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## **Waikato DC mayoral candidate name: Mayor Allan Sanson**

*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.**

Yes. I am a founding member of the Hakarimata Restoration Trust where we developed a Management Plan for the Hakarimata for the future. Involved in the development of walkways, pest management and rejuvenation of native flora and fauna.

**2. What do you think are the top three challenges facing the Waikato district that WDC could influence over the next five to ten years?**

Firstly is managing growth, then facilitating growth in a sustainable manner and then providing for that growth. We are currently investigating options around point discharge for wastewater.

**3. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Waikato and what benefits do you believe changes will bring?**

Better public transport. I am currently working with Auckland Transport to extend commuter rail into the north Waikato, and then further south when that is established. Also to continue the work we are doing in providing and promoting walkways and cycleways.

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

Council has implemented water meters on a district wide approach. There is already over 50% of our water consumption on water meters. If our residents don't know what their usage is, they have no means of understanding how to conserve.

**5. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise Waikato's waste?**

Council takes Waste Minimisation seriously, and understands the need to reduce what is going into the landfill. Some years ago we implemented both urban and rural recycling, and have run a campaign to inform people what can be recycled. We have also moved to a pay by bag system to make people aware of the waste they are producing, and to recycle more as part of our Waste Minimisation Programme.

**6. What role should Council have in encouraging sustainable economic development?**

Waikato District Council is in the midst of an economic boom and it is our responsibility to make sure that economic development is done in a sustainable manner under our Economic strategy. Our decision making should take into account not only the economic and social outcomes, but also the environmental and cultural outcomes.

**7. What are the most effective things Council could do to improve the wellbeing of Waikato residents, in particular for those of lower socioeconomic status and/or for supporting youth engagement in Waikato?**

Council operates a rates rebate programme for those people who have difficulty for paying for council rates and services. We have also implemented a Youth Engagement Policy and employed a fulltime youth co-ordinator to work with youth throughout the district. I have personally headed this work for the council.

**8. Waikato has many different ethnic groups from many different countries and a significant Maori cultural influence. How can Waikato celebrate this cultural diversity while helping the community to strengthen cross-cultural ties?**

In the past, I have supported funding for a celebration on Waitangi Day held annually at The Point, Ngaruawahia. This is a great occasion where many cultures from around the world celebrate together. I also have an extremely strong relationship both personally and through Council with Kingi Tuhetia and the people of Tainui. I have also supported many other celebrations from ethnic groups here in the Waikato.

**9. What can Council do to support businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices?**

Council's role in the community with sustainability is around education and consultation. This is something that we are always striving to improve.

**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?**

Since my time in Council (15 years) Council has been considering the impacts of climate change through particular sections of our District Plan, where climate change has restricted development in low lying coastal areas, but also in relation to the low lying areas of the Waikato River.

**11. Do you see the Council having a supporting role in managing natural biodiversity in Waikato? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this?**

With my background in farming, biodiversity is very important to me. As Mayor this is a question that comes up to Council from time to time and we are always aware of our natural environment and where we can restore our environment back to its special natural character. We are currently reviewing our Policy section of the District Plan around biodiversity.

**Thank you for your time.**