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

Sustainability was a defining feature of my childhood. As a kid growing up in Huntly my parents grew their own vegetables, and we raised pigs, goats and sheep. Our back section –which was around an acre –was home to glow worms. Dad grew native trees and plants including kanuka and rimu to attract waxeyes, tui and kereru, and as children, we joined in.

Huntly Primary School was ahead of its time with regards to the environment, in the 70s and 80s. I have memories of working on creating the walkway around lake Hakanoa, which incorporated the wetlands.

I've tried to pass my lessons and skills onto my children, even though they live in a different world now. When I get the opportunity, I like to support causes that benefit sustainability, for example, I've been tree planting at Waiwhakareke several times since I've lived in Hamilton.

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: 6
Reducing our contribution to climate change	Rank: 3
Sustainable economic growth	Rank: 1
Sustainable transport options	Rank: 2
Sustainable urban design	Rank: 5
Water quality in our rivers and lakes	Rank: 4

You may comment on your ranking if you wish: These are all important, it's not a trade off between one or another, smart solutions will hit multiple objectives.

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

There are a lot of groups doing good work for those who are in need in our city. The People's Project, the Waikato Environment Centre and Kaivoluntion are just to name a few that I've personally met with. The people who run these organisations give untold time and energy to work in the best interests of those in need.

It is important that these groups are supported by the Council, both at the governance level and the operations level. Council needs to care about these people and have a hands-on approach, that asks: how can we help?

As Mayor, I intend to set an example by paying attention to the needs of these groups, and take a collaborative, inter-agency approach to improving wellbeing. This means anything from

connecting the groups to those with resources –including other parts of the Council, to advocating on behalf of Hamiltonians in need at a central government level.

At the operations level, it is about empowering the Community Development team to do their jobs well, which means meaningful engagement and the right data around issues like homelessness, so we can follow international best practice in addressing these issues, rather than relying on token or guesswork politics to simply say we've done something.

Furthermore, given the expected influx of Aucklanders to Hamilton, that will put pressure on the good structures that we have set up to cater for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city. So one of the toughest issues I will have to deal with is how to ensure that Hamiltonians are not disadvantaged as a result.

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

Transport is a major priority for a growing city. This priority is underpinned by the fact that Hamilton is at the centre of the Golden Triangle between the ports of Auckland and Tauranga, making us a strategic hub for the upper North Island.

Added to that is the growth in daily commuters in and out of Hamilton, and the growth of people travelling within the city limits.

If the way we grow and the infrastructure around that growth is not managed, we will face the same problems that Auckland is facing, with regards to congestion and lost productivity.

We don't want to be the kind of place where people are stuck within their own city in traffic for 90 minutes a day, nor do we want to be the kind of city that is ok with increasing carbon emissions.

What this means is that we have to look at the way our roading, public spaces and access are laid out, how we bring in rail links, who we work with to bring in better public transport, and how we can encourage cycling and walkability.

Last week, I announced my infrastructure policy, which is a response to the fact that Council abolished governance for infrastructure at the start of the present term. Getting the governance for infrastructure right is important if we want to avoid issues like congestion and carbon emissions.

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

It is important that we get the basics right. 20% of water in Hamilton is lost through leaks, and my infrastructure policy is about addressing that without costing the ratepayer, given we already pay for water in this city.

The second point here is around education, and social and personal responsibility for water management. Behavioural change around the way we as a community use water is a more sustainable approach than price hike disincentives.

Finally, it is important to have a regional approach to water management in order to be efficient, and it is important to have good governance, transparency and accountability around that approach.

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.

Absolutely. We need to enable partnerships with the university and other stakeholders who are working in this space. You can see the benefits of this approach with things such as the Halo

project, which brought together the public and private sectors for a common goal. Gully restoration is another area that needs to be supported, as well as expediting permits for smart, green buildings that help to promote biodiversity.

Overall, we need to be attracting and listening to experts who can direct the council on managing biodiversity, while the city continues to grow.

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

Overall, we need to improve our recycling options and services. There's approximately 24,000 tonnes of waste sent to the landfill - that's about 570 large trucks taking our rubbish to the landfill which you pay for in your rates. It makes economic as well as environmental sense to recycle and reduce where we can. I like the council's Fight the Landfill campaign and am supportive of it. I'm also supportive of the council's waste minimisation fund - and believe it's something we should promote to both business and Hamiltonians.

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

The exciting thing about a growing population is the growing cultural diversity that will accompany it. My hope is that the makeup of the incoming council and future ones are representative of the city's diversity. One way to get a more diverse council is to encourage more people to vote.

One of my four priorities is 'a city for all Hamiltonians', as I believe we need to be a welcoming, inclusive, safe city that celebrates diversity through meaningful engagement and creating a supportive environment. Groups such as Shama, the Waikato Interfaith Council and others are already doing a good job. It's up to the council to engage with these groups to ask how we can help.

I am also a strong believer in the Mayor and councillors attending events of significance for our multicultural communities. Too few councillors in the present council have made the effort to strengthen cross-cultural ties.

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?

Absolutely. Getting people involved in fighting the leaks, minimising waste and promoting a city that will attract nature not only makes economic sense it also creates a great city we all want to live in. And a big part of that is education and how we take a partnership approach to our community.

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

Absolutely. Council needs to ensure that environmental impacts are considered in the process of decision-making. Some straightforward ways are promoting CBD living to reduce sprawl and the need to travel into town by car.

Council also has the ability under the Local Government Act to mitigate against natural hazards. By bringing a sustainable and smart approach to this overall planning will see council move out of silo thinking and into better thinking regarding our climate responsibility.

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?

I'm not a short term thinker about this which is why it takes leadership to promote a smart city. We we are a smart city with an educated workforce. The future is about IT and people working together and those are the types of industries I'll be looking to actively attract. There is a growing tendency for those types of industries to be more environmentally and socially concerned. Significant pollution via new development should be mitigated by the provisions of the RMA, which could be further reduced by early negotiation with the key parties to design in good practice, such as sustainable drainage policies or setbacks.