

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Vern Wilson
Contact email: vernw@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whakatane 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?

I was a 3 term Waipa councillor 2010 / 2019 and feel I could make a positive change here.

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

That is a decision between your board and the powers to be, there is obviously a limit at some point but what that is must be agreed upon taking aboard all the effected issues including climate change.

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 /, people can be asset rich and cash poor, it is selfish to bleed farmers dry just because they work hard and take calculated risks.

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 would think this is an area where the Kiwi Fruit industry must lead, they could rent out the accommodation out during the off season to tourists and for NZ families to enjoy a farm stay, offsetting set costs.

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 should belong to no-one but everyone, if we could store and harvest rain water there would not be a problem. Councils and high water uses must work together and look outside the square.

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?

There is obviously not one answer to such a complex issue. Policies must be put into place for all future decisions and present operations. These policies must be flexible to meet new directions and information where it is available.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Jacquelyn Elkington
Contact email: Ngati10@hotmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whakatane District Council

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

Mayor and Councillor for Rangitaiki 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?

I am driven by local power, local governance.
I wish to achieve a policy that Puts Family First. That means the industry and workers plan together hours, wage and conditions, targets.

We want the kiwifruit industry to continue to be the best product for local, national and international consumption.

How we support the kiwifruit industry as council is to share the power of decision making. Facilitation of courageous conversations is my strength.

That means bring all major industries in Whakatane District together, and who need to be prioritized financially for funds. Share the budget and big picture vision of the area, then allow a forum to negotiate who needs what first, when and how.

That way all get what is needed based on the vision of the area and on each industry's contribution to that.

I prefer to spend time here at the beginning of making decisions rather than at the end, stealing time for damage control.

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

Whakatane has over 200,000 hectares of Maori land, there is enough for housing, for expanding kiwifruit and for developing new projects.

It may take a courageous conversation with Maori as land owners.

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

Environmental pressures have been managed before, they will continually to be managed. Added management will be heard, acknowledged and valued - you are the experts.

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?

The rates system needs an overhaul - it's not working.

I would invite proposals and or suggestions from the industry about a better system.

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 might

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 would promote the industry for all of its benefits and great contributions to the area.

I believe there is enough water for kiwifruit growers that a balanced discussion might just include meeting one another on a win/win basis. Supply water means all of us a winners.

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?

The industry knows best what support is needed

My role might be to:

Merely listen,

Merely respect,

Merely serve.

Ww have 50kms of wetlands along Whakatane District Coastlines. We have 48% of the area covered in Urewera forest. Protection from carbon emissions is strongly assured, to me. I also read that the warming is a natural occurrence every 132 years and am not concerned greatly concerned that our kiwifruit growing, here in Whakatane will be hugely adversely affected.

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Nandor Tanczos
Contact email: justdread@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whakatane 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?

Whakatāne, like other districts, faces significant challenges over the next few decades. The decisions we make today will have intergenerational impacts. We need clear sighted and far sighted leadership to support our communities to not just survive but to thrive in these challenging times. I bring proven and effective leadership, and open and accountable approach, and I work for all our communities. How I will support the kiwifruit industry is by ensuring that you have good, clear information from council and planning processes that protect valuable soils and support good land use.

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 growing in our sub-region and bringing high value hort to the district. We do need to protect productive land (as we are doing with our spatial planning at the moment) and I don't see this as incompatible with the needs for housing growth that we are experiencing. We do need to advocate for a better transport network to make sure that produce from the East Coast has a good route to markets, especially the port in Tauranga.

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'm aware of the test case in Gisborne and the High Court decision. Whakatāne has not discussed the option of including the value of SunGold licenses in the rateable value of properties and at this stage there is no proposal to do so, to the best of my knowledge.

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?

We are conducting a spatial plan for the Eastern Bay which will look at how to best provide for housing needs, among other things.

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 allocation is a matter for the regional council, but highly constrained by legislation. I personally support a review of allocation rules that provides for the most economic use of that proportion of the water that can be taken without adversely affecting ecosystem health and social and cultural values.

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 initiated and led our council's climate change program and continue to push for better information and support for all our communities.