

Warren Slater wrote 3rd March 2010

Steve Goldthorpe

Many thanks for the information you sent through. Not being a resident of Bream Bay, I had not had previous access to the information that you have sent and have read it with interest, but I do periodically read articles from the Bream Bay news on the internet.

I have on many occasions used your name when discussing environmental issues with the many people that I talk to.

I, as you may be aware, am always willing to listen to the viewpoints of many in the community. Whilst having my own personal beliefs, I would be happy to alter my opinion, if convinced otherwise and if I believe that is was necessary. Our community is wealthy in knowledge in many aspects and our authorities, who are not experts in all fields, need to listen more to the valued viewpoints of the community.

When questioned, my basic answer has always been that changes are imminent and we must all take into account, when developing areas, to ensure building is higher above sea level than at present and buildings should also be designed to withstand stronger winds. Your points in regard to storm water issues are indeed valid and we are well aware that Whangarei has many of these which have been affecting our wastewater and causing pollution of our environment.

These are some of the issues I have been proactive in campaigning to fix.

An opinion we tend to share with many is that there is the utmost concern that the ETS being set up is to take monies from each and every person, wealthy or poor. The poor and working class, if one wishes to discuss class distinction, are not able to give any more.

Perhaps then, industries developing products that may cause warming should be financially liable, even if they in turn on charge the costs, thus society then becomes a true user pay system rather than everyone paying for something even if they don't use the commodity produced or benefit from it. Who is going to get rich from it?

Hopefully, after October, when elected as mayor, I will be able to focus positively on enhancing our environment by concentrating on the basic needs and health of the community rather than building monuments that some believe are of a higher priority.

I do not claim to be an expert in the field but logic tells me 'Needs before wants' and to keep informed. Personally I believe in well planned and structured development after, or along with, good basic infrastructure being implemented for the long term future needs of the community.

Your interest is of importance to me.

Regards

Warren Slater

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