

Marcus Buddo Background

Marcus Buddo is a fourth-generation Hawke's Bay local, raised on a farm south of Hastings. Hard work, community support, and reputation are key on-farm, and are principles that guide Marcus today. He attended Poukawa School, Hereworth, and Lindisfarne and enjoyed summers at the beach with family and friends.

Like many of our youth, Marcus left Hawke's Bay to study and explore new opportunities. He earned degrees in Public Health and Politics and Economics at the University of Auckland before returning home to Hawke's Bay. He has managed his family's farm and forestry block, started a small contracting business, and gained firsthand experience with the challenges facing farmers and small business owners

In 2019, Marcus was elected to the Rural Community Board, during which time Hastings faced a severe drought and the COVID-19 pandemic. This experience showed him how quality local government can make a real difference in people's lives. Marcus ran for council in 2022, driven by the need to address housing costs, infrastructure issues, and consent delays.

Cyclone Gabrielle has dominated the council's focus. In the week after the cyclone, Marcus joined volunteers at the Tomoana Showgrounds to organise essential supplies to isolated communities. He was later elected to chair the Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group, which has worked on recovery efforts and preventative measures to support the rural sector.

Marcus has enjoyed working with others to get results for our community. He helped the community in Wamārama come together to propose a solution to beach safety, supported businesses affected by crime, and donated part of his council salary to assist the isolated Kereru community. He is a passionate advocate for important issues like reducing costs for ratepayers, improving water security to boost productivity in the primary sector and making housing more affordable for families and young professionals.

Marcus is running for Mayor of Hastings to focus on managing rates and debt, rebuilding after the cyclone, addressing housing affordability, and supporting economic productivity. His vision is clear; a district where families can thrive across generations, where no one is forced to leave their roots due to high costs or lack of opportunity.

"I'm running for the people who want to call Hawke's Bay home but can't afford to, for grandparents who miss the chance to see their grandchildren grow up, and for young people who deserve a future here," Marcus says. "Hawke's Bay should be a place where families gather at the same table, not connect through screens. It should be a place where people on fixed incomes can afford to stay in their own homes, not be forced out by unaffordable cost increases".

Marcus believes Hawke's Bay is the best place in the world to live. If elected Mayor his focus will be on housing affordability, council efficiency & focusing council on core business to help hard pressed ratepayers who are struggling to afford the cost of council.