

3 October 2022

Max Shierlaw
fyi-request-20542-fd4ab464@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Max

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 13 September 2022 for:

“...all the questions submitted by members of the public for the Mayoral debate held on 12 September 2022. Note I do not require details of who submitted the questions, only the questions. Please also forward me all communication with the moderator which relates to these questions.”

The information you have requested is enclosed. There were several opportunities for questions to be submitted, as follows:

1. A Jotform was available on the Hutt City Council website so the public could submit questions for the Mayoral Candidate debate. Questions were accepted from 5pm on 24 August 2022 until 5pm on 12 September 2022. All questions were documented into a spreadsheet and collated into broad categories to help determine themes for the debate as well as giving the moderator specific questions to pose to candidates. These questions are attached as the *Mayoral Candidate Debate Questions*. The *Mayoral Candidate Debate Questions* were initially shared with the moderator via a Google Doc on Wednesday 7 September 2022, so it was able to be updated live as more questions were submitted over the rest of the week. Communications following this are in the attached document: *Communications with Moderator*.
2. Further questions received between 10 September 2022 and 12 September 2022 were shared in person with the moderator at the event, to inform final preparations. Refer to the attached document: *Questions 10-12 September 2022*.
3. At the Candidate Korero event, a submission box was set up at the entry so members of the public could add questions for the debate. These questions were collated and given to the moderator on arrival to the event, as additional material. Refer to the attached document: *Debate Questions from event submission box (12 September 2022)*.

The contact details of the moderator have been redacted from these documents under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA, to protect privacy of the individual.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Encl:

Communications with Moderator

Debate Questions from event submission box (12 September 2022)

Questions 10-12 September 2022

Mayoral Candidate Debate Questions

Communications with moderator

From: Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 10:17 am

To: Jehan Casinader <[REDACTED] s7(2)(a)>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Questions

Sure thing!

Ngā mihi

From: Jehan Casinader <[REDACTED] s7(2)(a)>

Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 10:17 am

To: Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Questions

Thanks Shelley, could you please print these and any additional questions that come in today and bring them along? Thanks, Jehan

On Mon, 12 Sep 2022 at 10:15 AM, Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Morēna Jehan,

Hope you had a great weekend and enjoyed some of that sunshine!

We've had a few more questions come through:

Are you aware of the requirement to reduce vehicle km's travelled by 20% over the next decade to achieve climate change targets, and how will you achieve this challenging requirement?

What about rewilding the regional farm parks for the sake of the environment and climate change!

Significant areas of Lower Hutt are at risk from increasing climate related events, yet plan change 56 is proposing significant increased density in these areas. Do you support the increased density and if so what will you do to ensure these areas are protected in the future from increasing climate related events (such as storm surge, sea level rise and flooding)?

Do you support the 3 Waters proposal?

If so, how will you ensure that the ratepayers of the relevant areas (who are paying for the services) are able to hold the 3 water entity (including the co-governance entity) to account for their decisions or failures ?

Will you advocate for real, but simple and meaningful accountability mechanisms such as regular KPI reporting with a portion of the CEO and Board's remuneration being at risk if there are material failures or problems?

Serious and fundamental failures may require "heads to roll". Are you prepared to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to allow this to happen?

We are leaving the form open all day so if there are any more I'll share them with you tonight.

Cheers,

Ngā mihi

Shelley Bascand
Engagement Advisor

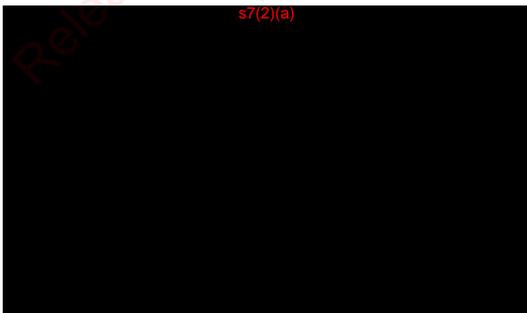
Hutt City Council, [30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt](#) 5040
P: M: 027 666 6220 W: www.huttcity.govt.nz

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From: Jehan Casinader <s7(2)(a)>
Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 4:40 pm
To: Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Questions

Thanks Shelley! Have a good weekend.

Jehan Casinader



On Fri, 9 Sept 2022 at 16:36, Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Jehan,

Only two extra submissions today:

Are candidates prepared to reveal any political party they represent overtly or covertly? Labour candidates so do.

Given the cost of living, climate change adaptation, infrastructure investment needs, and an ageing population, how do we address those pressures in our rating policies and increases over the next 5-10 years? (please refer to evidence in your answers)

Will send another update first thing Monday. Have a great weekend.

