

Brendan Horan

Q1. Contact Details

Name	Brendan Horan
What Council are you standing for?	Whakatane District Council
What position(s) are you standing for on the above Council?	Councillor Whakatane Ohope Ward

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

I offer my skills, competencies, experience and connections to the people of Whakatāne should they chose to vote for me to represent their best interests.

I love my hometown and our district faces real challenges: steep rates pressures, infrastructure demands, and the need to plan for sustainable growth. This requires councillors that work cohesively, debate openly to dissect the issues and solutions, and acts responsibly on behalf of the whole community. I believe the old model of council just surviving on rates is no longer tenable, household rates in Whakatane are rising to 42% compounding over three years so consequently if we are to exert downward pressure on rates, we need to find new revenue streams. Whakatane needs retirement villages both assisted care and lifestyle because at the moment there is nowhere for our seniors to retire to and many have to leave the district to retirement homes in Tauranga and Papamoa. My third priority is a second bridge to alleviate traffic congestion on landing Road. Those are three main goals of mine however basically We are all in this together and that is what I stand for: collaboration, fairness, and a strong commitment to the people who call Whakatāne home.

Q3. How will you support the kiwifruit industry?

I am a Kiwi fruit aficionado, I sometimes work with Kiwi country speaking under the vines and Kiwi fruit tours with cruise ship passengers so I will continue to support the Kiwi fruit industry enthusiastically and help local Kiwi fruit growers wherever and whenever possible.

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

Whakatane has a shortage of available housing and we need to expedite new builds with quick and sensible consents.

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

Fortunately our climate and soil in the bay of plenty provides plenty of moisture for our plants to grow, however my door will always be open to any local growers who find they have a shortage of water and together we can discuss ways to remedy this.

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

There is already legislation in place which prohibits builds on productive land in and around Whakatane.

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

Rural Road infrastructure is vitally important and in many cases is a central government issue and I would happily lobby the minister of transport to improve rural road infrastructure.

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

Many of the policies to adopt to climate change are formulated by regional council, however I believe any policy needs to be thought out with input from growers and other key stakeholders so that the policy is robust and doable... As I said earlier we are all in this together and together we can find and drive solutions.