

# NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

## Response 1

### Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Andy Baker  
**Contact email:** Andybforfranklin@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Auckland Council

Q3. What position/s are you standing for on the above council?

Franklin Ward Councillor

### Questions

Q4. What drives you to run as a candidate in the local body elections? What do you hope to achieve? And how will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I am a lifetime local from a farming background with 12 years experience on Franklin Local Board most of that as Chair. I want to continue to represent my home community and take a rural voice to an urban dominated council table.

Q5. What is your view on the growth of kiwifruit in your region, in respect to urbanisation, protection of productive land and environmental pressures?

We are seeing a significant move to kiwi fruit cropping in Franklin especially gold due to availability of water from aquifers and climatic / geographic conditions. Alongside our prime and elite soils and recognised traditional cropping industry, kiwi fruit and other similar horticultural and agricultural industries must be able to continue without threats of development on those lands or impacts of reverse sensitivity.

Q6. Given the decision to include the value of the SunGold licence in the rateable value of a property and therefore significantly increasing rates for many kiwifruit growers. Do you agree with this decision? How do you propose to ensure that rates are equitably calculated and applied?

I believe we need to address the rating system not only for large horticulture/ agricultural farms but other industrial complexes (eg Steel mill) where capital value is not fairly determined but results in

Q6. Given the decision to include the value of the SunGold licence in the rateable value of a property and therefore significantly increasing rates for many kiwifruit growers. Do you agree with this decision? How do you propose to ensure that rates are equitably calculated and applied?

unfair rating. This could be addressed by changes to rural differential rates or by looking at overseas models where curtilage used to determine what is rated and how.

Q7. Being able to provide seasonal accommodation to house workers is essential when attracting staff to the regions. There is an increasing need for seasonal worker accommodation. How do you propose to support industry to provide seasonal accommodation?

Unitary Plan rules need to be able to support rural industry needs for worker accommodation to both suit the employers and employees but also better enable meeting of desired reductions in transport emissions by reducing need for workers to travel often long distances from accommodation to work.

Q8. Access to water for kiwifruit growers is becoming more critical. How would you promote balanced discussions with stakeholders regarding water supply and policy that reflects the significant value of the kiwifruit industry in your region?

A balanced approach is needed so existing water users from our existing aquifers are not disadvantaged from new high need applicants for water take ( eg gold kiwi fruit conversion of dairy units). Greater enablement of water harvesting for all users is something I have long fought for

Q9. Climate change is continuing to have an impact and steps to adapt to the changing environment are needed. What are your proposed policies to respond to climate change, and how will you support the industry to adapt?

Auckland has a set plan, however it is very focussed on transport emission reduction and urban areas. We need to recognise value of what rural Auckland can contribute to do and support that. The Franklin Local Board has done a lot within it's ability to support.