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**Position:** Councillor - BOPRC  

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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:**

One ‘thing’ would be to have increased community and industry outreach and engagement - both to grow public awareness of Council’s roles and more importantly, councillors’ understanding of external priorities for Council’s budget from the points of view of both members of the public and also the private sector. In doing so, the Council would then better understand what actions the community desires from elected representatives.

Another ‘thing’ would be to have delivered a stronger, more unified regional voice to successfully call for central government investment in the State Highway 2 northern corridor projects for the benefit of Bay of Plenty residents and industry alike, boosting economic resilience through improved freight links to the Port - as well as more reliable commuter and public transport journey times to reduce business productivity losses.

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?

I believe it is time for a review of the existing SmarthGrowth partnership structure to determine if it can effectively deliver outcomes for the sub-region moving forwards. The ideal composition of local government in the Western Bay of Plenty is a perfect example of a topic which requires meaningful consultation. Any possible amalgamation solutions are likely to be met with resistance from those who feel their position will worsen, such as Mount Maunganui residents in 1989. I do not think local government should be by way of appointed independent directors. This is arguably less democratic and more costly than elected officials unless there are extreme governance concerns. I acknowledge that the importance of this topic is likely to increase over time due to population growth and the ongoing trend of Tauranga City to gradually extend its boundaries into County then District areas since...
1963 including Greerton, Pyes Pa, and Tauriko West. It is a meaningful conversation to have now.

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

It is in Regional Council's strategic interest to retain ownership and control of Port of Tauranga as an asset for the benefit of the region and its ratepayers. It is unlikely the public would support the sale of the Port or control of its operations due to its unique position within both the regional and national economy. I believe if its future strategy and ownership structure are to be modified that those are matters for robust and transparent informed debate with all stakeholders, including very public scrutiny.

Regional Council will need to prioritise sustainable water quality and availability as the Bay of Plenty's population growth impacts upon both residential and primary industry demands. Land is a finite resource. It is time for local authorities and society to reconsider expectations around acceptable population density and mixed-use constructions so that work/live/play communities become a reality rather than a pipedream.

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?

Councils need to weigh up the continued over-reliance on single-storey dwellings, which would not be acceptable in more densely populated European nations of the OECD. Community partnerships and initiatives may well need to be part of the conversation Councils have moving forward - as affordability, and construction and resource constraints become even more significant problems.

Council should retain ownership of some social housing and should also promote independent providers of social housing such as trusts managing multiple-owned Maori land.

