

# NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

## Response 1

### Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** frank Murphy  
**Contact email:** fwm.motu@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne District 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?

I am standing to try to influence ECT to not sell the power network.

Even the Kiwifruit industry needs reliable power to function.  
I also believe it is absurd to base rates on a fruits color.

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

NZ needs this type of 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?

Already addressed this.

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 own a cabin on the ruakituri river I rent out on a casual basis.

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?

divert water from either the Motu or Waukau rivers , into storage facilities,  
It will come eventually.

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 have not yet formed a opinion except to realize climate change is here and worse is to come.

# Response 2

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Dennis Pennefather  
**Contact email:** denthepen@kinect.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne District Council

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

Councilor - General Ward (with a rural perspective)

## 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?

This time around (previously stood for mayoralty in CHB and for parliament- Was a trustee on the CHB Electricity Consumers Trust) was not going to stand in GS, but saw the removal of rural seats on council as somewhat anti-democratic. Also thought that the government, in encouraging local bodies to try and include growers licences in capital value of orchards for rating purposes was simply adding a further tax on our rural producers. I was speaking out about it and writing to newspapers before nominations opened up for council. I saw that in opening up growers licences to rating and taxation, it would not be long before they would be attacking other business franchises as well.- a tax by any other name.

I am also standing to fight for the communities retention of the Electricity Network in this area. To sell into private hands will mean more costs for consumers, and because a sound business model requires profits to shareholders, it is unlikely that rural connections will get improved or even expanded. I would intend to support rural and urban constituents with equal vigor if elected.

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

Orchards and our arable land needs to be protected from over-enthusiastic greening of the environment. Yes we need to protect against erosion and provide carbon sinks on the non-productive whenua. If we are too enthusiastic in re-greening at the expense of exports and employment, we will condemn the next generation to subsistence farming and social squalor.

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?

By speaking out against the practice if elected and to continue speaking out against it even if not elected. To strongly advocate for the regulations which might allow for it, to be rescinded.

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?

There is a general council obligation to do just that in this region, given that this region is one of the worst areas for obtaining accommodation either for families or workers.

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?

Although this district is still fighting against the Three Waters Scheme, if it passes, council will have little say in this. I would argue for a good balance in water usage.

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?

As I have already communicated through local newspaper articles, change must be at a pace that can accommodate the need for climate change campaigns, and maintaining rural production and profit.

# Response 3

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Rachel Lodewyk  
**Contact email:** Rachellodewyk@me.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne 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 have spent years advocating for people in this community without a voice at the table. I want to bring that experience to the next level where I will be able to sit at the table.

This is what I will bring with me if I am elected. I will be open to communication with the Kiwi Fruit growers so I understand the issues they face in relation to local governance. This will ensure that I represent this community and their needs.

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

Economic development that is conscientious of our natural environment will always be fully supported. Any increase in the growth of the Kiwifruit industry will impact urbanisation as employment opportunities increase. Ensuring district plans accommodate all aspects of this are considered is vital. Infrastructure that is future focussed will ensure that a balance is found.

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 licenses being added to the value of a property was not a Gisborne District Council directive. Rates are a contentious issue, everyone wants to pay less, yet demand for council services increases. It is about finding a fair and equitable balance.

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 is governance and consents are operational. Ensuring that kiwi fruit growers are supported by supporting operations to process consents to allow seasonal workers do live in decent accommodation is vital.

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 clean water that is sustain for all is a huge issue right now. What I bring to the table is the ability to not be overwhelmed by all the stake holder needs. I have a professional back ground in listening and understanding so that a robust plan is made. I work in legislation and we need to communicate in a language that is understood by all.

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 long term plan is vital - without a robust plan that is future focussed taking into account all stakeholders holders the confidence of people is eroded. It is understanding that there are consequences to all decision made now. This is what I bring to the table. Researching, asking questions, discussing with experts and ensuring that decisions and planning take all variables into the equation.

At no time am I suggesting I am an expert in this industry - however I am a capable of understanding complex issues. I will listen to those who are directly impacted and take into full consideration concerns as an elected representative.

