

# CAMPAIGN MATERIAL FOR 2012 Local Council Elections

## Campaign Summary

I stood as a climate emergency independent in the recent East Gippsland Shire Elections. With the assistance of 6 helpers about 1300 brochures were distributed in Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Newlands Arm, Lake Tyers and Swifts Creek. Advertisements were published in the East Gippsland News and community newsheets at Bruthen, Buchan, Omeo and Mallacoota. Seven press releases were published in local papers, one radio interview was aired and I gave 3 minute speech at the poll declaration. Four of the elected councillors completed a survey on climate change although the way almost all candidates allocated their preferences against me indicated that they did not think it a major issue. Unfortunately I polled just under the 4% and so lost my deposit. Another candidate who was just 58 primary votes ahead of me and to whom the preferences flowed was elected. Thanks to all those who helped. Peter Gardner

## Stat. Dec by Candidate

1. I am a member of the Global Warming Action Party Australia
2. I am an Independent single issue candidate in the 2012 Council Elections
3. To the best of my ability I will conduct a carbon neutral campaign
4. If elected
  - a) I will pursue actions to mitigate and adapt to global warming
  - b) I will pay a tithe of 10% of my salary to the Global Warming Action Party Australia (less candidate deposits and election costs)
  - c) I will use every opportunity to educate the public on this issue

## Candidate Survey

Dear Local Candidate,

I am using this questionnaire to allocate my preferences for the local election. **I will not be swapping or making any deals on preferences.**

I am concerned about the single issue of global warming and I am standing on a Vote Solar platform.

My preferences will be allocated according to your responses to the following (please mark appropriate response):

1. What is your opinion on global warming? ( ) very worried ( ) concerned ( ) not concerned  
If you are very worried or concerned how have you expressed this concern?
2. Do you have either of solar hot water ( ) or photovoltaic cells ( ) on your residence?
3. I am located a) in town ( ) b) on a rural property ( )
4. Do you use a pushbike? often ( ) occasionally ( ) never ( )
5. Do you use public transport? often ( ) occasionally ( ) never ( )
6. Do you support any of the following (tick)
  1. Converting the shire to solar and other alternative energy sources ( )
  2. Encouraging the use of bicycles in larger towns ( )
  3. Appointing a shire carbon officer ( )
  4. Supporting & encouraging use of public transport ( )
  5. Aiming to make the shire carbon neutral by 2016 ( )
  6. Using shire tips to generate electricity from Methane waste ( )
  7. Using shire tips to generate electricity from organic matter ( )

8. Allowing all green waste to be dumped free of charge ( )
9. Expansion of shire tree planting programmes ( )
10. Co-operative management of roadsides with farmers ( )
11. Support the Federal carbon initiative ( )
12. Support other alternative energy exploitation wind ( ) geothermal ( )
13. Restrict all shire developments to 2m above sea level ( )
14. Ban Coal seam gas exploitation ( )
15. Support a Green Bond scheme to finance conversion to solar ( )
16. protect productive farmland from urban / mining developements ( )
17. increase fire protection around country towns ( )

Would you be prepared to initiate, promote or support action on any of the matters above you have ticked in Council? Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes to the above please indicate numbers of proposals you support.

Are you a member of a political party?

Replies may be made electronically (preferably), by hard mail or phone. Any response - no matter how negative - will be better than no response at all.

Below is my candidate statement for your interest.

[this survey did not work out very well as it did not allow for the short time candidates had to respond or the positions on the ballot card. It did give a general indicator but could work far better. In practice like minded candidates spoiled each other]

### **Candidate Statement**

The 'Vote Solar' campaign is a response to global warming - the most serious problem mankind has faced. The immediate threats to local communities include extreme heatwaves, bushfires, floods and storms. A recent study (northern hemisphere) indicates that these events are ten times more likely to occur this century than last. Unnecessary deaths caused by the 2009 Victorian heatwave and bushfires (over 500) suggest global warming is already a major health hazard. This requires urgent action at all levels of government. My policy of converting to solar energy is one way to mitigate global warming. Vote solar means adopting a wide range of sustainable energy sources including solar, wind, wave, tidal, geothermal, methane gas and bio-energy from council waste. On a personal basis I have lived and worked in the Ensay and Swifts Creek districts for 40 years and have been involved in sporting, educational and cultural activities.

