

Dal Minogue Answers

My answers to your questions are as follows:

1a I have a Masters degree (Hons) in Social Science from Waikato University.

b For the past 20 years my wife and I have run a successful Home and Garden Maintenance business from Ferry landing. I also have 6 years experience as a Thames Coromandel District Councillor, undertaking (obviously) a governance roll within that organisation.

c I am a founding member of both the Whitianga and Mercury Bay South Community Patrols, a past committee member of the Whitianga Ratepayers Assoc and a current committee member of the Mercury Bay South Residents and Ratepayers Assoc.

d Building my own house despite all the Council regulations and red tape!

2a The WRC must do better particularly in relation to managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control. Our harbours on the Coromandel Peninsula are seriously degraded with siltation and 'gamebreaking' steps of rectification have yet to be undertaken. Better control over and even limitations of forestry operations and comprehensive fencing off of stream and river margins are a good place to start.

b The settlement with Iwi will be wide ranging, involving the return of significant land, some in sensitive areas as well as significant governance control over DOC land. In these circumstances, it is vital to establish and maintain personal, face to face relationships with all the different Thames-Coromandel Iwi. As a previous District Councillor, I have some experience with that and fully realise its importance.

c The key factor in the issue described is that planning in the first instance involves meaningful consultation with Resident and Ratepayer groups, including use of community Plans, where they exist. I would only support and approve new tourist attractions and other business activities if the necessary infrastructure to support them were first put in place or were to be built in conjunction with them.

d The WRC Regional Plan and its evolution as a continually meaningful document is key to providing environmental sustainability in future years. There is also a need to: a) work constructively with the TCDC with regard to their District Plan to ensure landscape, natural character and biodiversity criteria are supported and encouraged; and b) provide meaningful support for environmental groups who work hard to improve our environment.

e The three points mentioned above in d along with 4) talking and thinking about how to improve Hahei sewerage and 5) re- establishing functional governance within the elected WRC Council - that Council will achieve far more if it works properly!

3a It is a District Council matter to identify the best option to cross the Purangi estuary and apply to the Regional Council for approval. However, I do have an opinion on the matter, but it is just that and nothing more. My preference would be for a suspension bridge/boardwalk combination located upriver from the Purangi entrance approximately beside the small informal boat ramp located between the new subdivision and Toby Morcoms property as it would not interfere with existing boat access, there is car parking there and room for construction at a reasonable cost. However, I am open minded about the matter as local opinion and professional advice needs more input.

b The Hauraki Marine Park forum is supposed to be the leading organisation in sorting out the marine environment for the overall Coromandel. However, it has been failing badly due to an unwieldy governance structure where their 'committee' like decisions have watered down effective action through collective compromise. The WRC must play a key role in restructuring that organisation so that effective, functional decision making is restored. With

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regard to the Hahei marine environment in particular, monitoring and controlling runoff from land, especially through the Wigmore stream, is key.

c As someone who just lives 'down the road' from Hahei, I will make myself personally available to attend any relevant meetings. Hahei volunteers will also have my full and complete support in getting professional advice from the WRC and in securing financial assistance for their projects.