

ERIC CARTER Speech

Tena Koutou Katoa (greetings to you all)

The mayor has only one vote the same as any councillor so I am not going to stand here and promise anything I cannot deliver.

If you elect me as your mayor i will hit the ground running focusing on unifying the council for the good of the Coromandel.

A mayor's key role is to bring cohesion to the council table to extract the best out of those elected.

Change is coming whether we like it or not after these elections there will be a new Mayor and a minimum of 3 new councillors and in some communities completely new community boards.

We also face changes to the

RMA

Local bodies Act

Three waters

And climate change is constant.

We must make sure that our investments in the future such as subdivision, housing, infrastructure, and new industry are based on sound practices and have true benefits to our communities.

We must listen to our communities be it directly or through our community boards, I will reinstate speaking rights for the chairperson of your community board at council level if I am elected to be the next mayor .

You would have heard recently that we are the third poorest district in New Zealand and that our rates are 15% higher than anywhere else, Something I would like to change, we also have a population that is 20 years older than the national average if this is true seems to me that this is the place New Zealanders want to live, holiday and retire too, It is also the price we pay to live in this beautiful place.

As mayor I'm not going to promise to waste money and time reinventing the wheel but will check the pressure and rebalance where needed, from the information provided to candidates prior to the election campaign the current council has done an excellent job of managing the Thames corridor district under what can only be deemed as difficult times over the last two to three years thanks to our friend Covid.

There are many fantastic projects underway, and our long-term goals look very achievable

I will also be asking councillors and Community Board members to pick up on one of the following four headings and champion those causes they are the social, cultural, physical, and financial wellbeing of our communities and to bring to the council table opportunities to improve these.

We need to look after the businesses that are already here giving them the protection and support, they need.

Any commercial based projects must be financially viable and able to maintain themselves it must not be left to ratepayers to shoulder the cost unless it has a definite positive effect the community.

I will advocate at the highest levels of government to push our cause to make our communities a safe, friendly, and prosperous places to live.

I do not see the Mayoralty as a reward for work well done but a challenge to lead a group of people to be initiative-taking to do the best they can for our communities.

If elected I will serve the role unencumbered of any political, social, or cultural bias.

The mayor also has the following powers:

- to appoint the deputy mayor;
- to establish committees of the council;
- to appoint the chairperson of each council committee;
- to lead the development of the territorial authority's plans (including the long-term plan and the annual plan), policies, and budgets for consideration by the members of the territorial authority.

The mayor is elected by all the electors within the district. As one of the elected members, the mayor shares the same responsibilities as the councillors.

The mayor also has the following roles:

- presiding at council meetings ensuring the orderly conduct of business during meetings;
- advocating on behalf of the community which involves the promotion of the community and representation of its interests. Such advocacy will be most effective where it is carried out with the knowledge and support of the council;
- spokesperson for the council;
- ceremonial head of the council;
- providing leadership and feedback to other elected members on teamwork and chairing of committees; and
- fulfilling the responsibilities of a Justice of the Peace (while the mayor holds office).