

***Community is at the heart of what I do. My focus has always been on policies for progress - instead of party politics. I am proud to be standing on the Better Auckland ticket for Ward Councillor - Maungakiekie Tamaki and Member - Orakei Local Board. I am current Deputy Chair of the Orakei Local Board.***

### **Eliminate Wasteful Spending**

I am a founding member and former media spokesperson for the Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance, an organization dedicated to ensuring fiscal prudence and elimination of wasteful Council spending. In my very first week in office on the Orakei Local Board I ensured that the legacy internal Board catering costing over \$35'000 was discontinued. Savings can, and should, be made within Council's current operation.

### **Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment**

You'll find me in gumboots most weekends involved in beach clean ups, bush restoration, and community plantings. I hold governance positions in the ecological space as Chair of Friends of Pourewa Valley and Co-Chair of the Tamaki Estuary Environment Forum. I am committed to ensuring our waterways, and green spaces are treated as taonga and that our beaches are swimmable 365 days of the year.

### **Transport**

Solutions to transport issues must be driven by community – not top down ideology from within Auckland Transport. Over the past three years as Transport Lead on the Orakei Local Board I have led the team in delivering numerous transport projects that make a real difference to residents' everyday lives. I have championed the delivery of, and secured \$300K funding for, an upgraded, safer Hewson/Findlay walkway to connect Ellerslie residents to their town centre and train station. I have forged a reputation as a strong, articulate and forceful advocate on behalf of the people I serve. I will ensure your voice is heard loud and clear throughout Council's processes, particularly with AT.

***I am a lawyer and former small business owner. Living locally for over 35 years, including a happy stint in a little stone cottage on Ellerslie's Main Highway, I have three adult children and one granddaughter. I live with my partner Bruce and a menagerie of rescue creatures in St Johns.***

**Vote for a Better Auckland.**

**Vote Carmel Claridge**