

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 *

Shilane Shirkey
.....

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?

Caring for our lands and addressing climate challenges is at the heart of my vision for Bream Bay. I am committed to modernising our wastewater infrastructure to prevent pollution, protect our waterways and Bream Bay beaches, and support sustainable growth. Clean water is foundational to community wellbeing and environmental resilience. As a commuter, improving our public and active transport options between Bream Bay and Whangārei will reduce emissions, ease congestion, and connect communities. I support infrastructure that encourages low-emission commuting. walking, and cycling - the Bream Bay shared path connecting Marsden Cove to Ruakākā.

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

I advocate for upgraded seawalls and storm surge barriers in the Bream Bay ward to protect homes and ecosystems from rising sea levels. These proactive measures reduce the carbon footprint of emergency responses and rebuilds.

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

I advocate for protecting and restoring coastal dunes and estuaries—natural buffers that reduce erosion, absorb storm surges, and support marine life. These areas are vital to Bream Bay's environmental and cultural identity. I am in regular contact with members of the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust and Bream Bay Guardians.

B. Biodiversity.

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

With major changes currently underway to the RMA, I will advocate for strong local protections to ensure biodiversity and ecosystems are not sidelined by national reforms. I will push for clear, enforceable environmental limits in Whangārei District's planning documents - covering freshwater, soil, air and biodiversity. These limits must be locally informed and legally binding to prevent degradation.

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

I do not support the widespread planting of exotic pine plantations purely for Emissions Trading Scheme revenue. My position is grounded in long-term environmental and community wellbeing. I believe native forests offer far greater ecological, cultural, and climate benefits than pine monocultures. Native planting supports biodiversity, improves soil health, and aligns with Māori values of kaitiakitanga. I back hapū and community-led land use planning that reflects local values and aspirations, rather than top-down carbon farming models.

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

I will champion native planting and wetland restoration projects that improve biodiversity, enhance water quality, and act as natural carbon sinks. These initiatives also create green jobs and reconnect communities with the whenua. I will push for funding and support for local environmental groups, Bream Bay Coastal Care, schools, and rangatahi-led initiatives—from riparian planting to pest control. I believe regeneration must be locally driven and intergenerational.

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 am committed to phasing out fossil fuels and electrifying council operations to reduce emissions and save ratepayer money over time. My approach is grounded in practical, community-first solutions that deliver long-term value. I will advocate for transitioning the council's vehicle fleet to electric and hybrid models as transport is one of the largest sources of emissions. Electrifying council vehicles is a tangible way to lead by example, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

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?

As I proudly whakapapa Māori, English and Scottish, I am deeply committed to ensuring Māori voices remain strong in council, regardless of the referendum outcome.

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 understand that councils like Whangārei are being asked to do more with less—delivering critical infrastructure, climate resilience, and community services without adequate central government funding. This leads to unsustainable rate hikes that burden everyday whānau and small businesses. We know Whangārei district is facing unique pressures from rapid population growth to climate-related infrastructure damage. I support rates reform that eases the burden on low income and rural households. I back the proposal of reducing the uniform annual general charge UAGC, and introducing targeted rates that reflect actual service use and environmental impact.

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?

I know my local rivers have e.coli contamination and high levels of sediment that harm ecosystems and pose health risks. We are a highly drought-prone region with vulnerable rural communities often lacking access to reliable water supplies. I advocate for more community scale water solutions such as rainwater tanks and local water feasibility studies, especially for our isolated communities

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/profile.php?id=100083589195385>

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

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