

**Notes prepared for my 2 minute speech Meet the Candidates Forum
organised by Town Centre Taupo and Taupo Chamber of Commerce**

What are two things you believe need to happen to encourage economic growth and business development in the Lake Taupo District?

- **Firstly we need to identify sustainable business opportunities appropriate for this region**
- **Secondly we need a Council who will work together to bring business to Taupo.**

We need a Council who will hustle and act decisively to encourage capital injection in new ventures.

Why? Because we need more jobs and we need to sustain economic growth to support our lifestyles into the future..

What are our main economic drivers??

We've got forestry, geothermal power

We've got agriculture

And we've got tourism.

Town Centre Taupo and Destination Lake Taupo have formed a strong support mechanism for hospitality, retail and tourism. They are working hard to mitigate the effects of the ETA and create vibrancy in our town. They are working on regional tourism and growing our reputation as Events Capital of New Zealand.

Now we need a Council who will get in behind Enterprise Lake Taupo and lobby central government for funding that is available for export led initiatives. Other regions are in there. **We need a slice of the action too.**

Look at what has happened at Mokai. A new \$19 million milk powder plant. There is a massive hydroponic operation and power plant out there. We need to work with our partners in the region to create more of these kinds of sustainable business models.

We need to seek out and encourage sustainable commercial business along the ETA. And we need to maximise the value of the substantial land available for sale or lease that we own around the ETA

Secondly there must be openings for establishing new training centres in Taupo. Council needs to identify niche areas in the labour market such as in the energy, geothermal, maybe a sports academy.

We as a community need to provide opportunities for our young people. We should consider offering specific design courses around our clean energy centre soon to be established on the ETA.

My whole career has been in finance. My interests are in searching out opportunities. And they are also in controlling debt and careful management of our assets. This is where I can make a valuable contribution if I get your vote.

SPEECH PREPARED BY NJW

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