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Sent: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 5:21 PM
To: chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz
Cc: contact@matarangibeachpaper.com
Subject: Hahei Community

Kia ora Penne

Please see my response below, thank you so much for the opportunity I really do appreciate it.

- Hahei Reticulated Sewage – What do you propose doing about it? It continually gets delayed.

Water and sewerage issues in the Hahei community have been a concern of residents and ratepayers for a number of years. Water quality in the Wigmore Stream and Tutaritari Streams go back over twenty years.

Council has an obligation to work with the community to find workable and equitable solutions. The cost of Wigmore stream project is still yet unresolved as far as I know, and I could not commit to stating where the costing quantum will lie with respect to development contributions or other funding considerations from council.

What I do suspect is that further delays will make water infrastructure projects in Hahei more expensive.

- Are you happy for further development to occur in Hahei with no reticulated sewage system?

I would take a precautionary approach in that progress must be made with respect to improving sewerage and water supply in Hahei before further development is considered.

- Three Waters - If you don't support the proposed Three Waters reform, how do you propose Council pay for sewage and water in Hahei.

I don't support 3 Waters, Assuming the current Government continues with their plan, what the newly elected Council will eventually be asked to consider may look very different to what is currently on the table.

While I understand many of the concerns people have, I think it's important to remember that water management is likely to become unaffordable for most councils.

It is therefore worthwhile to continue negotiating with Government to try and come up a solution that will work for the people of Thames-Coromandel.

But it is clear from listening to our residents and ratepayers that our communities want to retain some element of control over our district's water assets and I think that is a key issue I would want to see our Council addressing with Government.

- Hahei Drinking Water – Approximately half Hahei properties are provided with non-potable water. Are you concerned? What do you propose to do about it.

It is a concern as Hahei rises in population from 550 to ten times that figure during the summer peak. Daily demand often exceeds consent limits during that period. I would like to see council work with the WRC hard to identify future water supply sources/options and the provision of the requisite resource consents. Would or should further storage options be considered is something local residents and council may also need to work through. Though the URS report in Hahei's water supply noted that to capture 200m2 would cost around \$360,000.

- Hahei Village Development – many Hahei residents are concerned about expansion and development of Hahei. What is your position?

Housing will be a focus in my mayoralty and I will establish Build Coromandel to this effect. However, council will focus on residential housing for permanent residents in our main hub communities, Whangamata, Whitianga and Thames. The right kind of housing in the right places. I want places like Thames in particular, that has a chronic housing shortage to grow and our small beachside communities like Hahei to retain their special village character.

As noted above, Hahei has water infrastructure challenges, especially over the summer peak. Another subdivision in Hahei is not going to solve the housing shortage in places like Thames or Whitianga, and make the current water infrastructure issues in Hahei worse.

- Expansion of te Whanganui a Hei Marine Reserve/SeaChange Initiative – Do you support the expansion of marine protected areas as proposed in the SeaChange Program?

Look I think we need to be smart about what needs to be protected and right now we have Regional Council weighing in on protection of areas, SeaChange is also in that space. My view is that only the Government of the day has the data to ratify further needs to nurture the fishery and I would be supportive of that.

- Climate Change/Coastal Degradation – We are concerned that properties in Hahei will become uninsurable due to climate change. What is your strategy to mitigate the effects of climate change and who pays?

"I believe the people of Thames-Coromandel would like to see a more comprehensive environmental and climate change strategy promoted by our Council. We all know how special this part of the world is. Given our precious sea and landscapes along with our vulnerability to rising sea level we should be leading the way for New Zealand on these issues. The Shoreline Management Plans are an excellent initiative that is working well in terms of engaging our communities in critical conversations about how global warming is set to impact our built environments. I would love to see us use this kind of engagement more broadly to tackle other issues like waste and energy use. I see a lot of fantastic initiatives out there at individual business and community level which showcase a wealth of knowledge that we could be tapping into and using more widely."

Nga mihi mahana

Cherie Staples
TCDC Mayoralty Candidate 2022



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