

# NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

## Response 1

### Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Jenny Duncan

**Contact email:** jenny@nzgrow.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui 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'm standing for re-election to support my community through the 3 big reforms that local government faces in the next 3 years. I'm also wanting to see our port project complete and many affordable homes built.

The best way for us to support the industry in Whanganui is to ensure there is enough labour when required. This means being able to house our workers adequately and ensure there is enough off season work for them all.

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

Whanganui has protected its best growing lands (type 1 and 2 soils) to prevent urban growth into these critical food growing areas. This is our best achievement. This land can not be subdivided and built on. We are encouraging the growth of the industry to the point that oneday we will have a large enough production to enable investment in suitable pack house.

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 of this and will be checking to see if this is so in Whanganui.

Personally, I think the rating system is past its use by date and we need to rethink how local government is funded. Including the SunGold licence into the capital value is no different than other capital value increases to other ratepayers. They are all unfair and often bare no resemblance to an owners ability to pay. Capital and cashflow are 2 very different things.

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 above, we need to keep our workers local and ensure they have year round work. This means we must build more affordable home and have affordable rents for our people.

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 supply is not an issue in Whanganui as there is more than adequate water available. How it will be treated under the pending 3 waters changes, is anyones guess. But I suspect the cost will go up.

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 think weather wise Whanganui will fair well under short to medium term climate change. Our weather will get warmer and wetter.

Mitigation: Whanganui has a climate change strategy that requires us to reduce our emissions over time. Buying EVs and turning to solar is not enough.

Adaptation: We are looking at the suitability of any new developments and the possible flooding or slip impacts.

Whanganui District Council would welcome engagement with the industry so that you can advise us what is a better way forward that would support the industry. we do not have a monopoly on good ideas.

# Response 2

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Blair

**Contact email:** blair.jones@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui 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?

These surveys taking up time and not being open, my hometown should be placed to take advantage of opportunity. I want people how to take advantage of their choices. Land as the government has set out could be set aside for growth, training and support when it changes too much.

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 could be set aside, ecology and food go hand in hand and yes we should set aside land at this time but it must be balanced as can be.

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?

Things are not free and it should be more balanced: as what i understand it doubled, yet things are expensive and charges must offset the costs, I do not agree with double.

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?

It should already be in place if budgets allow for changes. I'm not sure what to say but to ease the movement and ability to put infrastructure in as quickly and easily as possible.

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 don't know the answer to the dreams of stakeholders, it is not that big here at this time for such serious concerns, as an Industry you must know how you grew product, critical does not explain the wish for an non infinite resource, I would hope that business can be green and efficient.

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?

Why am I supporting your business, green policy should be made simple to follow so it does not incur but enhance business efficiency hopefully through technology and independence, green grass ideas sell cupcakes, sellsellsell.

# Response 3

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Scott Phillips  
**Contact email:** scottphillipsforcouncil@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui District Council

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

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?

I am passionate about the Whanganui region and I want to do my bit to help make it better. I hope to be an inclusive councilor that listens to the general community and makes things better for the future. I want to see care and thought and a long term vision put into all decisions. Not planting pines cause climate change is going to destroy everything right now, but rather sensible solutions that help long term. I love the kiwifruit industry, spending most of my youth working on my parents kiwifruit orchard near Mangamahu. My families old orchard is now long gone, but our old neighbours remains, and more are being planted around Whanganui, which is great. I will happily support any infrastructure or consent work that 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?

The new block being developed in Westmere which is awesome, the council has already put restrictions on the land in this area with good fertile soils, so that will continue. Urban sprawl isn't a huge thing here, but lifestyle blocks could become an issue, I am not sure on the fertile soil rules myself, but lifestyle blocks should also be prevented from sprawling onto the best soils.

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 not aware of this, and it sounds like a bad decision. Rates equity is always going to be tricky, but just land value is a poor decider. Basing it on usage is better, but not system is perfect. From a roading point of view some styles of farm would see more traffic, ie a dairy farm has a truck collection many

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?

time a week, a kiwifruit farm has almost no truck visits except for harvesting time, a sheep and beef high country farm may only see a few trucks a year. So land value has little impact on the traffic that might be using (and therefore requiring maintenance) on the roading network. I don't know how the rates are split now, and it will always be a difficult one to make fair, but that's what should be strived for.

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 don't know how this might work, but containerised accomdation makes sense to me. they can be collected with swinglifts and delivered where need, almost following the seasonal workers around the country. The various councils could get together (or Central Govt) to approve these relocatable container accommodations and shower/ toilet blocks for use, so that they don't need permits or consents when moved.

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 is the new oil, my father (Fred Phillips) spends much of his time doing water consents, designing irrigation and drainage, I would seek guidance from him. He knows his stuff, and he's my dad :)

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?

Frost is a big issue in some areas, my dad designed HeatRanger a frost protection system for vineyards, and it runs on LPG but is designed to be modified to run on any flammable gas, so can run on Biogas or Hydrogen when either are available on a commercial scale. This is an example of sensible ways to adapt. So we need to accept what we can change now, and what will have to be sorted in the future. There is no point having crops fail in the meantime because we are not permitted to use a certain kind of fuel. Any business needs to be economically viable, and should be environmentally aware, but not at the cost of financial viability.

