

Questions for Elections Candidates

Dear Candidate,

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your decision to stand for the coming TCDC 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 of Local Bodies** – The Local Body Act 2002 direct NZ local bodies to focus on provision of infrastructure. Specifically, it states

The purpose of local government is—

(a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and

(b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

Some local bodies, including TCDC, have broadened their activities to include economic development, tourist development and other non-core activities. Please tell us how you interpret the Local Body Act 2002, and its amendments. Do you think TCDC should refocus on its core activities or should it continue to spend ratepayers' funds on other activities?

- 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. **Traffic and Tourist Management** – The No 1 issue for Hahei residents is tourist and traffic management. TCDC has not only failed to invest in the appropriate infrastructure, but has added to the problem by proposing to build a “Great Walk”. How will you solve the tourism and parking management problems of Hahei? Specifically, please tell us views on the following.
 - i. How will you negotiate a settlement between DOC, iwi and TCDC to take over the management of the Grange Rd Car Park, a task that the current leadership has failed to do for the last few years.
 - ii. Invest, or not, in additional car parking
 - iii. Your views on the currently proposed South Mercury Bay Traffic Management Strategy.
 - iv. Your commitment, or not, to stop of further tourist attractions in Hahei until the traffic management problems of Hahei are solved.
 - b. **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. TCDC has worked on the project since 2012, spent over \$1m on external consultants, and unknown amount internally, but to date, there have been no tangible results. The Hahei Communities’ position is set out in the attached letter. Since delivering this letter to Mr. Towler and the Mayor, TCDC have failed to deliver on any of the key points. Please tell us your position on the development of the Great Walk.
 - c. **Entrance to Hahei Development** – The recently published District Plan included a Structure Plan for the development of the entrance to Hahei, generally known as the 100 Acres. The HBRPA opposes the development for a number of reasons, and is challenging the development in the Environment Court. Please tell us your position on land development in Hahei.

- d. **Overall Spatial/Development Plan for Hahei/Mercury Bay South** – for the past 2 years we have requested that TCDC allocates funds and staff to work with us to develop a spatial/community/development plan for Hahei, and ideally the Mercury Bay South area. Although the current Mayor and the current Chairman of the Community Board have publicly supported this concept, nothing has happened. Please tell how you work with us to ensure that a professional plan is prepared as quickly as possible.
- e. **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.

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.