

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Russell Orr
Contact email: russell@orrcom.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Councillor - Eastern Bay

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 looking to inject a bit of common sense into the council and try and balance out the bias created by a larger urban population setting rukes for farmers and growers that are unreasonable.

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

I should probably say at this point that I own a Green Orchard in Whakatane and have been a Kiwifruit grower for 30 years. I do believe that urban sprawl has to be contained and productive land protected.

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?

No I dont agree. It's nonsense and an attempt by left leaning Politian's to play 'Robin Hood' with kiwifruit growers,

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?

Any way I can.

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?

This is a major issue where I am and a very divisive topic currently. I support the efficient use of water. A dairy farm neighbour uses more water in a day irrigating his paddocks than I use to irrigate my kiwifruit in a year.

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?

By responding carefully and making sure what we do is effective and value for money. I don't like over reaction and I especially don't like climate change being used as a trojan horse for ideology.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Sarah van der Boom
Contact email: Sarah@cheekyrooster.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Councillor - Eastern Region

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 represent a generation that wants to do better by the community and environment and to leave a better legacy for the future.
There will be difficult conversations and difficult decisions ahead, and good communications will be crucial. The job is bigger than me, and my lifetime, but we MUST make a start.
I seek to stop the allocation of water to international water bottling companies.
I want all primary production land owners and managers supported with incentives and education to be more sustainable.

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

I am 100% pro farming, forestry and horticulture – the primary sector is the 'Economic engine' of the Eastern Bay – but it must be a sustainable primary sector. I am against the sale of land, farms, forest and businesses to internationals so that they can gain free water rights: it's nuts.
Urban areas and rural communities must be protected from kiwifruit encroachment, noise and sprays, but vica-versa, productive land needs to be protected for primary production.

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?

Yes, I fully agree with this decision. All other property is rated based on total capital value, that is land value plus improvements, and so this model must also be applied to horticulture so that the industry is paying its fair share of regional and district rates.

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?

This is not a regional council issue.

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?

My #1 WHY is Save our Wai 💧

NZ water needs to be protected for life, primary production and the natural world. I have been active in Sustainable Otakiri's fight against Nongfu China taking Otakiri water.

We need to stop the sale of NZ land and businesses to internationals, like Nongfu China, who are only after the water for water bottling

We need to move toward greater water self sufficiency in primary production

All primary production needs to operate sustainably, whether it is water use or use of fertilisers and chemicals.

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?

Adapting to climate change, and protecting our water resources, will be the greatest challenges we face in this, and subsequent generations: we need to think far beyond the three-year election cycle. I am passionate about sustainability education and community engagement. Rules are necessary but will only get us so far: to do better, we must provide education and incentives to achieve environmental protection and enhancement.

What does that look like in practical terms? An example is helping horticulturalists, farmers, tangata whenua and care groups restore wetlands, and plant land beside water in native plants. These practical steps add flood and erosion protection, improve water quality and create homes for native fish spawning, insects and birds.

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Andrew von Dadelszen

Contact email: andrew@vond.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Tauranga City Ward

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 fourth term Regional Councillor with a strong corporate governance background.
I am a pragmatic, science-based decision maker, who believes that a strong economy is the only way to pay for sustainable environmental outcomes.
Left-wing ideology and "mambee pambee" rhetoric (spin) will not improve our environmental footprint. We need ACTION, not words.
I was an active farmer for 17 years, and was the Chair of Meat & Wool for Waikato Federated Farmers in the mid 1980's. I understand rural issues, and bring a strong determination for both efficiency and effectiveness to the Council table.
I am a Resource Management Commissioner (with many years of chair certification), and I understand the needs of our ratepayers.

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

I spent 7 years as a Director on the Crown Research Institute - Pland & Food Research. Prior to that I was also a government appointee to the Board of the Environmental Protection Authority. I have a strong understanding of the needs of the kiwifruit industry, and its relationship to a vibrant regional economy.

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?

Rates are determined by the value of your land, and your success as an industry does come with its own challenges. My constituency is Tauranga City, where there is no (or minimal) rural land. That said, TCC ratepayers get very little for their rates paid, recognising that around half of their rates include a targeted rate for public transport. Issues around equity and fairness to need addressing, with the Western Bay and Tauranga City effectively subsidising Rotorua and the Eastern Bay. I support a complete review of our rating system, to try to ensure that we maintain fairness and equity. I also believe strongly in ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE.

