

Questions and Responses from HDC Standing Candidates Sept '19 to the XR Huruui Questions and Pledges;

The questions and pledges were as follows;

1. **Are you going to declare a climate emergency? If not, why not?**
2. **How do you think the Council should lead us to work together urgently to address the climate emergency?**

Pledge 1: I pledge to work to make the climate and ecological emergencies my council's top priority as soon as possible. **Yes / No**

Pledge 2: I pledge to do all I can as an elected official to promote the facts of climate and ecological change and educate the public to the need to redress this emergency by all practical means. **Yes / No**

Pledge 3: I pledge to actively promote my council's adoption of infrastructural and technological solutions to mitigate, adapt to, and overcome as many climate and ecosystem-related problems as practicable, with the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions within our council's jurisdiction (please record your target year).

Yes by / No

Mayoral Standing Candidates

Marie Black

As Mayor i will:-

1. Sign a climate declaration once i have the confidence and trust in councillors and the district to do so. I will support consultation to ascertain an agreed action plan. A signed document with a supported action plan delivers more desirable outcomes.
2. Whilst you have an understanding that some measures are in place, there will obviously be more done over the incoming months and years. This will be part of a consultative process and become part of decision making.

As a Mayoral candidate:-

1. I pledge to work to make climate change a priority.
2. I pledge to promote the effects in regard to climate change.
3. I pledge to promote climate change with mitigation and adaptive measures.

As your Mayor i will do as much as i can to deliver on these targets, it would be dishonest and naive of me to state a timeframe as part of your Extention Rebellion survey will be determined by central government policy.

Marie

Peggy Burrows

Thanks for your email. I have included here my response to an interview last week around the climate emergency for your information. The article makes interesting reading as all three candidates are quoted.

Thanks for contacting me. I look forward to working with you and your group in the future.

Leadership is about being true to yourself and honest with those you represent.

"When asked for her position, third mayoral hopeful Peggy Burrows said she took climate change seriously and would sign the declaration as mayor.

"I won't be here 50 years from now, but my grandchildren and their children will be," she said. "I want them to have a future and the steps we take now will help them to create a positive pathway to that future."

#northcanterbury #hurunuidistrict #visithurunui #hanmersprings #hurunuiyouth #beautifulnewzealand
#localpoliticsnz #YourChoiceHurunui #redefiningleadership #kaupapamāorileadership #authenticleadership

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/north-canterbury/115087335/hurunui-district-councils-climate-change-stance-criticised>

To add to what I have already sent you I would like to share with you my thoughts on the future.

I support those Councils that have declared a Climate Emergency. I believe that we need to address the significant issues that face us in the 21st Century to do with climate change. I include here my policy statement.

1. Honour our commitment under the Paris Agreement to plan for and take action on climate change adaptation.
2. Plan and coordinate a cohesive approach for climate change adaptation, hazard management, resilience, and emergency management.
3. Support building owners in areas of increased risk of further earthquakes to meet the securing requirements under section 124 of the Building Act 2004.
4. Manage and protect water supply, stormwater and wastewater networks to protect the environment for all.
5. Adopt appropriate conservation and sustainable development strategies which recognise biodiversity as integral to our sustainable economy.
6. Reduce the environmental harm of waste and provide economic, social and cultural benefits for the Hurunui.
7. Establish a community-led Mayoral Advisory Group to ensure regular face-to-face communication with Hurunui residents.
8. Adopt bicultural approaches and bilingual understandings of *hautūtanga*/leadership to encourage cultural safety for all stakeholders.
9. Prevent homelessness, prohibit forced evictions, address discrimination, focus on our most vulnerable and ensure that all residents are housed adequately.
10. Promote recognised pathways to prosperity through targeted resource, social and economic development.
11. Address education capacity needs within with the Hurunui District with the provision of coeducational state secondary school in Amberley.
12. Strengthen the Hurunui District transport network to include a robust commuter rail network to Christchurch.
13. Review investment and expenditure categories to address governance spending for council support, support services, roading and drinking and waste water.
14. Develop a cohesive strategy to encourage public private partnerships committed to the development of improved infrastructure.
15. Ensure annual investment maintains the quality of the Districts assets and the service levels required.
16. Seek guidance and expert assurance and advice when setting and administering rates.
17. Provide recreation facilities including, an Aquatic Centre, suitable for the needs of children, families and a growing elderly population.
18. Develop an integrated Tourism growth strategy.
19. Prioritise the reintroduction of specific visitor oriented infrastructure improvement projects cut in 2012/2013.
20. Provide a public transport commuter network to meet the needs of those without access to private transport.
21. Increase funding to expand and integrate the network of Hurunui Heartland Cycle Trails into neighbouring districts.
22. Provide for the development, maintenance, operation and upgrading of utilities while managing their adverse environmental effects.
23. To recognise that the location and siting of utilities has the potential to affect cultural values, including Ngāi Tahu values.
24. Manage reverse sensitivity effects on utilities giving priority to avoiding adverse effects on those utilities.