Ngā mihi

Shelley Bascand
Engagement Advisor

Hutt City Council, [30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt](#) 5040

P: M: 027 666 6220 W: www.huttcity.govt.nz

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From: Shelley Bascand
Sent: Friday, 9 September 2022 8:58 am
To: Jehan Casinader <[\[REDACTED\]](#)>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Questions

Morēna Jehan,

No worries, will get an update to you later today.

Have a good one...enjoy that sunshine!

Shells

From: Jehan Casinader [REDACTED] s7(2)(a) >
Sent: Thursday, 8 September 2022 5:05 pm
To: Shelley Bascand <Shelley.Bascand@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Questions

Hi Shelley, don't worry about putting the questions into a Word doc I have copied them from Excel - but if there are any further questions that come in between now and Monday, please just email them to me.

Thanks!

J.

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[REDACTED] s7(2)(a)

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Debate questions from Event submissions box - 12 September 2022

COVID-19

- Considering Upper Hutt Council didn't totally ban unvaccinated people from their facilities such as library and swimming pool – what are your thoughts about the fact the only Lower Hutt Council property open to the unvaccinated was an office to pay their rates?

Three Waters

- Where do you stand on 3 waters and why?
- Question to Campbell Barry: How can you support 3 waters when the majority of Hutt rate payers are against it.
- Why is Council supporting three waters when the referendum in Lower Hutt was largely not supporting it?

Infrastructure/Transport

- RE: Infrastructure & Rates Increase, what other alternatives are available like LGNZ loans, Local Control Govt Partnerships to minimise rates increases or burdens on our Grandchildren
- The intersection coming out of Whites Line East + the corner of Wainui Road (by the Bakery) is very dangerous especially during peak hours. Trying to get through towards the Hutt is difficult. There needs to be a round-a-bout there. Your thoughts please?
- Can you please advise your position on parking availability in the Hutt, particularly residents parking?

Council

- Should Campbell Barry win the Mayoralty and Tony Stallinger a position on Council, how do you think that will work out?
- Do either Mayoral Candidates intend to stand in the General Elections next year?
- Over the last term 2 councilors resigned. What do you think about that. If you run for the city Council you should do your term.
- Do you support co-governance? If so, why?
- How would you describe a healthy + successful Council?
- Can you please state if you are linked to any:
 - Anti-mandate movement
 - Anti-vax movement
 - Voices for freedom movement
 - Destiny Church
 - If yes please advise the relationship

Housing

- Why is the Council not promoting the building of more intensive house above the empty land used for carparks for such as supermarkets, mitre 10, briscoes, kmart etc. The carparks can remain at ground level. Why pick on our beautiful, leafy, loved residential areas.
- What will be done to place some restrictions on density housing so the existing suburbs don't become an ugly eyesore and impact on light and sunshine on neighbouring properties.
- Lower Hutt is blessed by being full of mature trees with many dwellings of special character, especially Woburn, Boulcott, Eastbourne and Bays. Would either candidate attempt to reverse the Plan 56 rezoning of the special residential areas and the general residential areas to high density (6 storeys) and medium density (3 storeys)?

Misc

- Favourite place to spend time in our Council other than your home
- What 3 steps would you take to firm our financial footing

Disaster

- What are your plans when we have a Disaster on the Pukeatua maunga (WOA Hill). We need a plan i.e (officer controls) put in place we had a good one the last day

To Campbell Barry

- If you had time opportunity to stand as labour candidate for Rimutaka electorate as next elections (2023) would he do so?
- What would be the position for a replacement Mayor for Lower Hutt if he was successful?

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Questions 10-12 September

If you are running as part of a team, can you state with conviction that no member of your team has connections to VFF, attended the protests at parliament, and/or has spread covid/mask misinformation elsewhere?

Tony, as previous CEO of Hutt City, your green credentials were less than stellar. My question to you is:

In your opinion, which of these two statements ranks as more important for the residents of Hutt City:

(a) the Silverstream Landfill is a large profit generator for Hutt City,

or

(b) the Silverstream Landfill is the largest source of atmospheric methane discharge in Hutt City.

I'm not looking for an explanation, just a simple one-word answer to show where your priorities now lie. Thank you

Question for ex CEO:

What contingency plans were in place for projects that were built but ended up not being able to cover their own operating costs?

i.e Sportsville at Fraser park, the Hotel and the Event centre.

Where was the money to come from for these projects to continue operating - rates?

Question for ex CEO;

The current councillors seem to have a professional working relationship, have read their papers, ask informed questions and form opinions from their debate; if elected as a city wide councillor only, how will you react to decision's that you don't agree with?

If you are elected Mayor, how will you ensure that the previous Hutt City Council decision to inform residents is honoured

about the proven dangers of drinking fluoridated water for women who are pregnant?

