

# CANDIDATE PROFILES



(Election of ONE Director)

Disclaimer: The Returning Officer of B+LNZ accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy contained in the statements as supplied by the candidates.



Scott **GOWER**

I am offering myself for re-election to B+LNZ. As a current director of the organisation and committed advocate for NZ sheep and beef farmers, I bring nearly 20 years of governance experience, complemented by my role as a hands-on farmer running a large, successful farming business in the King Country.

Throughout my governance career, I have chaired numerous committees, gaining extensive experience in strategic insight, as well as time and risk management. Currently I am proud to chair B+LNZ People & Culture Committee, where I played a key role in the appointment of our new CEO, an important step in re-positioning the organisation to provide effective and future-focused leadership.

In my role as an incumbent director, I have been keenly involved in the recent refresh of Beef + Lamb New Zealand's strategy. This updated approach ensures we are aligned with the evolving needs of farmers, focusing on sustainability, industry resilience, and - most importantly - strengthening farmer returns.

As both a director and a farmer, I understand the challenges and opportunities our industry faces. Looking ahead, I will continue to prioritise the wise investment of your levies, and my own particular focus on ensuring regulatory change happens at a more manageable pace and is farmer led.

**I believe a strong B+LNZ is crucial for the prosperous future of NZ sheep and beef farmers. With an upcoming referendum we need experience and continuity to ensure the enduring success of the organisation.**

**I would be honoured to have your support to continue serving as your director. Together, we can build on our achievements and ensure that we are helping to shape our industry's future, rather than having it shaped for us.**

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Andrew **STEWART**

I am a passionate sheep and beef farmer with a strong focus on improving the current state of the industry so the next generation can enjoy farming as much as those who have gone before. Together with my wife Kylie and daughters Hannah and Charlotte, we farm 617 hectares of hill country in the Rangitikei region. Over the past 15 years we have diversified into agri-tourism and accommodation on the farm which gains us valuable insights into how the rest of the world views Kiwi farmers and our products.

Since 2017, I have been advocating for Kiwi farmers against unworkable regulations, unfair rural lending practices, unsustainable rates increases and unbelievable ideas such as putting a methane tax on our food producers. These and various other challenges have inspired me to stand for this position as I strongly believe our industry bodies need passionate farmers willing to contribute outside the farm gate.

My governance experience includes being the inaugural Associate Director for BLNZ, Federated Farmers Meat and Wool chair for the Manawatu/Whanganui region and time served on school boards. I am equally as comfortable challenging thinking around a board table as challenging my own farming practices in an effort to making them better.

Farmers have been vocal in the past few years about what they want from their levy organizations, and I believe I have the skills and experience to deliver on those wishes if I am elected. For me personally, 2024 has highlighted that what we have been doing in the past will no longer work looking to the future. We need brave new thinking, fresh ideas and determination backed by experience to ensure our industry thrives for the next generation to enjoy.

Your vote for me will ensure grass roots farmers have a strong voice at any table.

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