

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 *

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ELECTRIFY
TE TAI TOKERAU



Full Name *

Robert Goodhue, born and raised in Northland

Which position are you campaigning for? *

Dropdown

NRC Coastal South General Consituency



A. Climate Action

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

To be clear, I'm a single-issue candidate. Hormone type herbicides have already killed most marine life on my planet. With more than two million tons produced and applied to the land annually practically all of it ends up in our seas with the first rain. Toxic to aquatic life, it has already depleted the flora, the sea plants including the phytoplankton, and fauna, from the great whales to the smallest zooplankton from all the oceans and seas on my planet.

From my 65 years of life experience including 25 years of intense study of the hidden mysteries of nature and science, I found this the underlying cause of most of the changes in nature threatening our very existence on this small planet.

The great changes such as constant extreme rains, rising sea temperatures, and rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are merely symptoms of the cause and must be seen as such. I found more subtle symptoms starting in the early 1950's with the collapse of the north sea herring fishery, our own closure in the 1960's of the toheroa beds on the west coast and the loss of the fantastic corals and marine life around the Poor Knights Islands by the 1990's. Blooms of Cyanobacteria, crystal clear ocean waters, and the total loss of the smell of the sea are a few more, but the one that you all should be aware of is the world wide loss of all marine species, from the mighty whale to the smallest plankton.

It is the loss of at least 3 magnitudes of order of those phytoplankton that has caused all of the previously mentioned symptoms to occur, insufficient numbers to utilise all the energy of the sun entering the seas to grow, the waters get warmer, carbon dioxide is not consumed and the marine food web has collapsed. The smell of the sea, known as dimethyl sulphide (DMS) caused by the huge numbers of daily dying phytoplankton is not there to seed the smaller clouds to rain at lesser volumes. Water, constantly exposed to sunlight for any period of time cannot be crystal clear unless it is treated with chemicals to poison the life it holds, and that is the dilemma we face.

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

For more than thirty seven years the united nations (UN) through their agency of the Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) has held patent on all aspects of climate change. In that thirty seven years, not one of their directives has made any difference to the natural climate. Carbon dioxide is absolutely vital to life on my planet, and the amount of it in the atmosphere is an indicator of the life on land and sea. It is the main ingredient for plants to grow and multiply. Life, from my observations, multiples to meet its food source, always, including plants.

Methane, at 2 parts per million in our atmosphere, a product of life, is a very explosive gas.

With a flash point 188 degrees below zero I was surprised to see images on the UN website, a picture of the planet with two clouds above it labelled as "carbon dioxide" on one and the other "methane". Those images have since been removed from their site, but it is interesting that they appeared shortly after Greta Thunberg forced them into being seen to be doing something.- I now know the cause of thunder and lightening!

So in answer to the question: What policies and/or actions will you advocate for to reduce gross emissions?

My answer is to stop wasting ratepayers money on tech solutions to a problem that doesn't exist, and practice basic mother nature skills and restore my planet. I advocate for the banning and outlawing of all the various hormone and systemic herbicides that disrupt core metabolic in plants from entering our waters.

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

I advocate for the banning and outlawing of all the various synthetic hormone and systemic herbicides that disrupt core metabolic pathways in plants from entering our waters.

B. Biodiversity.

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

The changes should give the NRC more flexibility in freshwater planning, adapting time-frames and rules to our local catchments, allowing us to set practical and staged goals for improvement whilst monitoring actual environmental outcomes.

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

Pine plantations are a large source of revenue in Northland, about 2.5% of our gross domestic product, but converting good grazing land to exotic forestry does little for our natural biodiversity, I am not aware of any native fauna (birds or insects) that inhabit exotic pine plantations, or for that matter invasive mangrove plantations by choice.

The architects of the emissions trading scheme have no interest in our natural forests and from my view absolutely no understanding of the cause of the problems they are escalating.

If land is to be locked up in forests then the forest should be of provenance to its location, -the kauri, totara, puriri and other trees and shrubs should be sourced from nearby.

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

I advocate for the banning and outlawing of all the various synthetic hormone and systemic herbicides that disrupt core metabolic pathways in plants from entering all our waters.

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?

Absolute not, the high technology approach to climate change has not done a single thing to improve the health of our environment. It has caused far more long lasting problems for our grandchildren to cope with. Plastic packaging impacted New Zealand in the late 1960's, I remember my mother carefully washing and rinsing the plastic bags so they could be reused to freeze surplus vegetables in, and still in real terms, to date nothing has been done to stop plastics from entering the environment. Electric vehicles have been sold in New Zealand since the 1990's and to this date there is no comprehensive facility set up to recycle used batteries, with a capacity for the whole country. Soon batteries will compete with plastic for urgent eyesore attention.

But I do have a proposal to Whangarei, to cope with its growth demands, Whangarei is gifted with a wonderful, but underutilised rail line, which runs through the industrial sector, the commercial sector, within a few hundred meters of primary, intermediate and high schools and reaches from Waiotira in the south to Hukerenui in the north. Together with local businesses, construct light rail rolling stock to run on an overhead electrified rail line over the 65km distance. Several services daily would allow residents to leave their vehicles home whilst loved ones would have a safe service delivering them to work and school. This would allow satellite communities to become part of Whangarei and to expand.

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:

D. Māori representation

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

I will represent their view point.
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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?"

I HAVE already begun just that by standing for NRC. I am campaigning to remove hormonal type herbicides from our environment. In the past 80 years these chemical pesticides have destroyed the marine wildlife, the environment and many human lives. Although I am stressing the damage to my planet, these chemicals act on triggers in the plants cell at a molecular level, if we take our creation back far enough, we have the same ancestor, and these chemical pesticides must be damaging to some part of our bodies, whether it be a cancer, a neurological condition or a skin condition. Stopping the use of these poisons comes at no additional costs to ratepayers but huge benefits to our grandchildren.
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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?

Chemical pesticides, synthetic hormone and systemic herbicides that disrupt core metabolic pathways in plants are the biggest threat to local food, already most of the kai moana is restricted in catch or has disappeared completely, Toxic plankton blooms occur following the poisoning of a balanced ecology, and the subsequent fast growth of micro plankton that is free of the predators that died when the poison killed off their food source. Removing the poisons will strengthen that resilience.

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

Yes, Stop poisoning my ocean

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

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577850102706>

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

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