

NZKGI Local election candidates survey 2022

Response 1

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Margaret Murray-Benge

Contact email: murray_benge@kinect.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

councillor Kaimai 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?

My partner has a kiwifruit orchard and I am well aware of the challenges the industry faces. We need good access to our export port which Tauranga has the best, and we need to improve access to our State Highways which will require serious lobbying with central government. We need economic growth, and horticulture plays a very large part of this in our Bay of Plenty. I am opposed to the Government 3 Waters proposal which will steal our 3 Water assets, waste water, storm water and drinking water paid for by generations of ratepayers without adequate compensation. Worse still we will lose local control and planning and with the loss of a third of the councils operations we will be vulnerable for amalgamation into a much larger entity. Local will be lost from local decision making.

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

Yes it is important to protect our productive land, but we also need housing for our growing district. Too many people are being priced out of home ownership. Where we have lifestyle blocks it is an opportunity to allow subdivision so we can house our workers and managers as Kiwifruit requires serious need for workers.

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?

That may have happened in Gisborne but most unlikely to happen in Western Bay.

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 need to ensure that owners of orchards and pack houses are able to house their workers on their properties if they wish to do so.

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?

Firstly support the opposition parties that are opposed to the 3 Waters theft by this Government, as they have promised to repeal this barbaric undemocratic proposal. Will ensure our horticultural industry does not lose out on water supply and will combine with regional council to ensure this.

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?

Will work with the industry to figure out together what we need to do. I do not agree with adopting any changes without working with the industry to determine the future together.

Response 2

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Murray Grainger
Contact email: murray.grainger@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Councillor - Kaimai 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?

Drive? - To serve our community.
Achieve? - Community led outcomes that benefit the whole community.
Support? - The same way as any other productive sector of the community is supported.

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

Without balance, systems become unstable so all the competing factors and pressures have to be taken into account before decisions are made. There will always be pressure groups advocating for more of this or less of that but with reasoned and rational debate and discussion, progress can be made. Obviously kiwifruit is a significant powerhouse driving the local economy but decisions made years ago mean that kiwifruit orchards will eventually disappear from the Omokoroa peninsula (for example).

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?

A ruling by the High Court is binding until overturned by a higher jurisdiction. Whether or not I agree with a High Court ruling is immaterial, Council has to work within the legal framework that applies at the time. Council does not set the rateable value for properties. The rules for rates calculations are proscribed in law and Council works within those parameters.

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 District Plan review that will be undertaken this triennium will need to look very closely at how Council can enable more housing. One of those housing demands is obviously RSE accommodation. Having workers parked up in motorhomes near the Jubilee Park facilities is not an appropriate answer. Submissions to the District Plan, from the industry, will be a critical component of resolving this issue.

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 Regional Council issue, not District Council. Also, we do not know how the 3 Waters reform is going to pan out in 2024 if it proceeds in the current form or is repealed and replaced.

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?

Apart from the responses dictated to Council from central government, Council needs to keep a watching brief on climate change trends. Which way is the climate changing and how fast? Council's 10-year and 30-year plans have to be able to be modified in the light of identified trends and rigorous, scientifically established, data. How Council may or may not support the industry with any needed adaptation in 30, 50, 100 year's time will be an issue for the Councillors of the day.

Response 3

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Allan Sole
Contact email: allan@candela.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Councillor, Katikati Waihi Beach 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 love the work and just want to get better outcomes for all people.
I want to bring other councillor's along with me, to deliver better results from our services and contractors via better policy making and governance.
I have always supported the kiwifruit industry and have gone on record about this.
We can assist by improving our roads.
Helping with compliance requirements for more housing or minor dwellings, on farms or around postharvest zones. This will help to get the labour needed to the site on time and get the work done.
I also believe in buffer zones so the orchardists can go about their lawful and required business.

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

This is an absolute must.
I also believe in buffer zones so the orchardists can go about their lawful and required business.

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 can be done with a revised rate factor for the gold variety, but I would like to see a review of the value of the licence compared to other commercial horticulture.

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?

Improve the rules regarding consent for this housing, or minor dwellings. This is needed regardless of it being on farm or close/in to post harvest sites.
An absolute must for the future of the industry.

