

# ***Democratic Labor Party***

Victorian State Branch

## **GHERANG GEOTHERMAL POWER STATIONS**

### **DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TRAMPLED**

DLP Lead Senate Candidate for Victoria, John Madigan, and MLC for Western Victoria Peter Kavanagh, have declared their support for the embattled Western Victorian community of Gherang.

“For many years” said Mr Madigan “the democratic rights of Australians have been eroded by governments, State and Federal, ignoring one community after another, silencing their voices, paying ministerial lip service to their concerns and cares and turning their backs on those they are sworn to represent.”

In January 2010 the people of Gherang discovered, accidentally, that the Federal and State governments were planning the development of 12 Geo thermal power stations on the very site their community stood. Without community notification or consultation the Government has rammed this project through, despite the legitimate fears of serious health and environmental risks and hazards arising from exploration and development of geothermal energy.

Most Victorians are unaware that 70% of our state is now divided into at least 20 Geothermal permit zones and that more power stations are planned shortly for the Warrnambool area.

The DLP believes in developing Victoria’s alternative energy sector but we also believe that support for alternative energies must be maintained by suitable safety and planning legislation that avoids needless conflicts between communities and the alternative energy industry. Clearly this is not the belief of the current Government.

“Like Bio-fuels and other alternative technologies, Geo thermal power can offer great benefits and deserves to be supported but not at any cost.” said Peter Kavanagh. “The rights of the local communities have been blatantly ignored by recent Governments in issues such as the North South pipeline, the Wind farms and compulsory Fluoridation of our water supplies. The treatment of the Gherang community by the current Government is proof that the democratic rights of Australian citizens are being stripped away by Governments more intent on forcing through their agenda than representing the people of this state.”

The DLP calls for an immediate halt to the Gherang Geothermal project and for a thorough independent enquiry to be conducted with full community consultation. Safer methods of extracting Geothermal power exist than the ones being used in Gherang and should be explored before endangering the lives of Victorians and stripping them of their democratic rights.

Further reading: [Geo-sequestration Policy Briefing Package](#)