## **VOTE SOLAR in the Council Elections**

### **VOTE 1 PETER GARDNER**

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. 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 SOLAR**

### **VOTE 1 PETER GARDNER**

# VOTE SOLAR in the Council Elections

## VOTE 1 PETER GARDNER

### Some policies to help mitigate the warming

- progressively erecting solar panels on all shire buildings
- carbon sequestration by rapidly expanding tree planting programs
- burning green waste to create electricity and fuel, e.g. bio-char
- capturing methane waste from dumps to create electricity
- to appoint a carbon accountant and complete a carbon budget
- move the shire towards being carbon neutral by 2016
- encourage the use of bike transport in the towns
- examine all shire power usage for efficiency savings
- cooperate with private companies to examine the potential for the exploitation of geothermal, wind and other alternative energies
- a ban on all coal and/or coal seam gas exploitation

### Some policies to help adapt to the warming

- a ban on any shire funded coastal development within 2 vertical metres of spring high tide mark.
- tree planting programs to increase summer shade in towns
- progressive removal of fire hazardous waste from around towns
- examine the potential of local bonds to finance solar developments

For further information contact

Peter Gardner  
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ngarak@skymesh.com.au

### **About the Candidate**

Peter Gardner has lived in East Gippsland for 40 years - in his owner 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 Captain Coach of the team on two occasions in the 70s and 80s and was treasurer of the Tambo Film Society. He is currently a Friend of the Library, and a member of U3A, the East Gippsland Historical Society, Ensay CFA, Swifts Creek/Ensay Landcare Group and the Gippsland Environment Group. He is currently the secretary of the Global Warming Action Party Australia. 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  
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### **Press Release 10.9.12**

#### **Candidate to run 'Vote Solar' Campaign**

Retired bookseller and Ensay identity has announced he will be a candidate in the coming East Gippsland shire elections and running on a 'Vote Solar' platform. "Solar energy" the candidate explained "was one of the easiest ways to help mitigate the dire threat of global warming but it must be done on a massive scale. Solar includes a raft of other alternative energies including wind, geothermal, bio-generation, wave and tidal." Gardner is offering a range of policies both to mitigate global warming and to adapt to the 1-2 degrees warming still to come in the future.

Rather than entering the 'free for all' of candidates swapping preferences Gardner has decided to allocate his preferences to those candidates most likely to adopt or support his ideas. To do this he has devised a questionnaire that will be submitted to all candidates. His intention is also to make his campaign carbon neutral by planting an appropriate number of trees on his property at Ensay.

Gardner has lived in East Gippsland for 40 years including 30 years in his owner built house powered by wind and solar energy. 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 Captain Coach of the team on two occasions in the 70s and 80s and was treasurer of the Tambo Film Society. He is currently a Friend of the Library, and a member of U3A, the East Gippsland Historical Society, Ensay CFA, Swifts Creek/Ensay Landcare Group, the Gippsland Environment Group and the secretary of the Global Warming Action Party Australia.

As a regional historian he has written extensively on several aspects of Gippsland history. These include three works on the Kurnai/Gunnai and his popular Gippsland names series. He has also been a regular correspondent to the Bairnsdale Advertiser over the last 5 years on matters pertaining to Global Warming. He stood in the last council election on a platform of action against global warming. He also stood in the last state election in the seat of Morwell on a platform of developing the geothermal energy beneath the brown coal and using the 'biochar' electricity generators advocated by Tim Flannery.

## **Press Release 3 (25.9.12)**

### **'Vote Solar' Campaign**

'Vote Solar' candidate Ensay identity and Gippsland historian Peter Gardner notes that one of the earth's air conditioners – the Arctic ice cap – is in drastic decline. This year there was a reduction in the summer Arctic sea ice volume to about 20% of the 1979 minimum. The Arctic, where the warming is far higher than anywhere else on earth, may become ice free during summer within the next decade or so. "If there was ever a sign of rapid warming of the earth this is it." Gardner said. He also noted that this ice melt does not add to sea level rise.

The immediate threats caused by global warming on Gippslanders are the result of more extreme weather events (droughts, heat waves, floods) rather than sea level rise or ocean acidification. These and related bush fires will become more frequent and already are a health hazard. Mortality figures indicate that greater than 370 unnecessary deaths were caused by the 2009

Victorian heat wave – mostly the young and elderly - more than double the fatalities of Black Saturday. The 1 in 100 year bush fires are predicted to become 1 in 10 years. This has already happened with the fires of 2003, 2006/7 and 2009.

