

What would you do to keep rates down?

Council needs to cut the cloth to fit. I would certainly be asking the CEO if there were areas where Council could save on unnecessary expenditure or operate more effectively at a lower cost structure. However ratepayers always need to be aware that if the cutting of costs means the lowering of the standard of core services provided, then this would certainly not be acceptable to any of us.

Council also needs to look at an equitable way of managing debt levels. It is only fair that future ratepayers pay through Council taking on an acceptable level of debt, rather than burdening all current ratepayers with essential capital expenditure eg, water treatment plant.

What is your vision for Taupo three years down the track?

Business Development. I would expect that Council will have worked with major partners both within and outside the region to attract sustainable commercial business to invest here. Council needs to support Enterprise Lake Taupo to tap into central government funding available for export led initiatives. I would hope that up to 1000 jobs would come from these new projects to be established in our region.

Education. I would like to see at least 2 training centres committed to establishment along the ETA. They would provide opportunities not only for our young people but would draw students from afar to study here. The new Council will need to identify niche areas in the labour market such as geothermal energy, specific design related thereto, maybe a sports academy.

Town Centre Revitalisation Plan I would like to see this completed and with the pathways and laneways project already approved by Council in the CSIP well underway. I would hope that a new Council could appoint an experienced and competent urban design team who would consult widely in the community, make the appropriate recommendations to Council thereby providing a programme for implementation for the LTCCP through to 2019 and beyond.