**What are your priorities for infrastructure investment in the Western BOP sub-region during the next ten years?**

All Councils have a role to play in infrastructure provision for their community. Regional Councils, in particular, have a significant influence on environmental outcomes. There may also be certain times when a Council can seek to outreach in terms of community consultation with specific service providers. Councils should be open to innovative ways of working, which may improve outcomes without significantly increasing project costs. Councils core functions are of paramount importance. Infrastructure investment will be required in roading, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, flood protection, and rural internet capability. However, only where environmental
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<th>Question</th>
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<td>Do you agree that the Western BOP sub-region has transport issues?</td>
<td>Hell, yes. Short-term, free public transport is a topic worthy of reasonable debate and community consultation. One issue with free public transportation only for certain people (e.g. school kids, Gold Card holders, Community Service Card holders) is many of those subsidising this through rates may be ineligible for the free transport themselves, which creates a different type of inequality than income-based inequality. Therefore it may be more desirable to trial free transportation for all, at all times, as in Estonia. However, this means the Council would be obliged to find savings elsewhere to avoid a rates increase. Medium-term, the SH2 northern corridor projects require funding by NZTA as the region’s single greatest roading spend. In the long term, social change may be needed in terms of the current public acceptability of single-occupancy motor vehicles versus smaller more frequent shuttle buses, trains and cycling as preferred options once they are seen as viable alternatives.</td>
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<td>If elected, what are your priorities to address the sub-region’s immediate and long-term transport needs?</td>
<td>There are some commercial realities around the value of land owned by individuals who are not obliged to sell it. Furthermore, there are inherent capacity issues unless it becomes more acceptable to build upwards where land is geotechnically safe for higher-rise buildings than the region is currently known for. Local authorities in the western Bay are grappling with internal migration from within New Zealand (Auckland, Waikato) as well as the burden of historically high immigration rates. Councils role can be in rezoning, and where Council owns or purchases land intended for development, it may be better able to dictate terms to developers.</td>
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<td>What are your plans for ensuring adequate zoning and servicing of affordable residential, commercial and industrial land supply over the next ten years?</td>
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<td>Quick Poll: which of the following tourism related projects would you support contributing (Regional/City/District) Council resources/funds towards:</td>
<td>Public access to Omanawa Falls</td>
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<td>What is the (Regional/City/District) Council’s role in supporting the local tourism industry? What are your priorities for the local tourism industry?</td>
<td>The Regional Council has a role in economic vibrancy. This includes enabling sustainable tourism as part of a prosperous region offering a range of activities and employment opportunities, supporting business owners and operators with growth and development. The Regional Council’s core environmental business contributes to the attraction of the region to tourists.</td>
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<td>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?</td>
<td>A detailed study (no doubt at a cost to the ratepayer) may be worth considering if it looks holistically at how local territorial authorities, regional councils and unitary authorities are most equitably calculating their rates and charges in overseas jurisdictions. No system will be universally popular, but the current system should be subject to periodical review. For example, a uniform base rate has a role to play due to factors such as individual property distance from services and amenities - such as reservoirs, pumping stations, and public reserves. Councils have baseline costs to cover. Targeted rates and/or commercial differentials are tools for Councils to carefully consider to ensure desired investment can proceed in a timely but fair manner.</td>
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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>Encouraging Councils to push towards smart online tools for building consents makes sense, to reduce costs and delays associated with incomplete or inaccurate applications. The intelligent design of software interfaces can also allow applicants to track the progress of their application - or append additional material as required. This can also be extended to adding individuals such as partners, architects, lawyers or consultants with Read-Only or Edit type permissions to enable for limited collaborative project management where appropriate.</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>The current redevelopment of the CBD, amid road closures and three-hour parking limits in an extremely unpopular and inflexible metered parking regime has been very damaging to city retailers. Some more joined-up thinking is required, including engagement with stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Tauranga when planning such dramatic changes. Changes to roading layout in Greerton and the old Phoenix car park have also been very unpopular. These are primarily matters for the City Council however the Regional Council has a vested interest in the suitable provision of bus services and perhaps cycle parking stations as part of its economic vibrancy remit.</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 am currently a financial committee member of the Omokoroa Boat Club and Secretary of the Tauranga branch of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club. I am also the Coordinator of the Omokoroa Community Patrol and a committee member of its parent body, the Omokoroa Community Policing Group Charitable Trust. As a journalist, I have 25</td>
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years of experience in governance environments and court cases in which I have learned to quickly establish fundamental matters of substantive argument and draw out opposing viewpoints. My skills as a reporter enable me to dispassionately assess often technical information and reduce the key elements of a debate into units of sense. I am also accustomed to dealing with opposing viewpoints in live discussions, and I am comfortable moderating as required to ensure different personalities have an equitable right of input or reply.

**How have you personally contributed to the local community over the past ten years?**

In 2009, I had been working for Radio New Zealand National as the Bay of Plenty correspondent for a couple of years. In this role, I had liaison with individuals and organisations ranging from Priority One to the City, District and Regional Councils. My iwi contacts included Tuhoe, Te Arawa and Te Whanau A Apanui in matters ranging from the Ruatoki police raids to Sir Howard Morrison's tangi and Willie Apiata VC's homecoming. These days my wife and I publish Lizard News for the Kaimai and Katikati-Waihi Beach Wards of the District. We have three children going through school and college in Omokoroa and Otumoetai. In addition to the above-mentioned community governance experience, I volunteer as a maths tutor at Omokoroa Point School. I have assisted with advocacy and media/democratic process advice for the SH2 Fix the Road campaign. I have also undertaken mental health support training through Turning Point Trust (Junction/Greerton) and suicide prevention training via Lifekeepers NZ.

**Any other comments?**

After 15 years in New Zealand, I became a citizen on Friday 9th August, to stand in this election. I believe elected representatives should publicise what they are doing throughout their time in office, and be transparent in their dealings without being invisible locally. I gained an honours degree in Broadcasting and Journalism from Nottingham Trent University following a City & Guilds diploma in Radio and Print News. I passed the IQ entrance requirements and was a member of Mensa. I am interested, active and involved here and now and for the next generation, not just the next election. I'm all about common-sense and community engagement for robust decision making.