# Response 4

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Glenda Brown  
**Contact email:** glenda@ehaus.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui District Council

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

Backing Business

## 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?

Being involved in our local Chamber of Commerce for 9 years, with the last 4 as chair, I am passionate about seeing business thrive. Having a close alignment between local government and stakeholders in the business community that is at the forefront of business support and advocacy I believe will help. Having someone who is entrenched in the business scene with a business lens around the table for discussions/debate, will be an advantage to keeping the region business friendly. I hope to achieve working to streamline processes supporting businesses to continue to operate in this post covid environment, championing our regional voice with the upcoming RMA reforms and commitment to supporting the primary industries when discussing initiatives placed on businesses to reduce carbon emissions. Businesses need to be able to continue to be successful.

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 do not support urban sprawl. By creating housing density using existing buildings within the city boundary we can avoid precious farmland being used for housing. Housing density is not new and is slowly being implemented in the regions now other than the cities. I will be advocating for this. I do support Climate Change and am committed to supporting our efforts to reduce carbon emissions, but at the same time, our primary industries need our support so they can continue to operate and be successful being one of the biggest industries at contribute to our GDP. Climate Change is a collective responsibility that belongs to everyone.

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?

It is unfortunate that land can be rated on the success of the business operating on the land. I do not agree with this decision, however, according to LGNZ, rates are calculated based on capital value and land use - this will indicate the high court ruling. I would rather see a tiered approach to the calculation of rates in these instances, rather than a blanket calculation approach that we see now.

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?

The housing shortage is a big issue and will be a focus for Council in this next term. Seasonal worker accommodation should be considered in this strategy as well. I'm not sure what the answer is here, and short of making promises I can't deliver on, it will be something to consider in this piece of work.

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 suggest the partnership with Horizons Council and Iwi is what will be needed to ensure water supply for all of our primary industries is adequate for operations to be maximized.

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?

Caring for our environment is one of my focus areas:  
Our Council has adopted a climate change emergency - one of the first in NZ to do this. I agree and support this and recognise it takes a community to support and execute this for it to be viable and successful. We all have a collective responsibility towards climate change - it doesn't just sit with business. I proudly support the primary industry who has been an advocate for sustainability for years. We can and should be proud of what our rural sector is doing as well as supporting them to make change. We need a successful business community to be able to have the resources to deal with climate change initiatives. In our region next to Manufacturing, they are the next biggest contributor (171.7m) to our GDP. We all need to champion the goal of making small changes in our daily lives to support climate change in our everyday living and our businesses and not just expect the primary industries to champion the cause alone.



# Response 5

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Helen Craig  
**Contact email:** hellycraig@hotmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui 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?

To help Whanganui thrive.  
Grow population, business & jobs. Increase the standard of living and quality of life.  
Our rural farming community including Kiwifruit industry is part of our community and highly valuable and essential to Whanganui's success. Keeping rates affordable, roads in good condition a full range of services and things to do is important for our farming families and workers.  
I work hard to ensure all those things and lobby central government to do their bit.  
Our family have a sheep and beef farm on the Parapara so I'm fully aware of all the pressures on farming, especially coming from Central Government.  
Most of our population is urbanised in the town centre, and whilst thats iimportant I constantly remind our council that our rural community is vital to our future success as its our breadbasket and our economic and rural services backbone.

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

Love it! Kiwifruit is a massive earner for the community and I welcome its growth to its full potential. Plenty more room for growth. I've been on Council for 9 years and we protected our highest productive land about 3 years ago.  
All businesses should strive to reduce pollution and Co2 production and keep waterways as clean as possible, however food production should not be subject to carbon taxes in any form.

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 not aware specifically of this valuation inclusion. I'd recommend your organisation making a submission to our Annual Plan specifically on this issue and requesting a Rating differential be applied.

Just because a grower is harvesting SunGold as opposed to any other vine fruit, I don't see why they should pay higher rates - that becomes an even more onerous taxation on wealth.

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 struggling to provide accommodation for our increased population. We've introduced a Housing Strategy and allocated \$4m capital project budget. We are working with local organisations and government agencies to work together to provide more housing. We've identified land that can be infilled and opened up a lot of land for new housing development.

Growers should contact Council and discuss their needs and see how we might assist.

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?

Whanganui already has good water supplies. If there is an issue, then growers need to advise us so we can understand the need and how we might meet the demand.

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?

Council has a Climate Change Strategy which is fairly new. Its largely focussed on Council reducing emissions, reducing power consumption and adapting to climate change through future proofing infrastructure. Council has invested in an Economic Development Agency with a dedicated agri/hort manager to promote education, advice on crop diversification and other opportunities that might arise.

# Response 6

## Introduction

Q1. General information:

**Name:** Aisha Beazley  
**Contact email:** aishabeazley@live.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whanganui 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?

Three priorities for me are homelessness and housing, Te Awa Tupua and its values, and localised Community-led decision making.

In council I hope to achieve many changes for my community. To establish three Homeless night shelters with basic facilities. Also, to revise Freedom camping sites to allocate one to our homeless in cars. Furthermore, I would like more council investment into Iwi-led tourism based on Whanganui River Road.

I would love to meet and connect with the Kiwifruit industry. I enjoy helping others and collaborating.

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 provides employment for our people. I support any businesses that provide employment opportunities for our local people especially Whanganui iwi.

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 rates should remain the same.

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 support all housing initiatives within Whanganui 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?

Including Iwi in these discussions would be beneficial for the Kiwifruit industry in Whanganui district.

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?

Climate change policies are complex task to manage. We need to shift our mindset, to realise the environment is at the centre. We are Kaitiaki guardians of our environment.