

Neil Parker

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Neil Parker
What Council are you standing for?	BOPRC- Western ward
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor- Western ward

Q2. What drives you to run as a candidate in the local body elections? What do you hope to achieve?

I want to see much greater benefit to ratepayers from their council, much less bureaucracy and red tape. Ratepayers are over-regulated , making it difficult and costly for them to go about their normal rural business (whether horticultural, agricultural, or other agribusiness).

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

The default position for council should be to approve proposed activities by landowners. The onus should be on council and/ or objectors to prove (at their own cost) why a proposal should be rejected. Currently the opposite situation prevails.

Q4. What will you do to support the development of seasonal worker housing, especially in rural areas?

Seasonal worker housing should be permitted as of right. It places the workers where the work is thus minimising travel costs and congestion.

Q5. How will you ensure kiwifruit growers have reliable access to water, and how will you balance competing demands?

All existing water consents should automatically roll over with no or minimal cost to the consent holder. New consents should be approved unless council or objectors can provide solid evidence that there is a scarcity of water in the particular location. Water storage schemes should be encouraged.

Q6. What is your stance on protecting productive horticultural land from urban sprawl and subdivision?

Zoning needs to ensure that productive horticultural and high grade agricultural land (i.e gentle contour) is retained in those uses. The NZ economy is built on primary production. It is extremely short-sighted to allow productive land to be urbanised with little restraint . Clearly defined permanent urban boundaries must be established and enforced as happens in Europe and the UK.

Q7. How will you improve rural road infrastructure to support the movement of produce?

Rural infrastructure including roads must be prioritised over other areas of council spending. Savings from reduced bureaucracy (and thus council staff numbers), major restructuring of present public transport arrangements and a roll back of regulation (from both central and local government) will enable proper attention to infrastructure.

Q8. What policies will you support to help growers adapt to climate change impacts?

The practical policy is to focus on upgrading infrastructure capacity (particularly stormwater, flood protection, erosion control and natural waterways) to cope with greater extremes of weather and climate. Reassessment of what constitutes safe areas for development (e.g coastal, flood-prone or high erosion) needs to occur. I welcome ratepayer enquiries to nrparker001@gmail.com