

Hamilton West Ward and Hamilton Mayors Candidates' Opinions on 5G

I contacted all the mayoral and councillor candidates for the Hamilton West ward, asking for their stance on 5G and expressing that I would like a moratorium on antennae installations until such time as reliable studies on 5G have proven it safe, because at this point there haven't been any studies completed on the health and environmental effects of 5G. Note: Since then, I've found out that local council has no power to prevent 5G installation, but I still think it's important to get local politicians on side because they can hopefully spread the word and mobilize more people against it.

Their replies are as follows:

Siggi Henry:

"So glad that someone in Hamilton starts asking the question. I am totally with you on this issue. Have done some research on it and found out that there are no conclusive studies on the safety of 5G. Thank you so much for contacting me. Kind regards Siggi"

David McNab:

"At face value, 5G internet technology appears to offer tremendous benefits for consumers and business alike, especially in regard to the capacity and connectivity it provides for the emerging Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. If New Zealand does not adopt 5G, it risks falling behind technologically and, ultimately, economically.

However, I share the concern of numerous scientists and doctors that the higher frequencies and intensities of radiation from 5G have not been adequately studied, and long term exposure to such radiation has not been certified by any known studies to be safe to humans. Unless future studies prove otherwise, the large-scale deployment of 5G networking could potentially expose entire populations to catastrophic and potentially genocidal health pandemics.

Much more research is needed before placing blind trust in technologies whose health effects have still not been adequately assessed."

I emailed him back and he replied to confirm that he would support a moratorium on 5G antennae installation, and further added:

"I'll add further: it's a horrible dilemma, having to choose between:

- Risk of catastrophic health impacts, versus

- Risk of economic destitution, which will bring huge cuts to health services and loss of economic sovereignty

Apart from the obvious health considerations, there is another advantage of a moratorium: computer and networking equipment gets cheaper and more reliable over time. If/when 5G is found to be not unduly hazardous, the delay in building a domestic infrastructure could have cost and technological advantages.”

Rudi du Plooy:

“Thanks for getting in touch with me. I have been following some of the claims around 5G and have an open mind on the issue. I have a habit of collecting the empirical data and evaluating all the views on an issue.

I have connected with the link that you sent me and will be following the updates. Thanks for that. When I arrived in NZ I could not believe that they built homes under power lines. In South Africa that was not allowed because of the radiation.

I also saw how you could light up a fluorescent light by holding it close to a radio transmitter antenna.”

Melaina Huaki:

“I am totally aware of the 5G debacle and and the affects on people. I have only been enlightened to this topic about two months ago so what little that I do know has lead me oppose it especially in regards to the health implications that it will cause. This means huge discussions in regards to progress in our city needs to be had.”

I further asked, “You would support a moratorium on 5G antennae installation until it is proven (by unbiased and well designed studies) to be safe?” and her reply was yes.

Geoff Holt:

“Reliable studies on health impacts of technology are always a good thing before any new technology is implemented.”

I further asked, “Does that mean that if elected you will support a moratorium on 5G antennae installations until such time as reliable and unbiased studies are available to prove it is safe?”

The reply was, “It seems to me a reasonable position.”

Louise Hutt:

Kia ora Tracy,

I appreciate your concerns around 5G.

We have significant science into how the radio spectrum works - we have been using similar technology to 5G in things like radar for decades. 5G technologies have very similar characteristics to current mobile tech that have been in use for 30 years - which are all non-ionizing types of radiation (aka they do not produce enough energy to damage cells and cause cancer). According to all current scientific knowledge, there are no health risks that can be attributed to mobile radiation - studies have been unable to show that mobile radiation has any impact on a person's wellbeing. The World Health Organisation has classified radiofrequency radiation as "possibly" carcinogenic but also acknowledges any evidence is limited and coffee and pickled vegetables are also in the same category.

However, I agree with you that more research is needed on 5G specifically to reassure the public that it is safe. We need the public to be confident in the decisions that politicians make.

My own concerns around 5G are that some of the spectrum which has been allocated for its use overseas is very near to what is used for weather forecasting. With the changes we are facing with climate change, New Zealand's forecasting needs to be maintained so we can be well prepared for storms, floods, or other potential natural disasters.

That said - Hamilton City Council does not allocate 5G licenses, it is a central government issue.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. I am very swamped with emails at the moment, and it is unlikely I will be able to get back to you again before the end of the election.

Thanks again,

Louise Hutt