

# Informal Workshop Notes

## Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Workshop

Strategy Review - Workshop 3

**Held:** 9:30am, Friday 20 September 2024, Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC) Rotorua Office, Waiariki Room, Corner Fenton & Pukaki Street, Rotorua and via Zoom (Audio Visual Meeting)

### Heamana

**Chairperson:** Pou Tākiwaiora Arapeta Tahana (Independent)

### Heamana Tuarua

**Deputy Chairperson:** Deputy Chair Kevin Winters (BOPRC)

### Ngā Kopounga

#### Members:

**Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT)**

Mariana Te Rangi (via Zoom) and Rangitihia Pene (Alternate)

**Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC)**

Mayor Tania Tapsell, Cr Gregg Brown (via Zoom)

**BOPRC**

Cr Te Taru White (Alternate)

**Ministry for the Environment (MfE) (Observer)**

Lorena Stephen, Director, Investments, Policy (via Zoom)

### Te Hunga i Tae Ake

#### In Attendance:

**TALT:** Dr Daryn Bean - Tumu Whakarae (Chief Executive); Soweeta Fort-D'Ath - Lakes Programme Coordinator

**RLC:** Stavros Michael - General Manager, Infrastructure and Environment

**BOPRC:** Cr Lyall Thurston; Helen Creagh - Rotorua Catchments Manager; Melissa Williams - Communications Partner; Emma Tombleson - Communications Advisor; Gemma Moleta - Senior Planner (Water Policy); Margaret Courtney - Senior Advisor Te Amorangi; Merinda Pansegrouw - Committee Advisor

**External:** Elva Conroy - Workshop Facilitator/Conroy Donald Consultants; Chris Sutton - Rerewhakaaitu Incorporated Society

### Ngā Hōnea

## **Apologies:**

Nuki Nicolson (TALT); Chairman Doug Leeder (BOPRC); Phill Thomass - Lakes Community Board Chair (RLC Alternate)

## **1. Karakia Whakatuwhera Opening Karakia**

Karakia whakatuwhera provided by Pou Tākiwaiora Arapeta Tahana.

## **2. Workshop Purpose**

Facilitated by: Elva Conroy, Conroy Donald Consultants.

Following the presentation of the Independent Review Report to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group (RTALSG/the Strategy Group), the purpose of Workshop No. 3 was to:

- Review progress to date on refreshed Lakes Strategy
- Confirm key components of refreshed Lakes Strategy
- Identify where to from here
- Provide an update on other recommendations from the RTALSG Review.

## **3. Strategy Review**

### **3.1 Refreshed Strategy Workshop No. 3**

*Presentation 1 - 2409 Refreshed Lakes Strategy: Objective ID A4783405*

*Tabled Document 1 - 240920 Worksheet: Refreshed Lakes Strategy Components A3  
- 20 September 2024: Objective ID A4776113*

*Tabled Document 2 - 240920 Handout Refreshed Lakes Strategy A4 - 20 September  
2024: Objective ID A4776112*

#### **Progress to date on refreshed Lakes Strategy:**

- Key to note that in refreshing the strategy, the Strategy Group was not starting from scratch, but rather building on an existing foundation/Strategy
- Strategy Group workshop in March 2024 resulted in a brief strategy review
- Strategy Group workshop in June 2024 identified desired outcomes of the plan review process/listed measures of success/detailed ideas for strategic priorities/considered a deconstructed vision and specified strategic priorities and potential frameworks
- At a Chief Executives/staff workshop held in July 2024, a review was undertaken of the deconstructed vision/strategic priorities and potential frameworks and these were reaffirmed
- The aim of the September 2024 workshop was to confirm the components of the Strategy
- Goal for December 2024 was to consider, in parallel, the draft refreshed Strategy and draft implementation plan
- Was critical to get on with the “doing” part/creating a collective impact
- Strategy Group was well on track with the requirements to ensure a collective impact:
  - had a “backbone” of coordinating organisations (Strategy Group and three partner organisations)

- there was a common agenda for change (vision/refreshed lakes strategy)
- Had in place shared measurements for data and results: Trophic Level Index (TLI)/Lake Submerged Plant Indicators (LakeSPI)/Kōura measurements, all to feed into the implementation plan
- Open and continuous communication - ongoing, internally and externally with communities
- Engaged in mutually reinforcing activities “the doing that contributed to the vision”/this formed the basis/foundation for long term success/long term change .

**Direction Provided for key components of refreshed Strategy:**

- No change to vision - was established via Settlement Act
- Scope of strategy - to add the following:
  - To embrace new research and innovation (Strategy Group wanted to be a global world leader in freshwater management/showcase the lakes)
  - Could consider rewording the vision by elaborating/adding explanation/narrative
  - Productivity/use of land
  - Māori aspect of care - Manaakitanga - to provide a wider context than “preserve and protect”
  - Papakāinga
  - Land-based practices - responsibilities relating to intergenerational well beings
  - People should be safe and secure
- Imagining success - the future state/key themes:
  - Ecological restoration/wellbeing
  - Cultural reconnection/wellbeing
  - Community engagement/recreation
- Human element - community/recreational use/access
- Observation: Imagining success included matters of the heart; however, the current annual report (Purongo ā-tau) reported primarily through a scientific lens/focussing on exact data. Expressed the view that there was an opportunity to weave matters of science and matters of the heart into one, in future reporting processes
- Identifying strategic priorities - what needed to be achieved (high level themes of areas for focused action that aligned with the vision):
  - To consider where best to focus action/what effort would be required to achieve the Strategy Group’s vision/as a next level what would be the foundation/framework for the strategy & reporting
  - Provided examples of strategic priorities (based on the Rangitāiki River Document/Te Maru o Kaituna River Document)
  - Key themes included: iwi relationships/water quality and quantity/land use/collaboration with iwi and communities/ecosystem health and taonga species/prosperity/structures and access.

