

Archives Federal Election 2.7.16

Candidacy of Peter Gardner for the Renewable Energy Party in Gippsland

With the disappointing final result of 1.5% of Final Vote

Media Release No 7 27.6.16

REP candidate Condemns Major Parties Coal and Climate Change Disconnect

Peter Gardner, Renewable Energy Party Candidate in Gippsland, has made a concerted attack on the failure of the major parties to act responsibly over coal, climate change and renewable energy – the dominant issues of our time.

“Both the major parties are still in the coal camp,” he stated. “They refuse to recognise that the global warming we are experiencing now, that is killing the Great Barrier Reef, is directly connected to the burning of coal. There are two reasons for this. We are burning coal and exporting it like it was going out of fashion. Each ton of coal we burn, mostly carbon, produces energy and nearly 3 tons of the gas CO₂. This law in physics is known as the ‘conservation of mass’. The second reason is that carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas - the more fossil fuels we burn, the more CO₂ in the atmosphere increases which in turn warms the earth more. These increases, both of CO₂ and a warming planet, have been measured for many years.

“There is a conflict between climate change and coal policies on the part of our major political parties,” he continued. “They either do not understand the science or they are negligent. Where is responsible government? Does a responsible government close down the scientific study of the most important issue of humanity for all time, an issue that threatens our lives, our livelihoods and in the end our very existence? It’s called shooting the messenger! The Coalition government’s behaviour with regards the CSIRO is deplorable and shameful. The CSIRO saved Gippsland from the rabbit plague after the war with myxo. Have farmers forgotten that?

“By accepting a single dollar from the coal and energy industries the parties are worshipping mammon. By allowing this dollar to influence policy not only are they abandoning responsible government they are culpable! The Great Barrier Reef, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, will not be saved by throwing taxpayers money at it with one hand and developing the giant Adani coal mine in Queensland with the other. Both policies supported by our major parties. It is throwing that money away and condemning the Great Barrier Reef and much else besides. It is the worst of all options.

He concluded with an appeal to voters to send a message to Canberra: “If you are worried about Climate Change and think we should be doing more or just think renewable energy is a

good thing then you can send a message to the major parties and their political bosses by first voting for the Renewable Energy Party and then the party of your choice. A massive majority of Australians are in favour of solar and renewable energy. If you are usually a voter of either of the major parties you can help bring about a return to responsible and sensible government with your vote.

Media Release No 6 20.6.16

How Mr Turnbull can save the Great Barrier Reef

The Renewable Energy Party candidate in Gippsland Peter Gardner was angered by recent statements from the PM on the Great Barrier Reef. He stated: “The Prime Minister is throwing money at the Great Barrier Reef, or promising to - the massive round figure of \$1 billion - giving the impression that the reef can be saved by dollops of dough. This is a cynical exercise on Mr Turnbull’s behalf as he, more than any other politician in the Conservative ranks, has shown a clear understanding of the causes of human induced climate change.

“Will this save the reef?” he asked “The short answer is no! For the survival of this great Australian icon is dependent on the laws of physics. Burning fossil fuels adds to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, enhancing the greenhouse effect and causing global warming. The warming oceans cause coral bleaching and dieback. Therefore if nothing is done about the cause of the bleaching and dieback the reef is doomed and the money wasted.

Gardner suggested there are a number of positive steps our PM could take. “But he could do no better than financing and organising a ‘just transition’ in the Latrobe valley with plenty of change out of his billion dollars. The brown coal fired generators, as the biggest greenhouse gas polluters in Australia, have to be phased out as quickly and seamlessly as possible. Reverse auctions, which I don’t fully understand, appear to be the way to go. But carefully planning and funding must occur so that the unemployed and underemployed can be absorbed into the workforce.

“The manufacturing advantages of Morwell are obvious” Gardner continued “plentiful labor supply, well serviced, and an ideal place to establish various components of renewable energy manufacturing. The Earthworker co-operative with a large order for heat pumps for government buildings could establish in Morwell quickly. I understand they are planning to do so anyway. Without full employment there can be no ‘just transition’.”