Peggy

Julia McLean

Thank you for the opportunity to state my position on the issue of Climate Change and local governments role with respect to leadership, mitigation and adaptation measures on behalf of community.

1. Are you going to declare a climate emergency? Yes

2. How do you think the Council should lead us to work together urgently to address the climate emergency?

First of all, by declaring a climate change emergency the Hurunui District Council would be demonstrating that it is taking the climate challenge seriously and it will therefore give higher priority to council policy, decision making and action.

The local government sector recognises it has a significant role to play on behalf of community in mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (adapting to the effects of climate change) to build resilience. It's imperative that we work together at a district, regional and national level to give full effect to our actions. The Hurunui District Council can show leadership on a number of levels. It can begin by embedding a Climate Change Strategy that will inform all other future council strategic plans. This strategy must place priority on climate change initiatives that empower collective action. Working together with Environment Canterbury, neighbouring local councils, iwi, the business industry, the scientific sector and the wider community is for me critical to building resilient communities.

Council must consider in its next Annual Plan and future Long Term Plan, funding for climate change initiatives – similar to Council planning to meet new drinking water standards and Earthquake Prone Building standards. I would propose a forum and a task force is established to enable council to work with community and stakeholders.

Provision for a climate change champion would ideally be made at council.

Finally council could look at carrying out a Certified Emissions Management and Reduction (CEMARS) audit to understand how it can reduce the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions. Leading by example.

Pledge 1:

I pledge to work to make the climate and ecological emergencies my council's top priority as soon as possible.

Yes

Pledge 2:

I pledge to do all I can as an elected official to promote the facts of climate and ecological change and educate the public to the need to redress this emergency by all practical means.

Yes

Pledge 3:

I pledge to actively promote my council's adoption of infrastructural and technological solutions to mitigate, adapt to, and overcome as many climate and ecosystem-related problems as practicable, with the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions within our council's jurisdiction.

Yes – by 2030.

Julia McLean

East Ward Standing Candidates

Stephen Carr

Your queries are not simple and straight forward to answer as a standing candidate who is not privy to the information not made public by council however I will do my best to answer your queries as best I can.

1. Am I going to declare a climate emergency?

This is not a straightforward answer as declaring a climate emergency is all well and good but needs to be backed up by action & leadership to follow through with the declaration. In saying that, not declaring, and still powering ahead with the action & leadership is likely to give the same desired results, however the declaration gives a bit of a "grandstand" to push out from.

I personally believe the emphasis should be placed on the actions of "what are we going to do" more so than "declaring a climate emergency" which opens no new doors, nor give the council any greater powers to drive action.

I will support the Council if consensus is to sign, and will advocate if the majority of our constituents demands this of council, however I would prefer to put more energy into taking steps to solve the problems that our district contributes to climate change, and start planning for what we can do should things worsen (ie sea level rises).

Changes need to be made within council, but also within business and in people's homes. Solving this problem does not solely rely on governments and local bodies. We all need to make changes and we should have all started the day before yesterday!

2. How do I think the council should lead us to work together urgently to address the climate emergency?

Without jumping to rash conclusions, we need to take a step back, and identify where we are making good progress and where we are failing. What/who are our biggest polluters (without doing the naming & shaming as that is going to achieve nothing) and what/who are giving back more to the environment than they are taking. Without all the clear hard facts it's not going to be easy to put the most appropriate plans in place to deal with these issues head on.