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 resource is very topical at the moment and water supply for the industry is essential. My view is that we need to quantify what is likely to be needed so we can then go about sourcing it for delivery in many ways from many sources.
I would support a plan being formed to get the data and go about the delivery.

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?

My thoughts are to focus on the improvement of water quality and discharge. This will have a huge effect on our environment via the eco system.
Water is the key in NZ, as it will actually make a difference here and have down the line benefits in all sectors of the environment.
Changes to air quality is important, but we can't make a blip on the world figures, so change what will work here.

Response 4

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Rodney Joyce
Contact email: rodney@szf.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Mayor, 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 on a policy platform of lower rates and greatly increased transparency at the council. Almost everyone that I speak to in the district is unhappy with the very high, and continually rising, rates burden and are frustrated that their concerns are not being listened to,. When I looked around the candidates standing for Mayor of Western Bay, I saw largely a continuation of current policies. I did not see anyone addressing this issue for residents and ratepayers. Our council is maxxing out its debt limit to the point with a one-off spending splurge that will leave the council facing very high annual interest charges (\$15 mln or more by the end of the decade) and unable to respond to anyone's needs, including the kiwifruit industry. We also need to stop the council diverting urban infrastructure costs onto rural communities who do not benefit from this investment. Kiwifruit is a key industry for the Bay of Plenty. We need to be more active on infrastructure needs (eg port development and access, Te Puke congestion), quick housing approvals for temporary workers and stable rates. There are statutory limits to the way rates are set but we need to minimise the impact of capital rates on our important sector (eg not including kiwifruit licences in capital values)

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

We need to intensify our urban areas (while balancing the needs of neighbours) and limit urban sprawl. The current exercise in defining and protecting our most valuable soils is an important process that must be used to protect our horticultural industry. Everyone must do better on the environment/climate change, including council, urban residents and our rural communities but we need to be flexible to ensure we reach our goals without overly prescriptive or damaging impositions on our productive sector.

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 Gisborne case and its implications. We need to be consistent regarding valuation of commercially used land, both urban and rural. Singling out SunGold licences makes no sense, especially when the earning potential of the land is already built into its capital value in the same way a factory, warehouse or shopping mall's CV reflects its earning potential. We also need to ensure we do not charge rates in rural areas for services not provided to those areas (eg Three Waters) and we must generally keep rates down by halting overspending (eg a rather expensive, and empty, recently erected council building in Katikati).

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?

Approval process for seasonal housing must be quick and the criteria appropriate. We cannot have people living in slum-quality accommodation, especially in light of recent public health issues (Singapore learnt this lesson the hard way as its poorly-housed temporary workers quickly spread Covid). The council and the sector need to work out how to balance quality with cost effectiveness and template the process so that expectations are clear and approvals are timely.

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 claim to be an expert in water allocation but my background both in corporate life and business has been in fixing problems to meet multiple objectives from different parties. For example, I was sent to Bangalore to run a large Reuters operation that was failing. The instructions were to fix it or close it. We fixed it and grew the work and the value produced. Water allocation is currently more a regional council responsibility so the district council's role is listening, cajoling and advocating. However, the upcoming government shake up of local government (announcement due Oct 28?) is highly likely to wipe out that distinction and may well leave just one level of local government. In that case, we need to ensure any new structure in the BOP prioritises horticultural needs (esp water) and does not just focus on urban needs.

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?

People can debate the cause of climate change but either way it is happening. There has been an increase in pollution and damaging storms over time and we need to deal with the impact on our communities. The council needs to do its part to clean up its act. So far, the council's major investment in this area has been to hire consultants (more hot air?) at a cost of \$600,000 to tell it what to do, even though there are practical things it can do now to both help the environment and save energy (and thus rates money). Council should be a leader in solar power on its buildings and work sites, and also in the use of electric vehicles. It must stop building facilities on coastal flood plains and complete the rollout of low-power LED street lights. There will be major challenges for our coastal communities as storms increase in ferocity and sea levels rise. NZ needs a national plan to deal with this but Council also needs to engage with those affected and start thinking about how it will pay its share. On a personal note, I've installed solar at my house and love both the environmental aspect and the savings on the household budget. As a town dweller, it is difficult to install a wind turbine to cover periods without sun. I would thoroughly recommend anyone rural to look at a combined sun/wind system -- especially when the costs of connecting rural properties to the national grid are increasingly

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?

onerous (\$50k for one power pole, transformer and connecting cables in one recent farm case I am aware of in the Western Bay)

Response 5

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: John Clements
Contact email: john@johnclements.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay 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 am standing to help deal with the ever increasing debt of \$330 and the financial impact of 3 Waters on the district. Compounding this is inflation and orchardists are only to aware of this with strong increase on the price of input costs - financial discipline is needed. I am also standing to encourage democracy so we have equality before the law as New Zealand becomes increasingly diverse. Transparency is equally important.

