**Local Body Elections**  
**2019 Candidates Survey**

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Tony Christiansen</th>
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<td>Position:</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
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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:**
- The four-laning of 15th Ave from the Hairini Interchange up to Cameron Road
- Better planning for growth and managed growth - Tauranga’s growth in the last 5 years has not been well-managed. For example, the rezoning of commercial and residential land needs to consider Council’s ability to invest into infrastructure.

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 support the amalgamation of Tauranga City Council and the Western BOP District Council and believe it should be a priority. Many of the Western Bay residents work and play in Tauranga City but are only rated at 10% contribution to TCC. Western BOPDC's office itself is in Tauranga and the 2 Councils already have some shared services.

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

There should be a far larger financial contribution from Quayside or by way of the Regional Council, to Tauranga City Council for the Port’s use of Tauranga’s infrastructure.

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?

The reality is Tauranga city is running out of land and development is expanding into Western BOP while a majority of the population in both regions are using the infrastructure and services of Tauranga city. The 2 areas need to be managed together for the greater good of the region as one. Therefore as above, I support the amalgamation of Tauranga City Council and Western BOP District Council.

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

Investment into the roading network and a daily commuter rail service from Katikati and Te Puke to Tauranga. Ensure the continuation and expansion of the 3-Waters commensurate with growth.

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?

I agree we have a transport/traffic issue but really only have jurisdiction over 15th Avenue which I have noted is a clear priority for me. The ring road around Tauranga City are state highways under NZTA jurisdiction. We will need to work closely...
with them to address the bottlenecks at Elizabeth Street (SH2), Barkes Corner (SH29A), The Lakes roundabout (SH29) and Hewletts Road (SH2).

The expansion of the cycling lanes and networks around Tauranga is great and I would like to see that continue into an integrated network. I support a daily commuter rail servicing Katikati and Te Puke to Tauranga city. I would also propose a restructure of bus fares offering free bus rides to senior citizens and school children up to 15 years of age as well as bus ticket validity for up to 2 hours from first use.

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

Tauranga city will inevitably encompass Western Bay. In the matter of land zoning and others already discussed, I support the amalgamation of the 2 Councils to better manage growth as a larger region. As previously mentioned, the zoning of land for industrial, commercial and residential use must commensurate with the Council’s ability to invest into and support infrastructure and services. This is part of better planning which has been lacking over the last 5 years of staggering growth in the region.

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

- Major international hotel
- Major conference/convention centre
- Regional museum
- Public access to Omanawa Falls

What is the (Regional/City/District) Council’s role in supporting the local tourism industry?

Council’s role is to facilitate the tourism industry’s initiatives by investing into tourism infrastructure. For example, I supported the Pilot Bay boardwalk and support the new cruise hub and visitor welcome centre. I will also support better bus/coach parking and traffic management at the Mount during the cruise season. Council should be more friendly and supportive of local events as Tauranga has the potential to be an events destination.

What are your priorities for the local tourism industry?

Council’s role is to facilitate the tourism industry’s initiatives by investing into tourism infrastructure. For example, I supported the Pilot Bay boardwalk and support the new cruise hub and visitor welcome centre. I will also support better bus/coach parking and traffic management at the Mount during the cruise season. Council should be more friendly and supportive of local events as Tauranga has the potential to be an events destination.

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?

I support targeted rates and am in favour of a user-pays system.

What would you do to restore confidence in the regulatory services or building consent departments within the sub-region?

As a ratepayer myself, I have found that for many years, the Council services teams have been very difficult to deal with. The Councillors’ only employee is the CEO. I believe the former CEO of Tauranga City Council had not been very effective in this regard. I would work with the current CEO
Name your priority initiatives that the (Regional/City/District) Council should do to make it easier for companies to do business in the city?

- Work with Priority One and the Chamber of Commerce to promote Tauranga as a business hub. Improve Council staff service and make consenting processes quicker and more user-friendly.

Do you have any relevant governance experience?

- Past Councillor 2010-2013, Chairman of 2 sub-committees and an active member of 6 other sub-committees.
- I have an open-mind and am willing to listen to all sides. As a semi-retired professional speaker of 20 years, I have the ability to communicate and influence. I love a good debate.

What relevant skills do you bring to the role of an elected member?

- How would you contribute to ensuring quality debates and decisions happen?
- I have met with and done inspirational life story presentations to many local schools, community groups, church groups and retirement villages.

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

- I was born in Tauranga and have lived here all my life. When I was 9, I lost my legs in a train accident near Baypark yet have achieved amazing successes as a businessman, surf lifesaver, author, pilot and athlete competing in the World and Paralympic Qualifying Games.
- As a past Councillor, I was involved in 8 Committees, the new Marine Precinct, redevelopment of the Tauranga Waterfront and the Pilot Bay Boardwalk, all of which have come to fruition. I understand governance, management and the Local Government Act and am able to fulfill the Councillor role immediately.

Any other comments?

- Tauranga’s staggering growth has brought challenges including housing, traffic congestion and more pressure on already stretched infrastructure. I want to ensure that these get immediate attention and urgent action.
- I am known for my perseverance, passion and determination. I am committed and intend to make Tauranga the city that inspires New Zealand.