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We need local leaders who will give Porirua businesses the confidence to invest in themselves, their people, and their growth.

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# PORIRUA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION GUIDE

NZ CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
**P O R I R U A**  
*Business Vitality*

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# DRIVING BUSINESS WELLBEING & GROWTH

**Our city and region are facing some very real challenges that we need our local government leaders to address—most importantly, the need for investment to ensure Porirua is resilient and to meet current, as well as future, growth demands.**

The responsibility to grow Porirua doesn't rest with the City Council alone. It's down to all sectors, groups, and communities to get involved to get this city and region moving forward.

However, it's about ensuring our local Council does the very best with what they do control—our city's finances.

Our Mayor and Councillors need to be absolutely focused on **wellbeing and growth**—it is business and investment that are going to get Porirua humming.



## BUSINESS WELLBEING

Strong businesses create stronger communities. When business does well, Porirua does well, our whole community does well. Councillors must be focused on the wellbeing of businesses and what this means. This will enable SME business owners to responsibly contribute to our local communities, supporting businesses to upskill and employ local residents.



## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & COUNCIL SPENDING

Porirua is struggling to balance spending while funding current and future growth. We need councillors who understand a balanced budget, the difference between core services and nice-to-haves, and the required resilience of a balance sheet.



## ROADING, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Significant projects need clear oversight to ensure the city gets the right benefits from these projects. Councillors need to take the lessons from the city's involvement with Transmission Gully to ensure similar issues don't arise in the Eastern Regeneration, Plimmerton Farm and other large-scale projects.



## LEADERSHIP

Councils everywhere function best when they're operating cohesively. This cohesion and leadership needs to come from all involved in the council, irrespective of history, faction or position—from officers, to councillors and the Mayor. Let's have robust debate, but then let's get on with the plan.

# CHAMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Buy Local:** Council puts preference on local suppliers to support the wellbeing of local businesses.
- **Flexibility:** Mixed-use zones bring people in, but there are perverse policy impacts—especially in light industrial areas. Council must be mindful of the impacts on existing businesses before converting to mixed-use zoning.
- **Transmission Gully Changes:** Many will find themselves with new or changed circumstances following the new road opening. Business needs leadership from the council to maximise opportunities.
- **Actionable Steps:** Campaign promises need to be more than just a slogan. Candidates need to show a clear, actionable plan.
- **Transparency:** Too many decisions are made behind closed doors, with little information released to support the decisions made. Council must be transparent to ensure fiscal responsibility.
- **Business Rates:** With the largest rating differential on businesses in the region, this needs to be reduced by the council and considered when looking at new spending. We need to understand how business rates are calculated and how the council justifies their benefits principle.
- **Investment:** To grow we need to invest in our local infrastructure, but there are a number of ways to raise funds for investment—not just relying on borrowing more and adding to our debt. Careful consideration of management and ownership structures would help.
- **Land:** With more land being opened, the council must take the lessons from previous developments to create connected communities and opportunities for business.
- **Backup Solutions:** Porirua has some lemons because of decisions that are now too far progressed to stop. The council must find 'Plan B' backup options to stop gridlock and infrastructure failures.
- **Cooperation:** Given that the amalgamation conversation is now off the table, the council must explore more options for regional cooperation to reduce costs and drive effectiveness.
- **Policies:** Too often business experiences inefficiencies from the council. The council must drive officers to streamline operations and create specific ways to reduce red tape.
- **Significant Projects:** To ensure best outcomes for the city, cohesive infrastructure development and fiscal responsibility, the council must be across regional projects that impact locally.