In relation to the kiwifruit industry (and avocado) to increase the level of contact and their concerns and collaborate across a range of topics including staffing, environmental management, bio - security and get the industry input into the annual and long term plan. I would advocate for bi-annual meetings to get industry input to our thinking and let the industry raise specific issues. I am in touch with some industry leaders regarding the challenge of pest control and chemical residuals on fruit and vegetables - an increasing global challenge.

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 growth of kiwifruit drives the economics of this region and provides job opportunities within the region, this is positive. We must protect productive land and manage urbanisation appropriately. The flip side of this is we need to manage the environment - water, water tables, chemical run off into the rivers and streams as well as soil run off. Council can encourage horticultural technology within the region across a broad spectrum as I have already done. Arranging conferences, economic cluster development and linking support agencies such as Plant and Food, MPI, Too Ohomai and schools to build a deeper horticultural and engineering skill base in the region. I am already active in this space.

In relation to emissions I do not understand the decision to exclude orchards and avocado trees out of the carbon sequestration equation. Orchards should be included and this will help to become net zero

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

in the region. I would advocate that we work with the industry to provide a measure for carbon capture and this is included in the Annual Report as part of a wider Integrated Report.

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 a complex decision as it is the current owner that purchases the licence but the plants remain when the orchardist sells so it is a permanent improvement in land value. Even if one doesn't agree one can understand the logic. As a councillor I would look to ensure the rates burden is benchmarked against other horticultural / agricultural properties to curtail excessive rates burden and find a balance.

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?

Housing has traditionally not been the realm of Council although that is changing. There is a need to identify what housing we are discussing. Council through its district plan should ensure there is enough planned development and must provide developers with transparent and speedy consenting processes. I often hear of it taking 4 years to get a consent and building costs escalate. In terms of the district plan it should provide for a range of housing from life style through to affordable and social housing. It must provide residents and developers certainty and plan for environmental changes.

In relation to seasonal workers I have experience in that field and it has always been the responsibility of the company as part of the cost of doing business. Council must work with the industry to ensure there is enough infrastructure in place or planned to meet current and future needs.

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 a scarce resource and is going to be an even more crucial resource going forward. Urbanisation and the growth of the industry is going to place more demands of this resource. Water quality is also an issue with some bore water being very high in iron and magnesium so it has to be treated before use. Trade offs are always going to be needed. The solution sits with all parties and stakeholders developing a water balance for now and the future. Even to look at the need to have dams that retain water and this then goes into the remit of the Regional Council.

We also should encourage our research institutions to look at water saving technologies. Horticultural green houses have made good progress in water management, countries such as Italy and Israel are dry and have to manage water resources carefully. It is an opportunity to work with industry to address these issues creatively rather than seeing it as the current fixed and limited resource.

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 needs to be considered from 2 perspectives - one is the carbon emissions and modelled changes as a result and the second is coming from the consumer and environmentalists on loss of environmental diversity. Regarding the first one council can only plan to accommodate the

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?

projected changes. This would cover urban areas, consenting and consents in rural areas and planned water usage and rain fall changes. I have already mentioned I would advocate that Council works with industry to advocate for carbon sequestration by orchards to be included in the emissions trading scheme. This would provide the orchardist with an additional revenue stream.

In regard to environmental impact we need to work with stakeholders and universities to adopt sustainable horticultural practices. The latest EU legislation - Food to Fork - lays out a target for nitrate and chemical residuals on food to be reduced by 50%. This applies to the entire food chain and seems to be based on the current food standards. Legislation is running ahead of tools and techniques and industry is going to need new solutions. Rapid applied research is required and Council can work with the stakeholder to protect their investments and revenue and our regions economic engine.

