



### Collated answers to Questions for Mayoral Candidates 2016

Question	Pat McEvedy	Bill Woods	Sam Broughton	Sarah Walters	Debra Hasson
<p><b>1. What do you believe are the three most urgent environmental issues facing the district and why?</b></p>	<p>Water Quality, Water Quantity, Freedom Camping. Quality and Quantity are issues that are high on resident's minds, in campaigning around Selwyn this has become clear and Freedom Camping has the potential to affect some of our important recreational areas without some sound management.</p>	<p>The rivers that flow through townships. They are the most polluted as they act as stormwater drains. Wilding pines in the high country. They have the potential to destroy the biodiversity. Mammalian predators. They destroy fauna and flora.</p>	<p>Drinking water, fresh waterways and lakes, biosecurity.</p> <p>We rely on Drinking water. Has to be the number 1 issue. Fresh waterways and lakes as an indicator of the overall health of our ecosystem. Biosecurity due to the threat to native environment as well as rural business.</p>	<p>It's hard to separate the environment from anything else because everything is connected and I like the quote from Greenpeace (which I have already made reference to in a District Plan Review committee meeting) "I don't want to protect the environment. I want to create a world where the environment doesn't need protecting". Bearing that in mind, top issues could be water, climate change and people/consumerism.</p>	<p>Water quality and quantity – Life is dependent on water.</p> <p>Declining ecosystem health- It is our ecosystems that provide us with food.</p> <p>Being responsible in reducing Carbon Emissions to meet Climate Change targets- as signed under the Paris Agreement.</p>
<p><b>2. What are your</b></p>	<p>Water allocation is not SDC's responsibility,</p>	<p>This is a Regional</p>	<p>I like that CPW has meant that deep</p>	<p>Most of this is outside the role of the district</p>	<p>As a Member of the Christchurch West</p>

<p><b>views on water allocation in the Selwyn District? What do you think is the best way to ensure water allocation is fair, in terms of residents, agricultural use and ecosystems?</b></p>	<p>this is an Ecan delegation, which is managed through the consenting system, although the retiring of the deep wells from the CPW Stage 1 area is encouraging, with the ground water being returned to the environment.</p>	<p>Council responsibility but my belief is that that ecosystems should be the first priority as they cannot fend for themselves. The other two can adapt to meet requirements.</p>	<p>ground water is now being retired. Swapping to a more sustainable model.</p> <p>For water allocation I don't believe that first in first served is a good way to go. Water is a finite resource and needs to be allocated based on need with drinking water being the top need.</p>	<p>council, particularly water allocation overall, which is a function of the regional council. As a district council, we have five waters to manage - urban drinking water and waste water, land drainage, storm water and water races - but they all operate under consents from the regional council. I have supported the introduction of metering for drinking water to encourage better demand management and better education to help residents to manage their water use.</p>	<p>Melton Water Zone Committee there is recognition that sustaining growth in our natural environment has suffered at the expense of our built environment and economic growth.</p> <p>To correct this imbalance, a collaborative approach (known as the Canterbury Water Management Strategy – CWMS) was adopted by Environment Canterbury and the various Local Authorities in Canterbury, to provide an opportunity for the community to take local ownership of water management and work together, reaching decisions on their priority and value. At the Regional level, the committee is responsible for</p>
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					<p>environmental restoration and repair of water quality, as well as water storage, distribution and efficiency options. Members appointed by Council include farming, recreation, conservation, environmental groups and local Runanga representatives with the aim to reach an agreement on the way forward.</p> <p>I view the Strategy as one tool where specific targeted dates have to be achieved for natural environmental improvement. A challenge, however will be accommodating growth and climate change and not use these as an excuse for underachievement. I support other tools to be developed to assist the Strategy. Having something is better</p>
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<p><b>3. What are your views on the water quality in the District?</b></p>	<p>Water quality in Selwyn District in some areas and some measurements is declining, I think that with the implementation of PC1 of the LWRP we will see over time an improvement in some of our streams with more quantity and an improvement in quality also, but SDC's responsibilities are around supplying safe reliable drinking water supplies to our communities, these supplies have a huge variation in their source with some coming from Rural water supplies, shallow galleries, deep unconfined aquifers and in some cases confined aquifers. On the back of District Wide rating for water, SDC has improved some of our less secure supplies and put in</p>	<p>Most of our drinking water if not all meets the drinking standards. Surface water is contaminated at varying degrees due to a multitude of reasons and groundwater that is contaminated is the result of human occupation.</p>	<p>Our drinking water quality is good with improvements planned. I hope our water stays of the highest quality so that we don't have to chlorinate our deep well supplies. Water quality in some of our rivers is poor. Recent dry winters has not helped with flows which has condensed high nutrient readings.</p>	<p>The council has implemented much better water supply and treatment systems for drinking water than it had previously and the quality of drinking water is more reliable. However, this only applies to people connected to a council managed water scheme and does not protect private supplies. I would like to see more careful management of this precious resource, but water is mainly an area managed by the regional council, whereas land use is managed by the district council.</p>	<p>than having nothing</p> <p>Fresh water quality is going to decline before it improves under the assessment of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. This because we have an estimated time lag of 30 years before the upland Nutrients (Nitrates and Phosphorous) travel through to Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) and lowland water ways.</p> <p>For urban communities where both quality (including turbidity) and quantity is an issue, Council treats the supply with UV light and low doses of Chlorine.</p> <p>For rural supplies, Council has a responsibility to encourage landowners to test their own wells. If contamination is shown, it means investing in deeper</p>
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	<p>place better filtration and UV treatment along with developing some deeper bores to improve reliability.</p>				<p>wells. When we all go down deeper there is a greater risk in surface contamination entering these deeper wells.</p> <p>For far too long we have treated water from our environment as a commodity and to correct the imbalance between its distribution between our built and natural environment is going to mean rate increases. The challenge for Council is to keep these increases affordable.</p>
<p><b>4. In terms of the day-to-day operations of the Selwyn District Council, what do you suggest can be put in place to make the council operations more</b></p>	<p>That is a difficult question as Council is a Governance body and sets policy and strategy not operational procedures, but if SDC decided that it wished staff to pursue environmentally responsible practices they would need to be balanced against the</p>	<p>To ensure that environmentally practises are adopted where ever possible even more paperless practices.</p>	<p>I would increase the use of digital technology. Allowing members of meetings to Skype in rather than everyone needing to drive across the district all the time. Making agendas electronic has meant that we print</p>	<p>As a council we are driven by our community and support for operating in a different way should come from the community. We could work with our community to better manage waste, provide urban areas that support active and</p>	<p>Show how Council is managing Carbon Emissions within its organisation to support Central Government in achieving the targets it signed under the Paris agreement, in reducing the effects of climate change.</p>