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?

Housing affordability is an issue for many within our region. There is no quick fix, but the sheer size of the wastage in government spending in the last 5 years is an absolute disgrace. We need pragmatic decision-makers, not ideology driven bureaucratic decision-making that is costing our ratepayers and residents an inordinant amount of money. Central Government has proven that "mother doesn't know best", and we need an urgent change of government - because this Labour/Greens government will bankrupt us all.

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?

No-one owns our water - we need to ensure that Willie Jackson's version of modern democracy has no place in our society. We use just 2% of the water that comes from the sky etc, and we need to manage it appropriately. It isn't rocket science, and water quality and quantity can be addressed by pragmatic decision-making - not "fear politics" that the left would impose on us.

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?

Yes - our climate is changing; but it always has. Climate is cyclical, and we need to address it sensibly. Storm effect is real, but again it is cyclical. Sea level rise has not been recorded of any substance along our Bay of Plenty coastline. In fact, research by Victoria University (Wellington) has proven the , due to tectonic plate movement, the BOP coastline is actually rising out of the sea. We need good science to ensure that we make sensible decision-making around climate change. Not "fear politics" as Jacinda Ardern provides.

Response 4

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: MURRAY GUY
Contact email: murray.guy@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Tauranga Constituency

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 have a passion, an obsession, for integrity based, inclusive democracy, which I perceive to be 'very much at risk'. At the 'very least', I will slow the incremental undermining of our democracy, and constantly advocate for community based input into outcomes impacting it. I was asked to accept nomination, I believe in part being appreciated for my commitment to democracy and community based and led outcomes, versus bureaucratic 'woke idealism'.

In regard specifically the Kiwifruit industry, but by no means confined to, I believe we are being railroaded by bureaucrats, aided, abetted by present and previous governance who have allowed who by majority have chosen to be subservient to, reliant on their employees. I firmly believe the various sectors in our community I am by no means an expert in the field of horticulture, nor do I need to be, BUT I'm guessing 3 Waters is of significant concern, as it is to me, firstly being based on misinformation and lies, and second, on a pathway of privatization with zero accountability for service levels, pricing and outcomes.

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

My only view is that I support and applaud the industry and its contribution to our region. The contribution of our BOPRC must not be allowed to unreasonably impact on the industry, put it at risk. I would suggest that our region should be overlaid with a 'map of special interest' for various horticulture outcomes, and that these identified areas be ringfenced, with urban buffers to mitigate future 'nimby' residential impacts.

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 ALL rates should be applied fairly,
I struggle with the concept of rating a property based on a perceived commercial / monetary return, especially so should this not be applied to all rated properties, irrespective of income activity type.
Land has a rateable value based on its zoning and associated attributes, NOT what the occupier may choose to legitimately do on it to generate an income.

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?

I have no proposal to support the provision of accommodation for seasonal workers, but would apply a building 'gate mentality' versus building fences, when the industry seeks to meet its needs and that of its employees in this area.

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?

Very aware of the future water allocation and pricing demands.
No specific way forward other than, open, honest consultation and feedback'.
An overarching premise that no-one owns the water, that it must not be a profit driven ideology, cost recovery.

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?

Outside my area of expertise at this time.
Personally, my respect for the industry is such that I look forward to listening, learning, and applying my contribution to best community outcomes.

My expertise is integrity based, inclusive democracy, for the community, by the community.
I reject outright, non-negotiable, the premise that self-appointed experts know best.

Response 5

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Julian Fitter
Contact email: julianfitter@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

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 driven by the need to look after our natural environment and by the importance of protecting and nurturing our native species. Healthy communities need a healthy environment. For this, Regional Council is a key player and I would hope to be able to work with fellow councillors and the executive to develop clear and sustainable strategies and policies to ensure the protection of our natural environment. It is after all our life-support system and a healthy environment is beneficial to all. The kiwifruit industry is an important industry in the region and so Council policies must seek to support the industry and assist it to become as environmentally friendly, and sustainable as possible. Sustainability is key and Regional council has an important role to play.

