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HCC candidate name:: Dave Macpherson (West Ward & DHB)

1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability?

Please give details and outcomes. River, gully & Waiwhakareke planting programmes – all on an informal basis. A member of the Waikato Regional Public Transport Committee for several years – closely involved in establishing Hamilton's current PT system, including Orbiter bus service – highest rate of PT usage outside Wgtn/Chch/Akl. Chair of Council's Transport Committee 200410, involved in promoting pedestrian & cycling facilities in the city, and the first citywide slow speed environment around schools in NZ.

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: 4 Sustainable economic growth Rank: 6 Sustainable transport options Rank: 2

Sustainable urban design Rank: 3

Water quality in our rivers and lakes Rank: 1

You may comment on your ranking if you wish: All are important, but I prefer to focus on those that Council can directly influence in a relatively short time scale. Some are also linked directly e.g. Sustainable Urban design will involve rainwater & greywater collection tanks & systems in new builds and upgraded existing builds and will reduce our contribution to climate change, and potentially improve water quality.

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?

A large scale, far more affordable public transport system coupled with a good, ongoing education system that reduces private vehicle usage, reduces family expenses and increases mobility for lower income residents.

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

As well as 3/. Above, urgently expanding our sparse walking and cycling network, both on and off road; and expanding our slow speed zones so all residential areas (non arterial roads) have 40kph limits, and commercial areas 30 kph limits which will enable far safer pedestrian and mixed usage.

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

A permanent water conservation public education campaign (these have worked well in times of drought but need to be continual); the fitting and retrofitting of subsidized rainwater and greywater tank and systems in private homes and commercial premises; use of land based wastewater treatment systems (as opposed to chemical based). A coercive water metering system will not be a good solution for this city.

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 – funds are collected from Hamilton ratepayers by the Regional Council and should be much more widely used to manage plantings that encourage biodiversity in our parks and gully systems. The Council should set up a group of elected members, staff & community reps to work on this.

7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City's waste? Actively promote collection of all grades of plastic as part of our recycling kerbside pick up; continue the glass and paper recycling, pick up organic kitchen waste and adopt treatment plans for this such as worm farming – heavily promote this service, including a large, ongoing education campaign to encourage home sorting of refuse so more can be recycled. I'm a member of the Council's current Waste Management Strategy group, which will be proposing these services to the incoming Council.

8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties? Promote & financially support activities promoting cultural & ethnic diversity; highlight these in our publications and encourage the general public to attend. In a small way I organise the annual Ethnic Volleyball tournament, which has over 400 people from about 15 different ethnicities regularly attending.

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, HCC should be providing enhanced 'best practice' design services for architects, builders and home, office, factory & infrastructure owners that has lower energy usage outcomes – a sort of EECA for Hamilton – and offering these services to the wider Waikato.

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, most of these are mentioned above – to which I'd also add air quality, and would be looking for Council (dragging the Regional Council along with it) to have a local vehicle emissions standard which could be monitored and governed locally. A few years ago, the Council proposed that the city bus fleets should be CNG fleets – to help in this area, although the Regional Council refused to set this up.

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?

Council should first run a complete study on the environmental damage that would be caused and work with the providers to see if that damage can be eliminated, and if the developer is prepared to pay for that – if not, then I would oppose it.

Regards

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