

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Anaru Thompson Adams

Contact email: anaru1ata@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato Regional Council

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

Waihou 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?

Kia ora. I am Anaru Adams, A Morrinsville local who whakapapa to Ngati Haua, I hope to bring a balanced view to Regional Council that recognises the interests of our rural communities and the needs of our wider communities across the Waihou constituency.

TE TAI AO – Waterways, Rivers and Environment, Biodiversity, climate change

TE TANGATA – Balanced rates, accessible Public Transport

TE AO AMUA - investment and decisions focus on future generations

I will advocate for balanced rates, clean waterways and rivers, a healthy environment and to ensure that investment and decisions focus on future generations and also sustain community wellbeing.

If elected to Regional Council, I hope to continue on from the work started by Stu Husband and Hugh Vercoe which I believe includes enabling community voices to be heard in decisions made by Regional Council, continued investment of rates into projects and initiatives that impact and improve our communities and Ongoing investment into roading and accessible transport options.

I hope to use my experience and understanding of Wellington to advocate for our region and the realities that our communities face.

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 think kiwifruit growth in the Waikato region will be impacted by a number of different pressures including climate change, colder temperatures and land use focus being mainly on dairy farming.

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?

Unable to answer

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?

Working alongside local councils to ensure rules and plans enable housing/accommodation development and working with the Waikato plan group to ensure all seasonal workforces are able to be supported.

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 think any decision and discussion as to water in the Waikato needs to consider Te Mana o Te Wai and Te Ture Whai Mana o Waikato/Waipā. We need to ensure that our own regions water needs are met including kiwifruit growers before allowing water to leave the rohe.

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 support the current mahi undertaken by WRC to address climate action and believe that more resourcing and information is needed to support industries to adapt.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Clyde Graf
Contact email: thegrafboys@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato Regional Council

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

Councillor - Waipa / King Country

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?

As a previous councillor for Waikato Regional Council, I enjoyed the team work of getting things done. As a councillor I support farming and agriculture. If the kiwifruit sector flourishes, we all win. As is the case with farming. I go out of my way to support farming, and I will go out of my way to support the kiwi fruit industry too.

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

Being based in the Waikato isn't exactly the hub of kiwi fruit production. However, with the increasing switch of productive land to trees, then that's a risk that needs further serious advocacy to avoid a mass shift of philosophy and further loss of productive land.

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 court ruling. It's a typical bureaucratic money grab. I ask you this - if you have SNA's on your land, does the council reduce your rates? Not much. As far as how to progress with ensuring rates are actually equitable in this case - I'm a student at your service. I'm all ears, and happy to hear your advice.

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 do not know the answer to this question - but I'm happy to listen to advice.

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?

RMA reforms are currently being considered. I would first talk with the industry, then advocate discussion around the decision table.

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?

Once again, you are the experts in your field. I'm an advocate of yours, so long as you share your information and experience. I'm keen to represent your interests at council level.

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Barry Quayle
Contact email: btquayle@hotmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato 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?

I have significant relevant understanding and experience in providing services to the Ag and Horticulture sector through FIELDDAYS and Hortenz (event held at Mystery Creek Events Centre some years ago). I was general manager of Fielddays for 20 years and Mystery Creek Events Centre. I also have been a regional councillor since 2017, Chair of finance from 2019, and Chairperson in 2022.

I seek pragmatic solutions to issues and believe in collaboration and community consultation to inform my decisions. I also believe in utilizing the full extent of a team's capabilities to achieve quality outcomes.

I am ambitious in respect of waikato region to continue and develop its its key role as a food producer. We are here in a moment of time to ensure the legacy future of 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?

Land use is being challenged;. high quality soils need to be protected.

Dairy farming in the region is probably likely to reduce as climate change impacts create droughts. Crop and related sectors are likely to play a greater role in the regions GDP. so Kiwifruit is likely to have a greater application.

Freshwater will need to have greater storage enabled to deal with climate challenges.

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 aware that any licence or other crop management licence affects rates directly. rates is merely aligned to land value(and in some instances capital value) No other mechanisms currently exist to go beyond those mechanisms. There are arguments that rates currently are not equitable as urban dwellers complain currently about the greater share falling on them with escalating urban prices. So there is not a perfect system of allocating rates burdens. currently Govt gives no other tools for financing to councils. i find it incongruous that the govt can take away part of district council business and enable those "three waters" bodies to be given expansive financial instruments for revenue raising..

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 would be a district council function.

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?

It is essential that consultation with interested parties just doesn't look at the here and now but the future potential of growers compared with other land use interests

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 regional council needs to lead on providing the region with accurate and timely data on changing trends.
Secondly water security and storage issues need much consultation with industry players.
increasing pests are a likely to present further changes so our pest management plan needs to adapt..
Soil loss from more intense weather events needs to be factored into plans and mitigations

Response 4

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Noel Smith
Contact email: newcastleherefords@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato 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 passion for my community drives me and has driven me all my working life. While owning and operating a Hereford cattle stud and now a prime cattle finishing operation for over 30 years I have served as a police officer and later a District Manager Ministry of Justice. The last 15 years I have been an elected councillor on the Waikato District Council.

