

Campaign material for the 2008 Local Government Elections – East Gippsland

A. Statement of Council Candidate

I am standing as a single issue candidate on the massive problem of global warming. This problem requires urgent action now at all levels of government.

To do nothing is to leave our children a legacy of increasingly more severe, and more frequent, droughts, bush fires, floods, coastal inundation - a bleak future.

A rigorous attempt should be made to reduce the shire's carbon footprint and make the shire carbon neutral. This should be achieved mainly by increased efficiencies in the shire, by changing some practices and adopting new measures.

If elected I will

1. move the shire should immediately appoint a 'carbon officer' whose first task should be to carry out a 'carbon audit' of all shire activities.
2. move that the shire attempt to become carbon neutral in 4 years
3. to do this I will implement the following:
 - a) improvements in waste disposal and generation of power from waste
 - b) using solar panels and other alternative power where possible
 - c) creating carbon sinks on shire land by tree planting
 - d) saving and conserving energy and funds where possible
4. Farmers should be encouraged to take advantage of opportunities offered by climate change including micro-generator projects, agrichar and tree planting. The carbon officer will have this education role
5. Adaption to bush fires severe storms and flooding will include
 - a) planning away from coastal to inland developments
 - b) bushfire protection of towns and communications combined with micro generator projects

On issues before the council that do not have some bearing on climate change I will support the status quo.

B.29.10.08

To Mallacoota Mouth

CLIMATE CHANGE CANDIDATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

Historian Peter Gardner is standing as a single issue candidate on the massive problem of global warming. This problem requires urgent action now at all levels of government. To do nothing is to leave our children a legacy of increasingly more severe, and frequent, droughts, bush fires, floods, coastal inundation - a bleak future. A rigorous attempt should be made to reduce the shire's carbon footprint and make the shire carbon neutral.

C. 28.10.08

Dear Local Candidate,

I am trying to arrange my preferences for the local election.

As you may or may not be aware I am standing on the single issue of climate change and global warming.

I hope to allocate my preferences according to your responses to the following:

1. What is your opinion on global warming?
2. Would you be prepared to initiate action on this matter in Council?
3. What position you are considering placing me on your ballot paper.
4. Finally are you interested in a preference swap.

Below is my candidate statement for your interest.

D. Dear News Editor,

enclosed details of my unusual campaign in the upcoming East Gippsland Shire Election.

As far as I am aware it is a) very unusual for a candidate to run on a single issue in local elections and b) the first time a candidate has run solely on the problem of global warming.

I have been aware of the drastic effects mankind can have on the earth's weather patterns for 30 years. In the 1983 Federal election campaign I was a candidate for the Nuclear Disarmament Party running solely on the threat of a 'nuclear winter'.

Generally I have tried to practice what I preach and for 26 years I have lived in a solar house - powered by wind generation and solar panels and heating.

More recently I have been working to make my business 'carbon neutral' and have been planting trees to offset the carbon dioxide I produce in the everyday running of my business (a bookshop in Swifts Creek).

Should you be interested in covering my candidacy in your local news I feel a few shots of either (1) my tree planting / carbon neutral program stills of which can be copied from the website or (2) brief footage of my solar house which would unfortunately involve a trip to Ensay, would be far better than a talking head.

Thanks for your interest and my contact details are above

E. Press Release (3) 7.1.08

CLIMATE CHANGE - WHY URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED

A recent World Wildlife Fund (WWF) study has doubled the sea level rise predicted last year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) illustrating the need for urgent action. The IPCC predicted that by 2100 sea levels would rise by .6m whilst the WWF study has estimated that the rise will be closer to 1.2m by this date.

A number of prominent scientists including CSIRO adviser Barrie Pittock and James Hansen of NASA have been warning for some time that the IPCC predictions may be underestimates and that the sea-level rise may be even higher than the WWF estimate.

Early indications suggest that events are occurring at the upper level of IPCC predictions especially in the case of the extent of summer ice in the Arctic. In the last two summers the Arctic ice has declined dramatically leading some to predict that the Arctic may be ice free in summer within a few decades. Warming in the Arctic circle is much stronger than elsewhere on the planet.

A recently study on the effect of climate change and subsidence by the Gippsland Coastal Board discusses the possibility of a breach of the barrier of the 90 mile into the Gippsland Lakes which could be disastrous for all the communities around the lakes. The sea level rises analysed in this report are based on the 2007 IPCC report and may be substantial underestimates. The WWF report indicates that events such as sea-level rise may be "faster, sooner (and) stronger".

