



Email: info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz

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WRC candidate name: *Mike Downard*

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 not later than **Monday, September 5th 2016**.*

1. **What do you think are the top three challenges facing the Waikato region that WRC could influence over the next five to ten years?**

Water quality, Nitrogen & erosion.

Dairy intensification is an issue. There has been a loss of timber forest in favour of dairy conversions, resulting in job losses as there are more people required for forestry than dairy farms.

2. **Do you believe the Regional Council has a role in economic development and in what ways?**

Regional council may be focussing more on economic issues than they should be.

3. **What do you consider to be the main biodiversity and biosecurity issues within the Waikato region, and how can WRC best address them?**

4. **What are the major challenges to improving freshwater quality in the Waikato region, and, as a councillor, what would be your priorities?**

Nitrogen & intensive dairy.

5. **What are the priority coastal marine issues in the Waikato region, and what do you think WRC needs to do to address them more effectively?**

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

No thoughts on climate change but believes WRC should mitigate.

7. **What do you see as the priorities for transport in the Waikato region over the next five to ten years, and how could WRC bring about transportation improvements?**

Trucking damage to roads

Sustainable Waikato questionnaire to Waikato Regional Council candidates 2016

- 8. How do you think WRC can best assist community groups and individuals who undertake environmental initiatives?**

Yes. Focus on enabling community groups.

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

- 10. What have been your most significant contributions to enhancing environmental, social, cultural and/or economic wellbeing in the Waikato region?**

Taupo district councillor for 6yrs, 3yrs as deputy mayor. 15 years with search & rescue. 7 years St Johns volunteer. Passionate about children.