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

Clearly the kiwifruit industry is set to grow, and Council should be supportive in principle. It is clear to me that we need a much more focussed policy to increase the density of urban areas and to stop the sprawl which such an unattractive feature of many of our towns and cities. I fully support the recent government proposals to require councils to classify land so that the most productive areas can be protected from urban development. We need to develop a much better public transport system and to focus development on existing centres, rather than developing new green-field areas. We need the right balance and to be as inclusive as possible.

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?

This is more an issue for District Council, and is not one where I have expertise. If the SunGold licence attaches to the property, rather than the property owner, then I can see the rationale. However as the licence is not an intrinsic value, I would in general not be in favour of the proposal. I believe the rateable values are established by District Council, and is not one where Regional has much input.

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?

This again is a District Council issue. I would agree that accommodation for seasonal workers is extremely important, so I would expect Regional Council to work with District Council, as appropriate, to facilitate this issue and ensure that appropriate accommodation can be provided without excessive red-tape.

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?

Water is not just an issue for the kiwifruit industry, but for everyone. In the first instance we need to clean up the water supply, our lakes and rivers are too polluted. We must then work with all interested parties to develop a plan that is equitable and allows our horticultural industry to develop alongside dairy and other agricultural activities. At the same time we need to keep 'clean water' at the forefront of our minds and ensure that we have controls and policies in place to prevent run-off, pollution and erosion.

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?

Climate change has to be an overarching consideration that colours all our thinking, policies and plans. Additionally we need to adapt to sea-level rise in our coastal areas. Looking elsewhere, we have to expect more, and more frequent, extreme climatic events. We need to have policies to prevent development happening in areas likely to flood, or where slips will become a major issue. We have tended to build in many unsuitable places and we need to start being smarter. This also applies to any agricultural and horticultural developments, we need to look to start developing new industries that are more appropriate to our changing climate, to add to the existing ones, Council should work with the industry to develop appropriate strategies and plans to cope with the issues, we need to remember that we do not know for certain quite how the warming world will affect us, but affect us it most certainly will, and we need to be aware and prepared.

Response 6

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Ken Shirley
Contact email: kennyjenny@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Regional 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 wish to provide better governance and representation based on my expertise and experience in a wide range of activities including primary industries

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

Kiwifruit production in the Bay of Plenty forms the backbone of the regional economy and is a major contributor to the nations GDP. To achieve the projected production targets more land will need to be brought into production along with the application of technology to increase yields. I believe land owners should be free to utilise their land in accordance with best practice and industry codes. Environmental regulations should be strictly evidence based and not driven by dogma or misplaced public prejudice. There is great pressure for urban development in parts of BoP and if a grower on the urban fringe wishes to subdivide for housing then they should not be constrained by prescriptive planning rules attempting to protect productive lands. Markets can change dramatically over time and inflexible and arbitrary rules can create distortions and become very unfair in their application.

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?

The capitalisation of the SunGold licence into the rateable value of a property is wrong in principle. It is equivalent to saying that a forest owner or orchardist who plants a licenced, enhanced cultivar should similarly have their rateable value increased.

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?

Councils must work with industry to ensure that their regulatory frameworks encourage and facilitate the clearly identified need for seasonal worker accommodation. It is not the role of councils to provide this accommodation.

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?

Access to water is critical and allocations between competing users in times of scarcity will always be problematic.
Water augmentation schemes through catchment storage can ameliorate the competitive tensions.
Stakeholders must be involved in allocation decisions.

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?

I am a firm believer in evidence based adaption with regard to Climate Change policies. I reject the BoP Regional Council's declaration of an "Emergency".
Warmer winters and fewer frosts will have an adverse impact on kiwifruit production but opportunities will open for some other crops.

Response 7

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Buddy Mikaere
Contact email: buddy@buddymikaere.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Mauao Ward

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 an environmental consultant and the areas that fall within the Regional Council ambit are areas in which I have worked for many years. In recent times I have also been heavily involved in transport issues - again a major area of concern for Regional Council. As far as the kiwifruit industry is concerned, I keep a close eye on water allocations for orchard irrigation and frost control and am mindful that in some areas we are reaching allocation limits. I have this responsibility through my representation of several iwi groups. I will support fair allocation of our water resources and will also support alternative water use/capture including better utilisation of grey water and encourage the use of roof tanks on all new builds including industrial.

