

## Clare St Pierre

### Q1. Contact Details

<b>Name</b>	Clare St Pierre
<b>What Council are you standing for?</b>	Waipā District Council
<b>What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?</b>	Mayor and Councillor for Pirongia Kakepuku Ward

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

The highest rates rises in the country over the last three years, growth pressures, and frustrations about a lack of financial control and innovation, have driven me to stand for the Waipā mayoralty. I have 12 years' experience as an elected member, strong financial and governance credentials and an incredibly successful track-record leading community collaborations for environmental outcomes like Taiea te Taiao. My priorities are affordable rates, lifting the game on financial management, empowering our community to get their projects moving especially by taking a partnering approach, and strengthening accountability and transparency. As your mayor, I can deliver a council that controls costs and is set for a positive future. See <https://clarestpierre.com> for more.

### Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

The role of horticulture in our national economy is expanding and in Waipā district we are seeing the scale of kiwifruit production increasing. This is a significant driver for the district's economy and as such deserves a proactive approach. As mayor I would welcome a constructive dialogue on what meaningful support would look like from a District Council perspective. I would also ensure that our District Plan rules are enabling for shelter belts, crop support structures and screens that are widely used in large-scale kiwifruit operations. Waipā is currently progressing a plan change to clarify and update the existing rules to better balance growers' needs with environmental effects and I have been involved in that plan change's development. The new plan takes a performance standards approach that, if complied with, removes the need for a resource consent for crop support structures, screens and shelter belts.

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

I'm not across the issues for seasonal worker housing, but am open to a conversation about it to understand the challenges and also what interventions could work to remedy the situation.

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

Managing and regulating the supply of water for irrigation and appropriate allocations is the role of the Regional Council so that's outside the remit of Waipā District Council.

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

Waipā District has a large proportion of highly productive land, and in fact the land directly adjacent to the current urban boundaries of Cambridge and Te Awamutu is LUC 1 and 2. This makes subdivision development on that land subject to the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land. As an RMA Commissioner and Chair, I have been involved in plan changes where the need for additional industrial land has had to be balanced with that of protecting high class soils needed for agricultural and

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horticultural production. Those plan changes draw on expert evidence from relevant sectors to assist in making the right decision, and my preference is to continue to rely on such a process. I understand the Coalition Government is removing controls on new subdivisions next to town boundaries, which I see as putting highly productive land at risk and encouraging urban sprawl. As mayor, I would advocate to Central Government about those perverse outcomes that their policy changes could trigger.

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

The quality of roads has a huge impact on horticultural activity and that includes rural roads. Maintaining the smoothness of the road and improving safety over time are all important activities that Waipā District Council is responsible for, and I would support maintaining levels of service for these roads. We are currently challenged with funding subsidy reductions from NZTA which means our roading teams are trying to stretch funding by doing more patching and repairs than complete reseals. From a road user perspective, we also have an easy reporting system (Antenno) to request pothole and other roading repairs, and have target timeframes for completing those repairs, which the horticultural sector could make more use of. This would ensure the need for repairs is brought to the attention of our roading teams as quickly as possible and therefore remedial action could be taken with the minimum of delay.

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

I studied climate change as part of my Business Degree, and that identified the critical importance of open information networks to share experience and learnings and encourage innovation in response to climate change challenges. Therefore, policies I'd support include grower workshops, field days, and peer learning networks to share best practices and support growers. I'd also encourage feedback loops from the sector back into council so all of us benefit from advances made in management and response. Other policies that are more likely to be within Regional Council's ambit that I'd also support are: 1. Water security and smart irrigation technologies, 2. Research to identify more resilient cultivars and rootstocks, 3. Biosecurity awareness and management programmes, 4. Rapid response systems to new pests and diseases, and 5. Land use planning that recognises and responds to these changing circumstances.