It is important to remember we don't have infinite resources so can't do everything all at once but does not mean we can't do everything! We will need to stage our major/expensive changes to ensure we can achieve our desired outcomes.

While I am aware of some of the big polluters globally, I'm not fully aware of all the polluters here within the Hurunui, where we can work for change. Without identifying these, we will not know where to start.

One example that jumps to mind is that we need to work with local business to reduce single use plastics, but on the flip side enable more recycling solutions for the plastics that still need to be recycled that we can't find suitable alternatives for. Our current recycling provider is not able to offer soft plastics recycling so we need to find someone who can!

In relation to your pledge requests, I am not able to answer as per your exact wording, however I am able to commit to the following

1. I will work to make the climate and ecological emergencies one of my councils top priorities as soon as possible. There are other very pressing issues which also need addressing within council, so without the inside knowledge, I cannot commit to making this "the" top priority at this time, but am happy to commit to making it one of the top priorities for Hurunui District Council.
2. I am happy to say yes to Pledge two.
3. I am happy to say yes to Pledge three, but without knowing the full extent of the problem within the Hurunui, and what steps are needed to make better these issues, along with the costs and other resources needed to make these changes I could not at this time commit to a year. By doing so could jeopardize the ability to achieve the desired outcomes we are striving to put in place.

While I appreciate these may not be the exact answers you want to hear, I believe my views are on the track of what you are hoping to achieve. I work to under promise and over deliver in all aspects of what I do. I also would like to emphasise to achieve our goals we will require full buy in from Council and most importantly our community.

I am more than happy to discuss my answers further should you wish
Stephen Carr

Vincent Daly

No response to first email + reminder email.

Fiona Harris

Question 1) I do not rule out declaring a climate change emergency however I would not do so until as a council we have had an informed conversation with our district and set some outcomes to sit alongside such a declaration to enable a measure of our progress..

Question 2) Council can prioritise community communication /consultation on climate change with the aim with the aim to set targets and goals every business, household and individual can take ownership of.

With regard to the pledges requested they would be informed as a result of the answers to these 2 questions.
Fiona Harris

Toka TeTaua

No response to first email + reminder email.

South Ward Standing Candidates

John Bond

First let me acknowledge and thank you for your email. I will answer your email with integrity and honesty as follows:

1. Personally I would declare a climate emergency and will work hard to convince those in Council to support this cause.

2. I'm sure you realise, I do not presently sit at the Council Table and if successful will be challenged with a steep learning curve, however I am already aware, that both the Christchurch City Council and Ecan have already declared a climate emergency with a target of 2030. It would be in our best interest from a small Councils position, to attach ourselves to these two entities, giving more strength to our values and seeking support to ensure our area gets the support that is needed. Some have advised me that we need to go alone, but this is a world wide problem and we need to collectively bring about changes now. Any change will set a precedence and therefore we will be able to clean up areas under duress quicker.

The Hurunui Council should have a team that spends their time coordinating and collecting support throughout the district, with a representative being put forward to the Christchurch City Council and Ecan, as part of their Strategic Teams.

3.
Pledge 1. YES

Pledges 2. YES

Pledge 3. Yes by 2030. I wish to emphasis, that this date is what I would collectively work to in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council and ECAN. However, if this proves to be impossible, then I will support a Hurunui Climate Team, attached to the Council, to fight for change within our district asap.

You have given me a challenge to do more research on this topic as a member of the public, even if I am unsuccessful in becoming your representative, therefore any help you can give me would be very much appreciated.
John Bond

Robbie Bruerton

Climate change and the potentially devastating consequences we could all face if it is ignored, is understandably a “hot topic” for voters throughout New Zealand.

In answering your questions, I must be mindful of the role laid down for a District Councillor, should my candidacy be successful.

“The Councillor’s mandate is to take the interests of the “whole” community into account, to reflect the wishes of most, rather than a sole group or special interest faction”.

We should always listen carefully to all advice and weigh up all pros and cons before making recommendations or decisions.

Consequently, my answers to your two questions are as follows;

1. No. Without further education, discussion and direction from the people of Hurunui, I could not declare a climate emergency on their behalf. I salute you and the “Extinction Rebellion” group for promoting this discussion.
2. For Council, the work must begin with determining the consensus view of the Hurunui, as a priority. All further actions stem from there.