I am also acutely aware that the industry provides employment opportunities for many with spinoffs into other activities as diverse as shipping product to overseas market and bee keeping for pollination.

Our iwi has its own orchards so I have a good understanding of the issues and challenges facing the industry.

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

It is a question of finding the right balance and moves towards urban intensification are in my view a response to the realisation that the loss of productive land for farming and other rural activities is not sustainable. Similarly with our environment and our water resources in particular. Urban expansion has to go up as the availability of green space for housing becomes acute; especially in the Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty area.

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?

There is no doubt that having a gold licence has the ability to significantly increase income so it seems reasonable to me that proportionally there should be an increase in rates. It is a capital gain. However, I do accept that there is a difficulty in reaching an equitable calculation. The industry needs to make representations on the matter asking questions like - would dairy farm rates be increased if a superior breed of cow was developed? The industry needs to ensure it is part of the answer.

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?

Accommodation is at a critical level across much of the Bay of Plenty and it is not just limited to seasonal workers. I think the industry needs to come together to create seasonal worker "villages" recognising the reality that accommodation off orchard is going to get harder and harder in the face of an increasing population - desperate for accommodation - in the Western Bay. It is no different to former times when farms provided shearer quarters as a matter of course. The industry has a responsibility in this area in my view.

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?

See my earlier comments.

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?

Climate change is an issue for us all. We need a coastal spatial plan to identify those areas under threat from rising sea levels and measures must then be introduced to limit building and development in those areas identified as being most at risk. I will support the creation and planting up of riparian strips along streams and waterways within orchard and farming properties - as a contribution towards carbon sequestration. I would also support the enhancement and return of wetlands to their natural state. I would support industry initiatives that are of this nature.

Response 8

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Murray White
Contact email: murraywhiteBOP@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

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?

Mainly to stop 3 Waters , I am also a Small Government Supporter , the less Red tape hte better

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

Support protection of productive land

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?

No, its a money grab, will listen to all ideas on equitable raating for all

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?

Absoutely , this is a priority , and will look into making it easier or Hostels type accomodation to be provided , that is suitable, and not justa bed and toilet facillities , but a wrap around to provide the welfare , advice , and pastoral care , maybe with the help of church groups.

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?

Maybe thought may be given to COOPs , where Water Companies may be formed for the common good and reticulated to all needing the supply .Perhaps along the model Kerikeri developed in the 80s , not sure how that worked out , but if it works , may be consideration given , with tweaks to implementing here .

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?

If climate change is going to have an effect , it is going to have a very slow impact .
The sea level rise was loudly broadcast as having doubled over the last 60 years, great it doubled to 2.24 mm per year.
If all predictions are this slow , and not one of their predictions has been close, remember 2008 predictions, Arctic ice free by 2018.
There are a lot of predictions along a similar vein .

My point is we have time to stem whatever the latest catastrophe is whether its sea levels rising or whatever we need to do to mitigate the problem.

Response 9

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Douglas Leeder
Contact email: Doug.leeder@boprc.govt.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Eastern Bay constituency. Positions allocated after election

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 have been on Regional Council for 3 terms and Chair the Bay of Plenty Council. My experience in Co Operative and Commercial Boards benefits ratepayers by trying to bring a balance between the commercial reality of those trying to run business versus the well being nature of Councils. We have a good relationship with Zespri Board and frequently discuss matters affecting your industry.

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

Quite happy with the growth. Reality is that land use change is driven by returns and returns/ha for kiwi fruit speak for themselves. Environmental pressures will always be there but in your case they will be different from dairy and dry stock. Copper and other chemical contamination will probably be to the fore in your industry. Spraying will also be a focus from neighbours but Councils need to be aware of the reverse sensitivity coming from urban expansion. Parliament has just released the NPS highly productive land and we all need to support the principle.

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 understand that position is under appeal. However I do not agree with the proposition. A licence is an investment similar to a share portfolio. Councils have a range of tools they can use to differentially rate but they choose not to. Shares in Fonterra are not capitalised into the land value and are traded independently and similarly forestry (trees are not capitalised into the land value).

