

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Delwyn Smith
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Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Waipa District Council

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

Cambridge councillor and community board.

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 driven to run because of issues that I didn't feel the current council were addressing. These were No open rubbish dump, The roundabout by the whit church had not improved things and I wanted actual evaluation of results., and I wanted to work for some space for youth to engage in motor-sports. I will work supporting the kiwifruit industry, firstly by keeping Cambridge affordable to live and work in and pay rates. I would like to see an evaluation of 5G on the bees that are so needed for pollination for much of our food. I would support initiatives to improve transport in and around the district and not oppose an inland port.

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 believe we need to keep the growing regions available for food production. I do not view expansion and unchecked growth as the way forward, as this puts more pressure on land, resources, and infrastructure .While I believe people should be able to have nice living spaces, industrial growth should not be taking over 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 think it's wrong for a council to charge rates on a compliance expense that the land-owner has had to pay. I also think it's wrong that passive rising values of all property equate with more rates and gives no certainty to those on fixed incomes but want to stay in the area. We need to ensure the service workers can live in our towns and so supply the labour a community needs.

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?

While I feel that the industry needs to provide accommodation for seasonal workers who may already be paying rent elsewhere, I think that council should not put obstacles in the way of the orchardists or any place requiring seasonal workers from providing temporary accommodation parks, and looking for solutions for water, sewerage and refuse. There may be a case for short-term accommodation hubs.

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?

Manage bore water consents so that people have enough to be fair . I would need to have a look at how water is managed in other regions and the perceived fairness issues. Exporters should be able to be reassured that needs for water for producers may limit the current rampant housing growth. Finding the balance will not be easy but the government has already made a move to protect our food producing soils, so the concept of also allocating water use is a natural follow on. For large users of any provided service, there may need to be a targeted rate, otherwise the benefit is not equitable.

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?

This is such a vast topic. I feel that there is little feasible work we can do to affect the climate but we all need to plan for a range of eventualities. I would expect to be in consultation with government departments in the case of new disease risks, and have land development plans that also mitigate extreme weather risks. This would include storm-proofing roading corridors, flood-banking where necessary, and having sensible setbacks when building on a raised area at risk for slips.