

# Local Body Elections Candidate Survey

As a candidate you are invited to complete as few or as many of the questions below, so voters can gauge your commitment to the issues raised. Your responses will be published on the Climate Action Tai Tokerau website and made available to news media.

Email \*

.....



**ELECTRIFY**  
**TE TAI TOKERAU**



Full Name \*

Anthony Huon Wild  
.....

Which position are you campaigning for? \*

⌵ Dropdown

WDC Whangārei Heads General Ward



A. Climate Action

Overall, what are your two or three climate action priorities if elected?

The primary responsibility for Climate action should be led by Central Govt in line with agreed targets. WDC has declared a climate emergency in 2019 when Ms C Mai was the mayor if my memory is correct. I will be very interested to check what action planning this statement has brought about through actions taken or was this just virtue signalling. I would expect to see actions related to building restrictions on flood prone, Landslide high risk or coastal land subject to rising sea levels as an example. Councils also need to have action plans (before/during and after) for possible civil emergencies such as Tsunami, Weather bombs or cyclones, fire, pandemic, widespread electricity outages and other such events through their responsibilities under the CDEM. If we believe the climate scientists, we can expect more frequent and extreme weather-related events related to climate change so need to be prepared to act at short notice.

What policies and/or actions will you advocate for to reduce gross emissions?

Homeowners can reduce their emissions through installing rooftop solar systems. We have installed a rooftop solar system with battery to do just that with the added benefit of saving money on power bills and maintaining power through power cuts. We have used an eco-loan through our bank to finance this. We have saved about 1.5 tons of co2 emissions in under 6 months. I believe Council should promote and encourage the installation of rooftop solar at the domestic level, maybe through Northland inc. Also make the process easier with the consent process.

What Nature-based solutions will you be promoting in council?

I believe we can all make a big difference by simply undertaking some basic pest control. On my farm I trap rats, stoats and possums in an area of native bush (which we have fenced off) and it is eye opening how many pests we have eliminated and the effect on bird life. Too many do nothing and leave it all to others when we can all do a bit to help nature. NRC have some excellent pest control planning and processes. Councils should promote people to control their domestic dogs and cats and also carry out some basic rodent/pest control measures.

B. Biodiversity.

In light of the imminent changes to the Resource Management Act, how can your council ensure that biodiversity and ecosystems are protected?

Guess we all have to wait and see what the resource Management act looks like when finally adopted into law. I strongly believe each generation should leave the place in better shape than when they found it for future generations. I have recently taken up bee keeping and now have four hives in my apiary. Our bee populations are under huge pressure from farming activities (chemical spraying), bee pests such as varroa mites and diseases combined with changes in habitat. Bees are so important to our food production we are all in trouble if bees are not viable. Also, of concern the resource management fast track process. I oppose approval of initiatives such as sand dredge mining at Bream bay which is going through this fast-track process with little or no consultation with the local community or interested parties. I believe councils should have some input into these fast-track decisions to bring forward the concerns of their communities. Such activities, if approved, will have a dramatic effect on our marine ecosystem I believe and this would be hard to monitor, measure or even quantify.

What is your position on the planting of pine plantations for ETS revenue?

I am all for planting trees on marginal lands as part of the ETS. My preference is to plant NZ native trees as opposed to planting exotics such as pine which I believe can lead to ground instability issue when pines get very old. I don't agree that good farmland, which we will need for food production, should be planted out for ETS revenue however limited tree plantings can still be undertaken on these areas as well as part of good farming practise. I believe this needs to be addressed at central Govt level which I understand is happening.

What are your two to three priorities for protecting and regenerating the environment?

Council should be limiting the expansion of the City boundaries for housing development. I believe we need to build upward in the city and limit urban sprawl. That way we make better use of the infrastructure already in place and this also makes public transport more viable. We need to take better care of our waterways. Roadside rubbish and in particular plastics litter our environment, and this eventually finds its way into our waterways and end up being microplastics. This is going to be a huge problem in the future. I have seen plastic meant for recycling spilling onto the roadside from the local recycling collection truck which was obviously overfull. Councils can partnership with local groups to undertake projects as a way of leading the community towards taking better care of and regenerating our environment.

### C. Renewable Energy.

Will you commit to phasing out fossil fuels and electrifying the council's own operations to save ratepayer money and reduce emissions? If so, what would be at the top of your list to get started and why?

WDC has a flash new Civic centre and if energy efficiency was not part of the design, then I have to question why not - especially so when they have declared a climate emergency back in 2019. Council should be leading by example so I agree, for example as the vehicle fleet comes up for replacement moving away from fossil fuel should be a consideration. As previously stated, I believe Council should promote rooftop solar at the domestic level. New Zealand is well behind other countries in this regard. Northland has great sunshine hours and is ideally suited to the technology. Moving away from reliance on fossil fuels should be part of everyone's psyche, we recently replaced our main vehicle with a hybrid model.

What will you do to boost installations of solar and battery storage for homes and businesses in our region? Check all that apply:

- ☐ I will support electrification loans as part of the Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)
- ☒ I will support common-sense consenting rules to make it easier for households and farmers to install small solar systems
- ☐ I will support forming a Council plan that charts an electric energy future for our district or region
- ☒ Other: Renewable power and electrification should be left to the experts

#### D. Māori representation

Should the referendum lead to the removal of Māori Wards, what will you do to ensure better Māori representation in Council?

Council will have to abide by the outcome of the referendum on Maori Wards whichever way that should go. I believe in councils being there to represent all the people regardless of background as is the basis of our democratic system. Clearly people of Māori descent can and do stand on the general roll and do get voted on to councils throughout New Zealand, example we have at least two Mayors from the last election. It is healthy to look at things through a different Lense to get a good and balanced decision, so I have no problem with Te ao Maori. I would support consulting outside of council get some balance.

### E. Rates and Central Government

Councils are being forced to deliver more without adequate funding, leading to unsustainable rate hikes. If elected, what will you do to demand systemic solutions for the wellbeing of our communities?"

Not sure where the first paragraph comes from or what the background is. In my opinion WDC has some clear challenges ahead mostly related to population drift north, we see it on our roads as congestion. As well we have an aging population so I don't believe ratepayers can absorb rate hikes as we have seen in recent years at least as far back as 2021. Rate hikes well about the inflation rate whilst increasing the district debt loading are unsustainable in my view. Central Govt look likely to impose controls by way of a cap on rates increases so Councils will have to look for efficiencies in their budgets just as everyone else has to in these times of high cost of living.

### F. Food and water security

What do you see as the biggest threats to local food and freshwater resilience in Northland — and what specific actions will you commit to, if elected, to strengthen that resilience?

It worries me to see urban sprawl moving onto land suitable for growing food and horticulture land. Future generations will wonder why some of our best agricultural land close to the city was used for housing development. We need to increase the housing density of our cities and set aside land suitable for growing food. Our freshwater assets will also become valuable to us as demand for clean uncontaminated water becomes a priority. Working with our neighbouring councils to plan future freshwater resources for the benefit of all is a good thing and I would certainly look to strengthen these relationships.

Are you affiliated with any political party or local advocacy group? If yes, please specify. \*

I am standing as an independent candidate

Please provide a link to your campaign website or social media page (if applicable).

I dont have one

Thanks for filling in this form. Good luck with your campaign.

This form was created inside Climate Action Tai Tokerau.

Google Forms