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?

Some Councils choose to apply the TAX principle as opposed to the BENEFICIARY principle. That is they do not use the full sweet of tools available to them to ensure equitable treatment of ratepayers. An example is those who don't use the full UAGC but simply transfer the costs to the general rate which affects higher value properties. Local Govt has not been reformed since 1989 and sadly there is not a willingness from within the sector to even consider it.

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?

Spatial planning is at the heart of this issue. Having seen several examples of seasonal accommodation in the viticulture industry demonstrates it can be done. Local Government at a Territorial Authority level can and should facilitate such initiatives. The RMA reforms should benefit these initiatives by taking a Regional approach to planning.

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?

NPSFM (water reform) introduces more stringent rules re the use and allocation of this resource. Just because a resource may be fully allocated (by way of consent volumes) does not mean the full allocation is being used. Seasonal variations need to be considered as does best use of technology to effectively maximise the benefit of irrigation. The principle of Te mana o te wai will mean that Māori will have a greater role in the consenting and allocation of the resource. The issue of Rights and Interests has yet to be considered by the Parliament but is the major issue growers should monitor and submit on when it is eventually considered.

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?

Climate change is something that primary industry deal with everyday. Politicians can pontificate all they like but it is adaption and mitigation that are the key issues currently in front of us. Industry is the best vehicle to take growers on a journey and Local Govt should have an open mind on submissions from growers as to how you can adapt.

Response 10

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Jane Nees
Contact email: Neesj@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

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 concerned at the major legislative changes being rapidly pushed through from Central Government which have the potential to disenfranchise local communities and create perverse outcomes for Council and communities. I want to help navigate the change, minimise poor outcomes, improve our environment and ensure Council is responsive and enabling for our productive sector.

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

The kiwifruit industry is a valuable economic driver in the Bay of Plenty and I support its sustainable development. I am opposed to valuable kiwifruit land being urbanised and believe our highly productive land should be protected. I encourage exploration of innovative production systems to minimise environmental impact and build in more resilience in the face of climate change.

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 understand the decision is being appealed. However it will not affect rates in the Bay of Plenty. Bay of Plenty Regional Council uses land value as the basis for our rates and I support the continuation of this approach.

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?

I support the development of affordable and appropriate housing in locations convenient for the workforce.
I support investigation of an eastern town east of Te Puke as a location for kiwifruit workers - as long as it isn't built on kiwifruit land!

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?

I advocate for strong engagement with all stakeholder groups to reach a balanced and fair solution for all for water allocation. I encourage development of collaborative water groups to achieve best use of water in a local context. I also encourage development of farming systems which build our soils to achieve greater water penetration and utilisation.

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?

Council should do the research and analysis required to reduce uncertainty about the potential impact of climate change. This information should be shared with businesses and industries to help inform their decisions going forward. Council should support adaptive action while helping communities and businesses understand what they can do to mitigate their impacts. I support greater investment in biosecurity by Council to help protect the industry from potential climate change related pest threats.

Response 11

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Kat Macmillan
Contact email: kat.macmillan@icloud.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

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?

The Bay of Plenty is in a massive growth phase. This includes the growth of our horticultural industry - mainly kiwifruit and avocado. I'm standing to ensure that through this growth, we put best practice into place for sustainable outcomes for water, transport, climate and the environment in order to secure a robust economy into the future for our people and our growers. With our growth of industry, infrastructure and housing we need to ensure that we protect and enhance biodiversity and reduce our emissions. I am fully supportive of horticulture as it's inherently a low emissions industry (compared to livestock agriculture) and kiwifruit is a product that enhances the health and vitality of people.

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

The kiwifruit industry and it's growers took a hard knock during the PSA years and is now making up for lost time. I am fully supportive of the kiwifruit industry expanding so long as we fully support growers to address the environmental impact and to minimize it. This means supporting our growers to transform into using more regenerative practices, protecting our waterways, riparian planting, native planting areas of unproductive land and minimising use of highly toxic and harmful chemicals. we need to be working together with central govt, Iwi, Industry, scientists and local authorities to support best practice in this area. Urban areas need to be densified so that they are not sprawling out over horticultural land and fertile soil needs to be protected and ring fenced so that we do not build sprawled out housing over our most productive land. We need to do everything we can to work with our natural environment sustainably so that future generations do not have depleted soil and polluted land and waterways from chemicals.

