



Candidate Self-Assessment Questionnaire 2013

Are you ready to be a Green candidate? Would you be a good Green MP? How can you know? Help is at hand...

Before taking the plunge into the Candidate Pool, all candidates are asked to fill in this self-assessment questionnaire.

The questionnaire is based around the categories in the *Ideal Candidate Attributes* document which you have been sent. These are the attributes of successful candidates/MPs. Please read the *Ideal Candidate Attributes* first, then fill in the questionnaire.

We suggest you ask a friend or family member who knows you well and is supportive and straight-talking to help you fill out the questionnaire, to make sure you don't forget/miss the best things about yourself! If you overlook anything, you will have a chance to talk about it at your interview. We realise that if you are a younger would-be candidate you won't have as much to record as those of more advanced years, and of course this won't count against you in assessing your suitability as a candidate.

Doing the self-assessment is an opportunity for you to think carefully about your qualities and experience before your interview. It is intended to help both the candidate and the Green Party develop the best match of skills and expertise for the role of candidate and MP.

The sooner you return the questionnaire to the Candidate Selection Process Administrator (CSPA) the sooner you can participate in the Green Candidate Selection process outlined in the *Process for Becoming a Green Party Candidate* document you have been sent.

Please download and save the questionnaire, and then complete it electronically. This helps the administrative process, as all documents have to be emailed to committee members. Return the completed questionnaire to the CSPA at greencandidates@greens.org.nz. The CSPA will send it to the two members of the Candidate Selection and List Ranking Committee who will conduct your interview.

Welcome to the process!

SELF ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. Personal skills and experience

<p>1. What professional, trade or life skills and experiences do you have which are relevant to being a Green candidate / MP?</p>	<p>Two decades of working in the public sector as a policy analyst, business analyst, project manager.</p> <p>Worked in NZ Maori Council team that took treaty claim on airwaves and prevented sale of TVNZ and RNZ.</p> <p>Prior to that, worked in various trades and community access radio.</p> <p>I am a strategic thinker and have an interest in understanding and changing complex systems.</p>
<p>2. What experience/skills do you have in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- public speaking- facilitating meetings- writing articles or media releases- cross cultural communication?	<p>I had public speaking training with Linda Shaw before the last 2 elections. Fronted Green campaign in Rodney & Epsom (the latter under intense media scrutiny). Lectured at NZ Broadcasting School and AUT.</p> <p>Facilitating Green Party meetings in-person and on-line. At work: facilitating and/or presenting to meetings of senior officials, project teams, councillor working parties.</p> <p>I write reports for a living. Have been writing articles for Te Rau Mata and Te Awa in 2012-2013.</p> <p>I can give a basic mihi in Maori. Have reasonable experience in marae protocol and deep respect for te Tiriti through employment in public sector & with NZ Maori Council.</p>
<p>3. In what languages other than English (if any) could you hold a conversation or read a magazine?</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>4. Which sources do you use for collecting political information, and how do you rate your skills in information collection and analysis?</p> <p>5. What fundraising have you done for causes /organisations and how did you do it?</p> <p>6. How good are you at managing your time how do you cope with pressure without burn-out?</p>	<p>A wide variety: my twitter feed tracks the major NZ news outlets and some overseas ones. For daily reading, I get the “Inside Wellington” media links daily at work. I subscribe to the Guardian Weekly and Sunday Star-Times. The main journals I read are Policy Quarterly and Ecological Economics.</p> <p>I rate my research and analytical skills highly: it is what I do for work, as a Principal Policy Analyst at Auckland Council.</p> <p>I've participated in a broad range of fundraising over the years including: selling subscriptions and running benefit concerts (some with major bands) for a community access radio station in Sydney. I've helped run quiz nights, and donated artwork for an auction, for Auckland Central Greens. With Shore Branch, organised a mail-out of AP forms for members.</p> <p>I cope with pressure by scheduling in a bit of down-time, each day, each week and each year. When necessary I renegotiate expectations with others. I'm not so good at renegotiating my own expectations of myself (which are high), but my wife does a good job of to keep me on track. I am fascinated by Green issues and genuinely find it difficult to resist exploring solutions.</p>
<p>7. What are some examples of your ability to plan and to form and lead teams?</p>	<p>I have formed teams around projects on a collaborative basis over the best part of twenty years. The best I've led was the road crew for the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (my student job for a year). It taught me three simple rules: tell people what you expect, lead by example, and give honest feedback when it's needed – whether positive or negative.</p> <p>I've managed a number of project teams professionally, and worked as a project manager and contractor in the public sector. I've always applied the same 3 rules.</p>

2. Personal Qualities

1. How do you walk the Green talk by living sustainably, fairly, democratically and peacefully?

Debbie and I live a modest life-style, for a two-income no kids household. We have one small car between us, and last year we moved to the North Shore to be closer to where we both work. We are both active in coordinating and promoting the Green kaupapa at local branch and province level. I bank with the Co-op Bank, use open-source software on my home computers buy New Zealand made and local for preference.

