

Sarah van der Boom

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Sarah van der Boom
What Council are you standing for?	Bay of Plenty Regional Council
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor - Eastern Bay

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

Healthy water, air and land are essential for our communities and the economy to prosper. We need more collaborative alliances, practical incentives, and community-led action—not more top-down rules and penalties. Progress comes from partnership, not punishment.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I am 100% pro farming, forestry and horticulture – the primary sector is the 'Economic Engine' of the Eastern Bay – it must be sustainable.
The regional council needs to work collaboratively with rural landowners and managers. This includes providing more advice and incentives for activities that improve land, air and water quality, and NOT more policies, rules and punishment.

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

While worker housing in rural areas is not part of Regional Council's remit, balancing economic development with environmental care, for example, through resource use consenting, is. This is where Regional Councils, and all of local government, needs to 'stick to their knitting', revert to core functions, and become a lean and cost-effective animal focused on delivery of core services and tangible results.

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

Water needs to be protected from international companies, such as water bottlers, etc. Sale of land, with water rights, to internationals should be off the table while local industries compete for water allocations. Regional Council has to work collaboratively with local primary producers to balance industrial and community needs with natural system requirements. Regional Council can work in collaboration with industries and stakeholders to focus economic investment on infrastructure that delivers safe and reliable water supplies, and where possible, increased self-sufficiency, particularly in the face of more extreme weather events.

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

Protection of HPL is critical throughout rural New Zealand. Inappropriate rural developments have generated multiple issues such as inappropriate use of HPL and reverse sensitivity issues. Regional Council has a key role in spatial planning to address these issues with district councils' rural zoning and subdivision plans.

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

Regional council has a role in development of integrated regional land transport strategies and so consideration of infrastructure that enables rural industries to thrive is imperative. I will be a strong rural voice for rural roading infrastructure maintenance and development within this integrated planning process. Regional council also has to focus on infrastructure that strengthens regional resilience, this is infrastructure that protects lives, homes, livelihoods and regional roading infrastructure, such as the \$440 million flood protection system.

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

I don't consider that progress comes from yet more policies, rules and regulations. Instead, we need to work collaboratively with land owners and managers on projects that deliver on the ground and tangible outcomes. Examples include creating or enhancing wetlands that create natural flood protection, re-planting steep slopes to reduce water flow and erosion, revisiting spatial planning alongside hazard data, and putting aside money in a regional emergency fund, as central government has signaled it will not be bailing out regions into the future.