<p><b>environmentally responsible?</b></p>	<p>economic cost and efficiency gains. That said I am keen to see if we can use renewable energy in a way that will return savings as well as environmental gains.</p>		<p>less often.</p>	<p>public transport and make car use less attractive and support a strong local economy.</p>	
<p><b>5. In terms of the SDC committee structure, would you support or not support a sustainable development committee? If so – Why? If not – why not?</b></p>	<p>No I would prefer that as an organisation that we take into account how sustainable we are in our actions throughout out the council, once again weighing up the gains against the economic cost to ensure everything is in balance.</p>	<p>Yes any involvement in improving sustainability cannot be ignored.</p>	<p>No - I think that sustainability should be right through council operations and if we create a committee it will push sustainability to that group rather than dealing with it in all we do.</p>	<p>I would be open to such a committee being established, but it would need to have the support of the council to be successful. It could operate in a similar way to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy with different parties from within and outside the council working collaboratively to achieve better outcomes. Such committees can make recommendations, but the financial decision making rests with the council, hence the need for the support of more than one person.</p>	<p>I would not support a sustainable development committee. Council under the Health and Safety Act, has the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) report to Mayor and Councillors monthly on incidents but I would prefer in environmental reporting, (with the approval of a majority of Councillors) during the CEO performance review, setting a target in reporting as to how Council is meeting good practice under Environment Management System reporting for the organisation. For</p>

					<p>example, a reduction in energy use, making sure Council vehicles are fitted with non-copper brakes shoes. Copper is a toxic metal once it finds its way into waterways and ensuring new builds, with zinc roofs, are sealed for the same reason and at the contractual level valuating a company's environmental accreditation.</p> <p>In the management of Council Controlled Organisations the Council through ratifying the "Statement of Intent" could suggest that these organisations introduce a subcommittee for environmental reporting.</p>
<p><b>6. Would you</b></p>	<p>Yes, in areas that are appropriate, I support</p>	<p>Yes I would support priority in prioritising</p>	<p>Yes where appropriate. I think our new large</p>	<p>It would depend on the circumstances, but the</p>	

