



# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Rārangi Take (Agenda)

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the next meeting of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group will be held in Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waiariki Room, Corner Fenton & Pukaki Street, Rotorua on:

FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 09:30 AM

**Bay of Plenty Regional Council,  
Rotorua Lakes Council and  
Te Arawa Lakes Trust.**

*Working as one to protect our lakes with funding  
assistance from the Ministry for the Environment.*

Fiona McTavish  
Chief Executive, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group  
3 February 2021

# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

## Membership

<b>Poū Tākiwaiora (Independent Chairperson)</b>	Sir Toby Curtis
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> (appointed by Group)  <b>Members</b>  Two representative from each of the partner Councils one of whom must be the Chair/Mayor:  Bay of Plenty Regional Council  Rotorua Lakes Council  Governance representatives from Te Arawa Lakes Trust	Mayor Steve Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)       Chairman Doug Leeder Cr Kevin Winters Cr Te Taru White (Alternate)  Deputy Mayor Dave Donaldson To be confirmed (Alternate)  Roana Bennett Nuki Nicholson Rangitihi Pene (Alternate)
<b>Observer from the Ministry for the Environment</b>	Martin Workman (Director Water)
<b>Quorum</b>	One appointed member from each of the partner organisations
<b>Meeting frequency</b>	Quarterly

## Purpose

To contribute to the promotion of the sustainable management of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and their catchments, for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes.

## Role

- Provide leadership to the organisations and the community in relation to implementation of the Vision and Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua District originally adopted in 2000 and refreshed version adopted by the Strategy Group in 2013.
- Identify significant existing and emerging issues affecting the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and respond appropriately.
- Approve, monitor, evaluate, and review agreements, policies and strategies and all other proposals to achieve integrated outcomes for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes.

- Identify, monitor, and evaluate necessary actions by the partner organisations and other relevant organisations.
- Receive reports on activities being undertaken by the partner organisations and other relevant organisations.
- Participate in the preparation of statutory plans in relation to significant issues. Such plans include but are not limited to lwi and hapū management plans, district and regional plans, reserve management plans and annual plans.
- Participate in applications for activities in relation to significant issues not addressed by existing policies of the partner organisations. Such activities include but are not limited to resource consents, designations, heritage orders, water conservation orders, restricting access to the lakes (during special events or in particular circumstances), and transferring and/or delegating of statutory authority.

## Strategy Group Procedures

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group is a permanent joint committee established under the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 (Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement - Cultural Redress: Lakes Management and Relationships, clauses 9.1 to 9.3 - December 2004) and is not disestablished as a consequence of a Local Government election.

The Group's Terms of Reference are derived from the Rotorua Lakes Strategy Agreement included in Part 1 of the Relationship Schedule to the Deed of Settlement, December 2004.

### Meanings:

*"Organisations" means the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, the Rotorua Lakes Council, and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council; sometimes referred to as "Partner Organisations".*

*"Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes" means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotomā, Ōkātina, Tikitapu, Ōkāreka, Tarawera, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Ōkaro.*

*"Group" means the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group, formed as a Joint Committee under Clause 30 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; sometimes referred to as the "Strategy Group".*

### Membership

- The non-voting Poū Tākiwaiora (Independent Chairperson) is appointed by the members for a three year term in alignment with the Local Government triennium and is to be reviewed and confirmed at the first meeting of the Group following the Local Government elections.
- The Poū Tākiwaiora is not deemed to be a member of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group for the purposes of a quorum.
- The Poū Tākiwaiora shall assume the role and responsibilities as defined in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Poū Tākiwaiora Guidelines.
- The Deputy Chairperson shall be appointed from the membership at the first meeting of the Group following the Local Government elections.

## Quorum\*

The special quorum for a meeting of the Group will be four members of the Group.

In the event that the ordinary quorum is not satisfied at three consecutive meetings of the Group in circumstances, where in the case of each such meeting:

- It was notified in accordance with the Standing Orders;
- Order papers were sent to each member of the Group in accordance with the Standing Orders; and
- The meeting had not been cancelled for any reason, then the members in attendance may declare the third meeting inquorate according to the Standing Orders and the special quorum will then be substituted.

At any subsequent meeting, the ordinary quorum will be restored.

No matters that were not on the order paper for the meeting at which the special quorum was established can be considered by a special quorum meeting.

## Power to Act

To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role of the Strategy Group subject to the limitations imposed.

Each Council participating in a joint initiative will fund its own proportion of that joint initiative as determined by the Joint Committee.

## Power to Recommend

To the partner organisations on any matters within the Strategy Group's delegated functions as it deems appropriate.

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group report directly to their respective organisations.

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council.

# Rārangi Take Agenda

- 1. Karakia Whakatuwhera  
Opening Prayer**
- 2. Ngā Hōnea  
Apologies**
- 3. Wāhanga Tūmatanui  
Public Forum**
- 4. Ngā Take Tōmuri  
Items not on the Agenda**
- 5. Raupapa o Ngā Take  
Order of Business**
- 6. Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua  
Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**
- 7. Ngā Meneti  
Minutes**  
  
**Kia Whakaūngia Ngā Meneti  
Minutes to be Confirmed**
  - 7.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 27 October 2020** **7**
- 8. Ngā Pūrongo  
Reports**
  - 8.1 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report** **14**  
  
Attachment 1 - 2021 02 02 TALT Update for RTALSG 15
  - 8.2 Progressing a Collective Impact Framework for the Tarawera Lakes System** **18**  
  
Attachment 1 - 2021 02 02 Tarawera CIF Update RTALSG Feb2020 19
  - 8.3 Wastewater Scheme Funding** **25**

#### **8.4 Ministry for the Environment Update**

Presented by: Ministry for the Environment Representatives Juscinta Grace and Courtney Clyne

#### **8.5 Rotorua Lakes Council Update Report 31**

#### **8.6 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Status Update and 2020/21 Six Month Report 34**

Attachment 1 - DRAFT 2020/21 Six Month Report Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 39

Attachment 2 - Dashboard Status Report (12-02-2021) 41

#### **9. Ngā Take Tōmuri Hei Whakaaroaro Consideration of Items not on the Agenda**

#### **10. Karakia Kati Closing Prayer**

# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

## Ngā Meneti Open Minutes

<b>Commencing:</b>	Tuesday 27 October 2020, 9:30 am
<b>Venue:</b>	Nukuteapiapi Meeting Room, Te Arawa Lake Trust, 1194 Haupapa Street, Rotorua
<b>Pōū Tākiwāiora Chairperson:</b>	Sir Toby Curtis (Te Arawa Lakes Trust)
<b>Heamana Tuarua Deputy Chairperson:</b>	Mayor Steve Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)
<b>Ngā Kopounga Members:</b>	<p><u>Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT):</u> Roana Bennett; Nuki Nicholson</p> <p><u>Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC):</u> Deputy Mayor David Donaldson</p> <p><u>Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana (BOPRC):</u> Chairman Doug Leeder; Cr Kevin Winters; Alternate Te Taru White</p> <p><u>Ministry for the Environment (MfE):</u> Observer Simon Ingham (via Zoom)</p>
<b>Te Hunga i Tae Ake In Attendance:</b>	<p><u>BOPRC:</u> Chris Ingle - General Manager Integrated Catchments; Helen Creagh - Rotorua Catchments Manager; Andy Bruere - Lakes Operations Manager; Greg Corbett - Biosecurity Manager; Hamish Lass - Senior Projects Officer (Marine &amp; Freshwater); Gemma Moleta - Senior Planner (Water Policy); Merinda Pansegrouw - Committee Advisor</p> <p><u>RLC:</u> Geoff Williams - Chief Executive; Gina Rangi - Manahautū Māori (Māori Manager)</p> <p><u>TALT:</u> Nicki Douglas - Environment Manager; Elva Conroy - Consultant Conroy &amp; Donald Consultants Limited</p> <p><u>Other:</u> Dr Ian Kusabs - Environmental Consultant, Kusabs and Associates Ltd; Chris Sutton - Rerewhakaaitu Farmer</p>
<b>Ngā Hōnea Apologies:</b>	Alternate Rangitihi Pene (TALT)

Due to the late arrival of Pōū Tākiwāiora Sir Toby Curtis, Deputy Chair, Mayor Steve Chadwick chaired the meeting.

