

Nelson District Council - At Large Candidates

- Zoe Byrne
 - Margot Haley
 - Rohan O'Neil-Stevens
 - Rachel Sanson
 - Mike Ward
 - Ian Williams
 - Brent Pahl (no response)
 - Marie Lindaya (no response)
 - Cindy Batt (no response)
 - Mani Rai (no response)
 - Tim Skinner (no response)
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Zoe Byrne

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

Mountain Biking is important to locals and visitors alike. It should be well supported, and continue to be an excellent way to experience NZ's landscapes and get healthy. I hope it remains a strong part of our culture and economy. I think biking tourism can play a key part in helping the economy to recover from covid lockdowns.

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

Cycling is an important part of Nelson's transport options. Biking infrastructure should continue to be improved. Bike lanes, shelters and E-bike charging stations are all areas to look at. I also think that redesigning the cycle-way along St Vincent's st needs to be addressed with strong community engagement to find the best solution.

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

I'm not a mountain biker myself, my cycling is generally the weekend town riding variety. I do love to explore our forests. I'm much more of a hiker, and trails for both can sometimes combine nicely, The Old Ghost Road is a perfect example of this.

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

I want to continue to work with community initiatives and help mountain biking and cycling events (both competitive and social) come to Nelson. We need to work with developers to improve our already wonderful mountain biking areas and capitalize on the many benefits biking brings to the Nelson economy.

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

By reinvesting further in Mountain Biking and other areas such as tourism more broadly which complement each other.

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

Too many factors play into this to give a definite number (flood relief, affordable housing, if a huge part of council assets are taken or not (Three Waters) etc) My focus would be working with investors and where possible grants, trusts and philanthropic funds to invest in mountain biking while keeping the burden to the ratepayer as low as possible.

Margot Haley

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

As Coordinator of the Alton St Heritage Precinct, the old Dun Mountain Railway ran down the middle of Alton St denoted by the railway sleepers. This is a good example of local heritage tourism working alongside the promotion of the Dun Mountain Bike Trail. Recently Nelson was surveyed as being one of the highest cycle cities in New Zealand. A credit to Sunny Nelson's collective promotion of the local Eco and Heritage Tourism.

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

Continued promotion and improved safety and support of the local emergency services who attend accidents. Do the members of the Mountain Bike Club all have First Aid Certificates and are they members of St Johns Ambulance Service?

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

Continued promotion, public consultation, submissions, policy and regional development review. I own an E Trike so I can take my dog with me and a lot of my friends are keen mountain bikers, cyclists or cycle business owners. E trikes are good for people with disabilities.

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

As above

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

As above

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

As above

Rohan O'Neill-Stevens

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

Nelson should be a premiere destination for mountain bikers, with high-quality and accessible tracks across a range of grades. Mountain biking plays a key role in our wider tourism economy, as well as being a major attraction for residents, and should be resourced and supported with that in mind, enhancing the supporting infrastructure and information as well as tracks and events. With significant planning work completed, the next term of council should be one of delivery.

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

Cycling should be a safe and efficient form of transport in our city. Protected, separated cycleways along key routes, with safe speed neighbourhoods, are crucial to supporting people to choose cycling as mode of transport. Council needs to lead greater investment in this space and deliver to the policy work completed in this term, like E Tū Whakatū - our active transport strategy. Specific work and routes to support children to bike to school are also needed, to support all members of our community the freedom and opportunity of how they get around.

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

I'm a regular commuter cyclist and have advocated strongly for cycling and mountain biking in this term of council. While I haven't quite caught the mountain biking bug myself, I was raised in a household of keen mountain bikers and have experienced a number of Nelson's mountain biking offerings.

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

With policy work like our Out and About on Tracks strategy and our active transport strategy now completed, what's now needed from council is investment and action. I'll be looking to fully resource and accelerate these plans over the next three years, as well as working with local partners to explore other opportunities and areas for investment to deliver to the potential cycling and mountain biking holds for our region. Council also plays a key role in the promotion of mountain biking and providing easily accessible resources about what's on offer. Council CCOs like the Nelson Regional Development Agency also have a role in building our image as a cycling city, and we need a whole of sector approach to this.

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

I think we undersell the quality, variety and quantity of our mountain biking offerings. We need to improve that storytelling and public perception, alongside improvements to the MB infrastructure, if we are to fully leverage the economic benefits.

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

Obviously the level of investment is not up to one person at council, but I will be advocating for our investment to recognise the scale of return that mountain biking currently provides, and

what it could provide into the future. We have seen other council's successfully leverage council investment into significant central government investment - and that's what I'll be looking to do, bringing millions into our regional economy to support this growing sector.

