

Gene Ethics Media Release

Friday November 21, 2008

Strong backing for GM-free in Victorian council elections

162 candidates for election to 47 Victorian councils back GM-free policies (see list below). Gene Ethics' 4,000 constituents will support them and GM-free policies.

“This huge response reflects community-wide concern throughout Victoria over Genetically Manipulated crops and foods,” says Gene Ethics Director, Bob Phelps.

“Five councils** already asked the state government to use its legal powers to declare them GM-free and we expect there will be many more after the elections.

“Several more council have also amended their food service contracts to require GM-free foods in child care, Meals on Wheels and other food services.

“Our GM-free campaign will accelerate in 2009, with more newly elected councillors favouring GM-free,” he says.

Councillor Samantha Dunn of the Shire of Yarra Ranges says: “GM-free farms and food have overwhelming support in our area and the state government must declare the Shire GM-free.

“Most people in rural industries want to stay GM-free and do not accept the genetic contamination that GM canola will bring.

“Councils know the real concerns of our local communities, so the Premier and Agriculture Minister risk a backlash by rejecting our call for a GM-free Zone,” says Ms Dunn.

John Ward and Jim Reiher, Greens candidates for election to the City of Greater Dandenong Council, also “vow to work for GM-free, to protect the health of our community. See: <http://cgn.org.au/dp/node/795>”

“Local councils can do a lot to protect their residents from the potential dangers of GM food and they should do it,” say candidate John Ward.

“As the scientific evidence of harm to experimental animal mounts, many independent scientists are challenging the food industry's claim that GM foods are safe.

“Greater Dandenong is a community defined by families with children so the council cannot afford to ignore this serious health issue,” candidate Jim Reiher says.

“We need to work together as a community to ensure a healthy future for our children.”

More comment from: Bob Phelps 9347 4500/0449 769 066; Samantha Dunn 0407 364 509; John Ward 0421 241 342; Jim Reiher 0425 752 358

** GM-free: Greater Bendigo; Yarra Ranges; Bass Coast; South Gippsland; East Gippsland

Victorian Council Candidates supporting GM-free

Their contacts are at: <http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/lgelections.html> - [councillist](#)

Ballarat City

Belinda Coates <belinda.coates@vic.greens.org.au>, Brett Edgington <theedge@wix.com.au>, Jon Stanger <jon.stanger@vic.greens.org.au>

Banyule City

Ian Kirk <ian.kirk@vic.greens.org.au>, Damian Magner <hawdonward@yahoo.com.au>, Gerrit Schorel-Hlavka" <inspector_rikati@yahoo.com.au>

Bass Coast Shire (passed GM-free motion that needs full implementation)

Gareth Barlow <gareth.barlow@bigpond.com>, Philip Wright <pwright@nex.net.au>, Jane Dore Daly <jdd@waterfront.net.au>, Christopher Nagle <c.d.eastmannagle@gmail.com>, John Duscher, Veronica Dowman <garon@pacific.net.au>, Kelly Simrajh, Peter Paul <pandgpaul@bigpond.com>, Ernest Smith, Roger Thorrowgood

Baw Baw Shire

Liz Clay <liz-clay@sympac.com.au>, Tricia Jones <triciajones.4.drouin@gmail.com>, David Balfour <sueb@dcsi.net.au>, Ivan Saxton <ies@dcsi.net.au>

Bayside City

Anastasia Kriticos <stacyt@iprimus.com.au>, David Low

Benalla Rural City

Peter Dunn <admin@pdunnsolicitors.com.au>

Boroondara City

Brad Miles <brad@miles.id.au>, Teodor Bila <theobila@hotmail.com>, Stanko Stapar <stanstapar@hotmail.com>, Heinz Kreutz <Heinz.Kreutz@arts.monash.edu.au>, Martin Smith <martin_p_smith@bigpond.com>, David Bloom <dbloom44@bigpond.net.au>

Cardinia Shire

Gloria O'Connor <glorocon@yahoo.com.au>, Linda Hamilton <linda@webassets.com.au>, Kate Lempriere" <k.lempriere@cardinia.vic.gov.au>

Casey City

John Rickard" <johnmrickard@gmail.com>, Miriam Ekladious <mtadr@deakin.edu.au>, Lynette Keleher <lynettek@ozemail.com.au>

Darebin City

Trevor Poulton <poulton@labyrinth.net.au>, Liz Leveridge <liz.leveridge@optusnet.com.au>, Sara Scally <sihamscally@hotmail.com>