With regards my stance on your requested three pledges;

1. No, or at least not until such time as a clear mandate had been given by Hurunui ratepayers to do so.
2. Yes. We must all gain more knowledge and appreciation around climate change.
3. No, or at least not until such time as a clear mandate had been given by Hurunui ratepayers to do so.

Robbie Bruerton.

Geoff Shier

I was interested to hear the Extinction Rebellion presentation run by Richard and Roy on 17 August. I found it a fair summary of the effects of climate change. Everyone should be aware of the issue as there is such an enormous amount of material available on the internet and in the media. It is hard to avoid.

Central and Local Government NZ have climate change on the agenda. LGNZ has a huge amount of educational material and runs webinars for councillors. Council is aware of climate change and has been factoring its effects into a number of decisions in recent times. There is obviously more work to do.

At this time, Council has not taken the issue of climate change to the Hurunui community for consultation. Consultation will identify what risks exist for the community and what the community wants Council to do. Until this has occurred we are unable to make a decision regarding the appropriate forward action. As a Councillor, I represent the whole rate-paying community. My personal views are not the issue here. As such I do not support the declaration of a climate emergency right now, nor am I in a position to commit to any pledges.

There are several models for managing the effects of climate change being developed by Councils around New Zealand (and around the world of course). Consultation with our community is the next step. Once the issues have been identified we can develop the appropriate model to best solve the issue for all members of our community.
Cr Geoff Shier

Michael Ward

1. No. My reason for this response is that Council has yet to consult with our Community to determine what the stance of our district is and what they want their Council to do. As a Councillor I do my best to represent the district and the views of our ratepayers and not let my own personal views pre-empt this.

2. The first step is to determine the Hurunui ratepayers view on the climate emergency. This requires a Council led Community consultation across the district and from that we can formulate a way forward. Having attended the Amberley presentation I am acutely aware of the issues you raise and have been waiting for Extinction Rebellion to make that presentation to the full Council, thus “kickstarting” the consultation process.

As with all these issues I believe that consensus across our Community is the best way to proceed to ensure there is the strongest possible message to be sent.

Michael Ward

Pauline White

Pauline White - My Take On Climate Change...

Climate change is real and it's here! Rising earth surface and ocean temperatures, loss of ice, sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events and changes in animal migration patterns and distribution of plant and animal species tell us so. Realistically - it's right there in front of us - but not everyone wants to see it for what it is and the danger it poses. It is a global problem, a national problem, a local problem and in fact a personal problem that is already affecting or will impact EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US. Whether you believe it is a natural phenomena of Earth's existence or caused by human impact, makes no difference now - the time is not for blame but for ACTION. We stand on the verge of potential environmental catastrophe. Limited time is available for mitigating action. Failure or delay in action will lead to later crisis management and will affect our environmental, social, economic, and cultural well being. So it's a huge consideration for me as a potential councillor since the provision of infrastructure and services enabling these four well beings now and into the future is of course the actual key function of local government.

Central government should be directing, leading and supporting us at a local government level with guidance, legalities and decisions - regardless, we can all make a difference. As a council we must incorporate climate change perspective into frameworks, plans, projects and in fact all decision making procedures in the Hurunui District with a view to improved sustainability and environmental practice. We must identify and quantify the opportunities and hazards posed by climate change. We must plan, adapt and prepare for the potential future implications of climate change. We must inform and educate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We must support and promote sustainable living and business.

I am committed to seeking and promoting carbon neutral solutions. I am committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions. There is no one solution - but there is much to learn and much to do. It starts with education - of our children, of our business people, of our farmers, of our elderly - of EVERYONE. Support must follow. Remove the blame - add positive support for positive action. Anything that assists in reducing emissions is a step in the right direction.

We cannot eat money. We cannot breathe money. We must act if we are to survive.

A vision for the Hurunui - just a few ideas.....

- continue council funded educational programmes in schools to educate about and encourage sustainable living
- consider further provision of cycleways alongside roads where practicable
- investigate linking a public transport service to the present Pegasus-City Metro service
- explore methods to educate and support farmers to adapt farming systems to reduce methane and nitrous oxide
- encourage and provide opportunity for the planting of natives on private and public land (both urban and rural)
- further educate and encourage growing/sharing of our own food for residents
- explore options to make reducing, reusing and recycling easier and habitual for residents
- consider methods to encourage solar panels/water collection systems in new building projects

Pledge 1:

I pledge to work to make the climate and ecological emergencies my council's top priority as soon as possible.