Rachel Sanson

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

That Nelson Tasman, Te Taihu, is the mountain bike hub of NZ. A place where locals and visitors of all ages come to ride because of: our local hospitality, hubs, and fantastic biking events and skills courses; our range of well-maintained tracks suitable for all abilities of riders; the ability to connect with and immerse in our amazing natural environment where our public reserves are transitioning to native afforestation (away from clearfell forestry); that mountain biking as a significant economic driver and contributor to our region is acknowledged and enhanced; that our communities are healthier and happier because so many can ride safely from their homes to nearby trails; that mountain biking in Nelson is inclusive and accessible for all ages and abilities of riders.

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

I'd love to see us flip the transport hierarchy, so that cycling safety, ease and accessibility is prioritised. We could be leading the country in the number of kids with access to bikes and able to ride safely to/from school, sports etc. The same for commuters. I'd support initiatives to increase the uptake and affordability of ebikes for commuting. I'd like to see low-speed neighbourhoods to encourage safe cycling around our communities, and protected cycleways on our main transport corridors, including from Hira and The Glen to the city centre, and a round Rocks Rd. I support lighting the Railway Reserve. I'd love to see annual events that really celebrate the awesomeness of cycling, including mass rides around Rocks Rd - 'bikes, walkers and micromobility only' for a Sunday morning cruise between the beach and city centre.

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

I am a member of the Nelson Mountain Bike club. My partner and son volunteer for dig days.

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

Advocating and voting in support of improved cycling outcomes at every opportunity! Encouraging council to transition away from clear-fell forestry in our public reserves, to reduce closures due to logging, slips and fire risk. Ensure the mountain bike and cycling clubs and advocacy groups are recognised as key stakeholders and have a voice at decision making tables.

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

Acknowledge the significant contribution cycling and mountain biking brings to our region; support collaboration between Council and landowners to maintain and enhance access; improve the public profile of Council's support for mountain biking.

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

Council has a key role to play in supporting co-funding of events through the Nelson Regional Development Agency; and in ensuring access to trails is maintained and enhanced. I'm not sure what costs are anticipated with these yet, but I support equitable investment in mountain biking as a cornerstone sporting and recreational activity in our region.

Mike Ward

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

Mountain biking has to be a key component for turning Nelson into the sustainability and life style role model that folk visit not just to mountain bike but to find out what it takes to be so fun, leisurely, gorgeous, healthy, prosperous and inclusive. It is also a great example of what can be achieved when Council partners with community.

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

Active transport options are already contributing to the city's climate change initiatives but the completion of the shared pathway network, including the vital Rocks Road Wakefield Quay section, combined with marketing and incentivising and housing options that enable far more of us to live within walking and cycling distance of where we need to be... have to be key components of the Nelson vision.

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

I always supported initiatives to date when on Council and since never learned to drive cycling has been both sport and transport for most of my life. I rode track and road in my youth and multi sport more recently and briefly mountain biked as a component of the Cape Reinga to Bluff Xerox Challenge but I am essentially a runner whose experience of our brilliant mountain bike trails is of running them before the mountain bikers get out of bed ... or before there were mountain bikes or before they were mountain bike trails.

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

Whether elected or not I will continue to tell the stories about just how great this place is, how it got to be this good and how brilliant it could be if more of us stopped focussing on the problems and gave ourselves over to making our lives, our region and the future as brilliant as we would like it to be... if we were serious about bequeathing to our children a future they might thank us for.

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

The key to realising all of the benefits of living in Nelson, not just economic, is for us all to realise we all stand to benefit by telling one another's stories... so if its an arts festival we are promoting... culture vultures also ride mountain bikes and Mountain bikers also take in the arts and knowing about the range of attractions a community has to offer can only increase the patronage for the ones we have a passion for...

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

Without evidence of budgets priorities and options that is not a question I am prepared

Ian Williams

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

Mountain biking is an essential part of our local recreation, and has my full support. It is also a current and growing aspect of attracting tourism since cycling is so popular. If routes could be extended this should be considered, provided that there is a strong business case produced.

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

Local cycling is an important transport option, and is growing in popularity. It contributes to lower emissions, and to physical and mental health and wellbeing. My vision would be to encourage cycling, and safely integrate it into all other forms of transport.

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

I'm not a cyclist and cannot cycle to work as the distance is too great. I do however own a B&B and the vast majority of our guests through our summer season are cyclists, through the local cycling tour companies using the great taste trail. We do all we can to provide good facilities for cycling tourists.

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

I understand that NCC is already a trail sponsor, and this should continue. We need to hear about opportunities to promote and extend the cycle trails and routes within and around Nelson. I would support the vision and objectives as set out on your website, and don't really feel I could add more. However, I am keen to see a more joined up strategy between NCC, NRDA, Uniquely Nelson, and Chamber of Commerce - working better together to achieve a better joint plan and priorities for Nelson.

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

Marketing to New Zealand and the international tourism market is key. I am not sure that we are making the most of all that Nelson has to offer the world. Hence the need for shared goals, and agencies working together more effectively.

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

I think I would need more information on NCC spending in order to answer that. But again, better synergy between agencies should enhance resources. If we do well at marketing the trails, our local economy benefits, and there is more money to invest.
