

## **HAHEI BEACH RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE.**

### **MURRAY MCLEAN.**

#### **Question 1.**

Most of my life I have been self- employed in the retail and building industries. I have had 21 years local and central government experience and hold a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. For 23 years I have been a Justice of the Peace. I have also been a member of a team in Council, which in the last six years, has held rates, reduced debt, lowered operating costs and done more in the community than we have ever seen here.

#### **Question 2.**

- a. This depends where you are, on the political spectrum. My catch cry at the Council has been “are we in the business of taxing people to redistribute wealth”. The answer is clearly No, and clearly rates are a tax. However, local government is charged with responsibilities and while the four well-beings “social, cultural, economic and environmental”, were toned down in the last amendments to the Local Government Act, they are still underlying. We should therefore, continue as we are with a balanced approach
- b. Someone knows more than I, because I do not know what the proposed settlement is, suffice it to say Council has been working with Iwi for years and will continue to do so.  
Iwi will be the biggest Corporate on the Coromandel after settlement.
- c & d These are basically the same.  
We have a District Plan, consulted upon and subject to appeal. We have the R.M.A., a law of the land dictating what has to be done, processes involved and again, decisions subject to appeal in the courts.  
A Councillor cannot change this process, a Council can review the District Plan which is what we have just done. The problem is complex, landowners have property rights and are entitled to act within the law,

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after all had a landowner had not subdivided previously, we would not be living where we are today.

- e. Rates - maintain as we have over the last 6 years.  
Debt - Reduce debt –Provides more options for the future.  
Water and Waste Water – Improve our environment  
Roads – Safer travel  
Tourist Revenue – Clip the ticket, so we as ratepayers, don't carry all costs.

These are part of the team effort.

### **Question 3.**

- a. This is an ongoing issue, which as all are aware, has no simple solution. Even as late as last week, we had differing views presented at Community Board by members of the Hahei community.  
We must continue dialogue, be flexible in our views and in my opinion, an acceptable solution will evolve.  
Entrenched divergent views will not solve the issue. This is a complex issue, and one person, as the question asks, would be naïve to think they could solve the problems.  
The Council can control concessions, but cannot stop businesses starting.
- b. Tourism is where we will get employment and revenue. Walks and cycleways have been signalled by central government as key, and much of the funding has been provided externally on this project. There is a governance team charged with delivering the project. My position is that the walks will be great, but to control the visitors, we must have adequate accommodation in Whitianga, and good park and ride services.
- c. As said previously, there is a process and no Councillor can circumvent this. I will say that, unless good infrastructure is developed, I do not support ad hoc development on the Coromandel.

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- d. Council has had to prioritise both funds and time. We, as a Council have had a lot going on.
- e. This question alludes to what I said previously. I believe within the next decade, it will be mandatory for all coastal settlements to be on reticulated waste water. The Havelock North situation is not far away in some of our communities, where drinking water is from bores and septic tanks are discharging. Regional Council are doing a lot of work on sources of water pollution, identifying causes e.g. bovine or human, as well as sedimentation etc. This is a collective responsibility in most cases caused by existing communities.

**General Comment:**

We are diverse communities with diverse views. Thames Coromandel District Council, has an older than average population and a lower than average income. We have residents heavily reliant on income support, contrasting with extremely wealthy. We have radical views to the left and right of the political spectrum, and we have conservation versus development.

Processes have been developed to listen to these differing opinions, manage outcomes and look after our residents and the environment.

Just because we have our bit of paradise, is not the reason to exclude others, but it is the reason to encourage, as far as we are able, our visitors, developers, businesses and existing residents, to ensure our grandchildren can benefit from what we do today.