

Tracey Coxhead

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Tracey Coxhead
What Council are you standing for?	Western Bay of Plenty District Council
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor

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

I have served my first term, as a Councillor, and I have stood for what I believe in, what the community is concerned about and what makes sense. I have engaged with ratepayers all over the Kaimai District, which is a large and mainly rural district. Their needs are varied but there are some common concerns around roading, adequate infrastructure, the pace of growth in the region and, of late, the proposed CCO for 2/3 waters. I did not vote in favour of the CCO and preferred that we took further time to consider the forecasted and unsubstantiated financial savings. The cost to ratepayers kept changing and I had no confidence in the veracity of the information. There were many other non-financial reasons as well and we did not have any certainty about these pre-voting on the CCO vs inhouse options.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I have not had a lot of particular contact with the Kiwifruit industry other than individual growers and their own issues. I am always available and interested in issues that indirectly affect all horticultural and agricultural operations in the district, such as roading and zoning.

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

I am very supportive of making this as easy as possible, bearing in mind this is dealt with through the District Plan and the RMA, which you will know is going through changes now.

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

This is more a function of Regional Council. I do have concerns about the reapplication for bore water licences and the many, seemingly unnecessary requirements, which I understand will also be dealt with under the new RMA. We need to make access to resources easier, not more strangled with red tape.

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

I am very concerned about the growth expectations and projections of the district, and the impact on productive land. We need to balance this growth with infrastructure in place before required and it needs to be in the right place. Te Puna has a spatial plan getting under way and I will be very vocal about protecting our producers, whilst balancing the need for sensible housing growth.

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

The majority of this district's roads are rural and road condition is the main pain point for most people on these roads. We have a full rehabilitation plan in place and are aiming for 100% delivery. This had not been happening at anywhere near this rate for quite some time, due to weather events etc. I have dealt

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with many, many roading issues and most have been resolved or are in the process. I fully understand the importance of this, living on a rural road, with growers who are also affected.

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

Currently, in terms of climate impacts the Council has had to deal with unforeseen weather effects, which largely could not have been predicted. The best thing Council can do is maintain infrastructure above and below the ground. We also need to manage our zoning well and avoid opening further land in flood zones. We are working on flood mitigation in 2 areas in the district and have learned from past events.