Response 6

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: James Denyer
Contact email: james_e_denyer@yahoo.co.uk

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Mayor, 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 feel I have the skills and experience to make a positive impact and provide leadership in a time of change. I have really enjoyed my past three years as a Councillor and wish to continue to serve the community.
I will approach the role with a community-minded, positive approach and a younger perspective. I want quality community facilities for our growing population, effective planning for our future, and getting the right development in the right place.
I will support the kiwifruit industry as one of the district's key economic drivers. This means ensuring that Council has the right policy settings for the things that matter to the industry, such as district plan zoning with appropriate permitted activities and performance standards, facilitating housing for seasonal and other workers, and a decent transport network.

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 majority of population growth should be focused on our existing urban centres growing up not out. I am also strongly in favour of the proposed new Eastern Town to provide much needed housing and commercial opportunities in the form of a new town that will be thoroughly masterplanned from the outset. Both of these policies will ensure the protection of productive land as far as is possible.

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?

Rates are widely acknowledged as an imperfect system for paying for local services. I think the bigger picture is to re-think how councils are funded, which is one of the key strands of the ongoing Future for Local Government review. I will be keeping an eye on whether the SunGold licence decision produces rates that are iniquitous and consider initiating a rating review to produce a fairer split of rates if that is appropriate.

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?

Seasonal worker accommodation could be improved through the overall provision of more housing as I have outlined in Q5. In addition, one of the barriers to providing accommodation is the financial contributions (fincos) that are required to be paid when building new houses. For inexpensive, basic worker accommodation, this is likely to be a significant portion of the total development cost. A finco model could be developed that aligned more closely with the value of the development, rather than on the basis of household equivalents (HHE).

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?

Open and transparent discussions are essential in allowing for equitable access to water resources both for kiwifruit growers, residents, and other users. How water is allocated will have huge implications economically, socially, environmentally and culturally, and the trade-offs involved must be well-evidenced and well-understood by all parties so that agreement on the policy settings can be reached.

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?

As mentioned in Q4, I want to see the right development in the right place. This means keeping in mind the projected effects of climate change. This is particularly important in our vulnerable coastal communities. The Climate Change Adaptation Act that is to be introduced next year will help clarify some of the big questions like who pays for managed retreat and when. In terms of the kiwifruit industry, I see the key effects of climate change being the risk of dry summers increasing and the need for reliable water sources. The solutions to this are likely to be complex, but water storage in its various forms could help the industry, and council would play a role in facilitating this through planning rules.

Response 7

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Richard Logan
Contact email: richardlogan.kati@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay 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?

- 4.a. A passion for democracy
- 4.b. A dramatic improvement in community satisfaction with Council, brought about through rates restraint, fiscal prudence, retention of local ownership and control of infrastructure (no three waters) and proper community engagement.
- 4.c. Through sound governance that reflects the wishes of the whole community. To be fair, no profit-making industry needs charity from local ratepayers.

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

Productive land must be protected. Urbanization has successfully developed upward in just about every other country and I support allowing (not necessarily "requiring") intensification. Environmental pressures must be borne by the whole region, without favouring any one part thereof.

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?

In principal, I don't favour value-based rating. I am not aware, however, of rates being successfully based on user impact on resources and facilities either, thus really need more investigation into practical options to replace/enhance the current value-focused 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 would favour introducing temporary or short-period consent provisions that allow the industry to provide accommodation suited to the needs of its users, which may be to a different standard than permanent domestic housing.

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?

All stakeholders' should have equitable input to water supply and policy decisions and Council should ensure fair representation from all interests, at all discussions.

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 climate adaptation. Council support for the industry should be via the consenting processes and enable the industry to behave in a way that is demonstrably prudent, both commercially and environmentally. I am clear, however, that ratepayers (urban, for example) should not be expected to subsidize kiwifruit or any other profit-making industry.

