

CAMPAIGN FOR THE 2010 STATE ELECTION IN THE SEAT OF MORWELL

3.11.10
Russell North
Member for Morwell

Dear Russell,

congratulations on your decisive win in the election.

Arising from the election I would like you to consider two things.

Firstly your party position on global warming is precarious. The science and the measurements are clearly indicating that the warming is occurring. The debate in the scientific community is about how severe the warming will be, not whether it is occurring. The latter debate is looking more and more like a 'flat earth' argument. This illustrates the problem of taking an opinion or political position on what is a scientific fact. Regardless of opinion the fact is either right or wrong. At the moment measurements of a number of indicators are tracking at the top end of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predictions - that the warming may be worse than people currently suppose. A number of conservatives from Maggie Thatcher to Malcolm Turnbull have taken the position that action should be taken as a form of insurance.

Secondly with regards the geothermal energy under the brown coal you are in a position to far exceed Labor's promises and you and your party benefit from that development. I note that Liberal policy has \$1 million set aside for geothermal energy (though aimed at the west of the state). As the 'geothermal under the coal' is a recent and far more promising idea it should not be too hard to exceed Labor's promise of \$217,000 for a pilot geothermal plant. The work on all this has been done so far by the University of Melbourne Energy Research Institute who will be producing a publication on the subject soon. The Melbourne Uni people are looking for \$60 million for their program.

The benefits for you, your party, the people of your electorate could be substantial. If geothermal can be harnessed to replace the coal generators you will jump ahead of the greens who wish to close Hazelwood but have only a hazy idea of how to replace the electricity (wind, solar thermal). You may even eventually garner greens preferences.

If on the other hand your party and your coalition partners do not grasp this opportunity then the long term outlook for us all is poor.

Yours sincerely

Peter Gardner

PRESS RELEASE - ALL MEDIA

No.1

DATE: 24.10.10

SUBJECT: Candidacy in State Election

Gippsland historian Peter Gardner today announced his candidacy as an Independent for the lower house seat of Morwell in the forthcoming state election.

Gardner claims that global warming dwarfs all other political problems and that urgent action is now required. He is offering two of many possible solutions to help mitigate the problem.

The first is the exploitation of the geothermal energy in the Latrobe Valley. The thick layers of brown coal act as a form of insulation helping retain the energy generated deep in the earth's crust. With political will small geothermal generators could be operating in the valley within four years. Once established a geothermal generator has no CO2 output. The rapid exploitation of this energy requires a substantial drilling program to outline and map the resource, the revitalisation of the old SEC and the creation of a Geothermal Institute in the Valley - possibly at Churchill.

The second is widespread adoption of biochar generators as advocated by 2007 Australian of the year Tim Flannery and former leader of the Liberal party Malcolm Turnbull. These generators produce carbon neutral electricity and fertiliser and can be used as part of a comprehensive fire protection plan by using fire hazardous materials and waste from around country towns, roadways and other special places as feed.

Both the geothermal generators and the biochar generators can be purchased "off the shelf". All that is lacking is the leadership and political will. The immediate adoption of these programs can create win/win solutions.

In the case of geothermal energy the dirtiest coal generators in the world are replaced by the cleanest non polluting generators whilst job levels are maintained or even increased, and the coal resource remains in place.

With biochar generators non polluting energy and farm fertiliser is obtained and fire hazardous materials, and waste from around country towns, in plantations, along roadways and other places is removed thus increasing fire protection. It is envisaged that full time employees engaged on this project would also be trained firefighters and available to fight fires at any time.

19.9.10

Dear XXXXX,

thanks for your letter below.

I understand as a scientist you must remain remote from the political process.

I am one of those - convinced by Barrie Pittock and the retreat of the summer Arctic ice shelf - that global warming is worse than is currently portrayed. I see no point in alarming people but rather would prefer to offer positive solutions.

My campaign in the State election will hinge around (1) the rapid adoption of geothermal power in the Valley (or elsewhere in Victoria)
(2) the use of pyrolysis generators in the countryside to consume fire hazardous and waste materials. See below for a rough outline of my platform. Your comments or suggestions are welcome.

Thus I will be appealing across the political spectrum and making my position known to all parties.

You could assist by any/ all of the following:-

1. having a spokesperson to answer media queries on technical details and other aspects. (I assume you already have someone doing this)
2. providing me with a small amount of visual material (video&/or stills) that can be used by the media without referral back to you.
3. any contacts with individuals associated with brown coal or the Valley which you think may assist in the promotion of geothermal energy.

I would also appreciate a copy of the van Leeuwen report due out this month.

Yours

Peter Gardner

STATE CAMPAIGN - SEAT OF MORWELL NOV. 27 2010

PLATFORM OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETER GARDNER (51573246)

Global warming is probably worse than most forecasts. Already some of the 2006 IPCC predictions for 2030 have been reached in 2008 - notably the retreat of the summer arctic ice shelf. Governments at all levels appear to be either in denial or seemingly incompetent to carry out the changes necessary to avoid a catastrophic meltdown of the ice sheets and other predicted phenomena such as increased and more severe heat waves and bushfires. Electricity generators are reluctant to change or adopt new ideas and appear to be hoping for a breakthrough in clean coal technology. Dr Jim Hansen, climatologist, of NASA stated:

We have to stabilise emissions of carbon dioxide within a decade, or temperatures will warm by more than one degree. That will be warmer than it has been for half a million years, and many things could become unstoppable. If we are to stop that, we cannot wait for new technologies like capturing emissions from burning coal. We have to act with what we have. This decade, that means focusing on energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy that do not burn carbon. We don't have much time left.