## 1. Karakia Whakatuwhera Opening Karakia

A karakia was provided by Councillor Te Taru White.

## 2. Ngā Hōnea Apologies

### Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Accepts the apologies from alternate Rangitihi Pene and Deputy Mayor Dave Donaldson for early departure tendered at the meeting.

Donaldson/Winters  
CARRIED

## 3. Ngā Take Tōmuri Item not on the Agenda

- Health Warning Issued for Lake Rotorua - Bloom of potentially toxic blue-green algae

## 4. Whakapuakanga o Ngā Take Whai Taha-Rua Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No declarations of conflicts of interest advised.

## 5. Ngā Meneti Minutes

Kia Whakaūngia Ngā Meneti  
Minutes to be Confirmed

### 5.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 5 August 2020

#### Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 Confirms the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Minutes - 5 August 2020 as a true and correct record.

Winters/Bennett  
CARRIED

#### Matters arising

- Item 6.5 – Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Reticulation Scheme (Status of Project): Funding Deed Contribution Adjustment



Resolution 3: “*Instructs all officers to re-confirm the Deed Funding contribution to the final actual cost of the project in line with precedent policy and provides an update report to the next meeting of the Strategy Group*”:

Members noted that BOPRC and RLC staff were currently working on a progress report in this regard which would be submitted to the Strategy Group in due course.

- Item 6.6 – Presentation – Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Tarawera Collective Impact Update

Members reiterated that the order of items on future agenda should be accommodating to presenters; ensuring that their mahi received the exposure it deserved.

## 6. Ngā Pūrongo Reports

### Ngā Whakatau e Hiahiatia Ana Decisions Required

#### 6.1 Appointment of New Representative for Te Arawa Lakes Trust on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

*Tabled Document 1 - Letter of confirmation for replacement RTALSG trustee - Rangitihi Nene: Objective ID A3654747*

#### Resolved

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Appointment of New Representative for Te Arawa Lakes Trust on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group;**
- 2 Notes the resignation of Raina Meha as a Trustee of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust; and**
- 3 Notes the appointment of Roana Bennett as the Te Arawa Lakes Trust member to replace Raina Meha and the appointment of Rangitihi Pene as the alternate member.**

**Leeder/Winters  
CARRIED**

Members expressed appreciation for the valuable mahi/contribution provided by Te Arawa Lakes Trust representative Reina Meha.

9:50 am - Poū Tākiwaiaora Sir Toby Curtis joined the meeting.

## 6.2 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 2019/20 Annual Report

*Presentation - Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2019-2020: Objective ID A3658430*

*Presentation - Lakes Programme - Lake Health: Objective ID A3658434*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Rotorua Catchments Manager Helen Creagh, Lakes Operations Manager Andy Bruere and Dr Ian Kusabs, Environmental Consultant, Kusabs and Associates Ltd, presented the item.

### **Key Points:**

- Provided an overview on progress made with the restoration programme on the four priority lakes: Rotorua, Rotoiti, Ōkāreka and Rotoehu
- Lake Health - Water Quality Results for the year
- Lake Submerged Plant Index (Lake SPI)
- Kōura and Kākahi Monitoring
- Catfish Monitoring.

### **Key Points - Members:**

- Acknowledged the valuable contribution by community groups towards pest management and highlighted the importance of maintaining connections with these groups as part of solving the challenge
- Noted that with regard to progress on the reticulation network for Rotoiti, a complicating issue for RLC was that for a number of multiple ownership properties the owners could not be easily identified and without the owners' permission Council could not install pipes on these properties. This matter was currently receiving priority attention
- The tender process for the onsite pre-treatment sewerage systems for the Rotoiti/Rotomā Wastewater Treatment Plant was expected to be finalised by mid-November
- Noted that the comment "the reticulation network for Rotoiti is approximately 75% complete" (under bullet point "Lake Rotoiti" on page 27 of the agenda), related to piping infrastructure and not the project.

### **Items for Staff Follow Up:**

- Coordinate a future site visit to Lake Ōkāreka for members of the Strategy Group
- Provide members of the Strategy Group with photos of Lake Ōkāreka displaying the success story with regard to the landscaping work/rock restoration for trout habitat (off Waitangi Stream and lower down into Lake Tarawera)

- With regard to the Rotokawa Sewerage Reticulation Connections Project (200 homes) (Page 41 of the agenda), provide an update at a future meeting as progress seemed to be steady but slow
- Lake Ōkāreka Stream Works: the total cost to BOPRC for the programme (including physical work/consents and pumping) to be provided to Cr Winters.

## Resolved

### That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:

- 1 **Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 2019/20 Annual Report; and**  
**Winters/Chadwick**  
**CARRIED**
- 2 **Approves the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 2019/20 Annual Report for submission to the Minister for the Environment.**

**Bennett/Nicholson**  
**CARRIED**

## 6.3 Rotorua Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plans

*Presentation - Aquatic Plant Management Plans: Objective ID A3658428*

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana Biosecurity Manager Greg Corbett and Te Arawa Lakes Trust Environment Manager Nicki Douglas, supported by Senior Projects Officer (Marine & Freshwater) Hamish Lass, presented the report.

### Key Points:

- Issues with aquatic weeds - improved water quality combined with climate change were likely to make the problem worse
- Origins of the Aquatic Plant Plans
- The Plan provided a 'roadmap' for agencies, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and communities to work together on aquatic weeds
- The new Plans signalled a change in focus
- Engagement process followed for whānau/affected communities around the lakes
- The impact of aquatic weeds on native species/mahinga kai
- Development of the Plan visions and objectives for each lake were guided by the:
  - Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua District
  - Te Tuapapa o Ngā Wai o Te Arawa/Te Arawa Cultural Values Framework
  - Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan
  - Purpose of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group
- The Plans would be used to guide aquatic pest plant operation planning in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes and provide the basis for community groups to apply for third party funding to support specific aquatic pest plant projects that they have an interest in.

### Key Point - Members:

- Te Arawa Lakes Trust, in close liaison with whānau, was currently investigating traditional solutions involving harakeke weaved mats to be deployed on the lakes.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plans; and**

**Chadwick/Donaldson  
CARRIED/LOST**

- 2 Endorses the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plans.**

**Bennett/Winters  
CARRIED**

11:00 am – Deputy Mayor Donaldson withdrew from the meeting.

## **7. Ngā Take Tōmuri Hei Whakaaroaro Consideration of Items not on the Agenda**

### **7.1 Health Warning Issued for Lake Rotorua - Bloom of potentially toxic blue-green algae**

Members noted a recent health warning issued by Toi Te Ora Public Health for toxic algal blooms in Lake Rotorua and the Ōhau Channel.

#### **Key Points:**

- Maintenance work was currently taking place on Puarenga Alum Dosing Plant; the Plant would be operational before Christmas and dosing would be increased. However, until then more blooms were likely
- Lake Rotorua had been subjected to high nutrient loads from intensive land use and sewage in the past and this legacy of pollution would take decades to recover
- Everyone in the community needed to play their part by being mindful of how they contributed to the water quality
- Climate change was causing prolonged, warmer temperatures which increased the likelihood of toxic algal blooms
- Alum dosing had helped improve the water quality by preventing algal blooms, however was a short term strategy, which involved treating incoming streams with alum, reducing the impact of phosphorus on the lake and the frequency of toxic algae blooms
- Long term, sustainable land use in the catchment was ultimately the solution to a healthy lake

- BOPRC was working with Te Arawa, landowners, and the Rotorua Lakes Council to ensure that this change was delivered and that alum dosing was minimised.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Continued, honest and timely communication with the community was critical
- Suggested that a further press release be issued following the health warning by Toi Te Ora Public Health
- Needed to take the opportunity to highlight to the community the importance of a change in long-term sustainable land use
- Lake Taupō was experiencing a similar algal bloom
- Supported alum dosing being re-commissioned as a matter of urgency
- BOPRC would continue to monitor the situation and that any updates would be available on the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme's website, as well as Toi Te Ora Public Health.