Response 8

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Paul Haimona
Contact email: paulhaimona@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Mayor , 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 drive to be in this years Local Body Electections was founded in the injustices that people around me were talking about and the opportunity to bring something new to the conversation around Council's accountability to the Community
Bringing workability to the Region it is not a matter of right or wrong or what is fair it is a matter of what works for the Region
Speaking recently with your colleagues at Zespri , New Licencing Laws as an income resource can be got rid of , Council should be working with not putting obstacles in the way for Primary Industries

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

People I have spoken to have changed their horticultural view on what is viable and working in the Bay of Plenty .
They have altered their property from Citrus to Kiwifruit ,
Rezoning Areas to accommodate proposed suitable Orchards in the future will also encompass Residential , Commercial and Roothing Infastructure to be aligned with the ever increasing expansion of the Industry.
Environmental concerns can be addressed at the level of topography with intertwining green belts throughout the area
Having the infastructure ahead of the developing expansion is both challenging and significant in all respects of Council and Government initiatives .

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 against a Sungold license rateable value of a property , another way we could consider calculating rateable value of property is to determine exportable product to hectare a more valued way to calculate that resource , as is when the Market fluctuates do the rates .
There maybe a formula to stabilise that .

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?

Seasonal accommodation can be best expressed by Maori ,
Marae style living is conducive to all people Having Marae like facilities a centre piece with a carpeted floor with Mattresses and pillows ,
A shower and toilet block with industrial kitchen facilities
Or they can be run like mining villages , demountables locked together to form kitchen and dining room areas 1 room units with toilet and shower facilities
All these structures require maintenance and parks and gardens people as well as cleaner's

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?

Everyone wants what they want ,
How about what do they require to produce a marketable product
The Bay of Plenty water resources are exhaustable , so what management plan can we implement to encourage valued water catchment areas .
Do we go with Dams too much valuable area or utilising the wind break area around the Orchards as a storage place of rain water , made up of clickable modules that can be added to or disconnected from one another .
Council could subsidise such projects and growers become independently responsible for their own resources .

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 will be inevitable whether you are for or against .
Council will discourage the industry from building in prone areas whether in 30 , 50 or 100 years time and if people still want to build there , there will be a disclaimer attached .
The Council can only provide and predict possible outcomes to clients ,
Re zoning high ground would be a great option

Response 9

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Tracey Coxhead
Contact email: tjlck1212@outlook.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay 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?

No one can deny the last 2 to 3 years have been challenging and these events have impacted many families, businesses and our vulnerable in the region.
However, I see a bright future ahead of us. This is a wonderful place to live and I want to be part of taking this region to its next level.
I love this region and I love this Country. It is my time to serve actively in the community. The people of this region have great vision and I want to hear from them and what they aspire to.

I want to see local businesses thrive and I want to be instrumental in helping to achieve this. We need to build our local economy through thoughtful and well considered planning. Growth needs to be in the right place. Council should remove barriers to success, where possible and practical. We are a destination region and we should continue to build on the great work that has already been done.

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 place of the Kiwifruit industry and its contribution to the region cannot be undervalued nor undermined.

The impacts of population growth and urbanisation need to be carefully balanced with the need to protect the ongoing development of productive land. This will require careful long-term planning with particular attention to the required infrastructure in both areas. Environmental regulations coming from Central Government will require District Councillors to work closely with the Regional Council ensuring unworkable and ineffective requirements are highlighted and pushed back on where necessary. That said, there needs to be common sense applied to those who may wish to alter their land use, for example subdivision, when bordering urban developments.

Other factors such as labour requirements and accommodation needs require the Council to listen to

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

Industry participants in order to advance progress rather than hamper it.
I have already had conversations with several industry participants and will continue to do so.

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. The licence is neither land nor improvements and is not attached to the land but the owner. I understand the Gisborne Council stance is concerning and my understanding is that this is not being considered in this region. Should this change I would be engaging with the industry to discuss concerns. Without access to all the details of the decision reached in Gisborne I can't comment fully on their full rationale. Should I be elected and this is considered in Western Bay, I will be working hard to ensure a satisfactory solution.

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?

Council needs to support the Kiwifruit industry in its ability to provide this accommodation. Council needs to remove as many obstacles as possible to achieve this. We have already seen the ramifications on the industry with an inability to bring in overseas workers. We need sufficient accommodation at an acceptable standard to house these workers appropriately.

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 largely the domain of Regional Council. I understand there are going to be tensions with different interest groups with access to water, requiring effective and timely mediation at times. There needs to be effective long term planning around water harvesting and storage for the growing needs of the industry. There will be times when water will need to be allocated carefully due to scarcity and demand requiring careful management.

