



PEOPLE PLACES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS RADIO AND PODCAST SERIES

13th June - 3rd October



PEOPLE PLACES AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS RADIO AND PODCAST SERIES QUESTIONS FOR NELSON AND TASMAN MAYORAL CANDIDATES v.2 2022 06 25

The purpose of this radio and podcast series is to better-equip our community to take due account of climate issues in the approach to the coming local body elections. The series is outlined in the accompanying flyer, and more information, and links to podcasts, can be found at [Resilienz/podcast-climate-and-councils](https://resilienz.co.nz/podcast-climate-and-councils).

It is necessarily a tightly-structured series, especially when it comes to the section with mayoral candidates (partly because we strive to provide a level playing field for all candidates). Kindly take note of the following, and don't hesitate to contact me if it is unclear or if you have any queries (021 522 148 or Lindsay@resilienz.co.nz).

The first nine FreshFM radio episodes provide a wide range of expert views on the relationship between climate responses and local government. Then the four "mayoral candidate" sections are structured around the four questions written below.

The Resilienz podcast series allows potentially more time and the chance for these important views to reach a much wider audience. We are thus inviting each candidate, after answering the four questions below, to spend up to 4 minutes discussing another climate strategy of their choice that they would like to implement if they became mayor. These will be on podcasts but not on radio. (The interview wording of that is now added at the end.)

Every candidate will be asked the same questions and will have the same time to answer. **Candidates' answers to each specific question will be compiled into separate episodes centred on each question (hence the four questions give rise to the four episodes with the various candidates). This will enable listeners to better compare the various responses.**

To fit the available time for the episode we must tightly constrain the lengths of answers, and this is compounded by possibly not knowing the full number of candidates until late August. To that end, please ensure you can limit the length of each answer to 3 minutes. We realise this is tight, but otherwise might have to edit responses to that length, and we prefer candidates can set their own priorities as to the use of the time.

Wherever possible, interviews will be conducted by recorded Zoom meetings, with only the audio track being used. The resultant episodes will be broadcast on the dates in the schedule and will then be posted on FreshFM's website.

Every candidate will have exactly the same 4 questions and the same time to answer.



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QUESTIONS FOR NELSON AND TASMAN MAYORAL CANDIDATES
The same questions and answering time for each candidate

1. **Decarbonisation.** It's 4 years since the IPCC 2018 special report signalled a decarbonisation trajectory of a daunting 7.6% year on year from 2020, to be compatible with a 1.5 C global warming limit. It's three years since our Zero Carbon Act legislated for commensurate responses. With subsequent lack of effective action, plus regional growth, that is now close to 10% reduction every year.

If elected mayor, what would be the key strategies you would put in place to optimise your community's chances of successfully decarbonising at such a formidable rate and on an ongoing basis?

2. **Our energy future.** We are among the most energy-profligate societies in history, and much of our GHG emissions comes from fossil fuels (with transport emissions around 94% of individual emissions in our region). Decarbonising our energy sector is a key to decarbonising our economy, but the logistics are daunting: electrification of almost everything; New Zealand being especially vulnerable to key global supply chain issues; and the net energy gain of all renewable energy sources except good hydro being inadequate to sustain our society in its present form.

What do you think the energy future of the region will look like in 25 years and, what would you advocate to prepare our region to make the most of that energy future?

3. **Just transition.** There is a sardonic joke about sea level rise that "the poor get moved and the rich get sea walls." While expert Belinda Storey would suggest that might not do the wealthy much long term good either, the real point is that disadvantaged people normally become even more disadvantaged as a result of upheaval or crisis.

In a climate context, there is frequent reference to striving for a just transition, but global evidence suggests that is largely an unfulfilled aspiration. If you were elected mayor, what would you like your legacy to be in the area of a just transition in climate responses, and how would you go about achieving that?

4. **Evaluating the cost of climate initiatives.** In reports dealing with climate-related initiatives there are often comments such as a particular course of action not being cost-effective, or not making economic sense, and yet there is almost never reference to the timeframe being considered and almost never comparisons with the cost of *not* taking action (which specialists like Lord Nicholas Stern highlight are generally orders of magnitude greater).

This is often exacerbated by the imbalance of high up-front costs being needed to realise longer term benefits.

Over what timescales do you think the costs and benefits of climate actions should best be evaluated? And if you were elected mayor how would you reconcile the often- unresolved conflict of prioritising funds now for benefits over a much longer term?

5. **A magic climate wand.** Thank you for engaging with the questions I have posed. Kindly now imagine that you have been gifted a magic climate strategy wand. If your candidacy is successful, and you could conjure up any other single climate-focussed council strategy you wished, please tell us what it would be and why you see it as important.