I am a strong advocate for representative democracy, and in 1993 wrote and published a booklet on why a royal commission chose MMP for New Zealand, as well as submitting to a appearing before the recent royal commission on MMP.

My work is largely about engaging communities, stakeholder groups and elected representatives in participatory decision making.

2. Rate yourself on the following personal attributes and qualities.

Personal Qualities	Rating 1(low) -5(high)
Speaking succinctly in simple language	4
Ability to prioritise work	5
Ability to delegate work	4
Co-operation, working well in a team	4
Even temper	4
Self-confidence	3
Sense of humour	4
Stamina	4
Humility	3
Ambition	4
Commitment to working hard to get results	5
Attracting and maintaining personal and political support	4
Being enthusiastic and motivating others	4

3. Community Connections

1. What community groups (geographical or community of interest) have you played an active or leading role in, either as part of your work, or as a volunteer?

- At Radio Skid Row (2RSR fm) in Sydney, 1984-86, I was variously a broadcaster, board member, treasurer, and station manager.
- On return to NZ, in the summer of 1987/88 I was co-station manager, with Jude Anaru, of “Summer Access BFM” a joint venture of Auckland Access Radio and BFM.

2. What other local/green groups have you been a member of or involved with?

Towards 2060 Trust Board

Founding member of this Trust, I have been collaborating with previous Manukau City Council colleagues to acquire and re-establish the Towards 2060 website. This was an initiative for communities and groups to “design the future” together by organizing workshops and meetings.

3. What, if any, are your connections with your local iwi? What Te Tiriti issues have you worked with – how and when?

Through my current work I have some good connections in Manukau and Manurewa, with Te Hapai Te Hauora Tapui (Maori public health provider in Auckland, representing the main iwi, Ngati Whatua).

Over 1986 – 1991 I worked regularly as a Policy Analyst and researcher for the NZ Maori Council and Nga Kaiwhakapumau i te Reo, during which time I:

- Researched and wrote *A Global Plan for Maori Radio* - this became the model for today’s iwi-based Maori radio system.
- Provided research & analysis for Waitangi Tribunal claim on the airwaves, including authoring the Statement of Claim.
- Provided research, strategic analysis and logistical support to counsel for the “Broadcasting Assets Case” at the High Court.
- Produced *Tikanga Maori Television – the requirements*, a model of the requirements for a Maori television system that would settle the claim, which is now fulfilled by Maori Television.

4. Green participation, knowledge and experience

1. How long have you been a Green Party member?

Since 2006.

2. How long have you been actively involved in the Green Party?

Since 2006.

3. What roles have you taken in the Green Party locally, provincially or nationally? (please list roles, with dates)

- Member, Auckland Central branch 2006 – 2012
- Shore Branch 2012 - present
- Auckland province policy networker 2007 to 2013
- Auckland Transport Spokesperson 2007- 2008
- Convener Auckland Transport Group 2008
- Broadcasting Policy issue group convenor 2007- 2008
- Candidate for Rodney: 2008 general election
- Candidate for Auckland Electricity Consumer Trust election 2009
- Auckland Energy Issues spokesperson, 2009 - 2011
- Candidate for Epsom: 2011 general election.

- Shore Branch co-convenor 2012-13
- Local Body Committee secretary 2012-13
- Local Body Committee convenor 2013
- Gambling policy review group facilitator 2013.

4. What other 'green' organisations (if any) have you been involved in, and what roles have you played? (please list organisations, roles and dates).

CASSE

I am the New Zealand spokesperson for CASSE: Centre for the Advancement of a Steady State Economy, and have been for two years. I have done nothing in that role yet, but I am developing a website for CASSE in New Zealand, which I intend to launch by announcing project to develop and incorporate unit standards for ecological economics into the mainstream economics curriculum taught at secondary school level.

5. Please list the four principles in the Green Charter and say something about your understanding of, experience with and commitment to each principle. Please also list, if you can, three Green Party policies related to each principle.

Preamble:

The Green Party's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi appears in the preamble to the Green Party charter for good reason: it exemplifies, in the context of Aotearoa/New Zealand, how the four principles should work in practice.