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?

We need to focus on our long term sustainable growth. Largely policy in this area will be driven from Central Government, but at local government level we must seek ongoing feedback from industry participants, and in conjunction with Regional Council, continue to advocate for the industry where legislation is punitive or unworkable.

Response 10

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Grant Dally

Contact email: kitsch@eol.co.nz

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay 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 want to improve our communities, for both town and country residents. Council makes a lot of decisions, policies, and rules that impact on the day-to-day lives of our people. I believe in moderation rather than draconian, controlling impositions. The improvements I support are to make our district more appealing as a place to live, work and play.

The kiwifruit industry has become a major contributor to the wellbeing of our people. By providing well-paying jobs, investment opportunities, and lifestyle choices, a circular economy has been established that benefits many in our region.

I'm an effective & experienced Councillor who listens and advocates for our communities based on facts. It makes sense to support the kiwifruit industry.

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 growth in kiwifruit does create pressure and there are effects that need to be considered. Maintaining the orchards, harvest time, re-pack, and supporting industry requires many workers and year-round work is now available. People have moved here to take advantage of this employment. Pressure on accommodation has always been an issue. While sub-standard, short-term accommodation was tolerated in the past, upgrades are now well underway, especially for RSE workers. Demand for permanent housing will continue. Some compromises will have to be made in respect to urbanisation. Te Puke is now firmly in growth mode in response to this demand. However, this will not be enough. Smartgrowth has identified a new planned housing hub in the East as a need that must be pursued. One of the purposes of the TEL was to service this need. This will come at a cost to productive land. Compromise is necessary. Pressure on the environment can't be ignored. The industry itself must continue to self-police and ensure best practices are implemented and followed with both existing orchards and new developments. WBOPDC's District Plan review is underway, the Draft Plan will include provisions in this space. Many submissions are expected from both ends of the spectrum addressing these matters. A balance will have to be found.

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. However, this question has challenged me the most. I can see both sides of the argument. The fact that the original Land Valuation Tribunal (found that the licence reflects a "right to grow" the cultivar, and effectively intellectual property, not an improvement to the property) ruled against this, but was subsequently overturned by the High Court, indicates a bit of a grey area. The High Court statement "We hold that the capital value of the property, a proxy for fair market value, includes the value of the land as enhanced by the licence, which in practice runs with the land". I guess the licence must be a factor in sale prices if it is included in the offer. Anyone who has bought or sold a SunGold orchard would know this.

The test case ruling means that our Council will have to consider how this is applied for our next Annual Plan. The new QV valuation process commenced on July 1st this year. Currently I'm not aware of the methodology they are employing on this issue.

I can see allowances would have to be made around the establishment period for a new orchard (three years) without a crop that was generating income. Also, the diminishing value of licences as the licence expiry approaches may need to be considered...

There are also wider implications for such a decision that could lead to the likes of dairy farmers with shares in a dairy company selling milk at a premium, compared to those selling to a non-shared lower paying company. The wider horticultural industry may be affected also, given the array of apple types also requiring a licence to be grown. It's a bit of a can of worms.

The only WBOPDC rating line based on Capital Value is the General Rate. Currently this is charged at \$0.0009169 per dollar of CV. I don't know what value QV would place on a SunGold licence. But if it was say \$600,000 then this would equate to \$550.14 per Ha of SunGold licence under WBOPDC's current rating system. Although, the rating charge would likely be reviewed to reflect the increased revenue.

Other councils apply CV-based rates to a far greater extent than WBOPDC does. For example, Gisborne DC has at least 6 Targeted rates as well as their General rate based on Capital Value. They also have 4 other rates based on Land Value alone.

WBOPDC only has one rate based on Land Value and that is the Rooding Rate. Currently our rating system doesn't rate high capital value properties as much as some other Councils do.

A review of our rating system may well be on the cards for our next LTP. At least 2 Mayoral candidates have signalled a rates review.

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 beginning to see some great RSE accommodation facilities established by packhouses and larger grower organisations, the current rules allow this. Our District Plan review is underway, I expect to see submissions from the industry with more suggestions to consider. I am generally supportive of reasonable initiatives.