Another longer term threat of global warming is the slowly increasing sea level. Whilst at the moment the rise is less than 4mm per annum current scientific predictions suggest the total sea level rise may be as much as 2 metres by 2100. Such a rise would engulf downtown Lakes Entrance, other low lying residences and put the whole lakes system at risk. Gardner argues that a ban should be put on all shire development below 2 metres (above current high tide mark) and that any private development below 2 metres should have a global warming caveat exempting the shire and local community from legal action from any damages caused by sea level rise.

The time has come for urgent action at all levels of government. The ‘vote solar’ campaign advocates the adoption of a range of policies to help mitigate, and adapt, to global warming. Gardner advocates using an array of alternative energy sources including solar, wind, waste bio-energy, wave, tidal, energy efficiency and possibly geothermal to replace our current harmful coal fired electricity. This must be done on a massive scale.

## **Press Release 4**

### **Arctic Summer Ice Melt Alarm**

‘Vote Solar’ candidate, Essay identity and Gippsland historian Peter Gardner, has pointed out that one of the earth’s air conditioners - the Arctic ice cap - is in drastic decline. This year there was a reduction in the summer Arctic sea ice volume to about 20% of the 1979 minimum. The Arctic, where the warming is far higher than anywhere else on earth, may become ice free during summer within the next decade. “If there was ever a sign of the rapid warming of the earth this is it.” Gardner said. “Daily the science is advancing, linking polar warming directly with more extreme and more frequent weather events.”

Urgent action is required at all levels of government to both mitigate and adapt to global warming. The warming is already a health hazard and a further 1-2 degrees centigrade rise in the future needs to be planned for due to the longevity of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The immediate threats caused by global warming to Gippslanders are the result of these more extreme weather events - droughts, heat waves, floods - and related events like bushfires. Mortality figures indicate that greater than 370 unnecessary deaths were caused by the 2009 Victorian heat wave - mostly the young and elderly - more than double the fatalities of Black Saturday. Some of these fatalities can be attributed to global warming. Research by James Hansen and colleagues of NASA on extreme weather events in the northern hemisphere indicates that they have already become 10 times more common this century compared with the last. The 1 in 100 year bushfires have already become 1 in 10 years with our fires of 2003, 2006/7 and 2009.

There is a need to replace coal generated electricity as quickly as possible as this is the major source of greenhouse gas - the main cause of the warming. The vote solar campaign has a number of initiatives to help mitigate the warming including the widespread adoption of solar and related alternative energy sources including wind, waste bio-energy, wave, tidal, energy efficiency and possibly geothermal. This must be done on a massive scale. Other policies include the removal of most fire hazardous waste from, and planting of shade trees in, our towns.

## **Press Release 5**

### **Vote Solar Candidate**

The 'Vote Solar' campaign is being run by Peter Gardner in response to the threats posed by climate change. This means adopting a wide range of alternative energy sources. Solar and producing power and fuel from green waste are suited to shire operations. Community wind projects can provide both income for landholders and permanent jobs. Wave, tidal and geothermal power projects are most suited to private enterprise development. Energy efficiency can be adopted by the community at large. As well a number of other means of mitigating and adapting to warming are necessary including sequestering carbon in tree plantations.

Indications are that global warming is happening more quickly than mainstream scientific projections and at the worst case limits of their predictions. For instance the Arctic Ice sheet – one of the earth's air conditioners - is retreating at an astonishing pace and the Arctic may be ice free in summer within a decade. This is 70-80 years ahead of previous worst case 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, floods - and related bushfires, that are immediate threats to Gippslanders. Mortality figures indicate that 370 unnecessary deaths were caused by the 2009 Victorian heat wave - mostly the young and elderly - more than double the fatalities of Black Saturday. Some of these fatalities can be attributed to global warming. Research by James Hansen on extreme weather events in the northern hemisphere indicates that they have already become 10 times more common this century compared with the last. The 1 in 100 year bushfires have already become 1 in 10 years with our fires of 2003, 2006/7 and 2009.

During the 2003 and 2006/7 bushfires much of East Gippsland was threatened. We worked as communities to protect ourselves and our assets. Fortunately in these events loss of life was minimal. Aside from a few bad days the weather in these events was relatively benign. Imagine if either of these bushfires 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 prepare for the worst. Urgent action is required at all levels of government to both mitigate and adapt to global warming. Vote solar is a small step in this direction.

