

Deli Connell Response

Hahei Ratepayer Questions

- a. **Hahei Sewage – What does the candidate propose doing about it. It continually gets delayed.**

\$3.1 million is already allocated in the Long Term Plan to be spent in the years 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26. I will support the work happening expediently. As a Community Board member, I advocated for the work to start promptly but decisions were made at Council. I'm hoping I will have more influence as a Council member to push this along.

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

No further development until relevant infrastructure is in place to support it...I've been saying this for a very long time.

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

Three waters could actually be very beneficial for high-tourism locations like Mercury Bay where our ratepayers are bearing the brunt of paying for infrastructure to serve the population multiplied many times over in the summer. The challenge is getting excellent representation in entity B, which we will be a part of, and securing the funds we need. I'm mindful we could see a change of government next year which would render Three Waters defunct. We need a Council that is agile and reactive and has a Plan B if that is the case. To be honest, I can't rule out a targeted rate for households as was the case in Whitianga when they went on to reticulated wastewater.

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

There's a lot of history behind the various supplies in Hahei and people who have wanted to be fully reticulated by council and those who were/are happy with their status quo.

We need the three independent suppliers to sit at the table with Council and work out a plan together. The residents supplied by Council have filtered and chlorinated water. In order to co-create a similar (or better) system for the whole village it will require residents to get on board. When agreed it will then need to be carried to the LTP process, approved and pushed through into a budget line which could fall anywhere in the next 10 years depending how much weight or urgency is given to it.

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

I'm a firm proponent of retaining the special character of our coastal villages in the wider Mercury Bay and have campaigned on this point before.

Whitianga is where the development must be centred and it certainly has the land to expand out into to.

Villages like Hahei have attracted residents and visitors because of the 'quaint' old style NZ holiday vibe which could easily be ruined.

It's why I choose to spend time at our coastal villages...swim, eat, buy ice-creams etc in preference to Whitianga most of the time.

d. Expansion of Marine Reserve/SeaChange Implementation – Do you support the expansion of marine protected areas as proposed in the SeaChange Program?

Marine Reserves work, no doubt about that...increased sea-life and restoration of ocean beds are obvious. I dived off the Blowhole last summer and was shocked by the kina barren...no fish to see and chewed through kelp everywhere. That was in stark contrast to my daughter having her shiny nail-polish on her toes nibbled by a 'swarm' of snapper off Cathedral Cove...very close to the reserve boundary.

So yes, I support thoughtful expansion but there needs to be fair access to resources for the beach and boat fishers and divers within reasonable distance of their homes and holiday homes, it's crucial that boundaries do not exclude these people who have put money into the community for decades and came here to recreationally fish.

e. 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?

TCDC has recently released its Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) which has identified our District as having one of the highest risk factors for seawater inundation in the country along with having a very long coastline to protect. I was disappointed that the plan did not include the effects of rainfall/storm events and the effects of rainwater/weather event damage to properties and coastline which can and has been significant at times.

Mitigation will have to have Central government support \$\$\$ which will have to be lobbied for. As for insurability (much of Whitianga is built on a flood plain which is noted on LIM reports) I think that's something most of us will have to face unless we want massive rock/block walls along our beaches. Our coastal scientists don't seem to be fans of groynes either. Planting is showing promise...for now. There is no short answer...community voice + science-backed options + central government funding at least in part. What works for Hahei probably won't work for Whitianga and vice versa. Again, local voice must have input into decisions made around the shoreline...regularly, as the situation evolves over coming years. Many of you will have seen the fluid plan and the 'pathways' TCDC can utilise in response to worsening conditions. If not contact Council for a copy.