**11:25 am – the meeting closed.**

**CONFIRMED**

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Sir Toby Curtis  
Poū Tākiwaiaora/Chairperson, Rotorua Te Arawa  
Lakes Strategy Group



**Report To:** Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

**Meeting Date:** 12 February 2021

**Purpose:** To receive the report

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## Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report

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### Recommendations

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Te Arawa Lakes Trust Update Report.**

### Tuhinga Tautoko Attachments

Attachment 1 - 2021 02 02 TALT Update for RTALSG [↓](#)



**Report to:** Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group

**Meeting Date:** 12 February 2021

**Report From:** Karen Vercoe – CEO - Te Arawa Lakes Trust

### Scope

This report outlines the activities of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust in the Rotorua/Te Arawa Lakes Programme.

### Summary

The key focus of the second quarter of the 2022/21 year has been leading the Tarawera Collective Impact project and continuing to add value to the Te Arawa Lakes Programme on behalf of our Te Arawa beneficiaries.

The Te Arawa Lakes Trust team has also been working towards a response to Te Hononga about engagement on the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management implementation by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

## Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Programme

### Te Tūāpapa is embedded into the Lakes Strategy programme

1. An engagement plan for the roll out of Te Tūāpapa and He Mahere Taiao has been completed and our first workshop held with RLC in Jan 2021.
2. Te Tūāpapa and He Mahere Taiao has formed the basis of our input to both our regulatory and non-regulatory processes associated with the Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes,

## Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Statutory responsibilities

### Lakes structures and Consents

3. The Te Arawa Lakes Trust has been working closely with Rotorua Lakes Council and its contractors on the Lakefront Development, particularly about the monitoring and management of koura.
4. There are several unconsented structures around the Lakes that have emerged through the re-consenting process. These will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. TALT are working closely with BOPRC on the limited notification process for structures on Lake Tarawera where cultural impacts were assessed as minor, more than minor and significant adverse effects.

### Policy and Planning matters

5. The Te Arawa Lakes Trust joined with Ngāti Kearoa and Ngāti Whakaue to provide submissions on Plan Change 2 of the Rotorua District Plan.



6. The Te Arawa Lakes Trust joined with Ngāti Kearoa and Ngāti Whakaue to provide submissions on Plan Change 2 of the Rotorua District Plan.
7. TALT continue to engage with BOPRC on Plan change 14 - Onsite Effluent Treatment systems
8. TALT is working with RLC on a CIA for the Rotorua Stormwater Catchment comprehensive consent.
9. TALT have held workshops with hapū and iwi on the implementation of the NPSFWM and will be providing a response to Te Hononga. It is the view of TALT that the RTASLG as a co-management group and a Council committee have a key role in the engagement and decision-making processes associated with the implementation of the NPSFWM. This will be addressed in the TALT response.
10. TALT are reviewing and developing a submission to the Water Services Bill.
11. TALT, via the NICF and Freshwater Iwi Leaders Group is involved in co-design process with MfE across the RMA reforms.

## **Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Te Arawatanga**

### **Te Arawa Climate Change Working Group**

12. Te Arawa, Ahu Hawaiki - Te Arawa Climate Change Strategy has been through a final engagement process and is ready for formatting and a formal launch is anticipated in March. We are pleased to have been one of a few MBIE Vision Maturanga Research Project to have achieved a GOLD standard indicating we are performing above project expectations.
13. The focus of the Group is to identify key funding mechanisms to support the action planning priorities outlined in the Strategy.
14. The Te Arawa Lakes Trust will specifically focus on Water security and sovereignty and Food security and Biodiversity. We are currently working with NIWA, Waikato University and Cawthron to identify a significant research projects revolving around our Taonga species and Climate change.

### **Mauri Tu Mauri Ora - Jobs for Nature**

15. Te Arawa Lakes Trust secured \$2.5m to restore wetlands supporting the employment of up to 30 people over the next 2 years. To date TALT has employed 18 individuals in various roles with 13 of these working directly in wetlands and waterways from Maketu through to our Lakes environment.
16. We will be rolling out a training programme, funded by MSD over the next 12 months to support further skill development and capability in this area.

## **Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Engagement**

### **Catfish Volunteer Programme**

17. The Catfish Killas now have 29 schools registered and around 100 volunteers participating in the programme.
18. Minister Damian McKenzie visited the team and Lynmore School in November 2020 in Te Weta Bay as a follow up to the NZ Biosecurity Awards where Lynmore was nominated for an award.





#### Biosecurity

19. TALT and BOPRC trained 17 individuals from across Rotorua as Biosecurity officers and this team have been rostered at Boat Ramps across the Lakes since October 2020, through until April 2021. Their role is to ensure Check, clean Dry processes are followed and to educate the public about the threats to our Lakes. Feedback to date has been positive from both the Officers and the public.

#### Support to whanau and hapū

20. He Huihuinga Rotomoana series provided an opportunity for whānau, hapū and community to hear about the latest Science, research and mātauranga taking place around our Lakes.
21. Iwi Engagement Forum held in September, October and November to share information and collect feedback on the work of the Lakes Trust.



**Report To:** Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

**Meeting Date:** 12 February 2021

**Purpose:** To receive the report

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## Progressing a Collective Impact Framework for the Tarawera Lakes System

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### Recommendations

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Progressing a Collective Impact Framework for the Tarawera Lakes System.**
- 2 Endorses the recommendation and supports ongoing work between the Partner Organisations to progress.**

### Tuhinga Tautoko Attachments

Attachment 1 - 2021 02 02 Tarawera CIF Update RTALSG Feb2020 [↓](#)

**Report To:** Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

**Meeting Date:** 12 February 2021

**Report Writer:** Elva Conroy, Te Arawa Lakes Trust

**Purpose:** To provide an update on the recent scoping report for the Tarawera Collective Impact Project

## Progressing a Collective Impact Framework for the Tarawera Lakes System

### Executive Summary

Te Arawa Lakes Trust has been scoping the feasibility of a collective impact framework for the Tarawera Lakes System. While the conditions for collective impact can be met, careful consideration is needed to ensure that a resulting framework for the Tarawera Lakes System aligns with Te Arawa values and meets the needs of all involved. For this reason, a phased approach to implementation is proposed.

The suggested areas of focus for 2021 are based on whānaungatanga (kinship, relationship) and just 'keeping it simple'. These are:

- Building connectivity and relationships through communication and community outreach.
- Collating information and identifying gaps in information.
- Developing a shared agenda / vision for the Tarawera Lakes System and identifying how success would be measured.

### Recommendations

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Progressing a Collective Impact Framework for the Tarawera Lakes System.**
- 2 Endorses the recommendations and supports ongoing work between the Partner organisations to progress.**

## 1. Introduction

Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) has been investigating a collective impact framework for the Tarawera Lakes System<sup>1</sup>. Collective impact is a form of collaboration which brings together groups, each with their own set of skills and experiences, to solve large complex problems. In this case, the large complex problem is improving the health and wellbeing of water and the land surrounding Lake Tarawera (and all connected and contributing lakes). This approach recognises that, within the Tarawera Lakes System, no single organisation can create large-scale and long term environmental and social change alone.

Project updates were provided to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group in March and July 2020. A workshop was also held in October 2020, where members of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group (RTALSG) unanimously supported the notion of a collective impact approach for the Tarawera Lakes System.

