

Allan Sole

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Allan Sole
What Council are you standing for?	Western Bay Of Plenty District Council
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor, Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward

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

I am very driven to do well for people, make their lives better with a very balanced approach to all things we do in council.
I love my work.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I think that making good plans for the future to keep the hens that lay the golden eggs producing in a profitable, safe, and sustainable way.
I already support the improvement of roading and any well thought out plans to support the grower and post-harvest facilities. They must be able to be a go about their business as efficiently as we can enable.

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

We have reduced contribution cost rules to enable multi housing on Māori and general land for up to ten units per staged development and these rules should also apply to those that Rely on seasonal workers. We as councils need to be enablers, not a chain you have to drag around.

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

Consent for underground water (Wells) etc should be simple to get and I would look to the landowner to play their part in not exceeding the limits they have set for them. Water is about to become more expensive, but if you need to irrigate, I would prefer to see you looking after your own supply than relying on a town supply with all its reticulation, treatment and supply issues. In the end you or groups of you will almost certainly do a better cost-efficient job.
Working together is the way for you to control costs and meet individual requirements.

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

I have some concerns with some of the ideas being floated in the new RMA replacement bills. One such thing was removing zoning of land and letting development leapfrog. That isn't a bad idea until you look at the need for some nasty sprays you have to use and methods for frost protection.
There has to be buffer zones for growers to go about their business with the same protection for post-harvest facilities.
New higher density urban areas must also be created (go up) but not to alter how we live now in our towns already settled. (keep the old and intensify the new.)

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

In our case I live in a less horticultural area than Te Puke. I have supported totally, work to upgrade and maintain our roading network in Te Puke. Again, let's look after the hen laying the golden eggs. Well-kept roads give greater efficiency and lower cost to the grower. It would help if post-harvest facilities were closer to State Highways and the need to use local roads for heavy loads was less, but that is largely unavoidable.

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

I am not fully aware of the impacts climate change is having on the Kiwifruit industry in particular, but I'm sure they are much the same as most primary industries. The weather we can't control, but the management of stormwater and the ability to retain collected water is an area we could assist with and allow you to treat and use it. Regional councils' rules should allow you to collectively hold and manage this water for the dry times when they come.
Growing conditions, pest insects, pathogens and weeds are largely in your care and while I don't like nasty sprays etc I support their use as a required tool.
You know what your customer requires and while we must follow good science, we must always question it to get the best result from what we know.