

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Graeme Gallagher
Contact email: hikafireman@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whangarei 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 have a willingness to help people and believe that if I get into council that I will be in a position to do this.
I have the backing of my family and friends pushing me to run and try make a fairer playing field for all. I believe that council can help all horticultural members by making the consenting process easier and cheaper to navigate.
Look at zoning changes.
I would like to push for better infrastructure in the North which would encompass road, rail and sea. I believe this would help get product to market which brings more money to 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?

I in all honesty don't know how big the kiwifruit is in Whangarei but I do know that other types of fruit are grown on a large scale.
I don't care what fruit is grown, we need to make land available for our growers.
Urbanisation is fine in the cities and towns but rural areas are a big part of our regions growth and GDP.
I believe that council needs to work within the whole industry to make sure that we understand what is needed by growers going forward.

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 believe that rates should be charged on an acreage/usage model but not on a license.
By charging on a license you deconvince people to want to put more money into the sector.
I think that council needs to sit down with growers and talk over a system that is fair for all.
I am sure that industry leaders will have a model that would work.

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 believe that council could change consents around temporary and permanent housing for part and full time employees.

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?

Unfortunately water is an achilles heel for all types of farming.
Growers and farmers need it and the conservationists want to restrict it.
I believe that we need to look at how much water is needed for each farm or grower per year and how our rivers and aquifers will hold up to the usage.
Industry sustainability is paramount and I am not an expert on the subject but between the growers who know what they are doing and subject matter experts we should find workable solutions.

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?

First off I would talk to the industry and find out how climate change is affecting them and what they believe the solutions could be.
Then we can compare what so called experts say and workout solutions.
People who work at the coalface often have the solutions for most problems that affect them.
We as a council need to listen to hear and not listen to speak.
As a council we need to look at where consents are given so we start to move away from building on coastlines.
We need to make sure that our wetlands are looked after and rivers etc fenced.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Couper

Contact email: Becen@xtra.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whangarei 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?

Value for rates
More jobs
Family friendly district
Affordable homes
Environmental awareness
Against valuing quota

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

Need to protect 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?

No do not agree
Land value only

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?

Would respond to industry initiatives

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?

Facilitate open frank conversations with stakeholders

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?

Got to be clear on councils role this are mor NRC

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Scott McKenzie
Contact email: scott.r.mckenzie@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Whangarei District Council

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

Hikurangi/Coastal 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?

Turning visions into reality is what I do as an architect. I have spent 20 years in the profession and that experience is transferrable to a council setting. Practical things like construction knowledge, project management, building contracts and managing budgets. Also I value collaboration and understanding people's needs/wishes, and I am a problem solver who likes to find practical solutions for all parties. I am also skilled in building trusting relationships with all stakeholders.

I think it's important to protect our prime horticultural lands (for example in Glenbervie) from sprawling suburban development.

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 want to encourage the intensification of central city Whangārei so more people live in town to enjoy new public spaces, Putahi park, Hundertwasser, the town basin, the loop. This will make the central city more vibrant and prosperous and at the same time save our prime horticultural lands on the city outskirts from sprawling development.

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 not something I am aware of but I'd be happy to discuss with anyone concerned.

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?

One of my main platforms for running is addressing the housing crisis. This means implementing the WCC housing strategy to get people into houses. More housing supply will therefore open up more options for those seeking seasonal accommodation. More than happy to discuss more direct and specific ideas with those concerned.

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 likely to be more of a NRC discussion but again happy to discuss.

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?

All of the communities on the coast I have met with face the same issues, coastal erosion exacerbated by sea level rise and inland there is more and more flooding. We need to confront the increasing affects of climate change. There has been work started on this, Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau (CATT) is a partnership between all four Northland councils and tangata whenua, councils adopted the strategy in April of this year. This is a living document; I want to continue to develop this high level strategic work into creative practical solutions to these issues. We should be thinking short term, medium term and long term. Considering each area in a geographically specific way to inform council works programmes.