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## HCC candidate name: Mark Bunting

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

I sat on the Wel Energy Trust for 13 years, four of which were on the Energy Efficiency subcommittee . We retrofitted thousands of Waikato homes, sponsored heat pump subsidies, promoted solar and photovoltaic trials and sponsored the early energy efficient lightbulb schemes. I was also the casting vote in the decision to spend 900 thousand dollars in a one off grant to build the Horotiu Pukete cycleway.

### **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. (I'm assuming you're wanting these ranked in priority?)**

Adapting to the impacts of climate change 6

Reducing our contribution to climate change 5

Sustainable economic growth 1

Sustainable transport options 2

Sustainable urban design 3

Water quality in our rivers and lakes 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?**

Improving the attitude of those better off towards them. Poverty, mental illness, poor health, truancy, domestic violence are problems we all need to address together, rather than it being 'council's job'. Having said that, the biggest impediment to these issues and also the biggest opportunity is the attitude of Hamiltonians to those less fortunate. Quite simply, as a community we need to take responsibility for our neighbours. As a council we are 13 people. As a community we are massive.



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

We are a sprawling car city. This is due to rapid economic growth and us having been the epicentre of the dairy boom. That has slowed down for the moment, so we have a brief window of time to put the horse back in front of the cart and plan the city we want to be 50 years away. We have loads of great cycleways but they need to join up! Our public transport system is under utilised and confusing to the average punter. And yes, I support a passenger rail link to Auckland but there is no business case for fast rail at this point.

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

I oppose water meters in private residences. Our conservation rate in Hamilton has been manageable, but not perfect. Yet I do support the concept of a Council Controlled Authority. After watching the near death disaster in Hawkes Bay due to poor water management by their local authorities, we cannot scrimp on a top class, well managed reticulated water supply. Would you rather have water specialists running water or elected representatives? The Cranleigh Report on which the CCO is based clearly points out that there is no business case for water meters, and if one did present itself it needs to be presented to council for ratification so I'm comfortable with that.

**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, but I have to plead 'I don't know how' on this one! I will actively promote community gardens in every suburb however. It blows me away that we are spending millions of dollars on a botanic gardens for tourists to enjoy and nothing on gardening which could feed and upskill so many lower socioeconomic groups and bring communities together. Don't start me on this one I'll never stop!

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

Sorry I have to research this one better before I have a crack at it.

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

Again, I will actively promote neighbourly responsibility. Street parties, best neighbour awards, 'Hambassadors' (you have to check out my Facebook page for that one).



**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?**

Businesses yes (subsidies, awards and rates relief)

Schools no, they're doing fine.

Families yes, by upgrading the recycling system (pizza boxes and green waste)

Individuals yes, through an extensive cycle network and council owned free rental bikes

**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?**

This needs to come from central government, I see the local authorities in an enforcement role for central policy in this area

**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.