- To date the investment in this work to date is \$28k. The commitment from TALT, via our MfE Deed of funding is \$40k per annum for 3 years. This covers the project coordination and strategic planning and input into comms and engagement planning. The full implementation has not been fully costed.

## 2. Completed scoping report

The main output for 2020 was a scoping report to determine and document:

- whether collective impact is feasible for the Tarawera Lakes System.
- how collective impact might work – in practice – for the Tarawera Lakes System.

A copy of this report is attached. The key findings of this report are outlined below.

### 2.1 Is there interest in collective impact?

There is significant interest in everyone working together for the health and wellbeing of the Tarawera Lakes System. There is however mixed understanding about collective impact. More work is needed to build public awareness and understanding about what collective impact is, isn't and what it looks like in practice. This is to build support and trust for the project.

### 2.2 Is collective impact right for the Tarawera Lakes System?

Collective impact is not always the solution to every social or environmental problem. Therefore, it was essential to assess the feasibility of collective impact, based on following pre-conditions to collective impact:

- Problem complexity: The problem requires the involvement of multiple groups across multiple sectors.
- Broken system: There is a need to fix or change a 'broken system' such as working in siloes, outdated policies or plans, lack of scale, inequity of little innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> Lakes Tarawera, Ōkāreka, Ōkātina, Rotokākahi, Rotomahana, Tikitapu, Ōkaro and Lake Rerewhakaaitu

- Readiness: This includes the presence of influential champions; sufficient resources to support the planning process and collective impact infrastructure; and the urgency to address the issue in new and different ways.

The assessment found that the Tarawera Lakes System met all three pre-conditions. Therefore, collective impact right is feasible.

### 2.3 How will collective impact work – in practice – for the Tarawera Lakes System?

This assessment was framed using the five conditions for collective impact success, which were developed by Kania and Kramer (2011). The scoping report summarised engagement feedback for each condition, and provided the following suggested actions:

Condition	Suggested action
<b>A Common Agenda</b> Collective impact requires a common agenda or shared vision for change.	1. Develop the shared vision for the Tarawera Lakes System in 2021. This: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• would build off and unify collating existing information (e.g. aspirations, visions) of agencies, hapū/iwi, landowners and community groups.</li> <li>• would involve engagement with hapū/iwi, landowners, community groups and member, lake users, schools.</li> <li>• must be prefaced with clear communication of what we're doing and why.</li> <li>• requires resourcing for communications and engagement / outreach.</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Measurement</b> Collective impact requires shared measurement, which means common targets and benchmarks against which to monitor and track progress.	2. Develop and refine the suite of indicators and targets for the Tarawera Lakes System to measure collective impact success. This requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a stocktake of what is currently being monitored and where. It includes monitoring by agencies, hapū/iwi, Māori land trusts, community groups and schools. It also helps us to work out our gaps in data.</li> <li>• technical support in both GIS mapping and science communication.</li> <li>• the establishment of a data / measurement working group or workstream to develop and refine the indicators and targets.</li> <li>• community engagement to test the proposed indicators and targets.</li> </ul>
<b>Mutual Reinforcing Activities</b> Collective impact is about planning and delivering 'joined-up action'. In other words, coordinating different types of activities that use the depth of skills, knowledge and	3. Identify priority collective impact projects for the Tarawera Lakes System. This requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a stocktake of projects (current and planned) within the Tarawera Lakes System by agencies, hapū/iwi, Māori land trusts, community groups and schools.</li> <li>• criteria to be developed to determine which to projects to prioritise for collective impact.</li> <li>• resourcing for GIS mapping, communications and engagement / outreach.</li> </ul>

Condition	Suggested action
expertise that members and groups bring.	
<b>Open and Continuous Communication</b> Collective impact requires open and continuous communication to build trust, share knowledge and inspire others to take part.	4. Secure a dedicated resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to oversee collective impact communications.</li> <li>for a collective impact community connector / facilitator / activator.</li> </ul> 5. Prepare and implement a communications and engagement plan.
<b>Backbone Support</b> Collective impact requires effective backbone support to be successful and long lasting. Backbone support is most effective with dedicated staff who provide support and key functions for the sustained operation of the collective impact initiative.	6. Resource and establish an operations team, which in the first instance includes project coordination, communication engagement capability. 7. Complete analysis of options in terms of governance and decision making. 8. Seek guidance from The Nature Conservancy in terms of effective establishment and implementation of a collective impact framework.

### 3. Reflections from engagement and cultural perspectives

The notion of collective impact for the Tarawera Lakes System has been around for a number of years. There is no shortage of collective impact research that describes what works and what doesn't work. The expectations are high for a framework that is well designed and implemented, resulting in greater cohesion and coordination of people and projects to enhance the health and wellbeing of Lake Tarawera and its contributing lakes.

#### 3.1 Key statements from feedback

Engagement feedback this year has highlighted a couple of key statements which need to be highlighted or reiterated:

- Just keep it simple: This is in reference to a potential structure and way of working. Community members simply do not want another layer of bureaucracy or more, pointless, never ending meetings.
- Work bottom up, not top down: Connect us and create a beacon so that people want to join.
- While this about the lakes, it is also a social / people issue: Communities, agencies and projects are not connected. Collective impact involves a change

in thinking, mindset and practice. It is about actively assisting and supporting each other's goals. Focusing on the people will bring about the greatest impact.

These aspects need to be kept front of mind in order for any form of collaboration in the Tarawera Lakes System to be successful.

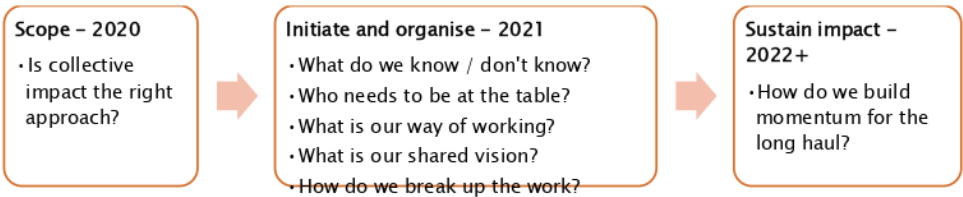
3.2 A cultural perspective

Collective impact is seen as an innovative tool for transformational change. However, within Te Ao Māori, it is not a new concept. Collective approaches are already a foundation of Māori values and systems. The concept of whānaungatanga is based on fostering and strengthening family and community relationships and connections. The Māori world view is also based on the principle of total interconnectedness within, and between, the natural environment and ourselves.

It is essential that indigenous knowledge systems are not forgotten when considering a framework that was developed overseas.

4. Focus for 2021

While the conditions for collective impact can be met, careful consideration is needed to ensure that a resulting framework for the Tarawera Lakes System aligns with Te Arawa values and meets the needs of all involved. For this reason, a phased approach is suggested so that some of the conditions can still be progressed or completed in 2021.



The suggested areas of focus for 2021 are based on whānaungatanga (kinship, relationship) and just 'keeping it simple'. These are:

- Building connectivity and relationships through communication and community outreach.
- Collating information and identifying gaps in information.
- Developing a shared agenda / vision for the Tarawera Lakes System and identifying how success would be measured.

The following table is from Section 7 of the report and summarises the eight priority actions for 2021.

The following are based on the actions identified in Section 5 of this report and organised by type and priority.