Gardner concluded that: “The Renewable Energy Party is the only single issue climate party in Australia. It wants to phase out fossil fuel stationary power by 2030. If this can be achieved, along with many other changes, it might just save the Great Barrier Reef. It is

therefore important if you want a just transition in the Valley, or are concerned about the ravages of extreme weather and our warming land and oceans, or are just a fan of renewable energy, please consider giving the Renewable Energy Party your number one vote.”

Media Release No 5 13.6.16

Renewable Energy Party Candidate Condemns Adversarial Politics

Peter Gardner, REP candidate in the seat of Gippsland, has spoken out against the use of adversarial politics on crucial issues of importance for all Australians. He said: “The idea of opposing for opposition’s sake is absurd, bordering on madness. Imagine if one side of politics thought gravity was a good idea, then the other side must oppose it. But that is what is happening when the gravest issues facing us all are treated this way. It is all about one upmanship, of personal ambitions and vendettas, of tit for tat point scoring, and divisiveness whereas these issues concern us all and do not deserve to be treated in this manner.”

“We are faced with a climate emergency” he added, “though few in the community, and definitely not our politicians, can see that. We should be working together on something that threatens us, not bandying around meaningless slogans and playing ‘wedge’ politics. On a personal note my family has twice been threatened by severe bushfires, events almost certainly influenced by climate change, this century - in 2003 and 2006/7. On both occasions it was a matter of preparing for the worst, I closed my shop and with my family worked hard around our home whilst my wife worked daily in our CFA shed. Fortunately both times the fires passed us by.”

“The point of this is as a community when we recognise a threat we work together to combat it. We help and assist each other as best we can which is, incidentally one of the unrecognised benefits of small communities. Now we have a mammoth problem with global warming, and we are quarrelling about things that are, or should be, out of the political realm. Farmers and rural communities have the most to lose from political inaction on climate change, and conversely the most to gain from concerted action in the right direction.”

“One area where the bush may benefit is community energy projects. I often use the Waubra wind project as an example of business and community cooperation that literally injects millions of dollars into the community along with an impressive number of jobs. This is a small step to combat climate change and a big win for the community. I have pointed out that there are many places in Gippsland, small and large, that could adopt similar projects. Especially if they have a bit of sympathy, guidance and interest from government.”

He concluded that: “It is time to forget about our political differences and work together on this threat. In a worst case scenario this threatens the lives of us all and in the end the very existence of human beings on this planet. Can there be a bigger threat?”

Gardner is one of only 4 Renewable Energy Party lower house candidates in Victoria.

Media Release 4 6.6.16

Renewable Energy Party Candidate Opposes Coal Seam Gas and Coal

Renewable Energy Party candidate in Gippsland Peter Gardner has been a strong supporter of the local No CSG (unconventional gas) movement since its inception. In particular he was an early supporter of Frack Free East Gippsland and has been a regular attendee of meetings and events organised by Gasfield Free Bairnsdale. Gardner spoke briefly to the East Gippsland Shire meeting which recently debated the subject of unconventional gas and its effects on prime farming land.

He pointed out the dangers of methane emissions (a powerful greenhouse gas) from all CSG operations and stated that: “It doesn’t matter whether you believe in climate change or not. The greenhouse effect is basic physics, like gravity. Greenhouse gases help retain heat on our planet. Without greenhouse gases our earth would be 30 degrees colder – like Mars. Since the industrial revolution man has been adding a greenhouse gas – carbon dioxide – to the atmosphere at increasing rates and the earth is getting measurably warmer. 2014 was the warmest year on record, 2015 then became the warmest year and 2016 already looks like breaking last year’s record.” Gardner remains completely opposed to any further fossil fuel development in Australia.