Currently Council staff have been removing notices that Councillors previously requested.

Do you find it ironic that a new political party has formed to fight at these local elections with a tag line of keep party politics out of local government?

And as per their party constitution if they don't vote as instructed by their party leader they could be expelled from their party?

How do you plan to improve public consultation. Naenae pool was built without a cost benefit analysis taking place and we still don't even know the running costs?

Petone stadium was a secret project by Tony Stalinger with officers spending over \$500k before any councillors or public knew about it and when that failed they had the secret new Petone grandstand project.

Are you aware of the requirement to reduce vehicle km's travelled by 20% over the next decade to achieve climate change targets, and how will you achieve this challenging requirement?

What about rewilding the regional farm parks for the sake of the environment and climate change!

Significant areas of Lower Hutt are at risk from increasing climate related events, yet plan change 56 is proposing significant increased density in these areas. Do you support the increased density and if so what will you do to ensure these areas are protected in the future from increasing climate related events (such as storm surge, sea level rise and flooding)?

Do you support the 3 Waters proposal?

If so, how will you ensure that the ratepayers of the relevant areas (who are paying for the services) are able to hold the 3 water entity (including the co-governance entity) to account for their decisions or failures ?

Will you advocate for real, but simple and meaningful accountability mechanisms such as regular KPI reporting with a portion of the CEO and Board's remuneration being at risk if there are material failures or problems?

Serious and fundamental failures may require "heads to roll". Are you prepared to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to allow this to happen?

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Mayoral Candidate Debate Questions

INTENSIFICATION	INFRASTRUCTURE	TE REO / MANA WHENUA	COVID	RATES	COUNCIL/GOVERNANCE	CENTRAL GOVT	HERITAGE	CRIME	RIISING-LIVING COSTS	CLIMATE CHANGE	PERSONAL
Regarding the approval for 6 story buildings, has any and what research has been done on who would want to buy and live in these areas and why the area that has been approved. This has lots of nice family houses in nice areas. Why not focus on the area that already have multi storey buildings and are close to transport and could do with a recant due to age and style of buildings.	What guarantees will you give to maintain (and/or upgrade as necessary), the basic infrastructural services eg road maintenance, stormwater drainage, lighting, parks?	In an explanatory associated with the latest rates mailout the heading was very bold Maori above a much smaller font presumed English interpretation. The same trend is evident on the Hutt City website, and in a letter from the CEO, her title in Maori preceded her title in English. Do you support this elevation of Te Reo over English, and if so, why?	What is your vaccination status?	How are you keep rates down and stop the rate rises we cant afford?	Do you think that the current council should be organising this event and that they can deliver an unbiased forum?	Do you think party politics should have a place in local government?	what will the impact of heritage listing be on my homes value	How do you respond to the community panic surrounding crime in Lower Hutt?	What will you do to help alleviate the pressures of the rising costs of living and housing, especially for those experiencing financial hardship?	Fifty-six per cent of Lower Hutt's carbon emissions come from transport, nationally it is 21 per cent," says Chair of Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, Josh Briggs. Hutt Valley citizens will have noted over the past few years significant increases in traffic congestion and blockages at peak times, (and therefore substantial pollution, time wasting and productivity loss.) Could candidates say if they would commit to the following: 1 Measure traffic types, volumes, density, and blockages. 2 Budget and plan to provide for linked up transport routes, to include walking, cycling and scooting (Like Wellington City plan). 3 Engage interactively with the community, and plan for staged implementation 4 Regularly publish progress	Campbell, what are you most proud of in your term as Mayor? Tony, what were you most proud of in your time in council? Falgout, what are you most proud of in your business?
Thoughts on development of multi townhouses. A lot of the these developments have actually contributed to the massive house increase in Lower Hutt. Due to the developers wanting purely the land to put on 6 townhouses. This has priced alot of family's out of the market as any house sitting on a decent section was outbid by a developer. Also these townhouses where then sold at a much higher price than similar houses in Christchurch and Auckland which contributed to the house increases in the Hutt. Could a focus on helping develop the Hutt not be placed more on areas and houses that historically have poor conditioned housing? Thus improving the healthy homes along with a reasonable expectation on what a townhouse should then sell for to contributed to reducing the market and helping people get in either their own home or rent at a reasonable cost	What is your plan for prioritizing basic infrastructure upgrades, in particular, high traffic roads in high growth suburbs with limited access points such as Stokes Valley and Wainuiomata?	How will your campaign affect/benefit Māori communities in Lower Hutt?		One of the reasons for excessive rates increases during the past three years has been this Council's decision to charge depreciation based on the revalued asset value, not the cost price as was done previously. This has the effect of current ratepayers paying for both the cost of the asset plus its replacement. Do you think this practice is appropriate, and if not how do you think asset depreciation should be charged to ratepayers?	Do you believe council listens to the community?	What political parties do you have membership of, and what support have you received from those parties including money, volunteers and telephone lists. Have any of you ever received money directly or indirectly from political party parliamentary rental agreements?	what will be impact of herit g listing be on my insurance premiums	What will you do to make our city salor for everyone?		How important is responding to climate change here in Lower Hutt for you?	How connected are you to schools, community organisations and local businesses in our city?
With the high density housing being implemented how do you propose to tackle noise complaints as the current govt. What are you prepared to do about it to improve the system is a farce. Presently the current council blames the govt. What are you prepared to do about it to improve the right of your constituents who deserve a lot mental, physical and emotional wellbeing.	Does the council accept responsibility to protect property from erosion in its stormwater streams?	Tony online you have described an increase in budget for Mana Whenua/iwi partnership agreements as a 'corporate overhead' increase. Is this not at best offensive, and at worst racist? How will all candidates work with Mana Whenua?		There have been a lot of spending promises by United Hutt candidates while also campaigning on lowering rates. How can you promise to do more with less? What are you opposing to cut?	Would you change the current consultation process and if so how?		will i as an heritage listed house be able to build up			What are you going to do to make sure Lower Hutt is resilient in the face of increasing extreme weather events	I'm concerned about the involvement of extremists in this election - both candidates and campaign managers. Do you have any anti-vax, anti-government, parliament protesters or conspiracy theorists managing or involved in your campaign team?
Can we, the public, be assured that as housing structures rise in height and density, that developers will be made to set aside regular areas, grassed or otherwise for children to play?	Also what are going to do about alternative road out of Wainuiomata?	What is your understanding of being a to Tiriti partner and experience of working with mana whenua?		United Hutt have said they are going to reduce rates increases and deliver better and more services. How does this stack up? And can Tony give specific examples of what he's going to cut?	Do you think the current council has done a good job? Please elaborate on why you have given this answer		as an owner of a property in one on the new 6 heritage areas what criteria will i need to fulfill to met the additional requirement of a resource consent and what if any compensation (if any) will i receive for this extra impost of time and cost over and above a building consent			What are you doing to embody our need to shift to a low carbon future?	Tony Stallinger talks a lot about his financial credentials, but how do you reconcile that with the fact that almost every 'major project' overseen under your leadership went grossly over budget? E.g the Riddiford Garden upgrades, Town Hall, event centre and Hotel, the purchase of the BNZ on High St, Huta Pool and Fraser Park Sportsville.