The brown coal generators in the Latrobe Valley are amongst the worst CO2 polluting energy generators in the world. The longer change is delayed the more disruptive and expensive this process is likely to be. Recent discoveries indicate that hot rocks suitable for geothermal energy are under the 'blanket' of the thick deposits of brown coal. What follows is a plan for the generators to convert from worst to best practice in a short period of time .

PLATFORM

1. LATROBE VALLEY PLAN - GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

* adopt a geothermal energy plan to utilise the hot rocks beneath the brown coal on a large scale. To facilitate this

- create a new Geothermal Institute in the Valley - possibly at Churchill
- revitalise the SEC to assist this process
- carry out extensive public/private drilling program identifying suitable geothermal sites
- establish a laboratory 5 km underground & adopt the recommendations of the University of Melbourne Energy Research Institute plan.

* in the medium term (3-4 years) establish one or more small scale geothermal generators

- * establish at least one base load full size geothermal plant in 4-6 years

- * encourage cogeneration (ie the burning of wood and other biomass) and other efficiencies by current generators as a means of diluting their CO2 input into the atmosphere.

2. GIPPSLAND BIOCHAR PLAN

- * setting up small biochar generators (pyrolysis) across Gippsland in country towns, at Dept. of S&E locations and Shire Council waste disposal sites

- * hiring large numbers of permanent full time fire crews whose main task when not fighting fires will be to remove fire hazardous waste to supply the biochar generators

- * this workforce will progressively remove fire hazardous material from around country towns, along communications routes and other select locations to be used in the biochar generators

- * the generators will produce electricity (or liquid fuel) during periods of peak demand and biochar at other times. The biochar will be made available for trade or sale to farmers, plantation owners or for use on public land.

- * the generators will also accept biomass material delivered to the generators by private individuals or companies and will either trade (biomass for biochar) pay cash or offer carbon credits or their equivalents.

- * enforce the removal of fire hazardous material from all plantations on an annual basis

- * establish plantations to supply the biochar generators in the long term

THE ADOPTION OF THESE PLANS WILL MEAN

- * the valley will produce carbon neutral electricity.

- * the electricity generators will be transformed from the world's dirtiest to the world's cleanest with no CO2 emissions.

- * orderly transfer as the coal fired generators are gradually replaced. No jobs lost.

- * revitalise the valley with a substantial boost for jobs and industry

- * continuous and increased fire protection for country towns

Peter Gardner has lived in Gippsland for 38 years 28 of them in a solar powered house. He has written widely on different aspects of Gippsland history and has worked as a publisher and bookseller. Now semi-retired he is the secretary of the Global Warming Action Party (Aust.)

(See <http://www.globalwarmingaction.org.au>)

VOTE 1 PETER GARDNER

Authorised & Printed by P.D. Gardner PO Box 18 Ensay on recycled paper

Geothermal energy for Va



PETER GARDNER

By FIONA BROOM

A third independent candidate last week entered the ring for next month's contest for the state seat of Morwell.

East Gippsland book seller Peter Gardner's sole campaign platform will centre on the development of geothermal energy in the Latrobe Valley.

The Ensay resident and author of several books on Gippsland's history told *The Express* using the heat found beneath the

Valley's coal reserves to produce electricity would benefit the region and reduce the impacts of climate change.

"I'm standing here (Morwell) because I want to publicise geothermal energy," Mr Gardner said.

"My concern is global warming and I'm looking at things that can be done immediately.

"You can virtually order the geothermal generators from a factory and have

them in 18 months to two years.

"I want to take the problem of the world's dirtiest type of power generators and replace them with clean energy."

Mr Gardner said it was "quite possible" to phase out the use of brown-coal power stations in the Valley without losing jobs.

He said the development of biochar energy, which is generated by burning wood or other or-

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Summary of campaign for geothermal Energy under the coal (Press release of P.D. Gardner 3.12.10)

The prospect of exploiting the geothermal energy under the coal was made an issue by Independent candidate for Morwell Peter Gardner. In his campaign Gardner issued 9 press releases which were distributed to local and state media and other interested parties and made four separate trips to the Valley during the course of the campaign. This resulted in 4 newspaper reports including one relayed to western Victoria, a TV news appearance, a public appearance with the other candidates, 3 radio interviews and possibly other news events that have been missed. Unfortunately this publicity did not translate into votes.

Early in the campaign the issue of exploiting geothermal energy under the coal was picked up by Labor who promised the establishment of a pilot geothermal plant at Maryvale costing \$217,000.

The greens candidate endorsed the idea and noted that Labor's commitment was token. The greens however do not appear to have a policy on geothermal power especially in the Latrobe Valley. They have a policy for closing down Hazelwood but do not appear to have a constructive or detailed program for replacing it.

In the last week of the campaign another independent candidate, presumably a global warming denier, spoke out against geothermal energy. His opposition had the effect of focusing the media once more upon the issue.

During the campaign Gardner also spoke briefly to Russell North - now the re-elected member for Morwell - about developing geothermal energy under the coal. North replied that he thought it was a good idea. But he does not appear to have made any other statement about this during the campaign. Nor do the National Party appear to have any policy on this. On the other hand the Liberal Party energy policy states that they will spend \$1 million on geothermal development but does not mention the Latrobe Valley. This policy is also short on detail.

Gardner now urges that Russell North and the Nationals and the new coalition government to pursue the development of geothermal energy under the coal with some urgency. A program being developed by the University of Melbourne Energy Research Institute requires strong support. This report on the prospect and development of geothermal energy under the coal is due for release soon.

Gardner also noted that the local shire might look closely at incorporating a biochar generator in their program of waste management.