Action	Type	Reference	Role
1. Secure dedicated resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to oversee project coordination and strategic planning</li><li>• to oversee communications.</li></ul>	Resourcing	5.1, 5.2, 5.5	TALT, BOPRC, RLC

# Item 8.2, Attachment 1

Action	Type	Reference	Role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for a collective impact community connector / facilitator / activator.</li> <li>for GIS mapping.</li> </ul>			
2. Prepare and implement a plan to achieve continuous communication.	Comms	5.1-5.5	Comms GIS mapping
3. Prepare a community connection / outreach plan. Utilise a range of methods to regularly connect with all sectors.	Community Outreach	5.1-5.5	Community connector / activator
4. Collect and collate information from engagement. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community aspirations / visions</li> <li>what is currently being monitored, where and by whom.</li> <li>projects (current and planned).</li> </ul>	Information / data	5.1-2.3	Community connector / activator  Comms
5. Develop the shared vision for the Tarawera Lakes System in 2021.	Strategic Planning	5.1	Project coordinator
6. Develop and refine the suite of indicators and targets.	Information / data	5.2	Project coordinator & working group
7. Identify gaps in information.	Information / data	5.2	Project coordinator & working group
8. Complete analysis of options in terms of governance and decision making.	Governance	5.5	Project coordinator





<b>Pūrongo Ki: Report To:</b>	Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group
<b>Rā Hui: Meeting Date:</b>	12 February 2021
<b>Kaituhi Pūrongo: Report Writer:</b>	Helen Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager and Stavros Michael, General Manager Infrastructure
<b>Kaiwhakamana Pūrongo: Report Authoriser:</b>	Chris Ingle, General Manager, Integrated Catchments
<b>Kaupapa: Purpose:</b>	To consider recommendations related to funding of wastewater schemes at Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Rotoma under the Deed of Funding for the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme.

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## Wastewater Scheme Funding

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### Whakarāpopototanga Executive Summary

This paper provides analysis on the forecast end to end expenditure of the Programme and further rationale for a proposed transfer of funding to Rotorua Lakes Council to assist completion of the Rotoiti wastewater scheme. The paper also considers the next steps for acquiring funding for reticulation at Lake Rotoehu and Ngamotu on Lake Rotomā.

Also considered is the overall effect of inflation on the ability of the Programme to achieve its goals in respect of reticulation, considering that the Deed was established over 15 years ago with no adjustments to reflect the escalating actual implementation costs.

### Ngā tūtohutanga Recommendations

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Wastewater Scheme Funding**
- 2 Notes that the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group resolved on 5 August 2020 to “Instruct all officers to reconfirm the Deed-Funding contribution to**

***the final actual cost of the project in line with precedent policy and provide an update report to the next meeting of the Strategy Group”.***

- 3 Approves a reversion back to the total funding allocations for each Council as per the original 2005 Deed. That is, \$32.5 million for Rotorua Lakes Council and \$39.8 million for Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Note: A Deed Variation will be required.**
- 4 Agrees to make a formal request to the Minister for reconsideration of the current Deed of Funding in respect of an adjustment on the basis of inflation of construction costs, acknowledging the 2005 cost estimates in the Deed do not reflect the 2021 actual costs to complete these works.**
- 5 Agrees to make a formal request to the Minister for new funding support in relation to the wastewater reticulation of Lake Rotoehu.**

## 1. He Whakamārama Background

Lakeside wastewater reticulation is delivered by Rotorua Lakes Council as the mandated service provider and has received Ministry for the Environment funding from the Funding Deed<sup>1</sup> for the Programme, from both Council and from landowners. The Ministry of Health has also contributed to lakeside sewerage reticulation outside of the four priority lakes not covered by the Funding Deed, where improved health outcomes were targeted.

Wastewater reticulation improves water quality and contributes to the various goals related to improvement of lake water quality in the Vision and Strategy for the lakes of the Rotorua District, the implementation of which is overseen by the Strategy Group. It also provides landowners with a cost effective method (due to economies of scale) for dealing with wastewater and with opportunities to develop their land appropriately should they wish to – also contributing to the delivery of the Strategy.

Under the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - lakeside reticulation has been completed in the Rotorua, west Rotoiti and Okareka catchments. Lakeside reticulation is also underway in other parts of Rotoiti and the Rotoma catchment. Reticulation is also planned for the Tarawera catchment.

At its last meeting on 5 August 2020 the Strategy Group received a paper from Stavros Michael, Mana Hautu Tuapapa at Rotorua Lakes Council. The paper updated the Strategy Group that the actual costs of the Rotoma/Rotoiti scheme are expected to be a variance to the initial 2015 estimate and broadly within the limits of the initial estimate’s uncertainty of 30%.

That 5 August 2020 paper recommended that on the basis of precedent policy the actual variance to the estimate should be funded by 50% from the Deed. The Rotoiti/Rotoma scheme has always been treated as one single scheme. After consideration of that paper, Strategy Group resolved to instruct officers to reconfirm the Deed funding contribution to the final actual cost of the project.

This paper now provides analysis on the forecast end to end expenditure of the Programme and further rationale for the proposed transfer. This paper also considers the next steps for acquiring funding for reticulation at Lake Rotoehu and the overall

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<sup>1</sup> The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme was established following Te Arawa’s Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Crown in 2006. As part of that settlement the Crown committed to restoring the lakes of Te Arawa. That commitment included a Funding Deed which provided \$72 million of Crown funds to a restoration programme on four priority lakes: Rotorua, Rotoiti, Ōkāreka and Rotoehu. The Programme is a partnership between Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

effect of inflation on the ability of the Programme to achieve its goals in respect of reticulation, considering that the fund was established over 15 years ago with no adjustments to reflect the escalating actual implementation costs.

There also remains an opportunity for reticulation at Lake Rotoehu and Ngamotu (Lake Rotoma) settlements which can connect to the Rotoma/Rotoiti network, currently under construction and whose resource consent allows for such connection. The Lake Water Quality Technical Advisory Group having advised that *“...reticulation of lakeside communities for better treatment of sewage nutrients must be a standard recommendation, that has other benefits beyond nutrient reduction”*.

## 2. **Transfer of Underspends to Rotoiti Reticulation (Recommendation One)**

This paper recommends to transfer funds from underspends on completed lakeside reticulation projects in Okareka and Rotorua and other underspends within the Programme such as in Land Use Incentives Administration, to initially support the completion of the reticulation work at Lake Rotoiti.

Previously reticulation at Okere Falls, Otaramarae and Whangamarino on Rotoiti was completed at a cost of \$10,354,000. Lake Rotoiti reticulation works at Gisborne Point, Rotoiti and Hinehopu are now in progress. It is planned to reticulate 435 properties with a current total forecast spend (based on tenders received) of approximately \$40 million (noting that tender negotiations and final contract award are still underway for the remaining parts of scheme construction).

At its last meeting, the Strategy Group received a paper from Rotorua Lakes Council relating to the status and the challenges of the ongoing project. The paper recommended the Group instruct officers to *‘re-align the Deed Funding contribution to the final actual cost of the project in line with precedent policy’*. The Strategy Group resolved to instruct officers to commence that process.

Changes to the Deed in 2014 (Schedule 2) re-allocated the Crown funding between Rotorua Lakes Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The reallocation was largely as a result of achieving outcomes for less than the initial estimated costs, in the reticulation of Lake Okareka and Lake Rotorua. The changes to the total allocations to each Council can be viewed in Table One below. Smaller changes made in 2013 are also shown.

**Table One** - Total Funding Allocations between Original Deed (2005) Variation (2013) and Variation (2014)

	Original Deed (2005)	Deed Variation (2013)	Deed Variation (2014)
RLC	\$32,500,000	\$32,400,000	\$25,734,000
BOPRC	\$39,800,000	\$41,350,000	\$46,464,000
MFE	\$72,300,000	\$72,300,000	\$72,198,000

The 2014 changes were made in the knowledge that Schedule 2 would likely need to be revisited as the Programme moved forward and the actual cost and appropriateness of interventions adapted over its life. Interventions completed later in the Programme (when the relative value of the funds is less and the complexity and costs of the construction higher) will incur more cost compared to those

completed earlier in the Programme (when the relative value of the fund was higher and the complexity and costs of construction lower).

