

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Gary Gotlieb
Contact email: gary@gotlieb.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Thames - Coromandel 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?

Because I want to see accountably.
I have supported the kiwi fruit industry by always buying the your products for myself and family.

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

Very little grown in our 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?

Unfortunately little I or TCDC can do as I am unaware of any grower's it would apply to in my area.

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?

Huge problem for all workers property values have risen beyond expectation.

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?

Yes

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?

It's a problem that we all need to work with together.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:	
Name:	Steve Hart
Contact email:	stevenlawrencehart@gmail.com
Q2. What Council are you standing for?	
Thames - Coromandel 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?
<p>Sept 16th – Oct 8thwill be, perhaps the most vital elections, held in NZ history. We are at a pivotal point in NZ's future. Every vote will count. Every eligible voter has the ability to create the changes needed. Never before in the history of man have we seen so much political upheaval. All political activity at every scale, effects all of us. Local governments, like your local, Thames Coromandel District Council, TCDC, have been burdened with greater and greater authority to make decisions on major issues that will have direct effect on you and your family. One such is Three Waters...the truth within this 2030 agenda is simply theft of your natural resources. There are many more being slipped in under the radar. We need all resources back in our hands not banksters. Your Mayor, Steve Hart has led "The Team" that has for the past two years stood up and assisted many throughout the region in learning more about these dynamics, these issues and divulging the truth. Building solutions. We have been lied to and lied to, for a very long period of time. The lies are getting worse. We must make a stand and become the change we want. We must be the change agents for our children and children's children. What legacy will we leave behind ? The Georgia Guidestones have been destroyed, the revolution has begun. Come on board..its going to be an exciting journey. We must rebuild for a prosperous, secure and safe future.</p> <p>Steve has developed a career as an Ecology Architect combining Architecture with Landscape Architecture and Urban Design fusing these disciplines through Systems Ecology. Living in Puriri just 15km south of Thames with Martina and four daughters in their highly productive 13 acre garden Steve stands up to share his skill sets. He has been employed at senior level in Local Government, so is more than familiar, with the internal workings of council. He has worked in several countries on a vast array of projects and been active in a number of NGOs and entered several political forays. Research and development is often core to many projects. Those skills and experience coupled to his questioning nature is what is needed to assist Coromandel in making the best decisions for the immediate future and beyond.</p> <p>"The Team" will be elected into council alongside Steve as Mayor. This will give strong unity in debate and questioning and decision making which will increase the value of all solutions for the benefit of the entire Coromandel. The Team will evolve a peoples movement in Peoples Assemblies. True democracy for the people by the people drawing out the needs and wishes of the community, holding monthly forums all around the district. Not just talk, but initiating what is needed. Assisting community and neighbourhoods to secure the support expected.</p>

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?

Socially, Environmentally, Culturally and Economically. Coromandel has a strong and unique history of diversity and richness. We have a very sensitive environment with considerable ability to enrich it for everyones benefit. Intelligent decisive direction from inclusive, rich, robust, healthy debate is a must.

Steve has a strong leadership skillset that is inclusive and solution focused.

All layers of planning for our needs and what we want as the people of Coromandel is paramount. Not what others want and need but what we want. It's time to be active participants on our community once again by having regular monthly public forums and active engagement with you.

Imagine

A return to true democracy, how it is meant to be. By the people for the people.

Imagine

A council exercising strict fiscal accountable management and trimming all excesses right across the board, being highly efficient in every activity, service and staffing. Imagine:

Our roads free of one way bridges. Roads of tree lined boulevards and more passing lanes, pull over bays and safe rest areas.

Imagine:

Community support for all our needs. Business enterprise of community cooperatives and weekend markets, buskers and live music. Celebrating who we are. Imagine:

Business workshops evolving Joint Venture partnerships invigourating localism. Imagine:

School programmes actively engaged in our environment, on conservation and pest management creating widescale enterprises of our rich forests beaches and waters.

Give me a call on 0220 75 62 11 or 0220 75 30 70 or better still email me at:

stevenlawrencehart@gmail to ask any question on any subject. Or drop in for a chat and a salad 18 Neavesville Rd Puriri. Just 7km south of Kopu roundabout.

Or, to offer your support in a campaign which is vitally important to you and your family and friends networks and affiliates and every part of Coromandel.