East Gippsland Shire

Jane Rowe <janerowe@aanet.com.au>, Dale Fisher <daleevelyn2000@yahoo.com>, Raymond Amos <raymondamos@optusnet.com.au>, Graeme Blennerhassett <graeme@drgraeme.com>, Tony Meade <ameade@bigpond.com>, Peter Gardner <ngarak@bigpond.com>, Trudy Anderson, Bill Gamble <bill.gamble@gamcorp.com.au>, Clint Eastwood <clinteastwoodeastgippsland@yahoo.com.au>, Mendy Urie,

Peter Neal <aus_disp@people.net.au> (My hands are tied until you get me into council)

Frankston City

Susan Jarmo <susanjarmo@yahoo.com>, Henryk Kay <hkay@optusnet.com.au> Jaymz Stevens <jaymz.stevens@vic.greens.org.au>

Golden Plains Shire

Mark Hooke <markhooke@gmail.com>

Greater Bendigo City

David Jones <davidjonessedgwick@hotmail.com>, Rod Fyffe, Elaine Harrington <harringtonelaine@hotmail.com>, Peter Cox <hardhill@impulse.net.au>, Bruce Carpenter <carpenter.bruce@bssc.edu.au>, Wendy Radford <wendy.radford@vic.greens.org.au>, Julian Poloniato, Trudi McClure <trudda@hotmail.com>, Julie Rivendell <julie@rivendells.com>, Wayne Gregson <wayneg01@optusnet.com.au>, Stuart Fraser, Kevin Gibbins, Keith Reynard

Greater Dandenong City

Jim Reiher <jim@unoh.org>, John Ward <<http://cgn.org.au/dp/taxonomy/term/304>><http://cgn.org.au/dp/taxonomy/term/304>, Geraldine Gonsalvez <geraldine_gonsalvez@yahoo.com>, Maria Sampey <maria.sampey@optusnet.com.au>

Greater Geelong City

Nick Montgomery <nicholasjmontgomery@gmail.com>, Stephen Juhasz <stephenj@dodo.com.au>, Bob Hynes" <mazdabob@geelongce.net.au> (will talk, if elected)

Hepburn Shire

Rod May <capck@bigpond.com>, Don Henderson <don.henderson@tripstop.net>

Horsham Shire

Iestyn Hosking <iestyn@vic.chariot.net.au>, Mark Radford <radforda@netconnect.com.au> (may have some GM concerns)

Hume City

Steve Gagen <merriward@gagens.com>

Kingston City (passed a motion re food services but not activated)

Rosemary West <rowest@ozemail.com.au>, Geoffrey Heard <marketyman@yahoo.com.au>, Dean Andrew <dean.andrew@optusnet.com.au>, Mara Hayler <mhayler@iprimus.com.au>, Caspar Cumming <caspar.cumming@gmail.com>, Gerard Flood" <gflood@vtown.com.au>, Martha Baptist <mbaptist@bigpond.net.au>, Caroline O'Donnell <cjodonne@deakin.edu.au>

Knox City

Steve Bullock <steve.bullock@vic.greens.org.au>, Mark Lavale <mark_27@live.com.au>, Amanda Leeper <amanda_leeper@optusnet.com.au>, John Giles <carolgiles@aapt.net.au>, Jim Penna <pennamgt@bigpond.net.au> (backs VLGA GM site register policy only)

Latrobe

William Barber <willbarberass@ozemail.com.au> (on the fence), Linda Reid <lindareid.1@bigpond.com> (interested but unsure where she stands)

Macedon Ranges Shire

Brian Whitefield <pumps11@bigpond.com>, Anne Moore <anne1moore@yahoo.com.au>, Russell Yardley <rmyardley@bigpond.com> (yet to be convinced)

Manningham City

Raymond Hoser <raymondhoser@optusnet.com.au>, Vincent Choi <rptecture@gmail.com>, Mia Spizzica <miaspi@bigpond.net.au>, Garry Addison <Garry.Addison@cpaaustralia.com.au>

Maroondah (petition recently tabled, needs action)

Alex Makin <Alex.Makin@maroondah.vic.gov.au>

Melbourne City

Joseph Toscano <shiftingtheburden@gmail.com>, Brian Forde <thejunkcompany@hotmail.com>, Sophie McEwen <semcewen@gmail.com>

Mitchell Shire

Anna Dominguez Smith <annadominguezsmith@gmail.com>

Monash Shire

Josh Fergeus <josh.fergeus@vic.greens.org.au>, Karl Le <karl_le@yahoo.com.au>

Moonee Valley City

Ange Kenos <atkenos@hotmail.com>, Hamish Jones <hamishjones@optusnet.com.au> (wants info)