Following advice of the Programme's Chief Financial Officers Forum, an updated end to end forecast has been prepared for the Programme, based on the current Draft Long Term Plan of both Councils (2021-2031). A summary of that work is provided in Table Two below. That forecast shows that to 2032, the Regional Council is forecasting to be underspent by \$7,920,000 against the variation to the Deed that was made in 2014 and the District Council overspent by at least \$11,603,000 against that 2014 variation.

**Table Two** – Forecast and Expenditure against Original Deed (2005) and Variation (2014)

	Forecast MFE Funding Required to June 2032	Forecast Expenditure to 30/06/2032	Actual Expenditure to 30/06/2020	Forecast Spend Variation Against Deed (2014)	Forecast Spend Variation Against Deed (2005)
RLC	\$40,837,500	\$81,675,000	\$65,136,000	\$15,103,500	\$8,337,500
BOPRC	\$38,543,420	\$77,086,840	\$33,563,552	-\$7,920,580	-\$1,256,580
MFE	\$79,380,920				

The forecasted underspend by the Regional Council is largely a result of savings made in: the administration of the Incentives Scheme, alum dosing on Rotorua and Rotoehu and weed harvesting in Rotoehu. The forecasted variance by the Rotorua Lakes Council is driven by anticipated costs associated with reticulating Lake Rotoiti. The cost drivers are varied but predominantly have been led by: construction inflation, higher costs to meet consent conditions not known in 2015, improving access to the leased land at Haumingi 9B3B site, provision of higher quality pretreatment systems to address cultural impacts, additional security of installation for pretreatment systems on 180 sites where the systems must be installed below the water table and special legal processes to secure consents to install infrastructure on Maori land with multiple owners.

The recommended transfer of underspends back to the Rotorua Lakes Council (effectively reversing the changes to Schedule 2 of the Deed in 2014) would not prevent the Regional Council delivering its Deed funded work programme responsibilities including: the Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme; further Advice and Support for Landowners affected by Plan Change 10; and engineering solutions in the Lake Rotorua catchment.

However, even with the reversal of the 2014 Deed changes, as proposed, Rotorua Lakes Council still faces a forecast overspend of \$8,337,500 to complete the Rotoiti reticulation project and the Council will also need to find additional funds to provide its 50% contribution to the additional Crown funds, in accordance with the Deed of Funding.

The Rotorua Lakes Council has yet to make a decision on how it proposes to fund this additional cost. Based on its current funding plan for the Scheme the Council will consider, as part of its Long term Plan deliberations options which may include:

- Staying with its current funding plan requiring local property owners to pay an increased net capital contribution compared to the initial estimate, or
- Make a contribution towards the costs of reticulation for community facilities such as Marae, sports club, schools etc, or
- Increasing its financial assistance from the current \$1500 per property, or
- Debt funding some part of the increased costs, or

- A combination of the above options.

As a result of the analysis above, Recommendation One of this paper is that Strategy Group approve a reversion back to the total funding allocations for each Council as per the original 2005 Deed. That is; \$32.5 million for Rotorua Lakes Council and \$39.8 million for Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Note that this will mean the total spend of each Council under the Deed of Funding varies to those set out in Schedule 2 of the current Funding Deed but the total Crown spend remains the same. This change will help fund the Lake Rotoiti reticulation project. It is noted that this will require a Variation to Schedule 2 of the Deed and the Ministry for the Environment will advise on the process for this.

### 3. **Review of Deed Funding in Respect of Inflation (Recommendation Two)**

The Deed has total funding contributed by the Crown remaining static over its 25 year life at approximately \$72 million. There are no terms within the Funding Deed that enable this contribution to be adjusted to address inflation. As a result, the increased costs of construction over the life of the Deed are currently, by default, borne exclusively by council funding sources. A preliminary assessment regarding inflation trends indicates that the CGPI<sup>2</sup> average annual inflationary changes from 2005 to Q12 2020 across these three classes is around 2.4%. Applying an annual 2.4% inflation over 15 years (2020-2005) on the \$32 million allocated to Rotorua Lakes Council under the original Deed of Funding (which is all allocated to sewerage reticulation) puts the inflation adjusted required funding at ~\$45.6m ( $32m \times (1+0.024)^{15}$ ).

Mr Stavros Michael has advised that original estimates for the cost of the Rotoiti scheme in 2015 were \$35 million with a +/-30% uncertainty margin due to the proposal to utilise on site pre-treatment systems that was not encountered in earlier schemes and the unique nature of Rotoiti/Rotoma area. Based on the recent tenders it is highly likely that costs will be well above the 2015 estimate of \$35 million, but may potentially lie within the +30% margin.

Costs over and above those available in the Deed will need to be found from local funding sources (including those to meet the 50% local share requirement).

It is clear that the rising costs of construction and regulatory compliance in terms of completing large-scale construction projects like this one are not covered by the current Deed of Funding.

Therefore, it is considered highly appropriate to review the Crown's contribution to the Deed in line with inflation trends. This is requested in Recommendation Two of this paper.

### 4. **Reticulation of Lake Rotoehu/Ngamotu settlement (Recommendation Three)**

Reticulation at Lake Rotoehu has clear justification in terms of delivering on the objectives of the Programme. Sewerage reticulation was not a key deliverable for water quality improvement on Lake Rotoehu in the original Action Plan for the Lake. However, a workshop of the Water Quality Technical Advisory Group and Regional

<sup>2</sup> Information from Statistics NZ for the classes covering Civil Construction, Land Improvements and PPE as a basis for most aligned inflation classes.

Council staff was convened in 2018 to establish actions required to address continuing poor water quality on Lake Rotoehu. That workshop resulted in a number of actions to address the matter, including changes to the alum dosing regime on the lake.

An exhaustive list of those actions is not provided here but another key action was to pursue sewerage reticulation, the minutes recorded that *“This meeting considers that reticulation of lakeside communities for better treatment of sewage nutrients must be a standard recommendation and that it has other benefits beyond nutrient reduction”*.

The rationale for delivering reticulation at Lake Rotoehu is a logical deliverable for water quality improvement on one of the four priority Deed funded lakes within the Programme, which continues to face complex water quality challenges. It is estimated that approximately \$6 million dollars will be required to establish a sewerage reticulation network for Lake Rotoehu and Ngamotu settlements that will complete the Rotoiti/Rotoma/Rotoehu catchment wastewater reticulation process.

The resource consent for the Rototi/Rotoma scheme allows for these lakeside properties at Lake Rotoehu and Ngamotu to connect to the new Rotoiti wastewater treatment plant, for treatment and disposal. The conditions of this consent require that, as for the recently reticulated properties at Lake Rotoiti and Rotoma, there is some form of effluent pre-treatment provided for each property - prior to the waste being transferred.

Recommendation three of this paper is that the Programme partners make a formal request to the Crown for additional funding to support this project as part of the Lakes Programme, noting that the Rotorua Lakes Council has reserved some \$2.0 m from the 3 Waters Reform funding to support this proposal (subject to Deed Funding support).

These reserved 3 Waters Reform funds can be used to commence detailed design work enabling the proposed reticulation to connect to the Rotoiti/Rotoma scheme (as allowed by the consent) soon in this Financial Year, provided a commitment to secure additional Deed funding is also made.

