

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: steve collins

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Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Opotiki 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?

My polociies Employment, Development, Housing and Health.
More development and employment.
More housing and more attention to the health and well being of our community.
Especially our youth.

Where ever I think it is 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?

Kiwifruit is a key part of our economy.
Growth and development will certainly impact kiwifruit land as the town will naturally grow onto the hills above the flood plan.
Enviromental pressure will only increase in the future and will need to be studied closely.

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 idea at this stage. I do not know enough information to make a informed comment.

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?

Speed up the consent process for building and developing 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?

Have a working group made up from memebers of the industry and myself.

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?

Frankly, we have far bigger issues I need to tackle first. Climate change was never raised once by anyone I spoke to in the community. I spoke to hundreds in the last two months.
Climate change is happening for sure.
Personally I think its turned into a industry.
It needs common sense applied.