# Response 4

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Charlie Reynolds  
**Contact email:** tepapastation@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne District Council

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

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 am a sheep and beef farmer that has recently sold and the timing with the sale and the election cycle allows me the time to commit to local government for as long as the people want me.  
My main focus is the roading issues we face in Gisborne and the cost of red tape that hinders both our Ag and Hort sectors and improving those mean a better region all can enjoy.  
Supporting the kiwifruit industry in Gisborne means scrapping the new valuations until some of those properties are sold and then using that data to increase values fairly. Water grants are hard here as we have many differing properties that need it. whether it be for root stock irrigation, vegetable irrigation or water for animals and people. Personally I believe animals and people come first, but that does not mean water storage should cost a fortune in resource consent costs, if you want to and are able to build storage then there should not be a difficult and expensive consent needed.

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

There is no real issue with kiwi fruit growth here. It is their land so they should be able to do what they like with it.  
Water however is an issue and new orchards should plan for water storage as environmental legislation heads our way.

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?

Including the license is a stupid idea. It should be on the value of land sales and until orchards are sold here in Gisborne then the value should stay the same as similar land uses. The easiest way around this would be to move the license system to a share style holding which cannot be taxed. Like Fonterra, when they moved from a "the shares stay with the property" to " Joe Bloggs own the shares not the farmland" it completely removed the perceived vision that it was only a Fonterra dairy farm and restored it to a "bare land do what ever" rate able valuation.

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 straight forward way is to cut the idiotic rules that prevents business from building accommodation. Seasonal work equates to temp housing. So long as its dry, tidy and and has proper 3 waters faculties, and is something that you yourself would be happy to live in for the season then you should be be able to build quickly and with out idiot rules.

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?

People, animals, life of the water ways then horticulture.. I'm sorry but that is what the people want. If they see 10ha of dead trees they don't care, but if they see 1 dead animal then all hell breaks out. If they see what the consider their waterways being ruined.. all hell breaks out



# Response 5

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Julian Tilley  
**Contact email:** tilleycom@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne 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?

“Good governance” is about seeking to supply high quality fundamentals - water supply both quality and quantity, waste and rubbish disposal, all weather access to the region through high standards of maintenance of rural and urban roads, quality and affordable connections via sea, land and air to the region. Other nice to have projects will need to be set aside in favour of establishing social and economic well-being by providing high quality fundamentals. Kiwi fruit growers will need to know that the Waipaoa River banks will hold to prevent flooding and that irrigation protects will be sufficient for their water needs.

I'm wanting a connected region through innovative transport and technology options that will allow all residents to thrive including viticulture, horticulture, pastoral and arable farming and of course Kiwi fruit.

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 region will be assessed under the new replacement RMA and locally decisions need to be made for local people and local conditions - Land Use needs to be categorised into Food Production, Plantation Forestry and Carbon - 83% percent of our local land is Class 6,7 or 8 so the remaining land needs to be guarded religiously to protect it for Food 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?

I find this a fascinating case - to my way of thinking a quota for crayfish catch does not increase the value of the boat used for catching the quota. There is an inconsistency when a rates remission is applicable for a permanent crop in the field when the value of the crop has been assessed and added to the capital value of the land for rating purposes. In the case of Kiwifruit Sun Gold the issue of a license does not necessarily mean the capital value of the land is inflated as for a number of years there is no production or return to the landowner during the establishment years. It would seem to me a fair option that the rateable land value can be treated separately from the license and for the purposes of rating by council my belief is that a more flexible remissions policy is enacted to accommodate each and every circumstance - in particular while the rating may be assessed on capital value including the license the actual rates imposed are debated by way of remissions.

I'll follow the ongoing saga with interest but overall my opinion is that while a license is able to be sold without the land attached then the values should be separate. I feel for Mr Tim Tietjens in this instance.

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?

Seasonal accommodation is now an issue for growers all over the country is a national problem that needs a national response.

I believe that in every instance whereby seasonal workers are required MSD need to be involved to ensure regulatory responses to ensuring Govt., participation in providing support for those workers. It's a Govt scheme to allow workers into NZ and part of that responsibility is to provide suitable accommodation and facilities - its part of NZ meeting it's international obligations to support our pacific neighbours.

It not just a worker provided scheme to assist the industry.

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 clean and abundant water is now an issue for all residents and not just Kiwi Fruit growers.

There will be many changes yet to come with Three Waters still on the table and with the RMA reform while the Govt review of the LGA is also underway. It's difficult to say who with have responsibility for what BUT what I will say is that now more than ever before it is important to have a United Council that can push back on Central Govt., compliance costs, that can penetrate multiple levels of Govt agencies and that can compete against every other council in NZ for Central Govt resources.

This is no time for factions and fractured councils - this is a time to vote for collaborators and relationship builders that can advocate for the region strongly both locally and at Govt level. My strength is in my connections with Govt agencies and business leaders.

