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**HCC candidate name:** *Anna Casey-Cox*

*Please type in the space below each question, and use as much space as you require for each answer.*

*Please email your responses back to [info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz](mailto:info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz) not later than **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**.*

**1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability? Please give details and outcomes.**

Through my work at the Waikato Environment Centre I have been involved with both the centre's projects (e.g. E-cycle, Kaivolution) as well as supporting numerous community projects (including RESTORE, Community Fruit Pick Hamilton, Transformations planting project – see more details below). I have also been involved in organising significant climate action events in the community, including the Climate March and the Greatest Climate Show on Earth in 2015. Both of these events raised awareness of climate change in the community.

RESTORE: A community advocacy group working with Council to ensure that good data is collected and feasible options explored for the restoration of Lake Rotoroa. Top scientists, including David Hamilton and Brendan Hicks are involved with the group and a number of conversations and presentations have been made with parks and reserves staff as well as with city councillors. I've been instrumental in pulling this group together and in organising their meetings and ongoing work.

Transformation planting project: I am working alongside Heparā Isaac. Heparā has been a community planting project volunteer for many years. Heparā has a vision for the land adjacent to Kirikiriora Marae and is keen to bring a Kaupapa Māori approach. I have supported Heparā to apply for funds and to prepare to present at the Society for Ecological Restoration Association conference this November.

Community Fruit Pick Hamilton: I have supported Community Fruit Pick with funding applications as well as volunteered at a number of their events.

Kaivolution is a very successful initiative, diverting over 160 tonnes of food from the landfill since October 2014. I have been involved with many Kaivolution project activities (including fundraising, coordination, events and promotion) since the project's inception.

I initiated a community response in support of the HCC Sustainability Advisory Panel's recommendations. From the initial community meeting, a working group was formed and this group is now progressing a number of issues and projects related to sustainability.

I have coordinated the Waikato Community Garden Network for a number of years. I was instrumental in the establishment of the Te Ara Hou village community garden. I am now working

on an initiative to develop a Permaculture Learning Centre on the outskirts of Hamilton. This is a collaboration between the Waikato Environment Centre and the Catholic Church.

In my earlier years, and through my work in public health, I was instrumental in establishing Cycle Action Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty.

My PhD study related to the importance of 'noticing' value contradictions in the process of developing a more ethical, sustainable way of life. My study was successful in achieving an ongoing reorientation of my own life, moving away from dominant cultural values, towards community, social and environmental values.

**2. Please rank, in order of (1) to (7), what you consider to be the most pressing needs for sustainability today, (1) being the most pressing and (7) the least. Please also add one of your own ideas.**

Adapting to the impacts of climate change	Rank: 5
Reducing our contribution to climate change	Rank: 1
Sustainable economic growth	Rank: <b>(I am a proponent of a "steady state economy" (Herman Daly) and "prosperity without growth" (Tim Jackson)</b>
Sustainable transport options	Rank: 2
Sustainable urban design	Rank: 3
Water quality in our rivers and lakes	Rank: 4
<u>Other (enter here):</u>	Rank:

*You may comment on your ranking if you wish:*

I have rated adapting to climate change as low preference because I want to see us do all we can to mitigate climate change in the first instance.

I have chosen not to rank sustainable economic growth. I think we need to shift away from the discourse of growth which locks us in to particular behaviours, expectations and measures. I think we need to embrace new measures of progress including the Genuine Progress Indicator, prosperity and wellbeing.

**3. In your view, what is the most effective thing Council could do to improve wellbeing for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city?**

Enable affordable housing (including rental) options. This could be achieved through housing intensification in the city core that would relieve pressure on housing elsewhere. Council should reduce the development contributions required by social housing providers, enabling them to build and provide housing more readily. Council should spearhead the development of emergency housing in the city. I am impressed by the tiny homes initiative in New South Wales and think we could do something similar here.

The council should extend the eco design advice service and include, as part of this, supportive services that enable people to put into practice the eco-design strategies. A lot of the eco design advice takes time, resources, inclination and skill to implement. Having services that can attend to, for example, lining curtains, bubble wrapping windows, fixing up leaks and cracks, would be

supportive and necessary if eco design advice is going to be implemented. Council should support and advocate for a warrant of fitness for rental accommodation.