THE TEAM will introduce and work with you to implement:

- Peoples Assemblies. True Democracy through localism and community forums every month. For the people by the people. Freedom of speech, movement and thought.. Every Wednesday night we will facilitate open door forums in each of the towns all around the district. to invite any subject, all debate, creativity and inspiration of any subject, concern, need or project that to implement together.
- Overhaul the planning and building processes and procedures. The entire building industry including all who want to build or develop our properties in any way have been severely restricted by incompetency coupled to congested red tape creating totally unnecessary added expense and frustration. This needs to be reversed. Bring back experienced tradesmen.
- Support Community enterprise considerably. Lets support as much as possible all the creativity that sprouts up. Be it Research, Sport, Business, Tourism, Conservation, Education, Industry and Commerce, Theatre, Drama, Art, Science, Entertainment.... we can all benefit.
- Intensify Coromandels gardens, boulevards and richness of environment. We all know the value of rich aesthetic gardens where we all retreat to or visit to gain a heightened sense of vitality. We have many many open spaces throughout the district where gardens and boulevards and all other scale of planting can envigourate our district. More edibles too.
- Expand Resource Recovery Parks...recycling our waste as a resource. Seagulls Resource Recovery Park in Thames is a national leading model that must be emulated in all towns across the district, supported and developed as a centre of attraction. It is not only Economically smart but Environmentally, Culturally and Socially imperative. Lets build them and develop them. Lets eliminate waste and pollution and convert all into valuable reusable resources. This need's to extend to all areas of our community. We are all responsible but Council must lead.
- Modify our Wastewater systems to be the most efficient globally. For far too long we have been polluting our environment through outdated and inadequate engineering and science. Proven systems are available at considerably lower costs to the highest standards reducing rates by a big margin while dramatically increasing environmental quality and resource use.
- Scrap Three Waters and the entire 2030 agenda, theft of our resources, our family silver by a global elite, for us to become their slaves. We must maintain all in public ownership.
- Reinvigorate Pensioner Housing through all communities to respect the dignity of our elders in the best most efficient sun-filled designed homes and vibrant neighbourhoods full of rich bountiful gardens connected to all services and help.
- Secure our coastline edges, environmental buffering is a must. A stitch in time saves nine. Common sense really. Coupled to extensive conservation aesthetically valuable planting.
- Eliminate one-way bridges. We built these roads over 150 years ago..isnt it time to update them. All of Coromandels main roading arteries must be safe and free flowing, eliminating totally unnecessary

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?

accidents, blockages, bottle-necks and nuisance. Tairua needs it, we all need it.

- Build Joint Venture business. Many councils around the world recognise this benefit to community and vice versa....working in partnership builds community spirit and security at all levels, stabilises business, research and development, enterprise and creativity. Developing and integrating this initiative into all tiers of business enterprise through our schools and beyond, through cooperatives and commons for all in our community to benefit..

- Research and implement all options of sustainable energy. Lets build on this initiative already instigated and explore every other form of energy to offer clean and affordable energy for all reducing costs and creating a cleaner safer environment.
- Support extensive marine reserves and marine ecological vitality. While valuing our recreational fishers knowing such reserves do build the richness and vitality through our waters. The management of such will be in our communities hands, not any external entity.
- A public audit of TCDC, Eliminate unnecessary expenditure. There is no open cheque-book. Accountability of all expense and assets is paramount. Efficiency of every service is paramount. I will put 10% of my salary back into community enterprises. We must challenge all costings and research best practice which is efficient and effective that serves us the best.
- Freeze any rates increase. With creative accounting and smart business enterprise while implementing efficiency right across the board this is easily achievable. The most efficient and effective fiscal management is paramount.
- Extensive Pest Management combined with school electives and all associated networks. Many initiatives across NZ must be foremost to support the devastation to our environment and livelihoods. A huge opportunity exists to invite programmes into the schools curricula to extend into our exciting ecological domains, not only in environment and conservation but in science and business. Realizing the huge wealth and health of experiencing our outdoors across Coromandel.
- Support Nature Schools. Growing rapidly with vast benefits measured. Coromandel has a very rich environment which our children will benefit from, immensely. Such are well proven.

L e t s b u i l d a v i s i o n t o g e t h e r

We are all in this together. Its our community. How can we create the world we want for our children and children's children to be enriched in Coromandels richness. Lets play as a team and build on what we have, securely and safely. Come on-board. FACEBOOK: VOTE Steve HART your MAYOR Thames Coromandel District Council. Give me a call on 0220 75 62 11 or 0220 75 30 70 or better still email me at: stevenlawrencehart@gmail to ask any question on any subject. Or drop in for a chat and a salad 18 Neavesville Rd Puriri. Just 7km south of Kopu roundabout.

And how will you support the kiwifruit industry?

Promote the capacity of all varieties being organic for growers to gain a greater premium.

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

Organic kiwifruit supports the health and vitality of this district on good soils. Urbanisation will be directed to lesser soils. There are little if any environmental pressures for organic kiwifruit which offers greater premium in returns and health benefits for all.

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 will never be increased due to any intensification of any form of horticulture, including whatever variety of kiwifruit is grown.

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?

Offer fast track support in short term accommodation development which maintains high standards with the potential of assisting a collective of kiwifruit growers in developing a housing facility in times for staff demand. But also working positively in supporting attracting staff globally.

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?