I would also like to see smart, sustainable housing and subdivision options introduced for lifestyle blocks, farms and orchards to house family, workers, etc. where productive land is safeguarded. Also refer question 5 answer above.

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 has become an increasingly regulated space. Some parts of our district are already fully allocated when it comes to bore consents from aquifers.

I sympathise with the growers. When so much fresh water flows out to sea from our rivers and streams, it's a bit of a conundrum. I'm aware of empirical evidence from field practitioners with decades of experience that suggests our aquifers are still flowing strongly based on bore levels and pumping tests.

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?

Bay of Plenty Regional Council are the regulators in this space. The science that is being used to set limits and consent approvals and conditions may need to be peer-reviewed and challenged.

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?

WBOPDC has already done significant work on floodable zone mapping and identification of natural hazards. New development areas will be restricted based on this data. Council relies on sea level rise and coastal inundation predictions provided by BOPRC when setting RL levels for new buildings in coastal areas susceptible to this. Increasing storm surge and heavier and more frequent rainfall events as well as longer dry spells and drought conditions will also be significant factors for our region. At some point managed retreat will have to begin.

When Council established the 'Coastal Erosion Responses Policy' in 2017 the position was that in most cases Council generally has no legal obligation to protect its own or private property from erosion. Despite this I think it is reasonable to expect Council does its best to protect Council assets for as long as reasonably possible. E.g. Roads, accessways, paths, bridges, reserves, water infrastructure, etc. Assistance for private property owners can be assessed case-by-case based on prior Council decisions and consenting circumstances e.g. Waihi Beach rock revetment wall.

Our District Plan review will need to be more mindful of these factors when setting new rules.

The kiwifruit industry is no doubt aware that climate change may well impact on the future viability of kiwifruit. Aside from changes in the micro-climate of the Bay of Plenty, stormwater management and landslip prevention may be the most significant challenges for all of us. Increased work in this area will be required by Council and landowners.

Response 11

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: Matthew Farrell
Contact email: matthew@lizardnews.net

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Kaimai 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?

My focus is on a future of improved outcomes across the sub-region, for the whole community. I acknowledge the significant economic role of kiwifruit and I believe in community-led development. Therefore I feel the most appropriate support mechanisms will come about as a result of engagement with the industry around needs and wants, and communicative relationships and partnerships to achieve what is practical and deliverable by Council. The question is what support does the kiwifruit industry expect and desire from Council? This is a matter for discussion, rather than pledges and promises.

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

Growth needs to be managed sustainably by industry, with technical experts providing pragmatic advice and input into Council frameworks and processes. Central government housing intensification rules will apply to Te Puke and Omokoroa which will assist to some degree with limiting urban sprawl, as will the new central government directives to protect fertile land from residential development. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has just released a summary report of submissions about hydrogen cyanamide. The EPA received 202 responses, with 43 of those submitters indicating they want to speak at a public hearing in March 2023. There are concerns about water contamination, the effects on animals, and the impact on human health for those in communities where spraying occurs. However, it is seen by supporters as the only reliable and cost-effective option available, with some submitters saying many orchards would become unprofitable without it. Council will be obliged to stay abreast of this matter. See my answer below regarding water.

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?

As a candidate who is not an existing Councillor, I was, and I am not a party to any reports on which this decision was based. Therefore I feel I am currently inadequately informed and unable to state whether I agree or disagree. It would make sense to me that until some effect had been given to a licence in terms of any recouping of the establishment investment, dramatically increased rates would have a punitive effect. I would have thought that consultative engagement with NZKGI might have produced a working strategy with fair and equitable outcomes, and this could possibly be revisited.

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?

Examples might include zoning and consenting (costs and timeframes) of future accommodation for RSE workers, and reviewing the District Plan accordingly. As a reporter for Radio New Zealand National, I recall covering a news story some years back in which I detailed Trevelyan's issues with the District Council processes. This media spotlight applied enough pressure to lead Council planners to work more closely with Trevelyan's to help facilitate changes needed by them at the time. The principle needs to be community-led development where industry and Council have dialogue that leads to the meaningful changes required for the industry to flourish - for the benefit of workers, the company, the Council and the regional economy.

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?

