

# My plan for climate change and preserving our environment

## Why it matters

Auckland has declared a climate emergency, is part of a worldwide movement to address and adapt to climate change and has a plan to get to zero net emissions by 2050. Aucklanders have repeatedly asked council for action on climate change and environmental preservation and I plan to be the Mayor to deliver that.

## My Plan

- I will work with a coalition of mayors across New Zealand for coordinated action and investment on climate change, including ensuring government investment meets the challenges of local action.
- I will make sure communities and households who are least able to afford climate adaptation are taken into account in planning for a more sustainable future.
- I will use the proceeds of the Climate Action Targeted Rate and other funding sources to invest in free public transport, tree planting, volunteer services, and social enterprises to deliver green solutions and better biodiversity.
- I will make sure council's own operations, facilities and fleet are decarbonised as a priority.
- I will make preserving our precious natural environment and improving our waste management systems a key focus of the council I lead.

**Further policy details regarding; Fares-free public transport, Climate Action, Environmental Protection and Waste Management**

Policy focus: Fares-free public transport
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● I will introduce fares free public transport to incentivise people to switch from private motor vehicles to public transport, reduce cost barriers to the use public transport, and support meeting the goal of reducing transport related emissions by 64% by 2030. This policy will be funded through redistributing existing council budgets as well as utilising subsidies from central government and Waka Kotahi, but my plan does</li></ul>

not intend to delay or halt existing planned roading projects or impinge on health and safety roading upgrades.

- I will ensure Auckland Transport supports significant uptake of public transport through a reliable, frequent and safe service that connects feeder services to rapid transport corridors and modes, to get people where they are going more efficiently and faster. This will include investigating the introduction of more crosstown services region-wide as well as support for rapid transit services through to Orewa and Kumeu.

#### **Policy focus: Climate Action**

##### **My Position**

- I will convene a Coalition of Mayors for Climate Action to share best practice (e.g. on supporting communities at risk in coastal areas, transport policy), to boost advocacy to central government for local solutions and investment to the Government's Emissions Reduction Plan and the National Climate Adaptation Plan equitably and democratically.
- I support Auckland's Climate Plan commitment to reduce emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 (against a 2016 baseline) and zero net emissions by 2050.
- I support a just transition to a zero carbon economy, including ensuring workers and their representatives are fully involved in the change.
- I will continue and expand the planting of trees to increase the urban forest canopy starting in our communities with the least coverage to improve climate resilience, mitigation and increased biodiversity.
- Climate change affects us all and we all have a stake in addressing it. I will support iwi, volunteer and social enterprise efforts to cultivate trees, plant and maintain them and implement green solutions in council facilities and public places.
- I will ensure that rangatahi voice, and the communities most impacted by climate change, are at the forefront of climate action.

#### **Policy focus: Environmental Protection**

##### **My Position**

- I will promote ecological sustainability, including biodiversity and biosecurity programmes and ecologically appropriate weed control, phasing out of glyphosate and other agrichemical spraying as far as practicable and I will continue to monitor the Environmental Protection Authority's advice.
- I will care for our environment by effective action to reduce pollution of water, air and land, including prioritising effective regulatory enforcement by Auckland Council.
- I will support projects that protect and clean up our waterways including our harbours, beaches, coastal areas, streams and their catchment areas.
- I will support and fund community ecological volunteer groups and traditional stewards of our natural environment such as iwi to improve the quality of our inland and coastal environments.
- I will establish a Mayoral Environmental Competition for schools to develop ideas to address key environmental challenges in Auckland and support the implementation of the best ideas.
- Through funding from the Climate Action Targeted Rate, I will support the development of community-led community gardens, regenerative farms, tiny forests in parks, food forests and māra kai (including fruit tree planting) and expand bush remnants.

**Policy focus: Waste Management****My Position**

- I support food scraps collection to be expanded across Auckland so we significantly reduce food waste to landfill.
- I will focus on council's own waste produced as part of council operations (up to 20% of the city's waste) and implement action to significantly reduce this.
- I will advocate for action on product stewardship and regulatory setting to incentivise better waste management.
- I support the establishment of a network of community recycling centres to accelerate Auckland towards a circular economy.
- I will support local clean-up and waste management initiatives to make Auckland's public places more attractive.
- I will direct council monitoring and enforcement resources to address illegal dumping in our communities.
- I will direct council to investigate the reintroduction of an environmentally friendly inorganic collection that is easier and enables resources recovery.
- I support the establishment of a government-funded eco-park as a hub for both community and commercial recycling and as an employment generator.
- I will advocate for council to investigate ways to use eco-friendly building materials in council facilities and investigate businesses that can be supported to increase the scale of their supply – in order to support their ability to increase the prevalence of eco-friendly construction products in the market.
- I will support and help coordinate the recycling and reusing of construction materials.