Ecological Wisdom:

“The basis of ecological wisdom is that human beings are part of the natural world. This world is finite, therefore unlimited material growth is impossible. Ecological sustainability is paramount.”

Acknowledging and understanding that there are limits to growth is the Green Party's most important difference from the other major parties, which are both wedded to that belief that continued unlimited growth is not only possible, but desirable.

There is compelling evidence that the human species has already “overshot” the capacity of Earth's biosphere to sustain human population levels. The two most urgent and important factors in the current condition of “overshoot” are the increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and in the oceans driven by the unsustainable extraction and combustion of fossil fuels. In particular, the current economy sees humanity dependent on the consumption of crude oil, which is being extracted and consumed at the rate that is unsustainable in the long term, and there is ample evidence that humanity has passed, the long-term global “peak” in the production of cheap oil.

There are other many other aspects to the condition of overshoot, which may not impact as soon as peak oil, or as severely as climate change, but which are intrinsically part of the problem: increasingly scarce resources of fresh water, depleted soils, disrupted and failing ecosystems, loss of biodiversity.

The two key 'drivers' of overshoot are global population growth and increasingly high material standards of living. These two factors, multiplied together (not added), are the drivers of our excessive consumption and depletion of natural resources.

I am an economist and policy analyst by training, and a member of the International Society for Ecological Economics. In broad terms, there are three solutions to the problem of overshoot, which are not mutually exclusive:

- Reduce total human population
- Reduce consumption of the earth's resources (per capita and in total)

- Increase the efficiency with which earth's resources are utilised (an increase "total factor productivity")

The relevant Green Party policies (alphabetically), are: Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Animal Welfare; Climate Change; Conservation; Economic - Thinking Beyond Tomorrow; Energy; Environment; Food; Foreign Affairs; Forestry; Population; Research, Science and Technology; Sea and Ocean; Sustainable Business; Transport; Toxics; Trade and Foreign Investment; Urban; Waste Free New Zealand; Water.

Social Responsibility:

"Unlimited material growth is impossible, Therefore the key to social responsibility is the just distribution of social and natural resources, both locally and globally."

The Green Party's commitment to social justice is framed and constrained by the "limits to growth". Economic growth cannot solve the problems of inequity and inequality. This means we must address the issue of how the earth's resources, and the wealth produced from them, will be shared – not just globally and locally, but also among current and future generations.

I believe the charter definition of social responsibility should be amended to say "Therefore the key to social responsibility is the just distribution of social and natural resources locally, globally *and between current and future generations.*"

Our point of difference from all right-wing parties is, of course, a radical rejection of their "winner takes all" (and the devil take the hindmost) approach to the distribution of wealth and resources. This part of the Green party charter expresses a liberal, humanist position moral philosophy, which is wholly aligned to my own deeply-held values and beliefs.

The relevant Green Party policies are: Accident Compensation; Children's; Community and Voluntary Sector; Disability; Education; Gambling; Health; Housing; Human Rights; Immigration; Income Support; Industrial Relations; Sexual Orientation; Student Support; Tertiary Education; Taxation and Monetary; Women's Policy; Work and Employment; Youth Affairs.

Appropriate Decision-making:

"For the implementation of ecological wisdom and social responsibility, decisions will be made directly at the appropriate level by those affected."

The most important decisions, in a democratic society, are the decisions of citizens at the ballot box. Appropriate decision-making is not just about process and who is involved; it is about the information available to decision-makers and their understanding of it. I have been a student of political science; an avid supporter of MMP; and, as a public servant for many years, a firm believer in the importance of a politically-neutral, professional public service.

I wrote my Master of Public Policy thesis on broadcasting policy, arguing that the constitutional role of the media as the "fourth estate" ought to be the over-riding objective in the development and implementation of an effective broadcasting/media policy.

In my position on the Policy Committee, I have been active in promoting and developing a Local Government policy for the Green party. I see many of the decisions that relate to ecological wisdom will be implemented at local level, and by local and regional government (especially decisions made under delegation by Resource Management Act).

The relevant Green Party policies are: Broadcasting; Drug Law Reform; Justice; Local Government (in development); Open Government; Maori Issues; Tiriti o (Treaty of) Waitangi and, I expect before the 2013 local body elections: Local Government.

Non-Violence:

“Non-violent conflict resolution is the process by which ecological wisdom, social responsibility and appropriate decision making will be implemented. This principle applies at all levels.”

Conflict will almost inevitably arise from struggle for a share of diminishing resources and economic output. One of the consequences of over-consumption during the 20th century is that the developing nations and future generations are going to “miss out”. They are likely to feel considerable resentment.