<p><b>support a policy prioritising native ecosystem restoration on public land? If so – why. If not – why not?</b></p>	<p>and frequently take an active part in plantings throughout Selwyn to re-establish our native bio diversity, but while I am happy to prioritise I would not want to it to be exclusive as some public areas may require an exotic species to achieve a particular purpose.</p>	<p>native ecosystem the main reason for this to ensure that the best outcome is achieved as I have seen results of well meaning people not achieving what they had anticipated.</p>	<p>scale park could be designated totally native but some other areas are fine with oak trees in parks.</p>	<p>best examples currently seem to be where the council supports other groups, such as the former gravel reserve near Prebbleton and the Mahoe Reserve in Lincoln. Although there is a lot of support for native biodiversity, there are many who do not support an exclusive approach.</p>	<p>I understand Council has already adopted a policy under its Trees and Vegetation Policy (section 5), but agree it could be strengthened.</p>
<p><b>7. In which areas of Council business have you the most experience?</b></p>	<p>Governance, Environmental policy, financial management, asset management, Water and Wastewater</p>	<p>Finance and planning with results second to none.</p>	<p>I have experience across all of council. I have not pinned myself to a certain business area. I have worked on budgeting, community service, planning, sports fields, roading town centres, youth matters, newcomers and immigrants, working with other councils. One particular area of expertise is Community Development where I have 15 years of</p>	<p>Over the last term my responsibilities have covered all aspects of transport, including road safety, public transport and active transport. I have also been involved with district planning (I am a qualified resource management hearing commissioner) community development and community facilities, including libraries. Previous responsibilities have</p>	<p>21 years of Local Government, being accessible and developing listening skills therefore being a strong voice at the Council table, representing your views.</p> <p>As a qualified Resource Management Planner and Certified Hearing Commissioner (Chair), Environmental Management and Planning. Chairing a hearing requires an understanding of legislation, that</p>

			<p>working with families and young people, businesses and schools in growing resiliency and community connection in the Malvern Area.</p>	<p>included arts and sport and recreation facilities.</p>	<p>everyone involved in the process requires a fair hearing and decisions are delivered within a timeframe. This process follows the principles of the Local Government Act.</p> <p>As deputy Chair of Canterbury Neighbourhood Support (Not for Profit Organisation) the delivery of the safer community programmes and the importance community services play to assist volunteers.</p> <p>A member of the Institute of Directors, I have a sound knowledge of Governance in recognition of Council's complex business, multimillion dollar budget and accountability to ratepayers.</p> <p>Land Drainage – as a rural landowner dependent on a land drainage scheme I have used my qualifications</p>
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					in Zoology, Agricultural Science and Environmental Management to understand the environmental changes needed to safeguard Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) and waterways while enabling the continuation of farming.
<p><b>8. Which Selwyn District issues would you give the highest priority as Mayor? Please prioritise them.</b></p>	<p>1.Establishing a unified and inclusive environment in which councillors can make good decisions for the district</p> <p>2. Improve Council engagement with the residents of Selwyn on all levels, ensure we are doing everything possible to communicate with our communities.</p> <p>3.Review our project list to identify which need doing immediately, and get on with them.</p> <p>4.Establish a by-law for freedom camping if needed</p> <p>5.Continue to pursue better health services in</p>	<p>Efficiency in the financial operations of council this year the council income will exceed \$100million there are over 270 staff and with an operation of that size it cannot be run by well meaning people who are obsessed with touchy feely policies and take no notice of the efficiency of the council's finances.</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>Growth planning and funding</p> <p>Roading maintenance</p> <p>Community development</p> <p>Enhancing our Selwyn identity and ownership.</p>	<p>Looking after the social, economic, environmental and cultural needs of the district (order of the former purpose under the LGA) for the present and for the future, ie. looking after people as they have the potential to cause the most harm and do the most good in our environment. We need to support good practices and discourage damaging ones. There are lots of good examples in both rural and urban settings.</p>	<p>Affordable rates so we can all enjoy living in Selwyn;</p> <p>Improving our natural environment; and</p> <p>A pride in Selwyn, both it built environment and community spirit.</p>

	Selwyn, including the establishment of a Health Hub in our district with the view of a variety of health and social services being available to all.			However, transport is an issue that covers all of those priorities and is an area I would like to see improved.	
<b>9. How would you balance the needs of urban and rural residents of the district?</b>	By responding to the needs of all of our communities, I do not see that we have a divide, each of our communities are interlinked, but also have their own character and heritage I see that we need to encourage this so every township and area feels valued	Balance the books first and endeavour to ensure that the needs of people are identified not just respond to the squeaky wheel syndrome or favour where the votes are.	Case by case. Some issues affect us all, others are more local. There are things that need to be the same for all - like drinking water, other things are more centrally located in towns like community centres.  As a council we need to identify and address our community needs, balance the costs and create plans that cater for our needs.	By encouraging greater acceptance that we are one district and that rural and urban needs are often the same thing.  The continuing review of the District Plan over the next three years is also an opportunity to ensure all residents needs are better met.	Through Local Government legislation which includes responsibilities under the Local Government Act, Local Government (Rating) Act, and Resource Management Act
<b>10. How do you think the Council should</b>	Through the District Plan Review	By involving as diverse as possible a wide range of people who can contribute to any proposal. Especially those who	We need to enforce our district plan well that highlights these issues. I would also like to look at ways to offer incentives for solar	Although the government has legally removed our purpose under the LGA of "looking after the four well beings	Through the District Plan under the Resource Management Act and Local Government Act processes.