Doc No: RDC-1095933

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Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group  
12 February 2021

File No: 01-63-097-5

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Chairperson and Members  
ROTORUA TE ARAWA LAKES STRATEGY GROUP

**UPDATE REPORT FROM ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL**

**Report prepared by:** Jean-Paul Gaston, Group Manager Strategy and Partnerships

**Report approved by:** Geoff Williams, Chief Executive

**1. PURPOSE**

To provide a short update on Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC) activity that relates to lake water quality.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*RLC activity currently underway that impacts the Lakes Programme includes:*

- *Wastewater treatment and stormwater projects*
- *Planning Policy*

This report provides a brief update against each of these areas.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **That the report 'Update Report from Rotorua Lakes Council' be received.**

**4. WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND STORMWATER PROJECTS**

**Rotomā / Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme**

- The treatment plant is fully operational along with the reticulation in the Rotoma area and this component of the scheme fully operational.
- The reticulation (pipework) in the Rotoiti area is complete within the public road corridor. Part of the reticulation is on a number of parcels of Māori land held under various entities, some with no registered owners. RLC is working through gaining consents for this land, some of which will require hearings at the Māori Land Court. At this stage this is not impacting on commissioning of the Rotoiti component of the scheme.
- Tenders for on-site systems at Rotoiti have been received and are being evaluated. It is intended to get community views on recommended systems along with endorsement from the Iwi Wastewater Liaison Group prior to making a recommendation to Council for award of a contract. The contract is for supply, installation and operation of the on-site units for a period of 15 years. The April round of meetings of RLC is being targeted for contract approval. Following approval installation and commissioning of each household can commence. Some 450 residential and commercial properties are programmed to be connected to the scheme.

#### **Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- Rotorua Lakes Council, CNI Iwi Holdings and Te Arawa Lakes Trust, have agreed to work together towards a new long-term solution for discharge of wai tātari (recovered wastewater).
- A kawenata was signed by all of the three parties with the overall objective of finding the right outcome for mana whenua and the wider community.
- As a result of the agreement, Council applied for the withdrawal of the direct referral of the current resource consent application from the Environment Court. The Environment Court approved the withdrawal of the direct referral application.
- The bridging consent application to extend the expiry date of current resource consent from 31 July 2021 to 31 July 2026 has been submitted. This extension will enable Council to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant and develop and implement the Sustainable Forest Approach as agreed by CNI/TALT and RLC.
- The resource consent applications to enable the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant are being prepared. Once the applications are approved, the upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant will commence.
- Engagement with stakeholders regarding the Sustainable Forest Approach, as agreed by TALT/CNI/RLC, will soon commence.

#### **Tarawera Sewerage Scheme**

- Council approved the recommendation to proceed with the design and implementation of the proposed Tarawera Sewerage Scheme based on an LPGP system connected through Tarawera Road to the existing Lake Okareka sewerage system. The approval is subject to the condition that the majority of ratepayers within the proposed service area support the scheme proposal.
- Letters will be sent to ratepayers within the service area summarising the sewerage scheme proposal and the corresponding cost to each ratepayer. Each ratepayer will be asked to submit their written approval for the scheme to proceed.

#### **Rotorua Urban Area Comprehensive Stormwater Resource Consent**

- The technical review of the resource consent application by BOPRC is currently underway.
- The development of the Cultural Impact Assessment is currently being planned by Council with support from the Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

#### **Ngongotaha flooding/review and actions**

- BOPRC engineers have completed their modelling and confirmed the extent of works required to provide the Kaituna Scheme level of flood protection. Direct engagement will now commence with affected landowners. Engagement will be lead by BOPRC and supported Rotorua Lakes Council.
- Each landowner will be approached directly with a view to holding a couple of site walkovers in the coming weeks. Wider neighbourhood/community engagement will take place after that, in the form of mail drop, e-newsletter and, if needed, a community information day.

### **5. PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY**

#### **Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Plan Change 10: Lake Rotorua Nutrient Management (PC10)**

RLC is a 274 party to PC10 appeals. The Court released its decision relating to allocation to Treaty Settlement land on 21 December 2020. This included a direction to BOPRC to make amendments to PC10 as set out in the decision, and to file a new version with the Court on 29 January 2021. BOPRC sought an extension to this in order to try to get alignment between all the parties on the amendments before lodgement. This will now occur on 9 February 2021.

Staff from RLC and BOPC have been working together on implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding – Nitrogen Approach for Rotorua Waste Water Treatment Plant Discharge. This MoU



was signed by the partners in 2017. Its application, combined with progress through the PC10 hearings has resulted in identification of some possible improvements, however the overall intent and principles remain unchanged. Improvements include accounting for attenuation, the method used to determine the number of lots, as well as several small changes. Once technical staff have reached agreement a revision will be presented to the three CEOs for approval.

#### **Rotorua Lakes Council – Plan Change 2: *Pukehangi Heights***

- Work on the Pukehangi Heights Plan Change, which proposes the rezoning of approximately 160ha of predominantly farmland for residential and rural residential development, is nearing completion.
- The plan change has been progressed using the Streamlined Planning Process as opposed to the standard RMA plan change process. The key differences in this case are that the Minister for the Environment makes a decision on the plan change (as opposed to Council) and there are no appeals to the Environment Court.
- The Hearing for the plan change was held in September. Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuara and Ngāti Whakua presented evidence at the hearing amongst others.
- The Independent Hearing Commissioners have provided their recommendations to the Minister. In summary, the Commissioners have recommended that the plan change be approved. As part of their recommendations there is a requirement for Council to develop a Stormwater Management Plan addressing both water quality and quantity issues, and involving consultation with Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuara and Ngāti Whakua.
- There are no timeframes specified for the Minister's Decision. However, it is anticipated this will be received in the first quarter of this year.
- Should the plan change be approved it is likely that there will be significant work in addressing stormwater and water quality issues within the Utuhina before subdivision and any associated development occurs.

#### **Rotorua Lakes Council – Plan Change 3: *Significant Natural Areas***

As a result of the review of the District Plan (completed 2016), Council committed to undertake work to provide protection for areas of land with significant biodiversity values, including wetlands. A plan change was notified in 2019 that identified a number of additional sites for protection, and made amendments to other sites. A Hearing was held in February 2020, the Commissioner's Recommendations were approved by Council December.

#### **Rotorua Lakes Council: Eastside Wellness Plan**

Feedback from the community on the Draft Eastside Structure Wellness Plan is being incorporated into what will become the final 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan'

Overall feedback was very supportive of the kaupapa and direction outlined in the 5 Key Moves within the Draft. The final Eastside Community Wellness Plan should be presented for 'sign off' to the Plan Working Group – consisting of representation from Eastside hapū, Tatau Pounamu Collective and Council - by late February after which the Plan will be widely socialised. An Eastside Community Wellness Implementation Plan will then be developed to ensure intended outcomes are achieved and key contributors can clearly see how they will support the delivery of the Plan

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Rotorua Lakes Council continues to work across multiple areas towards improved lake water quality as a partner in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme.



<b>Pūrongo Ki: Report To:</b>	Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group
<b>Rā Hui: Meeting Date:</b>	12 February 2021
<b>Kaituhi Pūrongo: Report Writer:</b>	Heidi Fraser, Programme Coordinator Integrated Catchments and Helen Creagh, Rotorua Catchments Manager
<b>Kaiwhakamana Pūrongo: Report Authoriser:</b>	Chris Ingle, General Manager, Integrated Catchments
<b>Kaupapa: Purpose:</b>	To provide a status update for the programme as at the date of the report and to provide the Strategy Group with the 2020/21 Six Month Report for their approval.

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## Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Status Update and 2020/21 Six Month Report

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### Whakarāpopototanga Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Strategy Group on progress with the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme since its last meeting (27 October 2020).

The report also seeks approval of the 2020/21 Six Month Report, which is to be provided to the Minister for the Environment in accordance with the Deed of Funding for the Programme.

### Ngā tūtohutanga Recommendations

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme Status Update and 2020/21 Six Month Report.**
- 2 Approves the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 2020/21 Six Month Report for submission to the Minister for the Environment.**

## 1. **He Whakamārama Background**

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme was established following Te Arawa's Treaty of Waitangi settlement with the Crown in 2006. As part of that settlement the Crown committed to restoring the lakes of Te Arawa. That commitment included a Funding Deed which provided \$72 million of Crown funds to a restoration programme on four priority lakes: Rotorua, Rotoiti, Ōkāreka and Rotoehu. The Programme is a partnership between Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group partnership was established to contribute to the promotion of the sustainable management of the Rotorua lakes and their catchments, for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa and their ancestral lakes.