Resolving social conflict non-violently in a resource-constrained world will require extraordinary effort, skill and diplomacy. In my thinking, non-violence is not a passive philosophy. It does not mean refusing to acknowledge and deal with conflict; it means dealing with conflict effectively, using non-violent techniques. While studying at university I wrote an essay on the subject of how Ghandhi’s philosophy of non-violent passive resistance might be deployed most effectively based on Sun Tzu’s principles of military strategy – and I still think this approach has merit.

Relevant Green Party policies (alphabetically): Defence and Peacekeeping; Security Services. The party's constitution and standing orders are possibly more important for us.

6. Which policy area(s) do you feel most confident and passionate about, or have expertise in, and could promote effectively during your campaign?

I am confident that I can promote the party's campaign platform, whatever that is determined to be for 2014. During the 2011 campaign I was very comfortable delivering the party message of *Kids, Rivers, Jobs* and, given my experience on policy committee, I think I'm sufficiently informed across all the Green policy issues to effectively deliver on any and all of them.

I am comfortable working on any and all policy issues because, for much of my professional career, I have been a contractor working on whatever issue/s the client requested. And of course I have spent five years on the policy committee.

I have direct work experience and in-depth and/or policy knowledge in:

- Broadcasting, especially Maori broadcasting and Public broadcasting
- Revenue/IRD and taxation
- Health (some aspects of: governance of DHB/Hospitals, cervical and breast screening, pathology services)
- Local Government (especially local economic development, rating policy, strategic planning and policy governance)
- Youth Justice
- Internal Affairs: especially Gambling and Community Funding, but also the work of the Department as a whole.

My main interest is at a strategic or governance level, on how the 'work programme' is shaped to deliver results: how a Green government's legislative programme might be shaped

and prioritised to deliver results, and how a Green government's budget might be developed and delivered.

I spent a couple of years at Manukau City Council; developing, maintaining and reporting on council's "whole of council" policy and decision-making work programme. This was aligned to the council's Long-Term Plan, to deliver on the set of "Community Outcomes" that were developed by and with the communities of Manukau.

7. What Tiriti education (if any) have you received, and how do you rate your understanding of the relevance of Te Tiriti to policies and programmes within the Green Party and NZ society as a whole?

I participated in a Tiriti workshop at Policy Network face-to-face meeting in 2008, facilitated by Moea Armstrong which consolidated much of what I have learnt through my work with various Maori interests over the years.

I rate my understanding of Treaty issues reasonably highly, including their relevance to NZ. I worked for NZ Maori Council on Broadcasting issues, including:

1. Writing the development plan for Maori radio in New Zealand, for professor Whatarangi Winiata, in 1986/87.
2. Authoring the Statement of Claim for the Waitangi Tribunal claim on the radiofrequency spectrum.
3. Serving as a policy analyst on the Broadcasting Assets case at the High Court, as support for Sian Elias.
4. Author of peer-reviewed article comparing the Pakeha cultural paradigm surrounding the creation and allocation of property rights, with Maori concepts surrounding the protection and circulation of taonga, with specific reference to broadcasting: Hay, D (1996) "Giving/Taking, Selling/Buying, Speaking/Silence: Te reo Maori in Prime-time" **Continuum: the Australasian Journal of Media Studies** Vol 10:1

I have recently written to the constitution review panel, proposing that New Zealand should have a written constitution, and that the core principles of the Treaty should be embedded within it. I have also suggested that, if New Zealand were to have a head of state, it should be a co-leadership model with the two co-leaders representing the two treaty partners (an idea that was raised in policy committee). For me that is a serious suggestion: I had hoped it would be included in the party's Constitution Reform Policy.

5. Expectations

1. **Do you realistically expect you have a chance of becoming an MP? If not, you don't need to fill in the rest of this section.**

Yes. I was at 16 on the party list for the 2011 election and was disappointed at not getting into parliament.

2. **If you do, please list, in order of your preference and expertise, the kete (portfolio groupings – Economics, Equity, Environment) and portfolio areas you would plan to work on seriously as an MP, a goal for each area, and when you would hope to achieve it.**

I hope to be part of a large caucus, so I might get to play to my particular interests, but it is more important to me that I put my efforts where the party most needs me.

For most of my post-university career I've worked as a contractor and project manager in the public sector, so I've had a broad range of experience in government departments and agencies, and a lot of experience starting new projects in areas with limited knowledge; getting up to speed very quickly, and performing at a level expected of a senior public servant.

