



Secretary: Catherine Bryan

Postal Address: 4 McConnell Lane, Chartwell, Hamilton 3210

Email: info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz | Web: www.sustainablewaikato.org.nz

Dear Environment Waikato 2010 Candidate,

I would like to introduce to you, Sustainable Waikato. We are a diverse group of citizens, from all walks of life and political persuasions. We wish to advocate for and endorse suitable candidates in the upcoming elections for Environment Waikato and Hamilton City Council who align with the principles and practices of sustainability.

Environment Waikato is the governing body for one of the most productive farming regions of New Zealand, responsible for a significant proportion of national export earnings. This makes our wellbeing and prosperity very dependent on the environment and on the sustainable management of resources going forward.

In addition to robust environmental management, sustainability is about making other choices that have positive long-term implications. This includes the investment in infrastructure, improving safety and wellbeing of residents, supporting the preservation and celebration of heritage and culture, and supporting sustainable economic development. We are very interested in your views on the attached matters that relate to sustainability.

It would be appreciated if you would please offer some feedback on the attached questions and email the response back to info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz not later than **Friday, September 3rd 2010**. Your responses will be considered and will inform part of our candidate assessment process which can be found on our website <http://sustainablewaikato.org.nz/>.

Yours Sincerely

Catherine Bryan

Secretary

Sustainable Waikato

1. What is the topmost statutory responsibility of Environment Waikato as a regional council?

2. What do you think are the main issues for protecting biodiversity within the Region and how can EW best deal with them?

3. What do you think are the main contributors to the loss or degradation of high quality soils in the region and is there anything more that Council can do to minimise this problem?

4. What do you see as the main causes of poor water quality in the region, and what do you think EW needs to do to address them more effectively?

5. What issues affecting the coastal marine area does EW need to be most concerned about in future?

6. Would you support the continuation of bus services outside of peak times (for example, Sunday and public holidays)? Why/why not?

10. Are you in support of the development of a commuter rail link between Hamilton and Auckland?
Can you explain why or why not?

11. What do you think are the top three challenges facing EW in the next ten years?

12. What is your long-term vision for the Waikato Region – what would you like to see by 2050?