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 would like to see subsidies for growers that move to regenerative growing such as certified organic and other practices that are less harmful to the environment. I believe we need to incentivise, support and subsidise best practice farming that enhances our land rather than depleting it for future generations. Therefore where I would like to see reduced rates is primarily for organic and regenerative kiwifruit orcharding. Rates relief programmes should be explored.

I would need to do more research into the specifics of SunGold licensing but support equity in rates.

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?

I agree that this is an essential step for growers. We need to ensure that our workers have fit for purpose accommodation with good living conditions. I would like to explore the idea of waiving building and resource consent fees and providing a pathway to fast track accommodation upgrades and construction.

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?

This needs to be navigated carefully. We need to ensure our growers have access to water and at the same time we need to ensure that there are no negative impacts on our waterways, rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. We need to work together carefully with all stakeholders to find solutions that work for our environment, lwi, all of our people and our producers. We must keep the protection of our land and water front and centre of all conversations.

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?

Central Government and local government must support farmers and rural communities to work towards net zero emissions, recognising that some biological emissions will continue and these will need to be offset. We need to work closely with the kiwifruit industry to look at emissions and support growers transition to a low carbon future.

I would like to see a climate change committee established at BOP Regional Council much like Waikato Regional Council have done. This way, climate action will not be token or bumped to next months agenda but will be significantly addressed and we will have the capacity to listen to and consult with our industries more robustly on this matter.

Final note.

I am an avocado grower myself and so although I've never worked in the kiwifruit industry, I am aware of some of the challenges that growers face. I commit to listening and consulting with our BOP growers and working to serve them, our environment and our people.

Response 12

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Bryan Deuchar
Contact email: ducarnz@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Tauranga general ward

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?

Obviously Tauranga is a huge Kiwifruit area. I would hope I could help the operate freely. By not putting unnecessary demands on it.

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

The city will grow and cannot be stopped but productive land should be kept as productive land.

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?

Rates calculations must be fair. If they are basrd on land values that should be it. Nothing additional.

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?

I have seen the way John Anderson built a seasonal workers village on one of his orchards. This initiative should be supported.

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?

Encourage and even host these.

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?

Keep the studies going on climate change and make informed recommendations to the industry with reasonably timelines and some financial assistance to comply. If required.

Response 13

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Stephen Wheeler
Contact email: stephenwheelerbop@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Councilor

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?

Strategic direction that represents the people's interests is my goal, as well as providing community leadership. I will continue to build relationships with Iwi/Maori organisations and ensure public services are coordinated and affordable to meet community needs through corporate governance.
Ensure economic development opportunities are enabled and connected across our region.

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

The enhancement of our industries like kiwifruit are essential to the economic growth of the region. Continue to work with organisations to ensure the economic opportunities are enabled, connected and protected across the region.

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?

There needs to be a robust discussion on a change in local governance funding and financing to ensure viability and sustainability, fairness and equity, and maximum wellbeing.

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?

More pressure on central government to respond to these problems and support for local industries.

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?

Continue to protect our fresh water resources is key. Work with landowners across the region to ensure we are only extracting the right amount of freshwater ensuring there is enough for sustained use.

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?

Continue to engage with sectors and industry to find solutions. Support new and additional community initiatives. Explore ideas and opportunities with others.

Response 14

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Sean Newland
Contact email: seannewlandforregionalcouncil@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Councilor - Western Bay Constituency

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 was brought up with the thinking that if you have the skills and time to do things within your community that benefit your community you should. I am fortunate enough to have that time while still young (I'm 50) and have spent 25 years working in the RMA/water/land use/trade/business space/sustainability area in national strategic, policy and operational leadership roles within central government, the primary sectors, and as a business manager and owner. I've got the time, the experience and the energy.

Secondly, with the retirement of Norm Bruning I looked at the make up of the current council and saw very very few rurally connected or primary sector experienced councilors. The majority are urban, as are most of the candidates, while the majority of the work of the Regional Council involves our rural communities and productive sectors. To me this risks decisions being made that aren't in touch with a large part of our regional community.