I have set out the areas where I think I could make the most valuable contributions, based on that past experience, and in the order of priority that I would prefer to work on.

I hesitate to outline timelines as they will depend on context: especially whether the Greens are in opposition or coalition. I would expect to apply my project management experience in scoping, planning and delivering a programme of work, obtaining the agreement of caucus and support from the party and external stakeholders as an integrated part of that process.

Environment:

Local Government, Waste, Water, Transport, Land Information, Resource Management Issues, Conservation).

Most areas of environmental policy involve local government, or are delivered through local government, including those listed above. I have spent ten years (in total) working in local government, the last seven years continuously.

A key concern of mine is the fragmented and disjointed legislative framework for local government, which creates expense, confusion and frustration for elected members and officials in local government. And that's regardless of the current government's bullying interventions.

Goals:

- A coherent legislative framework for local government, integrated “horizontally” across (at least) the three key functional areas of transport, land use regulation, and water and wastewater management; and integrated “vertically” between central, regional and local government.
- The restoration (or development?) of a respectful and collaborative working relationship between the three tiers of government.

Economics:

Economics (fiscal policy and revenue), State-owned Enterprises, Climate Change, Energy, Research and Technology, Commerce, Community Economic Development, Community and Voluntary Sector.

The core challenge of the 21st century will be to create a zero carbon economy; it is impossible to separate the economic issues from climate change and energy. The solutions are likely to lie with local economic development and services that people provide for others (what Professor Tim Jackson calls the “Cinderella Economy”). The government can do a great deal through its ownership and governance of state-owned enterprises and other crown entities.

I have a degree in Economics, I have worked as a business analyst at Inland Revenue Dept, and as a senior business analyst at Treasury in CCMAU (now COMU) the unit that gives advice on and monitors the performance of SOEs. In recent years I have been reading a great deal in Ecological Economics and the application of systems dynamics modelling techniques to economic issues.

Goals:

- Promote the understanding that Ecological Economics can provide a credible framework for action, enabling a smooth and rapid transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Development a macro-economic management model for the New Zealand economy based on Ecological Economics concepts and principles.
- Delivery of a Green budget based on that model.

Equity:

Broadcasting, Electoral Reform, State Services, Open Government, Information and Communication Technology, Constitutional Issues including Treaty of Waitangi.

The Green charter will only be delivered when an informed and engaged electorate understands the issues facing Aotearoa and the wider world in the 21st century, and votes for governments that act to address those issues.

I see broadcasting and media reform as a critical part of a bundle of electoral and constitutional reforms that would support that outcome.

Goals:

- Creation of an independent public “broadcaster” (actually a multimedia content provider), free from the constraints of commercialism and government control.
- Increased support for community access broadcasting.
- The ongoing viability and development of Maori broadcasting.
- STV voting to be made mandatory in local government, and adoption of the recommendations of the recent MMP review.

Housing, Gambling

I have done a considerable amount of study on housing and housing statistics: I wrote the Housing chapter for the 2007 Quality of Life Report while at Manukau City Council (<http://www.qualityoflifeproject.govt.nz/housing.htm>).

Affordable home ownership is a key to economic and social security. New Zealand’s policy settings give cold comfort to tenants; they are light years behind what other advanced democracies provide.

I am currently the Principal Policy Analyst responsible for the Auckland Council's gambling venue policies and through that work have developed an in-depth understanding of gambling policy and issues in Aotearoa.

Electronic Gaming Machines are a blight on modern society: a mass experiment in applying behavioural psychology to humans, for economic gain.

I've also worked in the Ministry of Health (twice) and at CYFS in the Youth Justice area.

Goals:

- The abolition of Electronic Gaming Machines (pokies) from New Zealand.
- Affordable homes for those who can afford to buy them, and disincentives for property investors to reduce investor competition for the housing stock (e.g. capital gains tax, and higher Loan to Value Ratio thresholds for investors).
- Safe, healthy housing with security of tenure and full rights of “quiet enjoyment” for tenants in public and private housing.

6. Other

Do you have any other strengths as a candidate/MP which are not covered by the questions in this questionnaire? If so, please list them here.

Before I started university in 1988, I had spent ten years working as an unskilled and semi-skilled labourer (truck driver, builder, cook) and as an unemployed beneficiary. I feel this has given me the ability to relate to people from all walks of life with the ability to genuinely listen and connect

I have an understanding of how most people - those without university educations - live from day-to-day; what they think and say about politics, how they make voting decisions.

I find it easy to engage with people and talk about their issues, without talking down to them.