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WRC candidate name: Jahne-Lee Deacon

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

During my time at W.D.C I came up with the idea of utilising the Hakarimata ranges and making a walkway. I also had the vision of a walkway which ran along the river. Since leaving the W.D.C the vision I had has been fulfilled and the community have access to a walkway which runs along the Waipa River and a walkway which goes through the Hakarimata range.

- 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?**

- The rating system needs to be reviewed so everyone can afford to own their own homes.*
- The towns within the Waikato District should be vibrant and full of life.*
- The ability for the aging population to stay in their own home has become increasingly harder due to rising cost of rates and added cost which council has imposed.*

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

Maximise the use of railway which should reduce the cost of roading.

Look to the Waikato River for future transport, example- Use of barges?

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

Council should implement monitoring of farmlands and the effluent which is leaked back in to the river way from being over stocked.

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

Recycling services should be monitored to ensure they are recycling as much waste as possible.

- 6. What role should council have in encouraging economic development?**

Council should ensure there is adequate land for businesses. Waikato District Council should work with the developers and assist the businesses which would encourage them into the Waikato District.

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

The Council could reconsider the new charges for refuse disposal. They also need to justify to rate payers that the introduction of water meters will not result in excessive charges to rate payers as this has happened in other areas. Council needs to revisit pensioner housing for the aging community. The flow on effect for providing pensioner housing will see more family homes becoming available for young families. Council should be supporting apprenticeships for youth.

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?

Make culture days a sharing day so all ethnicities can come and share their culture with the rest of the community. An example is the ASB Polyfest which is held in Auckland. Make a cultural dance day, cultural kai day etc.

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

Services. Improve roading and footpaths so the community can utilise it. Improve walkways around the river.

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

No I believe this is a Government Issue and the Waikato District council have a supporting role.

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?

Yes, I believe council do have a supporting role for managing the natural biodiversity. A policy where farmland cannot be over stocked reducing waste which flows into the river.

Having the use of a gondola (set up by a private enterprise) up the Hakarimata ranges to allow the natural growth of fauna and flora.