I hope to ensure that the council puts in place practical and clear land-use and water management plans so communities can have confidence to invest for the future. I want to see a refocus of climate change activity and decision making by the council to where it will best benefit the community - through ensuring adaptation is prioritised over the emissions reduction. I want to see the council focus on efficient delivery of it's core roles, with a view to making the interaction of the council with it's community a smoother and more positive experience for all involved.

The support this will provide to the kiwifruit sector is:

- Having someone who understands the rural and primary sector community at the table
- A recognition that the health and wealth of this region is driven through the sustainable use of our natural resources, not by simply locking those resources up
- Providing clear long-term plans for our key resources so the sector, and others, have the confidence to make long term investment decisions.

That and having someone who is a great believer in listening to those who may be impacted early and prior to council coming up with it's preferred approach.

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

I support maintaining our highly productive land for production purposes. I've written many a submission for Fonterra along those lines for the same reasons - once productive land is subdivided and built on it is lost. And we only have so much of it. This is now supported by the newly released National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Soils.

It makes more sense to build up in existing urban areas - we have existing infrastructure there to connect into so it is more cost effective. There may be some new urban areas opened up but these should be areas that don't displace highly productive land use. And where we minimise new infrastructure costs, future risks/liabilities from climate change, and reverse sensitivity issues with existing land users. It also reduces the issue of reverse sensitivity that occurs when new urban areas butt up against existing working rural land.

Kiwifruit can and should continue to grow within the limits of sensible environmental management. So where there is water available is a key consideration. I'm keen to get the councils land use and water plans finalised so that people understand the rules for the foreseeable future and can make good investment decisions with confidence.

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?

To be frank this would seem to come down to a technical policy position taken by valuers and lawyers so as a layman in those areas I can't argue here nor there.

I'm a believer that what we each pay in rates should be directly related to the services we receive as services as a result. And the approach taken in applying it should be consistent across all ratepayers.

Given those two principles I have an open mind to how regional council rates are set.

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?

Housing/accommodation is a key issue for more than the kiwifruit sector and as a regional council our role is more limited than that of the district councils.

As long as the developers and providers of accommodation do so in a way that meets the same rules around buildings as others, provide suitable accommodation (I'm not a fan of short cuts nor treating workers badly - if you wouldn't see your own living in the accommodation then I'd question why you'd expect others to live in it), and are responsible for the costs to the community for putting that housing in then I have an open mind.

Having spent this past season helping a post-harvest operation with their recruitment I recognise the two biggest issues for those coming into the area were accommodation and transport.

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?

First off we need to have a clear understanding of actual water availability and water take situation as it currently is. Without that we can't get anywhere. The council needs to address this ASAP as my assessment of their information around this is that it is not up to scratch. You can't manage if you don't

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?

know where you are starting from, nor if you don't have good ongoing information.

Access to water for anything other than our personal needs is a privilege - we need to allocate it and ensure we use it efficiently. Our current approach to allocation locks up water in such a way that we aren't using it to best advantage overall - when required for frost protection it isn't being required for irrigation for other production systems so why not consider a seasonal allocation approach? So once we know what water IS available we need to look at how we can be flexible in it's allocation.

We've seen the end of easy to access surface water in many areas so ground water is going to become much more important. As to prioritizing who water is allocated to - the regional council can't do much about that currently as it is a first in-first served system imposed by the RMA. What they should be doing is maximising the availability of water by managing its allocation and use effectively.

This is an area I have a significant background in, for both Meat&WoolNZ (now Beef&Lamb) and Fonterra, and in the Allocation Working group of the Land and Water Forum (while working at Fonterra). I worked with dairy and drystock farmers, HortNZ, Fed Farmers and irrigators across NZ to ensure other groups (councils, metro water supply, iwi, and environmental groups) had a chance to understand the impacts on each other of different approaches. I was intimately involved at national and regional level in trying to get sensible water allocation decisions made - most often successfully. Getting people to listen to each other and understand the impacts of different approaches has always worked where I've been involved (representing dairy farmers while at Fonterra through the Waikato water allocation plan change being a great example). Having me at the council table would ensure someone with a very successful track record in addressing water issues from a cultural, environmental AND primary sector perspective is involved in the decision making.