Recognise that water resources are well above adequate inviting growers to ensure they have more than adequate reserves in storage onsite in supporting this need.

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?

Show me the impacts..there is no evidence whatsoever. Climate change is a total bet up and media created drama...the whole argument is full of false narratives. Do your homework. Sea levels are not rising. The climate changes every day, week, month, year, decade, century, millennium. But I love the fervour generated and seeing more trees planted and more CO2 available for all plants to absorb and put out more oxygen.

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Jenny Arnold
Contact email: JennyArnold4council@yahoo.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Thames - Coromandel District Council

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

Thames 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?

Thank you for approaching me. I am standing because I am aware this is a crucial time of change in local government and I want to put my experience and skills to the wheel. I am concerned that people new to the business of Territorial Local Authorities under the Local Government Act and its upcoming amendments, will flounder in the tasks. Now is the time to run as candidate, for me, not in three years time when things will be set regarding direction, and I may have less traction to make a difference. I hope to achieve the best local government decisions as possible, despite the raft of legislative changes coming from Central Government. I come from a rural upbringing with sheep, dairy and for a brief moment, early kiwifruit farming activity. I know how to access the right information, the sources of decision-making and can hear what you are concerned about, what you want from local government in Thames-Coromandel District, and ensure it is heard at the Council decision-making table.

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

Urbanisation, new housing and development on productive land is a constant balancing decision for all Councils. Landowners often have a variety of ideas about what this means and what they want. I can commit to hearing your concerns and weighing them in the context of all other pressures.

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 does not seem appropriate, I am not in agreement with the rateability of land being set based on the crop that it is growing.

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 to say that seasonal accommodation for staff on agricultural land, is surely a business cost that the operator must weave into their business plans. Council's are constantly asked to help to allieviate the "housing crisis" but in my opinion, a Council's role here is to draw together the different interests and groups working with the unhoused or poorly housed, and then to advocate to Government, or to the Minister of Agriculture, and MBIE regarding this. If Councils begin to provide funds for or actual housing, the rates will go sky high. The rates are already very high in Thames-Coromandel District.

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?

As a representative of all water users in the District and as a person on Council for the wider Thames-Coromandel District, I will certainly seek balanced discussion and have many talks with the Waikato Regional Council if they continue to be the body granting water takes via the RMA or its superceding legislation. I have made my own personal submission to the Three Waters (Water Entity Establishment Bill) proposal back in July, as I consider it to be very slim on content regarding how things are supposed to work.

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 will assess and then advocate for changes that assist all business operators and citizens in general, to adapt. It is a time of change for us all and Central Government will set an agenda that I will do my best to streamline so that there is minimal red tape for comliance and lots of communication and education so we all "stay on a similar page and go forward" despite our conflicts and disagreements that will arise from time to time.

Response 4

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Len Salt
Contact email: lensalt56@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Thames - Coromandel 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 have been deeply and actively involved in many community groups and projects since moving to Whitianga 13 years ago. Many of these projects cannot move forward without political support at multiple levels from council elected representatives and staff. Water supplies, infrastructure, waste minimisation, roading, consents and much more. As a major employer and customer of local business kiwifruit is vital to our local economy.

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 fully support the growth of the kiwifruit industry. Having worked four seasons at Seeka Whenuakite, there is a personal connection for me with the people who make this happen, create and support jobs and contribute enormously to the local 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?

This needs more research on my part and if elected I intend to find out more. I can't give an informed answer at the moment. Apologies.

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 needs to be a multi party solution. Council can assist and facilitate business and industry to solve this, and should be doing so. Council, however, are not in the business of providing land and building the accommodation. That might change in the future, and I will be forming a Mayoral task force specifically to look at the critical housing issues across the district.

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 policy under the Water Services Act (recently passed into law) and the Three Waters Entities Bill (currently in Select Committee) will be the two main drivers of water quality and supply. The RMA is also currently undergoing significant change as well. Local authorities have a legal obligation to apply these laws as required under these pieces of legislation. However the quality of the interaction and communication between the kiwifruit growers and council should be helpful and cooperative. Council should be doing what we can to encourage and support industry growth, within the scope of the legal framework. Working together towards a common cause, growth, industry and jobs.

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?

TCDC have been visionary in undertaking the Shoreline management planning process over the last three years. This provides a significant level of information, science, timelines, triggers and very specific pathways for our communities to use for critical decision-making over the next 5 to 50 years. The big "missing link" in the SMP process was leaving WRC out of the conversation. This needs to happen and it does affect the kiwifruit industry directly. The SMP program covered only coastal erosion and inundation, not flooding and impact from inland rivers and streams. This needs to be addressed urgently and a joint strategy developed between TCDC, WRC, Government, Waka Kotahi, communities and industries directly affected. This is particularly important in Thames Coromandel and has affected production, roading and supply on many occasions in the past.