Yes/No Whilst personally (as indicated by my statement above), I believe climate change to be a high priority, if elected, it is my responsibility to represent the priorities of all residents within the Hurunui District. In the interest of this responsibility, I cannot presume the top priority at a community level without consultation so I decline to answer this pledge based on the word 'top'.

Pledge 2:

I pledge to do all I can as an elected official to promote the facts of climate and ecological change and educate the public to the need to redress this emergency by all practical means.

Yes

Pledge 3:

I pledge to actively promote my council's adoption of infrastructural and technological solutions to mitigate, adapt to, and overcome as many climate and ecosystem-related problems as practicable, with the goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions within our council's jurisdiction.

Yes by 2060

West Ward Standing Candidates

Nicky Anderson

As a current councillor, my role is to represent those who reside in the Hurunui District & to help set Council's direction, as guided by those whom I represent.

I am loathe to commit to declaring a climate change emergency without the support of the communities I represent. I would prefer to work towards helping communities decide how they would like to respond to the threats they face. Each community is in a different situation, threatened by different risks, and so will need to respond/adapt in different ways.

As a country who, on a global scale takes the responsibility of looking after its environment extremely seriously, I am loathe to recommend wholesale changes within this district without the backing of proven science. We must all start with the things we can change ourselves, without the burden of a 'one size fits all' type of legislated approach from those who sit in Wellington.

The funds it will take to adapt, community by community will be enough strain on our ratepayers, without limiting the economic viability of this district. My belief is that we should change the things we **can** influence.

I hope this has answered your questions.

For these reasons I do not believe answering your pledge is useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like further clarification.

Nicky Anderson

Ross Barnes

Thanks for your reminder. I will not be responding to your XR Hurunui questions and pledges. I do have very strong personal views and I have gained the opinions of a lot of people I will represent if elected. I am always available to discuss this subject further with a face to face meeting if elected.

Ross Barnes

Jason Fletcher

1. No. The reason for this is that as a council we have yet to consult with our community to determine what the stance of our district is and what they would like council to do. As a councillor my job is to represent the district and the views of the ratepayers – not to represent my own personal views.
2. The first step is to determine the Hurunui ratepayers view on the climate emergency. This requires a council led community consultation across the district. Only then can we determine a way forward.

Given my stance that I need to represent the community view and have yet to determine that, it seems I'm not really in an informed enough position to answer your other questions on the attached PDF yet. I trust that while I haven't answered your questions I have responded and therefore my stance will be conveyed in your results.

The work that ER is doing to raise awareness of your views and concerns is to be commended. Keep up the good fight!

Cr Jason Fletcher

Lynda Murchison

I hope you read my reply understanding that having studied and worked in the environmental space since 1990 (argghh – long time), I have more information on climate change than most. Therefore, **I am making promises that if elected to Council I can keep** rather than unequivocally saying yes to pledges and declarations to win votes. Why do I say that? Firstly because local government has a very limited role in climate change. It is primarily managed under the Climate Change Response Amendment Act 2008 and is a function of central government. As statutory agencies, local government can only act where they have powers, functions and duties under statute. Secondly, as only one potential Councillor around the table, I cannot commit the Council to do anything at this stage, any more than any other candidate can. **So I am pledging what I will do if elected:**

I pledge that I will raise the issue of climate change around the Council table;

I pledge that I will be raising other environmental issues too, including the need for strategic water supply planning for the future of our entire District;

I pledge that I will encourage Council to embark on a climate change action plan for our District – looking at what Council can do itself and how it can support others in our District, including providing robust, factual information on climate change;

I pledge to support those in our community who are already tackling greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental footprints (including those in our farming sectors who are already low emissions farming & investing hugely in R & D in this space) and encourage others to think about what they can do.

Lynda Murchison

Margaret Walker

Thank you for your email. This matter is of the gravest concern to me. Should I be elected I will be giving the matter my utmost attention with detailed research and community consultation. I look forward to discussing this further in the future

Margaret Walker