

Chris Dever

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Chris Dever
What Council are you standing for?	Western Bay of Plenty
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor - Kaimai Ward

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

Existing councillors have mostly been in council for 6-10 years (one of them much longer). We have had huge rate rises and a huge deficit.
I think its time for some new blood - a new set of eyes.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

Western Bay of Plenty is the fruit bowl of New Zealand and as stated in the intro, Kiwifruit export forms an important part of our economy.
Council needs to have industry friendly policies that facilitate the growing and processing of this important crop.

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

The industry has a responsibility to provide access to adequate housing for RSE and other seasonal workers.
I see councils role is to provide appropriate practice guidelines to ensure that that housing is adequate, safe and affordable.
I have read the document entitled
"Code of Practice for Seasonal Worker Accommodation referred to in Section 22 of the District Plan".

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

This is probably better answered by Regional Council candidates - but when the council is considering water schemes, the commercial users need to be part of that planning process.

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

I strongly support the work being planned on Spatial Planning in the Te Puke, Te Puna and Katikati districts.
I believe that this plan is the basis upon which horticultural land can be protected.

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

In recent years, our roads have had a rough time. This is caused, in my view, by a lack and maintenance, a lack of investment and some extreme weather events. Roading is one of the core areas that Council should be focusing on.

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

I'm not sure what those policies might be just yet - but I would expect that water may lie at the centre of that.
As above, new water plans should at least consider commercial use water for both orchards and post production processing plants.