### **Candidate Profile - Peter Gardner**

I am running a 'Vote Solar' campaign in response to the threats posed by climate change. This means adopting a wide range of alternative energy sources. Solar and

producing power and fuel from green waste are well suited to shire operations. Wind projects can provide both income for landholders and the community as well as permanent jobs. Other power projects require private capital with shire assistance and encouragement.

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, floods - and related events like bushfires, that are immediate threats to Gippslanders.

During the 2003 and 2006/7 bushfires much of East Gippsland was threatened. We worked as communities to protect ourselves and our assets. Imagine if these 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 and adapt to global warming.

As most other candidates have directed their preferences against me 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 for solar is a small step in this direction. A third or fourth preference for solar will probably be wasted. 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.

## **Press Release**

### **A Wind farm Boost for Local Communities?**

Vote solar candidate Peter Gardner has called for wind farms to be constructed in suitable parts of the shire. These can be financed locally or with private capital and require strong community support - this is particularly so with the severe restrictions imposed by the current state government. Community wind projects can provide income for landholders and permanent jobs. Many of the wind farms in Denmark are community owned and there is a small community owned wind farm currently operating near Daylesford. At Waubra, north-west of Ballarat, a wind farm is providing \$80,000 for the local community and \$250,000 to landholders - both per annum - along with five permanent jobs. Such an investment would be a fantastic boost for any struggling local community such as my own at Ensay. In South Australia wind has already surpassed coal as a source of energy. The adoption of alternative energy sources is a win/win situation abating greenhouse gas emissions and providing communities with income.

The 'Vote Solar' campaign has been run in response to the threats posed by climate change. Indications are that global warming is happening more quickly and at the worst case upper limits of 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, floods - and related events like bushfires, that are the immediate threats to Gippslanders. During the 2003 and 2006/7 bushfires much of East Gippsland was threatened. We worked as communities to protect ourselves and our assets. Imagine if these 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 and adapt to global warming. As most other candidates have directed their preferences against me 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. A third or fourth preference will probably be wasted. Vote one solar is a small step in the right direction.

(Advert.)  
Concerned about Climate Change

**Vote Solar**  
It's clean, it's sustainable

**VOTE 1 Peter Gardner**

For more information write to  
PO Box 18 Ensay 3895 or email  
ngarak@skymesh.com.au

**Let the sunlight into council**

(Authorised H.Reddish 1346 Cassilis Rd  
Swifts Creek 3896)

## **Speech at Poll Declaration 29.10.12**

East Gippsland Shire Offices, Bairnsdale

We are in a climate emergency. It affects us all. Global warming is happening now and appears to be close to the worst case predictions of the world's scientists. The earth's air conditioner - the Arctic Ice Cap – declined to just 20% of its volume this northern summer compared to the summer of 1979 when satellite measurements first began. What does this mean? It means we are all in big trouble!

The science about greenhouse gases and warming has been known for a long time. The earth has already warmed just under one degree centigrade over the last hundred years and a further one to two degrees is already in the pipeline and cannot be avoided.

The effects of this warming are already being felt in Victoria with three 1 in 100 year fires in the last decade. More than 20 years ago CSIRO scientists predicted that warming would mean an increase in the number of extreme weather events and an increase in the severity of them. Imagine our next bushfires in east Gippsland occurring with the heatwave conditions and winds of February 2009. This is what global warming means to us now.

Burning coal is the immediate enemy of us all. One ton of pure coal when burnt to produce electricity produces more than 3 tons of carbon dioxide - the most harmful

greenhouse gas – and brown coal is much worse. Carbon dioxide has a long life and can last in the atmosphere hundreds of years.

Replacing coal as an energy source with solar or other alternative energies - which are basically free - is the obvious way to go. It is the way to go even if you are not convinced of the threat of global warming. There are many other options open to us including energy conservation and energy efficiency. There is probably a substantial source of geothermal energy beneath our feet – the old hot pools at Metung being a strong indicator. There are a large number of other practical ideas to help mitigate the warming and adapt to it.

It is incumbent on us all as individuals and as businesses and organisations like the shire to replace our current energy sources as quickly as possible. It is the duty and responsibility of all elected councillors to understand this problem and to act.

I am happy to speak to any group or individual about this

Thank you