

Nelson City Council - Central Ward Candidates

James Hodgson
Aaron Stallard
Peter Win

Matty Anderson (no response)
Murray Cameron (no response)
Cleo Cowdrey (no response)
Sean Davis (no response)
Dai Mitchell (no response)
Pete Rainey (no response)
James Hodgson (no response)

James Hodgson

What is your vision of mountain biking in Nelson/Tasman?

Mountain Biking will be a pillar of economic and tourist recovery in the years to come. Nelson can develop its reputation as a mountain bike destination for all: professionals, enthusiasts, children, young people, and families. I see council working collaboratively with locals who understand how we can improve safety & facilities, continue expanding our network of world class trails, work collaboratively with local Iwi, and draw more international competitions into our region.

What is your vision of general cycling for transport and recreation in Nelson/ Tasman?

Increasing the uptake in cycling for both transport and recreation is essential for improving the wellbeing of our community, reducing traffic congestion, and minimising the financial pressures facing Nelson families. I am confident that we can balance the legitimate needs of those who require a car for transportation with a focus on improving the safety, accessibility, and scale of our cycle network.

Have you had any involvement, support or interest in mountain biking our members may be interested in?

I grew up cycling the 8km return journey to and from Canvastown school, and riding motorbikes with my Dad in private forestry. Moving to Nelson, I quickly learned that mountain biking is far cheaper, more accessible, better for the environment, and delivers on the promise of thrill and enjoyment. I admit that recently, my mountain bike has sat neglected in favour of our e-bike commuter, with front and rear child seats – a practical and enjoyable solution until my boys are old enough to hit the trails.

What action do you plan to take in the next three years to support and realise your vision of mountain biking and cycling?

My plan is to engage with our community and respond to your suggestions, ideas, and requests of our council. I don't claim to have pages of ideas noted in a word document, or a five-step plan to improve mountain biking in our region. I plan to make myself available to respond to the vision

of those most immersed in the cycling community. To show genuine interest in the future of mountain biking in our region. To ensure that when my boys are old enough to come out for a ride, the trails are ready for us.

How would you further realise the economic benefits of the tens of millions of dollars that mountain biking brings to our region?

Encouraging and incentivising international events such as the Enduro World Series is one way that we can continue to promote Nelson as an international mountain biking destination. This will enhance tourism, boost businesses, and breathe life into our local economy.

How much funding are you prepared to invest to realise the potential of mountain biking over the next 3 years?

I am choosing not to identify a specific number, as I know how much more I need to learn and understand before limiting my future decisions to a specific number. However, I do believe that we need to refocus our priorities as a council to provide further support to mountain biking in our region.

Aaron Stallard

What is your vision of mountain biking in Nelson/Tasman?

Mountain biking is a key activity in Nelson/Tasman because it connects us to the land and forests. My vision is for growing numbers of people to be involved in track-building, land stewardship, group events, and mountain biking itself, cycling from the door to the track. People will be able to meet their recreational and outdoor needs within cycling distance of home, safely and easily, all led by the community.

What is your vision of general cycling for transport and recreation in Nelson/ Tasman?

The need to reduce transport emissions in response to the climate crisis brings the opportunity to reimagine our transport sector. My vision is for active transport to be the preferred transport mode for most people on most journeys, which would have the benefits of reduced emissions, safer roads, reduced air and noise pollution, enhanced physical and mental health, and reduced congestion. Recreational cycling will play a key role in enabling the culture shift needed to reduce emissions, and as a bonus keeps us happy and in good health.

Have you had any involvement, support or interest in mountain biking our members may be interested in?

I'm a bit of a cycling nut. I've been cycle touring in Sri Lanka, cycled the St James and to Moawhiti on d'Uurville Island, ride Coppermine once or twice a year, enjoy Codgers (especially P51), ride a road bike for recreation every other day, and commute by bike. I've been a member of the MTB club in the past, but this has lapsed because of a knee injury. I advocate for cycling and cycling infrastructure at every opportunity and believe that this decade we'll be repurposing some existing commuter roads for bikes and buses only.

What action do you plan to take in the next three years to support and realise your vision of mountain biking and cycling?

If elected I plan to work with groups such as Nelsust and NMTBC to help them achieve their goals, especially where the goals are shared with Council. Two key components of progress in cycling are safety and convenience. Every street should be safe to cycle, and this means either protected cycle lanes or traffic speeds of 30 km/h. In terms of convenience, cycle paths or lanes should be direct, continuous, and as uninterrupted as possible. In some streets, residential roadside parking will need to be replaced to enable protected cycle lanes. Wouldn't it be great if Brook Street were safer to cycle on, for commuters, school children, and mountain bikers heading to Codgers.

How would you further realise the economic benefits of the tens of millions of dollars that mountain biking brings to our region?

The emphasis here would be increased participation through safer roads and more people cycling in general.

How much funding are you prepared to invest to realise the potential of mountain biking over the next 3 years?

I'm not familiar with Council's budget for mountain biking or the financial needs of NMTBC but I would certainly be supportive.

Peter Win

What is your vision of mountain biking in Nelson/Tasman?

Helping touristy industry grow in the Nelson region should be a driver for the incoming elect, and it's a no brainer that mountain biking has a huge part of this growth for Nelson. We need a solid plan to help support and encourage/enable all business/party's connected. Ie yearly competition supported by NCC.

What is your vision of general cycling for transport and recreation in Nelson/ Tasman?

Keep Moving forward with more tracks and Cycles ways, help with messaging that pathway are for all Users, a cycle way to cable bay from Nelson CBD should be a project on the table.

Have you had any involvement, support or interest in mountain biking our members may be interested in?

My kids actively use trails about Nelson and the wider region, so yes I'm very supportive of the industry and believe it's a huge opportunity for our region.

What action do you plan to take in the next three years to support and realise your vision of mountain biking and cycling?

Help the industry engage better with NCC and develop a longterm plan which is beneficial for all party's

How would you further realise the economic benefits of the tens of millions of dollars that mountain biking brings to our region?

Help the industry engage better with ncc and develop a longterm plan which is beneficial for all party's Which has a business and social case to understand this opportunity

How much funding are you prepared to invest to realise the potential of mountain biking over the next 3 years?

Hard question without understanding the books in more detail