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 want to say that we need local solutions for local people. Council will have a role in adaption planning and coastal retreat planning but firstly council needs to demonstrate civil leadership by

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?

implementing their business plan for reduction of council emissions. When council itself can demonstrate their emissions reduction plans then council can assist others to do the same.

I'm a transport and technology specialist - I want to look at heavy transport solutions involving Green Hydrogen and will work with the H W Richardson Group and Hiringa Energy to implement Hydrogen Fuel options ASAP. I'll also work with Govt., to take up the options offered for support in reinstating the Gisborne to Wairoa rail line. Currently there is now a log train a day from Wairoa to Napier Port and increasing rapidly to cater for increased volumes from Wharerata and Mohaka forests. This will continue to escalate and Napier will become a major log export port. The reinstatement of the Wairoa to Napier line was completed in 2019 at a cost of \$6m with funding provided by the Provincial Growth Fund. Gisborne also has that option available but not currently the appetite from local business leaders.

# Response 6

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Tony Robinson  
**Contact email:** svmatau@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne 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?

Having practiced litigation law for 22 years I brings wealth of business and professional experience to Council. There is a significant amount of central government reform programmed over the next three years and I believe my attention to detail and legal experience will be a major asset on Council. Two major areas that support the kiwifruit industry in Tairāwhiti that I hope to achieve are greater climate change responsiveness and a sustainable water allocation model.

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 strongly against any further expansion of the city to the west (ie into the highly productive land) and support infill housing, inner city apartments and developments of the townships. Urbanisation should not be at the expense of the most productive horticultural land in New Zealand. I support the horticulture industry and the expansion of kiwifruit in our 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?

Rates are a blunt and imperfect tool for collecting revenue but that is what the law provides for. In including the value of SunGold licence in determining rates, we, the Gisborne District Council, followed advice from the Valuer General. As your members will be aware the matter is proceeding to an appeal and Council will follow the eventual decision.

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 am very aware of the need to provide seasonal worker accommodation and Council is working closely with industry, key stakeholders and developers to identify opportunities in Tairāwhiti. We are also reviewing the TRMP (our district plan) and I have urged and if re-elected will continue to urge staff to review the clauses that can have an immediate benefit in reducing barriers to housing development.

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?

The Gisborne District Council is currently undertaking a comprehensive assessment of our regional water supplies with a specific focus on aquifers and river water. This knowledge is essential for Council, Mana Whenua and stakeholders including the kiwifruit industry to have open and transparent discussions around competing (and complimenting) needs and desires. I will be focussing more on better discussion and communication with our community in the next term.

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 are currently undertaking the final upgrade of our cities wastewater treatment plant. The end product will be 99.8% clear of human DNA and suitable for a range of alternative uses (AUD) including irrigation. I have been a vocal supporter of AUD and foresee a time when Council, Mana Whenua and industry work together to utilise the AUD to provide increased water security and grow our local horticulture industry.

# Response 7

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Ian Procter  
**Contact email:** 121moti@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne 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 was asked by the community to stand for council. I hope to represent the community to my best ability.

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

A balance land use zoning for all parties is required .

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 do not agree with the decision to increase rates on the sun gold licence.

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?

Encourage council to remove restrictions on building 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?

A balanced access for relevant interest groups to water is important.

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?

More research is needed to identify climate change opportunities to support the industry.

# Response 8

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Rob Telfer  
**Contact email:** telfers@outlook.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne District Council

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

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?

Having farmed sheep and beef in Gisborne for 17 years I have sold and bought land on the Poverty Bay flats . My aim is to bring a strong rural and business voice to the table . I am totally against Kiwifruit licenses being included in the rating system . This sets a dangerous precedent for all businesses .

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 growth of Kiwifruit in our region needs to be applauded , however this does bring with it some unintended consequences. We are facing huge pressure on our available workforce , and all land values increasing on the tail of Kiwifruit , this increasing rates for all landowners . Protection of all productive food producing land needs to become a priority.

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 I have previously mentioned I am totally against this decision. I cannot make any promises on this other than fight for a full review of the system and the way it is being interpreted.



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 been involved at looking at ways to address this issue . I feel there is a way to do this regionally with organizations joining forces, including council and I will push to make this happen. Businesses do not need this distraction.

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 one of our major issues now and into the future . There is a huge opportunity to utilize the water from our upgraded waste water plant . We must also look at more water storage

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?

