

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 *

Simon Schuster

Which position are you campaigning for? *

Dropdown

WDC Bream Bay Ward



A. Climate Action

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

Advocating against sandmining in Bream Bay, Providing free educational opportunities (within Whangarei) for children to learn how to care for our environment, Making a policy shift in the consenting process to ensure big business must have sustainability as part of their proposal e.g. rooftop solar power generation.

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

Buy local, sell local. Rail link. Continual improvements to Whangarei's public transport.

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

Vertical gardens on all Council owned buildings.

B. Biodiversity

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

Standing with locals against fast-tracked consents which destroy ecosystems and using its position to advocate for them. Ignoring the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity which temporarily suspend the councils requirement to identify "Significant Natural Areas".

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

Pine trees are not the answer! Also the ability for companies to buy up otherwise useful ground for the purpose of creating more greenhouse emissions does not have the positive impact on the environment some believe it to be.

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

Identify and safeguard Significant Natural Areas, wetlands, rivers, and coastal ecosystems. Ensure that environmental decision-making is transparent and inclusive, so communities feel empowered to protect their natural surroundings.

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?

I will commit to phasing out fossil fuels and to use alternative/sustainable energy sources. As the Council car fleet come to end of life, replace them with sustainable fuel sources.

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?

Invite Maori representatives to sit alongside Council to give their perspective and advice. It is important that a Maori view point is part of the discussion. As an educator I have always encouraged Maori representation and voice.

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 believe there should be no rate rises unless there is a clear, direct benefit to the people – benefits we can see and measure. That's good for homeowners and it's good for businesses. I support establishing a Council Controlled Trading Organisation, just like the Far North District Council has done. This can help generate income to subsidise our rates, reducing the burden on households.

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?

Climate Change is affecting some traditional crops in Northland. I would support farmers shifting into new, sustainable and climate appropriate crops through free Council consents required to make these shifts.

The export market and big supermarkets mean that local food growers cannot compete on price. I would support a Northland wide campaign of "buy local, sell local". Promoting the benefits to health, the economy and to the environment.

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

No

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

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Simon-Schuster-Bream-Bay-Ward-Candidate-61579079463307/>

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

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Google Forms