Moreland

Joe Caputo <ardicagiuseppe@hotmail.com>, Oscar Yildiz <oscar1970@optusnet.com.au>, Stella Kariofyllidis <stellak@iinet.net.au>, Vanessa Hearman <vhearman@gmail.com>, Sue Bolton <sueb@greenleft.org.au>, Anita Carcour <magicmovements2001@yahoo.com>, Hashem Ouaida <houa1@optusnet.com.au>, Alice Pryor <alice@pryorknowledge.com.au>, Christopher Anderson <chrisabrunsgmail.com>, Turan Ertekin,

Mornington Peninsula

Reade Smith <reade.a.smith@gmail.com>

Moyne

Gillian Blair <gillianb9@westvic.com.au>

** Anna Dillon <anna.dillon@bigpond.com> (own views - won't discuss GM-free)

Mt Alexander

Janet Cropley" <janetc@ozemail.com.au>

Nillumbik

Sigmund Jorgensen <sigmund.jorgensen@montsalvat.com.au>, Linda Laos <elalaos@gmail.com>, Tony Adams <tony.adams@vic.greens.org.au>, Liezl Shnookal <liezl_shnookal@iprimus.com.au>, Jenna Farrington <jennafarrington@yahoo.com.au>

Port Phillip

Ann Birrell <ann.birrell@vic.greens.org.au>, Anne Austin <austinglover@optusnet.com.au>, Anthony Scrinis <anthony@scrinis.info> (no comment yet) David Carter <carterforcarlisle@gmail.com> (will consider GM-free if elected)

South Gippsland

Jennie Deane <franjen@dcsi.net.au>, David Lewis <david.lewis@bigpond.com>, Kieran Kennedy, Bob Newton, Mimmie Jackson <vote1mimmie@gmail.com>, Warren Raabe

Southern Grampians

Stafford Hall <stafford.hall@police.vic.gov.au>

Surf Coast

John Foss <jfoss@ozemail.com.au>

Warrnambool

Lisa Owen <eowen@datafast.net.au>, <lisa.owen@vic.greens.org.au>, Jenifer Lowe <rjlowe@eftel.net.au>

West Wimmera

Warren Wait

Whitehorse

Philip Daw <dawfamily@iprimus.com.au>, Joseph Magill <joseph_magill@hotmail.com>, Denise Massoud <denisemassoud@optusnet.com.au>

Whittlesea

Mladenovski Zoran <zoran@stateyoursay.com>

Wodonga

Ed Foulston <ed4council@iinet.net.au>

Yarra Ranges (Has GM-free policies. More to be done)

Samantha Dunne <samanthalistens@gmail.com>, Di Moore <di@dimoore.com>, Jo Tenner <jotenner@netspace.net.au>, Ian Harris <har58@aanet.com.au>, Alan Coutinho-Hogan <elaineandalan@iprimus.com.au>, Lisa Nink <lcnin@netlink.com.au>, Joanne Switserloot <gaiaspirit@gmail.com> (wants more info)

Yarra (has GM-free policies. They need more pro-active implementation)

Stephen Jolly <Stephen.Jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au>, Denise Dudley, Anthony Main <anthonymain1@hotmail.com>, Sam Gaylard <sam.gaylard@vic.greens.org.au>, Amanda Stone <amanda.stone@vic.greens.org.au>, Gurm Sekhon <yarra@gurm.org>, Davis Clayton <davis.clayton@vic.greens.org.au>, Alison Clarke <yarrabranh@vic.greens.org.au>, Jenny Farrar <yarrabranh@vic.greens.org.au>

** Tom McFeely" <tom@changeyarra.net.au> (disagrees with GM-free)

Yarriambiack

Terry Grange <tgrange@westnet.com.au>

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No responses were received from:

Alpine Shire; Ararat Rural City, Brimbank City, Buloke Shire, Campaspe Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Colac Otway Shire, Corangamite Shire, Gannawarra City, Glen Eira City, Glenelg Shire, Greater Shepparton, Hindmarsh Shire, Hobsons Bay, Indigo, Loddon, Mansfield, Maribyrnong (a GM-free public education policy), Melton, Mildura, Moira, Moorabool, Murrindindi, North Grampians, Pyrenees, Queenscliffe, Stonnington, Strathbogie, Swan Hill, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington, Wyndham