

**From:** John Grant <jgrant@vcs.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 September 2022 8:07 PM  
**To:** chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz  
**Subject:** RE: Prospective Councillors - We'd like to hear your thoughts

Hi Penne

Many thanks for your email. Much of my time at the moment is being spent in researching and learning so I will try and answer best I can but I'm not clear on a number of areas of detail at this stage so if I have to pass on one of the questions this will be the reason why. I would like to state up front is that I'm more than happy to meet with anybody to discuss any issues or concerns people have. I'm clear that the Mercury Bay ward covers a large area and while the role of a Councillor is to represent the interests of Thames Coromandel, it is specifically to represent the interests of the ward that elects you. If anybody would like a meeting or discussion I'm more than happy to pop across one afternoon and meet and discuss and understand what is on residents minds.

My number is 021351922 and my email is [john@cfm.co.nz](mailto:john@cfm.co.nz). Please reach out if you want a chat or a one on one meeting.

My answers are in red below.

Regards

John

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**From:** chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz <chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 10 September 2022 10:39 AM  
**To:** chair@haheiratepayers.co.nz  
**Subject:** Prospective Councillors - We'd like to hear your thoughts

Mōrena Councillor Candidates!

We are compiling a mail-out to our ratepayers on candidates' positions on the things important to the Hahei community.

This is so our largely non-resident ratepayers can make informed decisions when voting.

We'd appreciate your thoughts on the following questions please.

1. **Hahei Reticulated Sewage** – What do you propose doing about it? It continually gets delayed. Are you happy for further development to occur in Hahei with no reticulated sewage system?

My understanding is that there is no funding for this in the long term plan? Therefore unless this is changed the likelihood of sewage systems being installed is very unlikely. As a general observation, Hahei and other communities around Mercury Bay are all rightly raising these issues. Even locations like Wharekaho is still on septic tanks even though the council sewage pipes are located just a few hundred metres away. TCDC has low levels of debt and therefore arguments can be made for more infrastructure to be provided but to comment further needs an understanding beyond what I have today.

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

No I do not support 3 waters and here is why. Currently Hahei is looking for improved facilities for drinking water, wastewater and sewage. This situation has happened even with having two current councillors (and soon three). All this has happened with a local team representing your interests and promoting it to the wider council of 9 people who make the decisions on what is to be provided and where. With 3 waters proposed governance that (excuse the pun), will be watered down considerably. TCDC in the 3 Waters world becomes a small part of a much larger area serviced by a non-elected group. How will that work to provide services? Some form of reform may be needed but what is delivered must provide councils like TCDC with a say on priorities for services. There must also be a means of controlling the cost to consumers.

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

I am concerned but has this not been the case since day 1. Did people not buy or build knowing this? I think council need to closely engage with these people around the Coromandel and there are many and work on solutions that can be afforded by all parties.

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

I'm not sure on this. I would need to hear a lot more to be able to help in forming a view.

5. **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?

There are multiple groups looking to create or extend marine reserves. I believe that recreational fishing activities should be preserved unless evidence of the need for specific closings can be provided. I'm very cautious on this subject and believe a lot more public involvement is needed before and proposals are locked in place. Motiti Island closure is an example of what should not happen.

6. **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?

The shoreline management plan has been put forward. I personally believe a lot more work is needed and we need to see more information and data. Being involved in insurance I understand the growing concern and believe this requires more work.

We'd love to hear back from you in writing by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September so we can get your responses out to our community before the voting papers go out.

Ngā Mihi,  
Penne

**Penne Clayton** MSTJ

Chair | Hāhei Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.

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