## 2. **2020/21 Six Month Report**

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme 2020/21 Six Month Report is provided in Appendix 1 and measures performance against the 2020/21 Annual Work Plan. Below is a description of progress with the Deed Funded interventions outlined in that report.

### 2.1 **Deed Funded Interventions**

#### **Lake Rotorua**

- Syrinx Consultants are progressing a review of wetland opportunities including a staged process to implement wetland projects, under the Engineering Solutions project. A draft report has been received.
- To date, the Incentives Scheme has secured 24.6 tonne of nitrogen.
- Installation of the new alum dosing tank at Puarenga is complete.
- 22 sewerage connections have been made under the Brunswick-Rotokawa Sewerage Reticulation Project. Staff continue to work with remaining property owners that still require connections.
- At the end of the six months, 147 properties were registered with Advice and Support. 44 resource consents have been granted under Plan Change 10 for properties over 40 ha, while 5 properties over 40 ha were assessed as being low-intensity permitted activities. 15 consented properties were monitored by staff with the remainder to be monitored by March 2021. There are 8 properties over 40 ha yet to be consented but all are engaged in the process, 1 has been referred to compliance. A process to engage the remaining landowners affected by Plan Change 10 is underway: approximately 100 of those are 10-40 hectares and 70 are 5-10 hectares.

#### **Lake Rotoehu**

- Phosphorus locking was put on hold in June 2018 due to ineffectiveness of the dosing. Changes in the vegetation and lake level have enabled Waitangi Soda

Stream alum dosing to recommence in December to help counter phosphorus coming from the catchment.

#### **Lake Rotoiti**

- Installation of the strengthening whalers is ongoing and is expected to be completed by July.
- The reticulation network at Rotoiti is 75% complete, with remaining network and connections to be made following landowner approvals currently being sought. The treatment plant is open.

### **3. Programme Status Report**

The Six Month Report includes the key progress updates for Deed Funded activities. Some further detailed updates for each catchment (including non-deed funded activities) are provided below and on the Dashboard included in Appendix 2.

#### **Rotorua**

- The final decision of the Environment Court in relation to the appeals on Plan Change 10 was issued just prior to Christmas. The decision allocates an additional 5 tonne of Nitrogen to Treaty Settlement Land within the Rotorua Catchment. The decision will not change any of the Managed Reduction Targets prior to 2032, so implementation of Plan Change 10 continues as planned. In order to meet maximum in-lake discharge targets the additional allocation to Treaty Settlement land will be taken from 2032 allocations to dairy and drystock land (above a minimum threshold). The decision also authorises other minor consequential changes.
- Joint correspondence prepared from both Councils for those properties who remain un-connected to sewerage reticulation in the Brunswick-Rotokawa area is underway, to approximately 15 properties. Compliance action is planned under Regional Onsite Effluent Treatment Plan for those properties who remain unconnected at June 2021.
- 15 deals have been finalised under the Incentives Scheme totalling 24.6 tonnes of nitrogen. 3 deals are under negotiation for around 4.8 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen and staff are currently in discussion with a further 11 landowners. A further 33 landowners have been identified to be progressively contacted. The dNITRO land use change tool has proved popular with landowners, enabling them to explore the financial implications of converting pastoral land to trees.
- There are currently seven active projects being funded under the Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund, including hazelnut and hemp trials, a herbicide trial to support the establishment of mānuka plantations, a hedged mānuka for oil feasibility study, the establishment of a milk bottling plant and a trial to support more efficient harvesting of feijoas.
- A temporary tank was installed at the Puarenga P-locking plant to enable alum dosing while the permanent tank was replaced. The permanent tank has now been replaced and is working through a commissioning process. The bloom on Lake Rotorua at Labour Weekend last year was thankfully short-

lived and there have been no further blooms so far this summer. Regular algal monitoring is ongoing. Staff of both Councils recently met with Toi Te Ora to review processes in relation to notification of health warnings and the Regional Council has purchased some new Satellite Imagery out of the United States which will help to identify the extent of blooms and is another tool in helping us manage the health of the lakes for our people.

#### **Rotoehu**

- Alum dosing at Waitangi Stream has recommenced and a consent application is progressing to renew expired consents.

#### **Rotoiti**

- An application has been lodged to trial an alternative flow regime at Okere Gates, as per recommendations of Ngāti Pikiao Cultural Management Plan. This is associated with the resource consent for the operation of the gates.

#### **Tarawera Catchments**

- Staff are working with landowners in the Inner and Outer Catchments of Tarawera to implement the actions in the Farm Environment Plans prepared for landowners in the catchments. These actions are receiving funding support from the Regional Council and also through Crown's covid19 recovery funding. Actions include retirement of marginal land and significant features and detainment bunds.
- Members of the Strategy Group visited the Lake Okareka outlet and associated erosion protection works in December 2020.

## **4. Ngā Whakaarohanga Considerations**

### **4.1 Ngā Mōrea me Ngā Whakangāwaritanga Risks and Mitigations**

There are no significant risks identified with adopting this report, the purpose of this reporting regime is to manage risk.

### **4.2 Huringa Āhuarangi Climate Change**

Ongoing adaptation by the Programme and its interventions will be necessary to respond to the impacts of Climate Change, as advised in the Statement issued by the Lake Water Quality Technical Advisory Group last year.

Adaptive Management and being informed by new science and information will be key to achieving our water quality goals on the Te Arawa Lakes.

### **4.3 Ngā Pānga ki te Māori Implications for Māori**

Fourteen Lakes within the Rotorua/Te Arawa boundaries are subject to the Lakes Settlement Act 2006 ('Settlement Act').

Under this legislation, the traditional, historical, cultural/spiritual relationships and associations that Te Arawa hapū and iwi have with the Te Arawa Lakes is recognised by the vesting of these Lakebeds in the Lakes Trust. The health of the Te Arawa Lakes is paramount to the Lakes Trust.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust have also lodged their Environmental Management Plan - He Mahere Taiao mo ngā wai o Te Arawa. This document has been lodged with Regional Council and sets out clearly the interests that Te Arawa Hapū and Iwi have with their lakes and waterways and also sets out the protocols of engagements between council and Te Arawa Lakes Trust.

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme is a partnership between Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council. This report outlines progress with programme deliverables that benefit the lakes and the lakeside communities.

#### 4.4 **Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Community Engagement**

Engagement with the community is not required regarding adopting this progress report.

#### 4.5 **Ngā Pānga ā-Pūtea Financial Implications**

There are no material unbudgeted financial implications and this work fits within the allocated budget.

### 5. **Ngā Mahi Whai Ake Next Steps**

The Programme workstreams will continue to implement the 2020/21 Annual Work Plan. The 2021/2022 Annual Work Plan for the Programme will be brought to the Strategy Group in May 2021. The 2020/21 Annual Report for the Programme will be tabled in October 2021.

## **Tuhinga Tautoko Attachments**


Attachment 1 - DRAFT 2020/21 Six Month Report Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme [↓](#)



Attachment 2 - Dashboard Status Report (12-02-2021) [↓](#)














# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme

## July-December 2020 six month report





### LAKE ROTORUA

	Deliverables	Achieved	Project Status
 <b>Brunswick – Rotokawa Sewerage Reticulation</b>	Complete connections	22 Connections	
 <b>Incentives</b>	30 t N	3 deals being negotiated. Combined total estimate 4 t N	
 <b>Engineering Solutions</b>	Detailed Investigations into 2 wetland options	Wetland review being undertaken	
 <b>Advice And Support</b>	All properties over 40ha enrolled	147 enrolled	
 <b>Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund</b>	Implement Contracts	Managing final deliverables	
 <b>Phosphorus Locking</b>	Maintenance of lake TLI at or about 4.2 target	As required	