

Questions for Elections Candidates

Dear Candidate,

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your decision to stand for the coming Waikato local body election. For our democracy to work, we need people like you who are prepared to volunteer to serve your community. We look forward to working with you in the future if you are successful.

The Hahei Beach Ratepayers Association (HBRPA) is a very active group, representing the interests of the residents and ratepayers in Hahei. As a service to our members, we have decided to invite all candidates to provide information about themselves and how they will support the people of Hahei.

We did consider a public meeting, but decided that since many of our members do live in Hahei, it would be much more effective to carry out an online survey.

The information we receive will be collated and distributed via our newsletter and website, to our members and other interested parties.

Please email your response to chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz by 31 August 2016.

Questions.

1. **About You.** Please tell us why you are qualified to represent our community. Specifically, please address the following.
 - a. Education and qualifications
 - b. Business experience
 - c. Community Service
 - d. Key achievements over the last few years.
2. **General Approach to Local Community Matters.** We would like to understand your general approach to local issues. Specifically, please tell us your views on the following issues
 - a. **Role and Performance of Waikato Regional Council** – Central Governments has stated that key purpose of Regional Councils shall be
 - *Sustainable regional well-being.*
 - *Managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters, by developing regional policy statements and the issuing of consents.*
 - *Managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control.*
 - *Regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness.*
 - *Regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services*
 - *Harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.*

Do you think that Waikato Regional Council has satisfactorily performed in accordance with these requirements? What areas would you focus on?

- b. **Relationship with iwi** - it is possible there will be a settlement with Hauraki/Coromandel iwi in the next 3 years. Please tell us your views of the proposed settlement and explain how you will work with iwi in the Coromandel.

- c. **Residents and Ratepayers' needs vs. Business exploitation** – what is your position on the challenge of balancing Residents needs with demands of tourism, and other business activities. The Coromandel is one the jewels of New Zealand but it is likely that it will be exploited rapidly over the next three years and beyond. Please tell us how you will decide to support and approve, or not, new tourist attractions and other business activities in the Coromandel.
 - d. **Environmental Challenges and Sustainability** – the attractiveness of the Coromandel for both residents and visitors is based primarily on the preservation of its pristine beauty. Please tell us about any initiatives you have to protect and ensure that the Coromandel is preserved in a sustainable way for the next generations of New Zealanders.
 - e. **5 Key Initiatives** - Please tell us your 5 most important initiatives that you would promote and implement if you are elected. How will they benefit the people of the Coromandel and Hahei?
 3. **Hahei Issues.** We would like to understand your position on the following local issues that are very important to the people of Hahei.
 - a. **Great Walk** – One of Glenn Leach's anchor projects has been the Great Walk which was supposed to go from Whitianga to Hot Water Beach. A key part of the Walk is crossing the Purangi River/Inlet. A number of options have been proposed, all involving structures on land below high water mark. This will involve approval from WRC and we would like to know your views on this aspect on the Walk project.
 - b. **Hahei Bay protection/sewage treatment** – Hahei bay is at risk of becoming polluted with runoff from farming, leaking septic tanks, etc. There is some evidence that there is a reduction in the biodiversity in the Cathedral Cove Marine Reserve due to run off from various sources. Please tell us how you propose managing the marine environment in Coromandel, and in particular Hahei.
 - c. **Pest and Noxious Weed Control** – We have a created a small group of enthusiastic volunteers to implement a pest control program in Hahei. But they need help – financial and qualified people – if they are to succeed. Please tell us how you will make WRC resources available to help us return Hahei to paradise we once knew.

Please feel free to add any other points that you think would be helpful in making our voting decisions.

Thank you for your participation our the survey.