

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Xan Harding
Contact email: xan.harding@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Hawkes Bay Regional Council

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

Heretaunga/Hastings 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?

My overriding drive is to see a good resolution to water quality and quantity limit setting throughout Hawke's Bay and especially on the Heretaunga Plains, with a strong climate adaptation focus. Having been involved with the TANK Plan since its inception in 2012 (as well as virtually every other water planning issue in HB since 2010), I am keenly aware that we've had 10 years of polarisation, disagreement & no progress, which all now must come to a head by December 2024 in the new regional Kotahi Plan.

I hope to ensure a sensible balance between improving water quality and achieving water security to underpin the productivity of the HB primary sector, under the challenging new Te Mana o Te Wai framework that applies.

I will support the kiwifruit industry by protecting HB's versatile soils and ensuring security of supply for responsible irrigation and frost protection.

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 Heretaunga Plains have been suffering from urban creep and we need to capitalise on the recent good work done by Hastings District Council and longterm local advocates for HB soils, together with the new NPS - Highly Productive Land, to ensure that we don't lose more good land. We also need to ensure development of sensible high-flow storage options on the Ngaruroro & Tutaekuri Rivers for security of supply.

There will be increasing opportunities for kiwifruit & other horticultural crop development in Northern HB, which I endorse & which will need to be supported by appropriate planning provisions. It will take a

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

whole-of-government approach to ensure the right frameworks are in place, from landuse through to labour, accommodation and pastoral care.

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 have heard about this happening in Gisborne but haven't had an opportunity to investigate it, so can't comment further at this stage. But I am all for sustainable rating and have undertaken to advocate for general rates rises being capped at the CPI, rather than the 12-15% increases over the last couple of years.

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 mostly a territorial local authority function, not a regional council one. But seasonal accommodation will need discharge consents if not hooked up to municipal sewage & I would advocate in support of such consents.

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 key reason for standing is to promote balanced discussions with the stakeholders that I have worked with for the last 10+ years on the Heretaunga Plains. I have developed a strong understanding of Te Mana o Te Wai, so am able to engage in robust discussions about its application and the need to ensure security of supply for the HB productive sector that underpins our HB community.

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, ensure we develop a region-wide climate strategy & plan. Secondly, promote use of sensible storage to safeguard security of supply. Thirdly, ensure that the basic infrastructural upgrades to our key resilience assets such as stopbanks happen, to protect permanent horticultural investments on our Plains.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Mark Barham
Contact email: mark_barham@yahoo.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Hawkes Bay 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?

My drive to run as a Councilor is to be a benefit to the region by listening to the farmers, growers and general business owners and assisting them with being their necessary voice in the Council. I will give support to the regions Kiwifruit growers in any capacity required of me. I am not a Kiwifruit grower myself.

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 would support in any way possible for the Kiwifruit growers to be profitable in their business operations, to protect valuable productive land from urbanisation, and listen and act on behalf of the growers regarding any environmental pressures they face going forward.

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 am not in favour of a rate increase due to the success off the Kiwifruit growers having a Sungold licence. I will act as best as I am able to for rates to be fair and equitable across all rateable land, listening to the growers and other impacted businesses who are subject to the rateable valuations.

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 necessary to house an influx of seasonal workers. I will support the needs of the Kiwifruit industry in doing what they require, including on site farm housing and temporary housing, single room accommodation and caravan / RV relocatable and temporary type sites needed.

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 will promote the Kiwifruit industry in helping them get the required water rights required for their business to be sustainable, without the water they need their will be no sustainable business for them to be profitable and provide the employment the region needs. Whatever the Kiwifruit industry requires I will be an advocate in Council for them.

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?

HB Regional Council is pro active in doing the necessary required to combat climate change. If elected I fully will support the HBRC initiatives to help alleviate climate change, and importantly listen and assist the growers in getting their voices heard.