<p><b>ensure new developments in the district are environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable?</b></p>		<p>are for and those against to ensure informed decisions. This exercise will be of little use if we follow the practises of the council over the last ten years to have consultation that is nothing other than a charade.</p>	<p>power and water recycling.</p>	<p>sustainably”, I have made it a personal choice to continue using them as my purpose.</p> <p>People and businesses are much more aware of how the environmental or social choice is often actually the best economic option too. I don’t think it is so much about making rules to ensure things happen in a certain way, as the best operators are generally well ahead of the rules, but about making the “best option” (backed up by research) the easiest option and being open to what the best option may be.</p>	
	<p>Yes, I do, and I think</p>	<p>YES Most of our</p>	<p>Yes this is very</p>	<p>This work has already</p>	<p>Yes – Council is</p>

<p><b>11. With the proposed increase in the population of the District and the infrastructure planned to accommodate it, do you think its possible and advisable for individual rural townships to be assessed independently in relation to subdivision standards, structural planning etc in order to retain a unique identity</b></p>	<p>we are moving in that direction already, through Selwyn 2031 and the Ellesmere Malvern Area Plans</p>	<p>towns both large and small have their own history and uniqueness that should be preserved unless the local community wants change.</p>	<p>important! Each small town has its own character and feeling and history and one rule for all is not a good way to make sure we retain these characters. These unique towns and the open space between them are some of the important reasons for our current growth. Selwyn is a great place to move to and live.</p>	<p>been undertaken to some extent through the District Development Strategy, which takes the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy process done in conjunction with our strategic partners and extends it across the district at a high level. More detailed work has been undertaken through the Malvern and Ellesmere Area Plans, which are on the council agenda for adoption on 14<sup>th</sup> September.</p>	<p>undertaking a review of its District and it will require each community to submit as to how they want growth to happen in their community. Some will want to subdivide, others not. In preparing policies in the District Plan, they cannot be inconsistent with those set by Environment Canterbury. Some of our townships will have restrictions on growth due to natural hazards, flooding and availability of water. As elected Councillors are your voice in the preparation of the Plan, lobby your views so they are evaluated and included for the submission process.</p>
<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p>Is this in council or elsewhere? As</p>	<p>Keep three and one half kilometres of the</p>	<p>I have promoted the protection and</p>	<p>Personally, I live to the motto that “every</p>	<p>Personally, as a resident of Springston</p>

<p><b>What actions have you already taken to promote environmental sustainability?</b></p>	<p>chairman of the Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee I think I have helped contribute to the overall sustainability of the zone by promoting rules that improve the environmental footprint of agriculture, industry and our communities on our ecosystem, I am also a member of WET and actively support them, TAK and other agencies in their work. I have also been lobbying hard for better recycling and refuse options for our rural communities so as to encourage good practice in those areas.</p>	<p>roadside clear of discarded litter recycling where-ever possible.</p>	<p>improvement of our drinking water supplies. I am chair of the Coleridge Habitat Enhancement Trust which is responsible for protection, enhancement and education of the water, birds and plant life in the Coleridge basin. I support the fencing of waterways for stock exclusion, I am promoting a reticulated sewerage discussion for Darfield so that the community can make an informed decision on the future of its wastewater treatment. I have supported and participated in the removal of wilding pines in the Craigieburn Valley. I love our environment and have spent many nights camping in our mountains and have enjoyed kayaking our rivers and lakes. I am committed to making</p>	<p>dollar you spend sends a message, be careful what you say” and am very conscious of where and how I spend my money. There are many other things our family does in the way we live to try and reduce our burden on the planet. But I don’t try to force my beliefs or ways of doing things onto other people, or regard them as lesser people because they don’t see things the way I do. I know there are a lot of things I would like to be doing better, but I have to be ready to take those steps in my own time and I try to encourage others to take their own steps because they want to.</p>	<p>I lend my support to the Springston Enviro Community garden and frequently visit the Lincoln Farmers Market. As a rural landowner, I lend my support to the Silverstream Water Improvement Group established by local landowners 14 years ago when they were notified about water quality issues above Coes Ford. My understanding of Environmental Management led to Environment Canterbury undertaking research in our catchment, while understanding that farm profit contributed to our economic growth. After registering declining environmental flows and the effect on our shallow wells we were</p>
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			<p>sure we look after and enhance our environment so that our future generations can enjoy what we have.</p>		<p>proactive in submitting against more water takes. Interesting today, our role is to allow both the Selwyn Waihora Water Zone Committee and the University of Canterbury to undertake research on our properties to help understand local allocation issues and water improvement.</p>
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