

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

VOTE ROSS MEURANT FOR MAYOR

For the past 10 years, my association with Gisborne and the East Coast, has been as trustee and managing director of absentee Russian-owned assets.

For the record, the \$5 million the Russians have spent over this period, tending their forestry block and upgrading the Old Post Office from a derelict iconic building of Tairawhiti, to a fully refurbished, fully tenanted (40), fully earthquake complaint edifice, has all been spent on Gisborne trades and business operators. The funds ploughed into the District, were either a result of funds accumulating from me bringing the Old Post Office back from the grave, and/or introduced funds (especially at the time of making the building the first fully compliant earthquake standards multi storey in Gisborne).

For the curious, you may be assured, that for "foreign introduced funds", I had to pass the myriad of "money police" tests, which government rightly applies to all large sums of foreign introduced capital. Result: Clean slate! Back to the theme of my running for Mayor. Looking to the Future, Gisborne needs to upgrade its infrastructure in roading, rail and air. Expanded access/egress to the region, provides competition. This is an essential ingredient to overcoming protected monopolies. As I understand, former EGL Chair, the well-regarded Keith Sutton, was also promoting investment in infrastructure. One day, I'd like to learn exactly what it was that precipitated the

demise of this man.

As Mayor, I will be committed to upgrading access to Tairawhiti.

- Rail will provide competitive pricing for moving goods to and from Gisborne.
- As examples, horticulture exporters and farming machinery importers will have better freight rates. This converts into better profits and that converts into capital available for business expansion and that means, more local jobs.
- That means less people on the dole and more taxation revenue for Central Government, which might then be spent on health and education.
- Rail will relieve pressure on our roads. Logging trucks will still have the same volumes but their journey will be to a rail head. This means our roads are safer, and crippling anticipated rate increases for road upgrades, are ameliorated.

• Less trucking also provides an environmental benefit. Someone asked me: "Are you still a National Party man?" I replied, "Local Government should not be directed from Wellington. I'm running as an Independent." However, my personal philosophy is what I understand should be National Party philosophy: Private property owning. Market driven demand for manufactured or primary industry products (i.e. no subsidies or protectionism), and Rule of Law (not rule of police or any other bureaucracy).



**VOTE ROSS MEURANT
FOR MAYOR TO GET
GISBORNE MOVING.**