He noted: “Unconventional gas is Methane and is initially 30 to 100 times a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. In the USA there has been considerable methane leakage measured in the drilling process, from wells and pipes. Also black carbon – another warming product - is produced when gas is flared to the atmosphere.”

Whilst some in the community still refuse to accept the science on climate most of us think that renewable energy is a good idea, whether solar or wind, and has many benefits. By working hard we can change from fossil fuel based electricity generation to renewables in 15 years or less. Community based projects will create jobs and help revive many dying country towns. The policy of the Renewable Energy Party is to change completely to renewable electricity by 2030.”

He concluded: “When greenhouse gases were previously as high as they are now the earth was 2 degrees warmer, sea levels were 20 metres higher and there were no human beings in existence. Now is the time to begin the change to renewable energy, energy storage and energy efficiency on a nationwide scale.”

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31.5.16

Dear Gippsland Voter,

I am the endorsed candidate for the Renewable Energy Party (REP) in Gippsland.

The aim of the campaign is to appeal to a largely sympathetic public that renewable energy is the way to go and we should do it now. In particular it is hoped we can sway a number of voters away from the Nationals in this safe seat, and emphasise the positive benefits of renewables.

The local campaign will be based around my revised TV advert from 2013 (Vote Climate Vote Solar).

An election kit can be found on my website with information, downloadable pamphlets and posters at <http://petergardner.info/global-warming-politics/> available from June 1.

This will be the only time I bother you. If you would like to be kept informed please return email me and I can put you on a supporters list with weekly updates. Also if you have any queries do not hesitate to ask.

The REP policy is to achieve 100% renewable energy in 2030.

Please spread the word.

Thanks

Media Release No 3 30/5/16

Renewable Energy Party supports Community Wind and other Projects

Renewable Energy Party (REP) candidate in Gippsland Peter Gardner is a fan of Community wind farms. He uses the term widely and it encompasses both the Waubra Wind farm (a company operation with community consent) and the Hepburn Wind (community owned and operated.) “The REP policy” he said “was to support grassroots initiatives by local communities to generate renewable energy locally, engage in energy efficiency measures, and develop innovative models of energy trading.”

For Gardner wind generation is the obvious answer for community projects. “The Waubra community have drought proofed their farms and their community by earning \$8000 per annum for each wind generator installed on their land. As there are 128 of them this adds an extra one million dollars to the community each year. The community also receives an annual return – enough to bring their local pub and other organisations back to life. Further there were 200 people employed in the manufacture (which could be done in Morwell) and installation of the generators and 26 permanent onsite jobs. This keeps a large amount of money in the community and helps revive it. As well as providing renewable energy to

communities there is no pollution, greenhouse gases are saved, there is no big hole in the ground and farming continues with minimal disturbance.”

“There are some windy places in Gippsland, besides the coast and a number of ‘Blowhards’ in the high country including Ensay and Benambra where even much smaller projects could help revive the communities. Where landscape or conditions not suited to wind solar may provide the answer like the recent project for a \$20 million community solar farm at Wangaratta. Other types of renewable projects might be suitable for community adoption. For example tidal energy at Lakes Entrance or pumped hydro in the Hazelwood open cut once the plant is closed down” he said.

Further Information

<https://theconversation.com/wind-turbine-syndrome-farm-hosts-tell-very-different-story-18241>

<http://www.accionacom.au/projects/energy/wind-power/waubra-wind-farm/>

Media Release No 2 24/5/16

A ‘Climate Change’ Candidate stands for a New Party in Gippsland

Gippsland historian and climate activist Peter Gardner has been nominated today as the Renewable Energy Party (REP) candidate in the seat of Gippsland. The newly formed REP is based in northern NSW but intends to have candidates in every state. It is the first party to form on the single issue of climate change since the Climate Coalition in 2007. It is appealing to voters across the political spectrum and is offering the solution of renewable energy and a ‘just’ transition to a sustainable economy as quickly as possible.

