

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2010

Advertorial

Main issues : Debt and the harbour

More dialogue with the community, more council transparency and more accountability are just some of the aims of Warren Slater if he is elected Mayor of Whangarei next month.

And the two biggest issues for the council, he says, are 'council debt and the state of the harbour.'

The semi-retired business manager whose campaign is being actively supported by his wife of almost 40 years, Pat, says, "More council dialogue with the community could involve webcasting of council meetings, public forums to discuss upcoming council issues prior to meetings and better communication with the public by councillors through letters, newsletters and the media."

The couple have become newly-addicted meetings attenders

because, says Warren, "Nobody can hope to understand the council without going along to its meetings. As a council we should be committed to knowing how our community feels about the way the council is operating. And that means much better two-way communication."



Decisions made by the council should be made on the basis of the social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community, not on the basis of what the mayor or councillors want, he says. "Council members and staff should remember they are employed by the district's ratepayers, so individuals – within and outside the council – need to be treated with respect," he adds.

He didn't think amalgamation would lead to better local government. "That will depend primarily on elected members in both the WDC and the NRC working more closely together on projects to avoid duplication. "Amalgamation may isolate councils from their communities," he said.

- Ph (09) 459-4992,
- www.warrenslater.co.nz,
- Email w.d.slater@xtra.co.nz