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HCC candidate name: Jason Howarth

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

I am part of the blue greens which is an environmental lobby group with the National party

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: 7

Reducing our contribution to climate change Rank: 5

Sustainable economic growth Rank: 3

Sustainable transport options Rank: 1

Sustainable urban design Rank: 6

Water quality in our rivers and lakes Rank: 2

Waste reduction and improved recycling Rank: 4

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?

Ensure they are not burdened by extra cost, keep rates and council fees under control so no increase in household expenditure.

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

Improved river usage for water taxis/ferry, to move people without the requirement of more roads or buses. Ensuring that the roading infrastructure is safe and fit for purpose and the introduction of a commuter train.

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

Improved education on water usage and saving, repair infrastructure, high enforcement of water restrictions in drought.

6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city?

Yes, combined with the regional council. Continue gully restoration work, improve maintenance of reserves, look at setting a bold goal of pest and predator free areas within the city.

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

Improved recycling for plastics and cardboard. Provide more information on composting personally or access to composting. More recycling bins around the city including urban areas and parks

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

Continue to recognise and support the many organizations and cultural groups within the city

9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices?

Yes.. Encourage and incentivise businesses to engage with c emars and carbon zero programs and work with other carbon zero or cemars businesses. Continue enviro-schools support and provide education and where appropriate resources to households to engage with waste reducing as well resource saving activities

10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts?

Yes, ensuring we have the infrastructure to cope with more intense drought and higher rainfall.

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?

I would work with the organization to see how the issue of pollution could be mitigated through improved waste treatment or removal. Then critically balancing the business case offsetting the cost of mitigating the issue vs the economic benefit. Short answer no I wouldn't support a proposal that damage an ecosystem.