Local Body Elections
2019 Candidates Survey

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If you were to be successfully elected in October 2019, name two ‘things’ that you would be most proud to say that you had achieved by the end of the triennium (2019-2022)?

Explain:

1. A slowing down or capping of the rate increases would be of significant value to the rate payers. This can be achieved provided there is the resolve and a full, independent review undertaken within 3 months of taking office. We need cost, quality and delivery to be our drivers.

2. Gaining increased public engagement in local affairs and support democracy. People want to be involved, valued and make a difference so with increased transparency and consultation get peoples views.

What is your ideal structure of local government in the Western BOP? Does this include amalgamation? Does it include appointed independent directors (similar to the DHB model)? And, is this topic an important priority for you?

The WBoP has different economic and social drivers to Tauranga and these need focused attention. WBoP is mainly rural so we need to strengthen our towns and engagement with orchardists. Democracy is crucial as councils should be answerable to the people. Therefore independent directors should be avoided as this inhibits engagement and localism. It takes power away from the electorate as well as accountability.

What is your opinion on Quayside (www.quaysideholdings.co.nz)? What should be its future strategy and ownership structure?

This is working well as a commercial and public enterprise. The current structure and ownership should be retained or public ownership should be reduced.

In your opinion, what are the key issues in managing the Western BOP’s population and economic growth? How can the councils successfully manage the sub-region’s growth, within fiscal constraints?

There is a need for greater planning and engagement within the WBoP and not contracted out. As mentioned earlier the economic and social drivers for WBoP are different to Tauranga so plans and engagement need to focus on these as well as the overall infrastructure needs. Whilst there will always be fiscal constraints the Council should review its efficiency continually and drive productivity. It owes this to the electorate who are paying the highest rates in the country. Every nominee should be asked if they will vote support an independent council review commencing within 3 months of the elections.

What are your priorities for infrastructure investment in the

Roads is a high priority and a public private partnership for SH2 could speed up the
**Western BOP sub-region during the next ten years?**

Developing that state highway. Integrated infrastructure planning is crucial to ensure transport flows across the region. The other challenge is going to be meeting the needs of the kiwifruit industry and accommodation and all the related infrastructure - water, wastewater, transport etc so these need to be planned for.

**Do you agree that the Western BOP sub-region has transport issues? If elected, what are your priorities to address the sub-region’s immediate and long-term transport needs?**

Roading will enable and address some of the transport issues - these need integrated infrastructure plans. Decentralisation would also reduce some of the impact on roads. Part of the challenge for people transport is the dispersed nature of the population with most towns having relatively small populations so we need to support our towns to minimise the need to travel to larger centres. We need to be careful Council does not commit to roading that incurs high costs on ratepayers through interest costs using the "debt ceiling" as a guise for increased spending and a burden on ratepayers.

**What are your plans for ensuring adequate zoning and servicing of affordable residential, commercial and industrial land supply over the next ten years?**

WBoP needs to ensure there is adequate zoning across the region and that it encourages jobs and growth in a more decentralised way. This would also address some of the traffic congestion. So more industrial and commercial zoning around Te Puuke and Katikati is a way of facilitating decentralisation and moving away from the pull of Tauranga.

**Quick Poll: which of the following tourism related projects would you support contributing (Regional/City/District) Council resources/funds towards:**

Sports stadium
Other: Some infrastructure will not be delivered unless there is some form of public private partnership but this must be contained so it is not an imposition of local ratepayers.

**What is the (Regional/City/District) Council’s role in supporting the local tourism industry? What are your priorities for the local tourism industry?**

WBoP is a beautiful area with a rich history. We need to focus on Katikati and Te Puuke being destination towns and focus on tourism. Once again the drivers are different to Tauranga and the Mount so we need to focus on our uniqueness. Waihi Beach has a high but relatively short peak and we need to consult with the ratepayers as to their aspiration for the town and area.

**What is your position on the (Regional/City/District) Council’s rates policy in regards to targeted rates and/or commercial differentials on the local business and industrial community?**

All of our rates need to be as efficiently deployed as possible. Being the highest rated council highlights there is an opportunity to address this issue. Therefore a review of council costs, efficiency is crucial so we can assure the electorate that their money is being well spent and in the right places.
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<td>What would you do to restore confidence in the regulatory services or building consent departments within the sub-region?</td>
<td>This is a matter of ethics and we need to ensure that people act appropriately or are held accountable. The public must have confidence in the system and transparency, accountability and fairness are crucial. Conflicts of interest must be declared and where this is deemed to be breached appropriate action taken. Needless delays must be avoided.</td>
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<td>Name your priority initiatives that the (Regional/City/District) Council should do to make it easier for companies to do business in the city?</td>
<td>Reduced rates, zoning and the development of skills within the area to meet the future of work. Focusing on a Community Plan for the Katikati ward is important to get public engagement on the future of the town and growth. Much of the transport debate falls outside of council control but lobbying central government to address this important issue is crucial.</td>
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<td>Do you have any relevant governance experience? What relevant skills do you bring to the role of an elected member? How would you contribute to ensuring quality debates and decisions happen?</td>
<td>I have run my own companies for 20 years in NZ and Australia, am a Member of the Institute of Directors and hold a BA(Hon) and MBA. I have sat on advisory boards and provided strategic direction to companies over many years. I coach and mentor and have strategic thinking skills, along with global business experience in SE Asia, China, Australia, Europe and Africa to bring to the debate and decision making.</td>
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<td>How have you personally contributed to the local community over the past ten years?</td>
<td>I serve on the WBoP Neighbourhood Support committee and am a business mentor with NZ Business Mentors as well as on other committees as an independent member.</td>
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<td>Any other comments?</td>
<td>This is a crucial election and hope everyone turns out to vote and votes carefully. Rates, environmental issues, roading and democracy are all issues in this election and people need to elect those who will represent them and their views strongly.</td>
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