

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Joshua Riley

Contact email: jriley@sovereign.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Far North District Council

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

Mayor

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 stand with a group of 9 candidates running for the Far North District Council and the Northland Regional Council under the affiliation of SOVEREIGN.nz

My replies to this survey reflect the principles and policies of this group.

I hope to connect local growers with overseas markets and promote the utilization of our fertile land for growing coffee, kiwifruit, avocado, hard woods and medicinal plants. I believe in working with 1 farm at a time to give it the best chance to compete on the international market. Our group supports strong property rights including opposition to new SNAs and ONL areas.

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 have candidates running for every seat in FNDC who all oppose SNAs. Whether landowners want to grow kiwifruit, or anything else, I will support them and will advocate for their needs. Council approval for subdivisions which forever end the use of fertile farm land are not in the long term interest of our community. Meetings with growers associations is an important measure for developing policies in a way that foster their industry.

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 a push to kneecap our primary industries from the central government level down. This is one reason why our SOVEREIGN.nz group exists. I do not agree with any rates increases. Decreasing Council waste and re-prioritising expenses is the solution to the Council's financial problems, not burdening already suffering industries with more expense.

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?

The Council has a great degree of discretion on how they implement the RMA. Options are available to increase density in areas where this is considered a "Discretionary Activity". Zoning rules can also be changed to help in this regard.

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?

Horticulture is critical for both our food supply and our economy. Water access for growers must be taken seriously and I will make a concerted effort to ensure they have proper access to this resource.

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?

The issue of climate change is two pronged. On one hand you have extremists, including our central government, who believe we need to fine cow and sheep farmer and the horticulture industry literally out of existence. This overreaction will make no difference to the climate but will have a far more devastating effect on our national economy and food security than climate change ever could. The fact is, if climate change is to be a significant factor, the best thing we can do is adapt.

Water access would likely the most critical aspect in regards to climate change. Ensuring we have a resilient water supply going forward is the best step we can take to address climate change concerns.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Jaqi Brown
Contact email: jaqibrownahorei@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Far North District Council

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

Mayor

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?

Local voice heard at the council table by introducing coordinated planning across district lead by elected members.
Check out my website www.jaqibrown.nz for more or policy.nz
Im keen to look at how we can better develop transport networks to respond to the growing 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?

We need to plan for the best use of land across the district and access to suitable transport links that take pressure of the dilapidated roads.
Central government need to be lobbied on this.

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 don't know enough of the details to comment. It would be helpful to have more information to make a sound comment. Ask me again when I become mayor.

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 is a real issue. We need to look to the past for solutions. Working mens camps were a solution for seasonal workers. We need to look for investors and create rules that make this kind of seasonal living possible. I can't promise anything except to listen to growers

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 a commodity that needs to be well managed. And we need a Regional coping study that gives us a clear picture. Natural resources are finite but need good management and sustainable use practices.

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?

We need to set goals and promote sustainable practices. Education, planning, industry led solutions are part of the solutions

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: John Vujcich
Contact email: vujcichj@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Far North District Council

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

Mayor and Councillor Kaikohe-Hokianga 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?

In a nutshell to serve and empower people and help create prosperous, vibrant, and empowered communities. We are also facing a time of significant internationally and nationally challenges. Local government is having its 3 waters and planning services centralised and the nature of local government in NZ is facing reforms. I wish to help ensure we retain a strong well-functioning local government, hold or reduce rates through better overall council governance, reduced wastage and improved internal operational performance. As well as that continue, to work toward addressing the increasing rural deprivation through economic development initiatives by working with communities and industries. The Innovation and Enterprise Park development is an example.

I would support the Kiwifruit industry through protection of elite soils, ensuring policies are workable and balanced across all "well beings" and encourage local processing, redirection of waste streams, and support local industry initiatives that address local problems such as getting access to seasonal workers.

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 grown is great for jobs, economic wealth and wellbeing of the region and NZ. In respect to urbanisation I would support initiatives that protect our elite soils and look at sensible zoning and reduces urban sprawl and allows for greater density of housing in urban areas. This reduces environmental pressures and overall is more affordable as more people are supporting the necessary urban infrastructure.

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 don't agree with including SunGold licenses into land value. In the Far North we rate based on land value and Kiwifruit properties would have increased in value because of the valuable horticulture activity. It appears to be double dipping to me. I would like to see alternative revenue collection to land rates, perhaps a portion of GST generated in their area being returned to councils. For the Far North rates modelling based on capital value have shown a drop in farm rates as most farms value are largely in their land and large organisations with large capital value such as super markets will have rate rises. This looks like a more equitable rating option to me.

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?

Given boarder closure and the importance of seasonal workers to the horticulture industry and the difficulties that it has caused the industry I can understand the importance of seasonal workers. I am involve with housing initiatives outside of council. Council has initiatives looking at increasing housing stock but this is not directly focused at seasonal worker accommodation. I would be happy to consider rating and consenting options that would make it easier to construct seasonal worker accommodation on rural properties, or special areas within urban zones.

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?

In the Far North, thanks to government support, we have begun constructing water storage dams. Shares can be purchased to ensure reliable water supply is available for horticulture purposes. Horticulture has access to technology and experience in water saving irrigation methods and I would encourage such initiatives.

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 has a climate change strategy which includes plans to reduce its own GHG emissions, but generally does not put policies or restrictions on industries, as this is driven by central government's net zero greenhouse gas emissions strategy. I do have concerns that poorly formed policies and rushed decisions could result in costly and ineffective impost on primary sector industries. I would encourage local initiatives that sequester or reduce emissions, backed by proven scientific research.

Response 4

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Robert

Contact email: ready1nz@yahoo.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Far North District 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 m driven by government overreach and interference in local government and the need to oppose this. I am pro-farming and will support the kiwifruit industry as best I can. I disagree with the current climate change narrative as false science and reject its negative impact on the farming community.

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 reject the constant expansion of SNAs and ONLs and their denial of legitimate productive enterprises. I prefer are more consultative approach with responsibility remaining in the hands of current landowners.

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 disagree with this decision and the picking of winners.

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 oppose all Covid mandates as unsound science. Further such restrictions are highly likely. I will do my best to oppose them and their disastrous effects upon all businesses including travel of seasonal workers. I would consult with the kiwifruit industry to facilitate the most effective means of support for seasonal worker 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?

I would promote discussion between the stakeholders to find the most equitable solution.

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 strongly oppose the accepted climate change narrative that is otherwise known as the 'war on carbon'. This is a war on life itself. The projections of this fake science have in the past and will into the future produce false and alarmist projections of global temperature rise. There has been no net rise in average global temperatures so far in the 21st century. We are headed into the Maunder solar minimum in 2030 which will see a reduction in temperatures. No action required other than a cessation of political misinformation.