Farmers and horticulturalists have been adapting to climate change for a long time. What council needs to do is help ,not hinder them to achieve these changers . Water availability is crucial, food production is crucial.

# Response 9

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Ani Pahuru-Huriwai  
**Contact email:** aniph407@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne District Council

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

Maori 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 running for Gisborne District Council because for the first time ever we have Maori Wards as an option. It is a watershed moment for the Tairāwhiti, and many of our people fought hard for this right. I want to work towards achieving a more equitable and fair rating system for multiply-owned land particularly in rural areas; I hope to mitigate some of the barriers to building homes in rural areas; and to ensure GDC are more environmentally conscious in their activities.  
I don't know at this stage how I will support the kiwifruit industry as I need to know more about what the kiwi industry would like support with.

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 pressure any industry puts on Papatuanuku is important to me. I would want to see how the kiwifruit industry gives back the land as well as taking from it. I agree with industries that have an environmental conscience, who look for ways to minimise water use, and who care for their people - ensuring they have adequate housing, properly paid etc.

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 rates systems that are unfair & inequitable.

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 safe warm housing is essential for your seasonal workers & would advocate for the regulations currently inhibiting the kiwifruit industry from providing this in a timely manner be mitigated.

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 for everyone is critical. He taonga te wai. He mana ano to te wai. I am keen to promote balanced discussions with all stakeholders regarding water supply that ensures fair and equitable access to water throughout the 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?

Climate change is a huge issue for our region. I would be keen to hear what thoughts and ideas the industries and communities of the Tairāwhiti have to respond and adapt to climate change

# Response 10

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Meredith Akuhata-Brown  
**Contact email:** makuhatbrown@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Gisborne 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?

What drives me is a fairer and better representation around the council table. I am passionate about participatory democracy and ensuring all rate payers are respected and represented well. I hope to continue to achieve better community engagement and ongoing engagement with ratepayers and key stakeholders in the region. I believe our council needs to spend time with the kiwifruit industry to understand the needs and learn how to be better partners, the recent discussion around rates and the extra expenses from the fees kiwifruit growers have is a prime example of the need to consider councils role to ensure a real understanding of the reciprocity the industry has with the 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?

I am grateful that our fertile land grows this delicious fruit so well and that we continue to have such high productive land, this however needs to be monitored and managed well to ensure sustainability. I believe the kiwifruit growers are an added benefit to the regions economic growth. I would prefer we continue to protect productive land- we have enough space within the urban sector to have housing so need to ensure our zoning absolutely protects the productive land and environment. I believe our region should be a food growing region and this should be 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?

I believe the whole rating system is broken and we need to take some time to reform, rewrite and repurpose it! Fundamentally our role as a council is to ensure we are treating all our ratepayers fairly and equitably- the decision in my personal view seemed unfair and should have been taken into account. We have long term plans that rely on the regions ratepayers income - our region has constantly been seen as a "poor" region this in turn makes us constantly look to get extra income any way we can. I propose that we look at the rates through a different matrix and consider how we are treating parts of the

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?

region that carry considerable costs. Central Government should be lobbied to support our kiwifruit growers as they are huge export earners.

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 a key issue for our region- my issue is that we need to see more of our own unemployed upskilled and ready for work in the seasonal industries.  
Providing seasonal accomodation from a council role is about resource consents and building code regulations, so I would be asking how we are enabling this process to work better for the purposes of supporting the industry. I have asked MSD how they can support this matter also as again we need to consider all options for the workforce in our region.

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 gold! How we manage and allocate this vital source for industry is a huge undertaking. What is the cost to benefit ratio from key users of water in our region is what I would be asking. We need qualitative data and better information to ensure we are having balanced discusisons with key stakeholders. Its important as decision makers we understand the industries that are high users of water and consider how we are allocating it and what are the long term plans for water in region. I believe we need to be capturing and storing more water across the region- we need to educate the urban sector about water storage and 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?

Adaptation is the key word around climate change and I believe its for everyone to consider as we all need to be working together. My proposed policies is that we need to first look at all the data we have that informs who are the most impacted by climate change in the region, we need to meet with these groups and better strategise what adapation looks like. Land use is a key matter for councils to consider with regard to climate change so we need to ensure our plans are robust and will absolutly challenge whether some industries are in the right place. Supporting any industry to adapt is about talking with the experts of the industry and engaging them in way that promotes a partnership and responsiveness that is helpful. I believe we need to be planning for 100 years and considering the impacts of our environmental use now with the constant focus on sustainability.