

HAHEI RATE PAYER ASSOCIATION - QUESTIONNAIRE TO CANDIDATES STANDING FOR ELECTION

1. About You

a. Education and Qualifications

Southland Boys High School

NZRPN, NZRMN. Bip Bus Studies (Massey University)

NZ Army (RNZAMC) Retired in the rank of Major

Life Member Massey University Alumni Association Membership #07775296

b. Business Experience

I am self-made and have been retired since age 55.

Prior to my retirement from the NZ Army my wife and I purchased owned and operated a mid-size Rest Home.

Upon retirement I sought employment in the Finance and Administration sector.

I worked for ACI NZ (a glass manufacturing company) where I held a number of senior finance roles including treasurer. I managed a book transacting \$20M daily including NZ deposits, loans, bond issues and a range of FX transactions. The biggest transaction was \$998M. This work also involved unwinding the complex treasury associated with the closure of Feltrax NZ with many offshore transactions. I was also the lead manager for the company insurance portfolio.

From here I went to work for DB Group. Firstly as the Northern Region Administration Manager responsible for a wide range of corporate finance functions including the management of debt, trade marketing, franchise operations and insurance to name a few.

From DB Northern Region I was asked to apply for the National Administration Manager role with Allied Liquor. The wine and Spirit arm of DB Group. This company was the jewel in the crown for DB Group. Among a number of achievements I was a lead agency in the development and implementation of a true paperless system and centralised our call centre operation effecting savings in excess of \$6Mpa. The paperless project has never been repeated or achieved by any other company that I am aware of.

When Allied Liquor Merchants Limited exited the Wine and Spirit market I was tasked/contracted to oversee the closure. A very challenging role. As the result of this closure a new company, NZ Liquor Ltd was set up and I became the National Administration Manager for that company. This was another complex role involving the company communication requirements, insurance, fleet management, financial reporting, trade marketing, sales analysis and reporting, personnel management etc.

With my job done I resigned from that company on the basis that I did not feel that I was adding value and not 'earning' my very attractive salary. This was the start of my retirement and with that I moved from Auckland to Whitianga to rekindle my childhood memories.

The combination of my collective experience within this company's enabled me to consider myself a change manager. I had good recognition within these industry groups which in turn provided me with the opportunity to speak at a number of conferences on the topic of change management.

I am a strong team player and achieved results through the combined efforts of people wanting to work at a high level as a collective. Not individuals working in isolation.

Wanting to use my business and commercial experience I managed the Mercury Bay Golf Club for 12 months before being appointed as the first full time manager to the Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club, a position I held for 10 years. Under my management this Club went from having nothing in the bank to being the envy of most Clubs in New Zealand. With the Club's full support I sought election to TCDC in 2010 and served my first term as a TCDC District Councillor whilst in the employ of the MBGFC. Once my involvement in Council matter increased I chose to resign from the MBGFC so as to be able to devote myself to our community and district affairs.

As a TCDC District Councillor I am Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, a member of the Judicial and Infrastructure Committees as well as being a certified RMA Commissioner and District Licencing Commissioner. I was a Hearing Commissioner for the Proposed District Plan and also one of the three District Plan Appeals Commissioners.

c. Community Service.

I have a strong interest in our coastal erosion issues and have been a participant in the majority, if not all, dune planting activities. My only Club affiliations are as a member of the MBGFC and a summer member of the Mercury bay Golf Club. I support numerous club activities within the Bay but do not hold memberships so as to avoid any challenges relating to conflicts of interest.

I consider myself to be very community minded and donate generously to a wide variety of organisations and projects.

I stress that I have no reliance on my TCDC stipend much of which I put back into the community and charities including a personal overseas charity group.

d. Key Achievements over the last few years.

I am proud to have been part of the TCDC that has taken a council from chaos and with ever increasing costs and an appalling record in the project management area to a Council that is highly regarded with in Local Government.

We have seen the introduction of our Community Empowerment Model, District wide rates held to an increase of less than 2% over the past 6 years, external debt reduced by over \$15M and interest costs reduced by \$1M pa. Our levels of service have increased and we are now on the cusp of achieving even greater achievements. This has been a team effort and shows what can be done with strong leadership and mature and experienced people sitting at the table. A far cry from what we had pre the 2010 election.

My contribution to our community and district is on record for all to see.

Of more recent times I would list my involvement with getting the proposal for a new medical centre to service the current and future needs of the greater Mercury Bay as an achievement of note.

2. GENERAL APPROACH TO LOCAL COMMUNITY MATTERS

- a. Role of Local Bodies. I refer you to The Purpose of the Local Government Act 2002 Part 1 Sec 3 which states the purpose of local government. It is incorrect to state the 'some local bodies, including TCDC have broadened their activities to include economicMost if not all local bodies provide for non-core activities as set out in Part 2 sec 10 of the LGA 2002. This purpose recognises that local authorities are able to provide community governance at a local level and make significant contributions to social, economic, environments and cultural wellbeing. What was referred to as the four pillars?

I support the basic principle that property owners have rights and with that people have the right to use their land as they see fit within the bounds of the RMA, Regional and District Planning documents. The TCDC's future will be in tourism and retirees. Whilst some may wish to close the door on these activities we need to be mindful that once SH25 was sealed and the Kopu Bridge opened the gateway to our piece of paradise became a lot easier to reach.

The majority of our core infrastructure, especially water and waste water is first class albeit at a huge cost to the community.