**Members’ feedback: Priority areas of focus/Enablers/Way of working/Wow Project or “game changers” that would make the biggest difference to lakes and/or people:**

**Strategic Priorities/Themes:**

- Water quality and quantity (effective use)
- Efficient land use/catchment use/restorative element
- Tūāpapa/health and wellbeing of the lakes
- Enjoyment by all/iconic theme - connectedness

- Intergenerational wealth/cultural wealth/social wealth
- Cultural values
- Ecological condition/ecosystem health (pests/weeds/catfish)
- Collective value
- Forward thinking/mokopuna decisions “future generations”
- Climate change/resistance
- Research and innovation (to continuously incorporate new evidence from science and research - to be at forefront)
- Elevate and activate
- Te Tūāpapa o ngā Wai o Te Arawa - Te Arawa Cultural Values Framework
- He Mahere Taiao mō ngā Wai o Te Arawa - Environmental Action Plan
- Empowering iwi to realise aspirations
- Health and wellbeing of the lakes and whenua
- Te Mana o Te Wai – restoring mauri to Te Arawa lakes
- Promote connections to the lakes and catchments - adapting
- Environment (maintain water quality/threats to water quality/te Mauri o te Wai/Science
- People - iwi partnership
- Land - not working against the lakes/encouraging restorative redevelopment
- Addressing industrial pollution
- To look at other ways to improve water quality
- Weed eradication/weed and pest free catchments
- Erosion control/best practice land management
- Biodiversity/aquatic health/taonga species/biosecurity
- Research/science/”to be the best we can with the money we have”
- Seeking other investments: release burden on ratepayers/taxpayer/impact investment
- Being adaptable/resilient
- Use and enjoyment balance - water quality/clarity connection
- Value of the lakes to people/foster connections and value.- promoting collective nature and framework.

### **Enablers**

- Funding/Investment/Pūtea
- Innovation - ecotourism
- Infrastructure
- Research and evidence
- Considering a dedicated lake for Kōura
- Upgrading boat ramps
- Kotahitanga/collective impact
- Research current/up to date innovation (monitoring)/Mātauranga Māori
- Communications
- Expertise/Innovation

### **WOW Project/Game changer project (s):**

- Professor Deniz Özkundakci, BOPRC Chair in Lakes and Freshwater Science at the University of Waikato to advise the Strategy Group
- Biosecurity improvements
- Impact story telling - “Selling the sizzle” to the general population
- Restore lakes to pātaka kai
- Collective biosecurity (developing a lakeweed business case/ clams/catfish)

- Re-establishment Papakāinga
- Biosecurity Fund
- Aquatic weed management on a large scale
- Developing a strong pathway management plan for pest species to protect from all future invasion
- Cultural immersive experiences on lakes/catchment



**Zoom participants - contributions: via chat/email**

- Would be critical to receive feedback from the Lakes Water Quality Society (LWQS)
- To consider how LWQS might fit in the solution development
- An on-land animal pest strategy
- Leveraging the intersection of the funding of the three entities relating to lakes water quality
- Potential source for a “Wow project”: to consider consulting with the community on the draft vision and strategy. This could engender community involvement in projects at the very least.

**General Comments:**

- To consider a name for the Strategy Document (“What was in a name”?)
- Reaffirmed that input would be required from the Lakes LWQS
- Critical to empower iwi/hapu
- Data insights - evidence based
- Pillars/Pou: Wai ata/Wai rua/Wai ora (Special Places/People, Knowledge and Practices/Lake Health and Wellbeing)
- Was important for Strategy Group members to physically connect with the lakes. All meetings were held in meeting rooms - needed to get out and about to connect
- Reminded that there was a level above the “strategic priorities”, namely the framework (Wai ora).

**Update on RTALSG Review actions**

	Recommendations	
1	<u>Recommendation 1:</u> The Vision and Strategy Document must underpin the Lakes Programme. All planning and reporting to the Strategy Group must align with this document.	 On track for December 2024
2	<u>Recommendation 2:</u> Carry out a refresh of the Vision and Strategy Document to embed Te Tupapa o ngā wai o Te Arawa and include new/emerging issues. No changes are suggested to the themes, focus areas and goats. An action plan could be developed to ensure focused action and form the basis for the Lakes Programme irrespective of the source of funding	 On track for December 2024
3	<u>Recommendation 3:</u> Elevate the status and role of TALT within the Strategy Group and associated Lakes Programme.	In progress to secure funding to enable participation
4	<u>Recommendation 4:</u> Future proofing Chair arrangement through training and preparing a succession plan for future Te Arawa chairs to	Ongoing

	ensure that both technical and cultural aspects are met.	
5	<u>Recommendation 5</u> : All Strategy Group members to wananga potential solutions to the matters raised through interview feedback, particularly in relation to governance oversight function, partnership and equity as well as connectivity with the community. Wananga must be facilitated by an independent facilitator who specialises in governance matters.	✓
6	<u>Recommendation 6</u> : Carry out a review of the Deed of Funding agreement by the Crown and all Strategy Group partners.	Ongoing
7	<u>Recommendation 7</u> : TALT to carry out a review of their Protocol Agreement with Ministry for the Environment and initiate a Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe agreement with individual partner agencies.	Ongoing
8	<u>Recommendation 8</u> : Hold regular inductions with new Strategy Group members and staff from partner agencies,	Ongoing

**Next Steps:**

- Elva Conroy to incorporate comments/guidance provided relating to the key components for the refreshed strategy and develop a draft to be circulated to Strategy Group members for further comments to enable a draft strategy document to be considered at the December 2024 hui.

**10:36am - Workshop closed.**