Gardner has previously stood in a recent elections as a ‘climate emergency’ Independent on a ‘Vote Climate Vote Solar’ slogan. His website is a great resource for journalists and others. In particular he has been commenting on matters to do with Climate Change and Renewable Energy in Gippsland on his blog (Gippsland News) for the best part of a year. The articles are regularly posted twice a week and cover a diverse range of topics including local efforts in renewable energy and energy efficiency, looking at some worst case scenarios of climate change for the future, urging a just transition to a sustainable economy in both the Latrobe Valley and the logging industry, and signs of our warming climate. The posts are usually between 300 and 500 words in length and a full list, including those by guest authors (about a dozen), can be supplied on request. There is also a brief biography of the candidate and some of his essays on (mainly) local history can also be obtained from the website.

Gardner stated that the real issue of the election was “the huge, complex problem of climate change with renewable energy part of the solution”. In particular he was critical of the major parties and the divisive nature of the debate: “Climate change affects us all. It will continue to

do so and these effects will gradually get worse. In emergencies previously faced by Gippslanders we have worked together to combat them, such as with the severe bushfires of this century 2003, 2006/7 and 2009 - not forgetting the Morwell open cut fire in 2014. It is time for us to get together to do what we can to combat the 'climate emergency' and discard the nit-picking and divisiveness of everyday politics. It is time for a 'just transition' to a sustainable economy across Gippsland and Australia.”

Media Release 16.5

Bairnsdale Climate Activist Peter Gardner has offered to run as a candidate in Gippsland for the newly registered Renewable Energy Party.

In his application to be the Gippsland candidate Gardner is described as “a retired teacher and bookdealer now resident in Bairnsdale. For most of his life he has lived in an off-grid wind and solar powered house in the foothills of the high country. He has previously run for office as a 'climate independent' at all levels of government on a 'Vote Climate Vote Solar' slogan in the electorates of Gippsland, Morwell and East Gippsland. He is a long term member of the Alternative Technology Association. He is best known as the author of several histories on the Gunai/Kurnai tribes of Gippsland and of a series of popular place name booklets across the region. Currently he runs a blog – Gippsland News - on aspects of climate change, renewable energy and politics of the region which is published online bi-weekly.”

The Renewable Energy Party is newly registered political party and centred on Northern NSW. It still working to arrange an attractive Victorian Senate ticket.

Contacts

Renewable Energy Party

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Websites: <http://renewableenergyparty.com.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/REPA2016/>

Peter Gardner 03 5153 0705 mobile 0435 673 864

Website & Blog: <http://petergardner.info/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PeterDGardner>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/peter.gardner.9250>



Fed Elect 16 Poster
1.docx



Vote 1 Gardner
Testimony from How



Vote 1 Gardner
Testimony from Russ

Election 2016 Finances

Peter Gardner Renewable Energy Party Candidate in Gippsland

Expenditure & Current A/C

Date	For	paid to	Amount	Cum.Total
23.5.16	candidate deposit	AEC Sale	\$1000	
27.5	TV Advert	Prime 7	\$2942.50	\$3942.50
"	"	Win TV	\$2200	\$6142.50
"	Advert Changes	Zonk	\$385	\$6527.50
2.6	Sundries post	cash	\$1.60	\$6529.10
7.6	Badges	B'dale Trophies	\$275	\$6804.10
10.6	Banked	Badges/donation	-\$100	\$6704.10
21.6	Banked	donation	-\$50	\$6654.10
23.6	Banked	donation	-\$20	\$6634.10
28.6	Banked	donation	-\$500	\$6134.10
28.6	Badges	cash	-\$75	\$6059.10
6.7	Services in lieu of	donation	(\$200)	\$6059.01
' '	Cash	donation	-\$100	\$5959.10

Travel

9.6 Bairnsdale to Traralgon return

10.6 Bairnsdale to Sale return

Income

Badge sales banked \$50 10.6;

Badge sales banked \$75 28.6

Donations \$920