

## James Denyer

### Q1. Contact Details

<b>Name</b>	James Denyer
<b>What Council are you standing for?</b>	Western Bay of Plenty District Council
<b>What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?</b>	Mayor

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

Serving and wanting the best for our community are what drive me. I have long been involved in local voluntary groups and was subsequently elected Councillor in 2019 and then Mayor in 2022. Council has achieved a lot in that time, but there is still lots to do. I want to see good infrastructure, efficient services, and effective planning for our future. Local government is going through a period of significant change with resource management reform, the Local Water Done Well reforms, discussions around the purpose of local government and sector consolidation. It is important to have experienced and stable leadership at this time.

### Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I will continue to advocate for the importance of the kiwifruit industry at both a regional and national level. Council investment alongside and aligning with government investment is essential to provide the housing, the roading and access to the Port that are needed to support and nurture the kiwifruit industry. District Plan rules also need to recognise the importance of the industry in such matters as reverse sensitivity, seasonal worker housing and other development that complements horticultural activity.

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

Enabling housing is one of our strategic priorities and I am keen that we enable the right housing in the right place. The government recently put a stop on all Council-led Plan Changes until new resource management legislation is enacted, so for now, that does limit how Council can make changes to the District Plan to support seasonal worker housing in rural areas. However, I am also seeking to enable a number of significant developments through the Regional Deal that is currently being negotiated with government. These are likely to be able to provide additional housing for seasonal workers.

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

Water allocation is a function of the Regional Council. However, our recent decision through the Local Water Done Well reforms will safeguard the ability for cost effective and appropriate investment to be made in our infrastructure to maintain and improve the public water supply.

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

There is an inherent tension between using land for housing and for horticulture in that the land that is good for production also tends to be good for housing. Housing is an essential need for our community, but we also need to protect horticultural land for the economic foundation that it provides our district. Development and subdivision will occur, but it must be done in a thoughtful and efficient way, and conscious of the need to minimise sprawl and the loss of productive land.

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

Roading is a core function of council and I will support measures to keep our roading network in good repair. We also have a steady programme of seal extensions, which helps the kiwifruit industry by reducing dust contamination. I will also continue to advocate for a return to adequate NZTA subsidies for local road improvements, the funding for which was recently cut, and which limits council's ability to upgrade roads. This is likely to be an essential aspect in making affordable any structural solution to traffic congestion through Te Puke.

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

The effects of climate change can be mitigated by building and maintaining infrastructure that is resilient to severe weather events and also provides resilience to growers. I support the provision of carefully considered, quality infrastructure that achieves these aims. An example would be the replacement bridge on No.4 Road in Te Puke that was washed away in early 2023. Despite engineering challenges and difficult topography, the new bridge is now a single span and more resilient to future floods.