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?

Simply put - we should try to be efficient in our activities but the best result for any spend/activity by council in relation to climate change is going to be in adaptation. Key areas are:

- Ensuring we make decisions now about where new infrastructure is placed and development occurs that takes account of the expected future climatic situation so we aren't leaving ourselves (or our children and grandchildren) with problems and liabilities in 10, 20 or 50 years time. Knowing what we know about likely future flood events, related erosion, and possible sea level rise I support not put things in risky places.

- Developing a plan as to how we will deal with future issues such as protection of existing infrastructure, both community and private, so people have a very clear understanding of the consequences of any investment or building decision they make from here forward. That gives people clarity to invest (or not) with confidence.

- Ensuring we make realistic decisions regarding transport so the community can continue to access rural areas and the services they need, and have reliable transport of product through to both post-harvest operators and the port. We aren't going to be done away with trucks for freight for many years, nor with the need for people to use their own cars so we need to ensure the transport infrastructure supports this and doesn't focus on the delivery of feel good approaches that don't.

In short - ensure clarity of the way forward from a regional council perspective so the community know where they stand and can therefore make informed long term investment decisions with confidence.

Response 15

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Larry Baldock
Contact email: larry@baldock.org.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Bay Of Plenty Regional Council

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

Tauranga General Ward

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 have enjoyed involvement in Central and Local Government over the past 20 years. Altogether I have had elected roles in 12 of those years. I am motivated to do my best to support decisions and actions that can help our City and region thrive and prosper. When my wife and I returned to Tauranga in 1986 from 15 yrs living in the Phillipines we spent several years working in the Kiwifruit industry. I hope to achieve balanced and sensible decisions that will not create problems for such an important industry that has provided a great deal for our region and nation economically and socially. While there are different roles played by the three Councils I hope if elected to sit again at the Smart Growth table and contribute to the sub-regional plan for the Western BOP and the Regional Land Transport Plan which prioritises transport projects for the Government funding agency.

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

Having lived here in Tauranga since 1956 I have seen first hand the massive growth of Kiwifruit production and also the loss of productive land to urbanisation that emphasises the need to plan carefully where we grow horticulture and where we grow houses. Both are essential to the health and wealth of our region and have impacted in various ways on our environment and will continue to do so in the future.
The Regional Council we will need to act in partnership with both WBOPDC and TCC to respond to Central Governments plans to protect productive land.

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?

As the regional Council bases its rates on land value I am not sure this will have the same impact as it has in TCC and WBOPDC. I think the way Tauranga City Council have handled the rates related to the SunGold licences would have my support if it became an issue at Regional Council.

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?

My wife and I occasionally put a couple of our spare rooms on Airbnb. On several occasions we have had 'backpackers' who have worked in the Kiwifruit orchards stay with us for a few days or a week when they first arrive to get work and then seek accommodation. Often they have become longer term boarders because of the short supply of accommodation. Again the zoning or land and planning rules are primarily dealt with by the Territorial Councils but I will certainly seek to support the industry to provide seasonal accommodation in whatever way I can if elected to the Regional council.

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?

There is no doubt that reviewing water allocations is going to be a challenging task as we respond to national standards and policy statements from the government. Our recent experience with increased rainfall indicates that it isn't so much a shortage of water but the ability to see it stored and distributed in a sustainable way. There are opportunities I believe for urban areas to do more in the capture of rainwater for use for domestic purposes such as washing and sanitation. Likewise there will be innovative engineering and technological solutions that will need to be explored to ensure that water is available for horticultural industries like kiwifruit.

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?

Firstly I would say that the emphasis needs to be on adaptation and innovation. The Regional Council, like all Councils will have statutory obligations imposed by Central Governments carbon reduction targets and plans. I think we must be wary of ideologically driven views on 'climate change' leading to decisions to impose greater restraints on the production of food and the creation of employment and economic sustainability than is realistic at this time.

I will give support to the industry to adapt in any practical and cost effective ways that are presented by those in the industry with the experience and knowledge of the best way forward at this time.