

My Values

Freedom of speech and expression

No one has a monopoly on good ideas, nor should anyone be discouraged from participating in the community because of the views that they hold. As mayor, I will always encourage the expression of a variety of perspectives, regardless of my personal position on an issue. This also means ensuring that councillors are free to express their personal views in the public sphere.

Promoting constructive disagreement

As mayor, I will promote constructive disagreement as a strength, not a weakness. When people disagree it often leads to better decision-making because ideas are challenged, interrogated and subjected to greater levels of scrutiny. Disagreement enables us to learn and grow, by testing the strength of our ideas against the ideas of others.

Conviction and decisiveness

If elected, I will be a mayor who leads with conviction. I believe that ratepayers and residents should be left with no confusion about the values and policies of their elected representatives. Throughout my time on council I have always expressed my views with passion and conviction, acknowledging that at times people will strongly disagree. If elected, I will not shy away from leading the challenging conversations and making my views clear on these issues.

Respectful engagement

All conversations, no matter how difficult should be conducted respectfully. I believe in listening to understand, not just to respond, and will promote a culture at council that is respectful, cohesive, and where challenging conversations take place while always upholding the mana of the people involved.

Integrity in governance

Two of the most important responsibilities of a mayor is to employ and monitor the performance of the chief executive, and to lead the development of council's annual and long-term budgets. The last few years have been really tough on households, with inflation pushing up the costs of goods and services, groceries, fuel, energy costs and so on. Council faces the same challenges and has to budget to meet the true costs of delivering council services like roading, footpaths, water infrastructure, and community facilities like libraries, swimming pools, and museums.

If elected mayor, I will ensure that our budgets reflect the true costs of operating council services. This means that sensible rates increases are required to make sure that footpaths and potholes get fixed, that parks and reserves are properly maintained and that our insurance

premiums can be paid. Sensible rates increases also mean that we can pay down debt, ensure that our environment is protected by properly investing in water infrastructure, and so that we can respond to the changing needs of the district by providing new services for the future.

As mayor, my full focus will be on leading the development of annual and long-term budgets. After three terms on council, I know how important strong leadership is in ensuring that this process is well-considered, and that the community is properly included in the conversation. If elected, this will be a top priority.

Equity and fairness

As mayor, I will apply an equity-lens to decision-making. Council resources are finite which means they need to be allocated on the basis of need and on the basis of what will deliver the best outcome for Whanganui residents. I am committed to ensuring that council resources are distributed in a manner where the entire district, in all its diversity derives benefit.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, multiculturalism, and diversity

Whanganui is a district built on a bicultural foundation, with a strong multicultural sector and a diverse population. If elected mayor, I commit to honouring our obligations as a partner to Te Tiriti and working with iwi/hapū to preserve the culture and tikanga that gives Whanganui its richness. I will celebrate and promote our cultural and ethnic diversity as a source of unity and pride.

Participation and openness

If elected mayor I will lead a council that encourages democratic participation in decision-making processes. This means providing forums for feedback that are accessible and appropriate for a diverse range of residents and ratepayers. I will continue my practice of being open on social media about current and future council decisions and providing opportunities for engagement and feedback.