A major environmental pressure is going to come from both population-driven and increasing horticultural requirements for clean, fresh, reliable water supply for drinking and irrigation - and the need for rivers, streams, and groundwater to be of potable standard. Ultimately Council is going to be managing top down pressures from 3 Waters, the Future for Local Government review, and the RMA. The role of tangata whenua will likely be strongly connected to all three. Presently, there is a lot of uncertainty as to how this will look, and it is too early for anyone to take a position on the unknown. Given that the kiwifruit industry has a significant value, and requires a significant amount of water, and produces a significant environmental impact, it is logical to expect a proportionate financial contribution from the industry towards related Council expenditure.

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 is a global problem, and will require global solutions. Central government of the day will be responsible for setting any legislative requirements, and determining how any compliance will be regulated and/or enforced. At a Council level, local authority expenditure will be limited by income from rates and public appetite for areas of spending focus. There are some very significant conversations to be had regarding what problems industry is experiencing as a result of climate change. There is a wide range of stakeholders and kaupapa partners to consult with. The needs, policies and adaptations required are yet to be determined as this engagement is yet to occur. Industry-led and community-led developments will be preferable to Council adopting a heavy-handed, top-down approach that may not produce the desired resolutions.

Response 12

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: John Scrimgeour
Contact email: jmscrim.nz@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay District Council

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

Mayor, Councillor Maketu/Te Puke 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 have been a councillor for the past 9 years and believe the understanding that I have gained of council process's and the legislation they work under has given me a responsibility to continue on council.
I want to see fair outcomes for all and a responsible approach to new initiatives and spending.
The most important issue WBOPDC can assist with is allowing for the provision of worker accommodation. Also need to ensure roading is fit for purpose.

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 the premier growing district in the world it is important that kiwifruit production is able to expand in response to market demand.
We cannot afford to repeat mistakes of the past in regard to spread out urban and lifestyle developments that take good land out of production but also have to balance the need for orchard staff to live in relative proximity to their workplace.

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 do not agree with the decision to include the Sungold license value (or any other Licence value) in the property valuation.
In respect to equity I believe Kiwifruit orchard rates compare favourably when considered alongside other rural land uses in WBOPDC. Also statistics recently released by the Taxpayers Union claim that

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?

urban ratepayer in WBOPDC pay higher than average rates when compared nationally whereas Rural ratepayers pay lower than average rates.

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?

There needs to be greater provision of accommodation nearer to people place of work, often on orchard or in proximity to orchard or orchard groups. there should be greater flexibility in this regard. Also education around central govern requirements such as the Building Act , and what things employers can do to source/expand accomodation supply.

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?

While kiwifruit growing is a big demand on water supply it needs to be promoted as largely a recycling action and is not just for the growers benefit but for the community good by way of job creation and economic spend in the community. discussions need to revolve around the shared use of the available resource to gain the greatest overall benefit.

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?

Growers are the ones working with the climate and are much better informed to make changes to their growing practices as they see change occurring. Council has to make decisions such as trying to ensure "the right development in the right place" so as to be ready for such events as sea level rise. However it is for growers to weigh up the risks and determine if a site is appropriate for kiwifruit production.

Response 13

Introduction

Q1. General information:

Name: horibop leaming
Contact email: taleaming@gmail.com

Q2. What Council are you standing for?

Western Bay 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?

to have an events stadium build in the western bay without a cost to ratepayers which dovetails in with kiwifruit by attracting more working age people to the area by supplying a live work play attitude

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 the port and hopefully tourism are the three legs of our economy therefore housing must be provided in nodes in towns like katikati tepuke and paengaroa and go upwards as announced in the latest rma amendments (no rma required up to 11 mtrs-3 storeys) we must avoid the spread of towns into vital productive land because agriculture/horticulture underpins nz economy

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 we must brain storm a much fairer system of rating some people say good luck with that i say lets rattle lucks cage

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?

by providing easy workable positive regulations to allow people to get on with bussiness council not get in the way of sensible 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?

once again sensible fact based regulation to damning of water be allowed to happen we have technology and knowledge to burn nowadays to provide this

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?

we need an understanding levelheaded approach to this yes we have climate change yes we need to take this seriously but dont kill industries by stupidity and over regulation work with experts for a workable outcme for everyone