The Waikato Regional Council has had ineffective governance for the past three years and the Waikato Regional Council needs experienced persons with leadership, experience and who demonstrate accountability to the community.

In all my decision making within Council I have taken the position that if I don't think something is good for me then why should I think it good for others, in other words my approach is fairness and equity for all in the community. I have no specific thoughts on the Kiwifruit Industry as I take each situation on its merits.

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 currently lead the Waikato District Council District Plan Appeals Committee. In that role I am leading the challenge between groups wanting to expand into the rural communities and the need to hold the line to ensure legal productive rural activities are protected from encroachment and reverse sensitivity issues.

I am firmly of the view that rural activities must be protected from reverse sensitivities and that our limited productive lands should not be covered by inappropriately located developments.

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 was somewhat surprised by the decision to allow the value of SunGold licenses to be included in the value of the land for rating purposes. I have wondered where this will end and what other farming practices may be subject to such practices.
As far as equitable rating goes I have a track record already of seeking fairness and equity when it comes to rates.
The issue is complex and I will need more information and wider community discussion before I would be comfortable to comment further on this issue.

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 an appeal point in the current proposed district plan appeal process that I am leading for Waikato District Council.
As it is only last week that the appeal committee discussed this point I can not comment on it directly. However I believe I can indicate that the appeal committee looked favourably at the issue and have directed staff to go back to the appellants to discuss a number of options.

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?

This is difficult. Because a landowner wants to put a crop or other activity in a location they cannot expect that they will necessarily be able to have any greater access to natural resources than any other entity. Some activities should not establish in some locations if the necessary resources are not easily available, nor should one industry or activity monopolise the natural resources to the extent it affects other neighbouring properties or aquifers.

When there is sufficient resources available (eg water) then there is not an issue.

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 accept climate is real and that we need to adapt to manage the effects of the change. I tend to review scientific material and longer term studies to base my ideas and to get direction.
I believe Councils need to provide an 'enabling environment' in which entities can manage their businesses without protracted consenting or bureaucratic processes hindering their operations.

Response 5

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Judy Sherriff

Contact email: judy@sherriff.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato Regional Council

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

general council position

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 independent and do not have any preconceived ideas.
I am practical, caring and committed
I have extensive business and 45 years farming experience.
I have a sound knowledge of biosecurity, biodiversity, climate change, SNAs, water including the Waikato River Plan, freshwater plan and environmental plans, having submitted on them all!
I have a proven record on environmental protection having QEII covenants, waterways fenced and biodiversity areas protected on our farm.
I want to ensure that everyone lives in vibrant communities.
I want to add solid practical ideas to the Council table and reduce the bureaucratic burdens, so all businesses can flourish.
I want the environment to be protected.
I want to ensure that there are sound workable decisions made on water, land use, transport and climate change.

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 have no issue with land being used for horticulture in the Waikato Regional Council. The issue, as I see it, is striking the right balance between protecting the environment and using its resources. We can't have a strong economy without a healthy environment. Our economy in Waikato Country is built on agriculture and we have to be able to support our farmers to limit their impact on the environment without drowning them in legislation. It is essential to protect our world class productive, food producing land including planting the right trees in the right place. I firmly believe that science will prove to be the answer to alleviate climate change in agriculture.

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 I do not agree with the value of the SunGold licence in the rateable value of a property. Targeted rates are already applied by Councils but to narrow it down to species planted will be extremely difficult to monitor and rate fairly. I consider that forestry enterprises need to be looked at more closely to ensure fair and equitable calculations.

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?

As a sheep, beef and dairy farmer we have always provided separate housing for all our staff, including seasonal workers over calving. I consider orchards have to consider doing the same.

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 oppose the 3 waters as I consider it is not in the best interests of any farmer. The significant value of all farmers in NZ should never be underestimated and more clarity and better decisions on water storage must be made.

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?

Areas on farms that are fenced, protected and planted should be counted towards climate mitigation. Investment in science will prove to be the answer to alleviate climate change. Councils need to acknowledge climate change and play a part in mitigating the risks

Response 6

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Warren John Maher

Contact email: w.maher@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waikato Regional Council

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

Thames Coromandel 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?

We are currently constrained by the RMA, it is complex, costly and causes delays. Communities need to be empowered and supported in the work they do in animal and plant pest control, including mangrove removal and management. WRC needs more consultation with users of the marine environment to maintain our access and fishing rights in their Coastal Plan. The kiwifruit industry along with all primary producers need support to not only maintain but grow their industry, not hindered by inflexible consent process.

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 encourage growth of kiwifruit in the Coromandel area, it brings both employment and money into our towns. Water storage and security are important both now and in the future, and long term plans need to have this as one of their goals.

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 is an unfair rate system, and I believe a rate that is based on land use such as horticulture or agriculture should be applied regardless of what is grown or raised.

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?

Worker housing is a major issue throughout the region, regional council, district council and the building industry all need to get together to come up with solutions.

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?

WRC need to get stakeholders together, sooner rather than later to forecast future water needs, as well identifying future water sources while planning for existing need and future growth.

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?

WRC works within the climate change response act, and every report into council incorporates climate change considerations. Policies are being put in place to encourage reduction in greenhouse gases and consultation with industry is critical, something I don't believe is being done very well currently.