

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evidence produced by science, which may be informed by economic interests and personal values but never superseded by personal opinions or political objectives.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)