – especially small towns – by

boosting regional employment and community and farm incomes. If elected I will also work for open and transparent government. I will vote against any rate increase. I urge voters to preference those who will support these projects. I have lived and worked in small Gippsland communities (Ensay and Swifts Creek) most of my life. I am now retired to Bairnsdale. I have stood previously for Council on a Vote Climate Vote Solar platform. My previous campaigns and more details of this one can be found [here](#). I am a member or supporter of the EGHS, Landcare, U3A, CFA, Gasfield Free Bairnsdale, Friends of the Library and the Renewable Energy Party.