

Annika Lane

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Annika Lane
What Council are you standing for?	BOPRC
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor

Q2. What drives you to run as a candidate in the local body elections? What do you hope to achieve?

I've worked in local government on and off for over 20 years as a senior manager and consultant (including Waitakere City Council, Auckland Council, western Bay of Plenty District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council and Wellington Regional Council). I decided it was time for me to contribute as an elected member to a sector I care deeply about. I have a background in political science, law and economics and wish to contribute my academic training and practical experience to address and navigate complex issues such as the future form and function of local government, ratepayer burden and global challenges such as climate change and external economic shocks to our domestic markets. I care deeply about local voice and local democracy and want to ensure that this is not lost.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

The kiwifruit industry is one of the mainstays of the Bay of Plenty, with a good reputation as a responsible employer and contributor to the local economy. The challenge for the sector is to maintain its position in the market, protect versatile soils and to avoid being subsumed by the push for more housing development. The Regional Council plays an integral role in supporting regional economic development and as an elected member I see my role as ensuring that is not lost in the drive to accommodate population growth.

Q4. What will you do to support the development of seasonal worker housing, especially in rural areas?

I am a strong advocate for decent housing for all workers. We have a duty of care to our RSE workers in particular. The Regional Council plays a significant role in planning for growth and providing affordable housing as a member of the SmartGrowth Partnership and the Eastern Bay of Plenty 'Our Places - Eastern Bay Spatial Plan'. The Regional Council has as responsibility to ensure that seasonal worker housing and appropriate pastoral care is adequately provided as these workers are core to successful regional economic development.

Q5. How will you ensure kiwifruit growers have reliable access to water, and how will you balance competing demands?

I have a background in law and economics. I understand trade-offs. I do understand the need to balance economic development against preserving our natural resources. I am an evidence-based decision maker and will weigh competing demands based on the science and other evidence presented to me as a councillor.

Q6. What is your stance on protecting productive horticultural land from urban sprawl and subdivision?

I am a strong advocate for preserving our horticultural land. When I was GM for western Bay of Plenty District Council from 2006-2011 my team led the development of the 2nd generation District Plan - so I developed a deep understanding and appreciation of the need to preserve our versatile soils and the horticultural sector as an integral part of our local economy. I don't support urban sprawl and am an advocate for compact medium density housing development and setting clear city boundaries to avoid urban "creep". I don't support the practice of "land banking" that removes land from effective use - either as housing, commercial or food production.

The Regional Council has a significant part to play and can take some leadership on this issue- in the development of spatial and regional growth management plans and its role in regional economic development.

Q7. How will you improve rural road infrastructure to support the movement of produce?

This is more a District Council local roading issue, but the Regional Council leads out the Regional Land Transport Planning process and has a role to play in advocating for a comprehensive local roading network to support regional economic development. This is a key matter for discussion, advocacy and support for District Council aspirations for rural roading. I will advocate for removing barriers to the movement of produce - such as medium barriers at Aongatete.

Q8. What policies will you support to help growers adapt to climate change impacts?

I'll continue to support emissions reductions goals and tracking greenhouse gas emissions regionally so there's data to inform policy. Knowing how much horticulture contributes to greenhouse gas emissions helps in designing targeted support. I support Farm Environment Plans (and Freshwater Farm Plans) required under new regulations to help growers/horticulturalists to plan for environmental risk and regulatory compliance and I further support providing as much assistance (financial and/or technical) as we can to assist growers in this process.

There are some grants / schemes (e.g. Sustainable Homes scheme; Community-led adaptation grants) to support adaptation and emissions reductions in communities. While these are more residential / community oriented, there may be opportunities for horticulture and I would support looking at how that might work.