Agreement and action is urgently needed at all levels of government and across the political spectrum. A large number of actions can be taken in the local government area including conservation of energy, using a variety of forms of local electricity generation including solar, wind, and biofuels (waste powered) and the large-scale planting of trees on shire land to offset the carbon the shire produces. A number of other practices can be implemented to adapt to the predicted changes - one example being the management of roadsides in co-operation with farmers to remove fire hazards from around towns and roadsides. The hazardous material removed should be used to produce electricity and possibly agrichar - a stable form of charcoal to be used as a fertiliser.

Whilst the challenges that global warming poses are momentous we will be far better off if we face them squarely and start working on them now.

F. Press Release (2) 31.10.08

FARMERS CAN BE WINNERS IN CARBON TRADING

Tim Flannery noted in a recent publication ("Now or Never" Quarterly Essay) that farmers can earn money from tackling the problem of climate change.

Amongst the many suggestions he made was the use of pyrolysis or micro generators on farm to burn waste to produce a gas that can either be used to generate electricity or make liquid fuel. These generators are sophisticated versions of the 'gas producers' used to power vehicles during World War 2. As well the generators also produce charcoal - called "agrichar" and "biochar" - which can be returned to the soil with fertiliser.

This has a number of advantages including the sale of 'carbon credits' and helping retain moisture in the soil. As a "carbon sink" putting charcoal back in the soil is even better than planting trees as the carbon is stable and will last thousands of years.

The reason why these machines are not being widely used at the present as they are too expensive for individual farm operations. The Shire can test the running and viability of these generators for farmers and others.

The shire is suitably placed to purchase a small pyrolysis generator and use it as part of their waste management program. As well strategically placed generators - operating at local tips for instance - can be used to burn hazardous material from

around towns and along communications routes to provide protection against the predicted increase in numbers and intensity of bushfires.

G. EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

VOTE 1 P. D. GARDNER

YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE CANDIDATE

YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE CANDIDATE VOTE 1 P. D. GARDNER

I am standing as a single issue candidate on the massive problem of global warming. This problem requires urgent action now at all levels of government. To do nothing is to leave our children a legacy of increasingly more severe, and more frequent, droughts, bushfires, floods, coastal inundation - a bleak future. A rigorous attempt should be made to reduce the shire's carbon footprint and make the shire carbon neutral. This should be achieved mainly by increased efficiencies in the shire, by changing some practices and adopting new measures. If elected I will 1. move the shire should immediately appoint a 'carbon officer' whose first task should be to carry out a 'carbon audit' of all shire activities. 2. move that the shire attempt to become carbon neutral in 4 years 3. to do this I will move to implement the following: a) improvements in waste disposal and generation of power from waste b) using solar panels and other alternative power where possible c) creating carbon sinks on shire land by tree planting d) saving and conserving energy and funds where possible 4. Farmers should be encouraged to take advantage of all the opportunities offered by climate change including micro-generator projects, agrichar and tree planting. The carbon officer will have this education role. 5. Adaption to bushfires severe storms and flooding will include: a) planning away from coastal to inland development b) bushfire protection of towns and communications combined with town microgenerator projects. 6. On issues before the council that do not have some bearing on climate change I will support the status quo.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Peter Gardner has lived in East Gippsland since 1973 and worked as a schoolteacher and a bookseller. He has served on the Ensay Primary School and the Swifts Creek High School Councils, the Ensay Football Club and Social Club Committees and was treasurer of the Tambo Film Society for many years. He stood as a candidate for the Nuclear Disarmament Party in the Federal Election of 1983 and is currently the editor and publisher of the Irregular Gippsland Peace Newsletter. As a regional historian he has written extensively on aspects of regional history. For the last five years he has run The Club Secondhand Book Shop in Swifts Creek.

Authorised by PD Gardner, Club Bookshop Swifts Creek

H. Press Release (1) 24.10.08

HISTORIAN TO RUN ON GLOBAL WARMING

Gippsland historian and bookseller Peter Gardner has announced his candidature for the East Gippsland Shire Council.

Gardner is running on the single issue of global warming and for governments acting decisively on the problem of climate change.

“Much urgently needs to be done at all levels of government” Gardner said. Gardner is calling for the shire to immediately appoint a ‘carbon officer’ to make a thorough ‘carbon audit’ of shire activities and for the Shire to aim to become carbon neutral in four years time or less. The role of the carbon officer should be to help achieve this as well as educating the community and council on the all aspects of climate change.

Gardner noted “Farmers and landholders should be one of the main beneficiaries of the carbon trading proposals and hopes that the shire will lead the way for them in the use of microgenerators, alternative energy, agrichar, establishing carbon sinks and roadside management.

The candidate claims that his own business is ‘carbon neutral’ as he plants, nurtures and protects a number of trees each year to offset the carbon dioxide he produces in the normal activities of his business.

Gardner has also been a strong supporter of alternative energy and has lived in a solar powered house for more than 20 years.