Council does have a social responsibility and with that the need to provide services over and above what we refer to as core services.

I also mention that a significant number of residents enjoy the benefits of tourism, i.e. those who derive income from renting their properties etc.

Council spend was well consulted on as part of the 2015-2025 LTP.

- b. Relationship with Iwi. The settlement is a matter between the Crown and Iwi. In working with local Iwi I believe that they would like to have been in a position to

settle before now. The matter is complex and the delays as frustrating to Iwi as they are to the wider community. This is not a matter to be progressed by Community Boards or Council.

- c. Residents and Ratepayers need vs Business exploitation. Very few communities will survive without commercial activity. As an individual who supports private property rights people should be free to do what they wish within the parameters of the range of planning documents. For the very reasons that I was attracted to retire to this piece of paradise so are many other folk. To shut the door is not an option for me.
- d. Environmental Challenges and Sustainability. On a personal basis I want to leave our community in a better state than it was when I became part of it. I value our clean green image and pristine waterways. I share the concerns of those re the sedimentation issues and rural run off and these issues are being managed in conjunction with our Regional Council. You will be mindful that WRC are the lead agency in respect of the coastal environment and there is a significant body of work being undertaken to not only protect what we have but also improve it.
- e. 5 Key Initiatives.
 - i. I will continue to support initiatives aimed at making our district affordable. I remind you that pre the 2010 election TCDC had accepted forecast growth of 7.5%pa and with that capital works budgets and rates forecast to rise at the same rate. TCDC was run by staff and not elected members. The council elected in 2010 worked as a team (not individuals as in the previous council) and very quickly significant staff changes were made along with a significant improvement in the organisations culture. With that we have seen the district wide rates held to an increase of less than 2% over the past 6 years, external debt reduced by over \$15M and interest reduced by \$1.0M. All this achieved with no loss in levels of service. It is worthy to note that in June 2010 our external debt was \$5M, in October 2010 \$55M and in June 2016 \$34M.
 - ii. Coastal Erosion. I am fully supportive of managing this by way of soft options. Whilst this is supported by best science it is also the only affordable option.
 - iii. Mercury Bay Medical Facility. As one of the small group that got this project back on the table I am happy to see that we now have the support of our communities and Council. Previous attempts failed due to the lack of commercial acumen by both staff and the then elected members.
 - iv. Capital Works Delivery. Through the efforts of this Council TCDC now deliver over 80% of their budgeted works. It is worthy to note that pre 2010 TCDC delivered 47% of its capital budget. In 2015 the OAG national average for capital works deliver was 60% and in 20126 TCDC delivered 84%. This significant result has happened as the result of our council and staff working as a team unlike the organisation pre the 2010 election.
 - v. I am keen to see TCDC and our Community Board engage more with youth. This process has started with youth leaders identified. Now we need to engage with these representatives to achieve great outcomes for youth and

the wider community. I should add that our community engagement with the Mercury Bay Area School is at an all-time high.

3. Hahei Issues.
 - a. Traffic and Tourist management. I refer you to Mr John North's presentation to the MBCB on Wednesday 24 August 2016. As the result of this the MBCB resolution on this topic was amended to treat the Traffic Management Plan as a draft. The Community Board were unanimous that this was a working document and would evolve over time based on community desires and reliable data etc.
 - b. Great Walk. I am a supporter of this project and bring to your attention that this project receives significant funding from sources outside of Council. I agree that the infrastructure must be in place to cope with these demands but am fully supportive of the project for the reason of the economic benefits to our community and those who are involved in commercial activities. This is a District led and funded project and I am aware of folk with commercial interests who are disappointed that we are not progressing the walks faster.
 - c. Entrance to Hahei Development. As one of the 3 Hearing and Appeals Commissioners I will not be commenting on this.
 - d. Overall Spatial/Development for Hahei/Mercury Bay South. At a recent meeting with the HBRA I provided my views. Any plans should encompass the whole of Mercury Bay South. No communities exist in isolation. Our Community Empowerment Model should enable this but first communities must understand what it is that they want and bring a united front to the Board. Where communities are divided progress will always be slow and inevitably the elected arm will be put in the position of making decisions where there will always be winners and losers. As ratepayers we all have a responsibility. If communities can not present on a united front there will always be some acrimony.
 - e. Hahei Bay protection/sewage treatment. I am of the belief that the time is coming when on site disposal in the coastal environment will be a thing of the past. When considering any future development in our area, and the district, we should be aiming to have everybody connected to a fully reticulated system. This initiative alone would greatly help stop/slow down ribbon development by concentrating development in areas of benefit.

OTHER COMMENT

Needless to say I am seeking the support of the Hahei Community at this year's local body election.

Our council and board have shown what can be achieved when you work as a team. Prior to us being elected councillors did not work together, financial information was scant to non-existent and in many ways feel that staff set out to deceive us. Forgetting about the Eastern Seaboard Waste Water Treatment Plants overspend of approximately \$50M (with nobody held to account) we also inherited the Mercury Bay Sports Complex issues. You should note that this deal was signed of the day the pre 2010 Council left office. The project and financial management was a disgrace. I have come from a

background where I have always been able to put trust in people. Given the staff support we were given in the early days in office it has taken me a long time to start treating staff advice as reliable. I am very happy to state that we now have excellent staff at all levels of council and the working relationships between the current elected arm and staff is at an all-time high. I am proud to stand behind the Mercury Bay Community Board by line 'Great People Great Results'