I am interested in what council can do in terms of setting up Community Land Trusts. These initiatives can enable ongoing affordable accommodation.

I think that local and central government need to make housing affordability a priority. It is a crisis that needs to be addressed with urgency.

**4. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?**

We need an integrated, low carbon transport system, with a strong active transport component. Over recent years, there has been significant investment in roads and very little investment in active transport. I think that Hamilton City Council has a responsibility to ensure that the city's bus service is well functioning, efficient and a preferred transportation option.

Through my work at Poverty Action Waikato, I know the challenges that people on low incomes face in trying to get around town and to various appointments, including at Work and Income, on time. During off peak hours, I would like to see reduced bus fare options for people with Community Services Cards. We provide reduced bus fares for our older people and I think we should provide this for people on low incomes. This would relieve considerable stress and strain in our more vulnerable communities.

I support a commuter train to Auckland. We need to make this both affordable and efficient. Feedback from the community suggests that the previous rail service was not reliable or efficient.

**5. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?**

I think council should do the following:

- Extend the smart water education programme.
- Provide access to water meters as an option but not a requirement.
- Encourage the installation of rainwater tanks.
- Encourage grey water recycling and make this a requirement for all new developments.
- Extend the gully and river planting programmes

**6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this? If no, please explain.**

Yes. I think we need a comprehensive plan for biodiversity in the city, with potentially species specific plans for our endangered species. This plan needs to link to the biodiversity plan for the region.

Council needs to extend the support given to Waiwhakareke and other community planting projects. These projects rely on considerable numbers of volunteers. Retaining the pool of volunteers takes significant time and energy. More momentum and understanding needs to be built in the community so that restoration work has a broad base of support.

**7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste?**

I think Council should explore the implementation of the following:

- Composting services. Apartments and town homes do not have places to put their compost and/or composted material. I would like to see an initiative like KaiCycle happening in Hamilton. This would reduce our waste, provide opportunities for our young people and support active transport.
- Recycling plastics 1-7. Raglan does this and we can to. However, I think we need to instigate a ban on plastic bags. Recycling is not a panacea. We need to reduce the use of plastic.
- Container Deposit Systems (CDS). In New Zealand we recycle an estimated 30% of the beverage containers generated. It is estimated that a CDS would allow for at least 80% or more to be recycled. This has the potential to save councils millions of dollars and create numerous new job opportunities throughout New Zealand.
- The extension of electronic waste recycling collection stations.

**8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?**

I support Māori representation Council and would support the creation of Māori seats.

Hamilton City Council needs to work collaboratively with Waikato Tainui and Te Runanga O Kirikiriroa to ensure that developments are supportive of Māori aspirations.

Hamilton City Council needs to work with the Migrant Resource Centre, SHAMA, the Red Cross and others to facilitate regular intercultural community events and gatherings across the city.

I support the establishment of a Pacifica Resource Centre in Hamilton.

**9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? If no, why not and if yes what ideas do you have to support this?**

Yes. However, many sustainable choices are constricted by the policy environment. It is often cheaper to throw something away than to get it fixed, for example. It is easier and cheaper to take a car than to catch a bus. The Council can support people to make more sustainable choices by developing policies that incentivise sustainable behaviours.

Community groups are often better placed to deliver education to the community. The council can support sustainability educational initiatives through its community grants programme.

**10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?**

Yes, although I'm concerned with standalone policies. I think we need a more comprehensive approach to sustainability and the mitigation of climate change. The Council needs to develop a overall framework for sustainability with measurable targets related to particular areas, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. I fully endorse the recommendations of the HCC Sustainability Advisory Panel and would like to see these recommendations implemented.

**11. Suppose that your Council is considering a proposal for economic development. The development would increase regional GDP and create a significant number of jobs. It would also add significant pollution to waterways and further degrade their ecosystems. Would you support the proposal or not? What is your reasoning?**

No. Supporting such developments effectively robs future generations of their potential and possibility. Unsustainable developments leave future generations with a degraded ecosystem and poor health and environmental consequences. We need to create jobs that sustain life on Earth and that build ecosystem resilience. We can create jobs in the renewable energy sector, waste minimisation, and repair services. We need to build businesses on the values of environmental stewardship. We need to consider the value of part-time paid work and work sharing so that all people have time to invest in sustainable actions and so that more people have access to paid work.