<p>On a scale of 1-10; where 1 increase housing density, and 10 keep existing character and community, where do you fall? please explain</p>	<p>Why do we have so many water leaks across the city and what will you do to fix it?</p>																																																						
	<p>Historically, in your view, have successive councils underfunded renewals in water infrastructure?</p>																																																						

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Tony in 2019 you described gifting \$29.6m to developers (\$19m of that being over budget) in waived development fee contributions as a "modest investment" to encourage growth. Do you stand by giving developers bigger profits at the cost of not requiring developers to pay towards the cost of growth infrastructure? Does any candidate have property developers funding their campaign? If yes, who? (source: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/property/111174376/lower-hutt-ratopayers-gift-29m-to-developers-through-waived-fees>)

Do you think the current council has done a good job and please can you elaborate on why you have given the answer you have?

what was the criteria and the instructions given by the council to the consultants appointed to identify the six new heritage areas? What if any due diligence did council officers and elected members do to test the veracity of the recommendations

How important to you is reducing the amount of waste we send to the Silverstream Landfill?

Historically, in your view, have successive councils underfunded renewals in water infrastructure?

Do you think the current council has done a good job and why?

the council having mandated 6 new areas for heritage what if any consideration was given to allowing home owners to opt in as voluntary heritage

What is your vision for Lower Hutt?

what compensation will be given to home owners in the 6 newly mandated heritage areas to compensate for loss of capital value, increased insurance premiums and cost of compliance (ie resource consents) for any alterations to these homes

The current City Council is fraught with constant infighting and frankly, ineffective leadership. This needs to stop. What does the prospective mayoral candidate propose to ensure more collaboration to govern the city effectively

as there is no requirement to mandate heritage zones on private property under the resource management act - will the mayor or mayoral candidate commit to providing home owners the ability to opt in to voluntary heritage status rather than have this mandated by council on the 6 new heritage areas

What do you view as the biggest challenge over the next decade for our city and people?

does the mayor believe his council has followed both the intent and meaning of the intensification planning instrument and the NPS UD legislation whereby heritage status would need to be applied on a site by site basis and not by carving out 6 new heritage zones affecting 300 homes?