

## Low Carbon Kapiti Chairperson's report – Jake Roos

Annual General Meeting 4 September 2023



Thank you for coming tonight.

I'd like to thank to committee members for their contributions this year, Jean Fleming, David Yockney, Asher Wilson-Goldman and John Tovey.

The last year has held some significant campaigns and wins for LCK.

We voiced our support for intensification to KCDC, but with a particular focus on the importance of retaining and increasing urban trees to make our towns more resilient to heavy rain and increased heat, which we will see more of with increased climate change, as well as nicer places to live.

We created a spin off campaign group Don't Burn Our Future and advocated to government to drop their proposed liquid biofuels obligation. While we have no issue with some liquid biofuels, the evidence from abroad was that it would not be those biofuels the obligation would put in fuel tanks. Thanks to the ease of fraud, sustainability standards are easily circumvented, as has been seen with the European biofuels obligation, and it would be palm oil and soya oil that we'd get instead. We campaigned hard across multiple fronts, bringing in many allies to help. We even dressed up as angry food to make our point! The government dropped it. So that's a win. I'd like to thank Paul Callister, Robert McLachlan and David Keat for their efforts.

We carried out a candidate climate survey for the local body elections which was well received. In the run up to this we published a series of climate-focussed blogs which were well received.

We submitted on the parliamentary passenger rail enquiry and fronted up to their hearings.

We joined the Climate Club Aotearoa in campaigning against an ETS amendment which would have resulted in an increased handout of free pollution permits to polluters. That campaign succeeded, and the handouts have been cut by 12% instead.

We spoke up in favour of lower speed limits for the Kāpiti Coast speed management review.

Less successful was our petition to have council take possession of 28Ha section of peatland and sand dunes in Paraparaumu town centre for a public park, on the basis that it is flood prone especially in a changing climate. Developer Ian Cassells bought it instead. We will continue to advocate for climate-friendly development in this area.

Looking ahead, we face many challenges.

On the organisational side, we need to amend LCKs constitution to align it with the new Societies Act and change how we recruit and maintain our membership.

In our community, we need to keep speaking up for climate action when a section of the community is becoming involved in dangerous conspiracy theories about the kinds of benign changes that will make our communities lower impact on the climate, as well as safer, more pleasant and inclusive. They engage in outright denial of the physical reality of climate change and the damage it will do to us all if we do not prepare. LCK is more important that ever as a voice of reason that can engage constructively with our decision makers.

At the national level, most of our politicians do everything they can to ignore the climate crisis. Transformative change is still a distant and unlikely prospect, even though the evening news shows

us our climate chickens are already coming home to roost. See both Labour and National vowing to build motorways as just one example.

But we will battle on. Our consciences give us little choice. We will speak up for climate action, for the change that is needed, pick the fights where we can make a difference and whenever we do, do our level best to win them.