



MEDIA RELEASE

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ACT party's poll-jealousy straw-man

The Green Party Tukituki candidate Quentin Duthie has responded to ACT's unfounded scare-mongering by suggesting he must be jealous of the polls to resort to attacking a 'straw-man'.

ACT's Tukituki candidate Duncan Lennox has claimed in a statement that the Greens will bring dire consequences for Hawke's Bay agriculture, but he does not mention exactly what in the Greens' pro-farming agriculture policy released at the Hastings A&P Show just last week he is worried about.

Mr Lennox says, 'Agriculture is the backbone of the Hawke's Bay economy. If that goes down then the rest of the Bay goes with it'. Mr Duthie says, "The Greens agree".

"But he then claims that certain unnamed Green policies will cost, when actually our package will benefit farming, protect markets, reduce cost for sustainable farming, and clean up pollution.

"ACT's forgets that our markets are crucial: if they don't buy it, we can't sell it."

"When our markets want GE Free and low-chemical produce, we must supply that. Moreover, our fussy markets are more and more aware that we are not as clean and green as we like to portray."

"Fundamentally, if we want to keep agricultural returns flowing into Hawke's Bay we have to clean up our act, and that means reducing greenhouse emissions and freshwater pollution."

"For example, Germany demanded zero-pesticide residue on apples. The NZ pip-fruit industry had to respond fast, but they did and Hawke's Bay continues to get a premium for organic and zero-residue apples. If we hadn't, we'd have lost the market; but we did and we reap the rewards."

"If we release GE, we will lose vast agricultural markets and can never go back. Ask local growers."

"Contrary to Mr Lennox's rhetorical statements, the Greens support sustainable dairying, but are not going to sit by while huge industrial dairy farms profit by polluting Kiwis' rivers and climate."

"Mr Lennox is quite correct that many Green policies differ in principle from ACT's: where ACT focuses on money and growth at all costs, the Greens focus on a healthy society with a healthy economy and environment. I'm happy to let the voter choose which they prefer."

"To claim that Greens' policies would have 'horrendous effects' without even mentioning ONE policy removes any shred of credibility that Mr Lennox's argument may have had."

"Mr Lennox, I'll happily debate anytime, but please let's debate policy rather than mythical straw-men. There are even areas ACT and the Greens can agree on, like supporting rural communities."

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