

Lake Rotoiti – Lake Levels

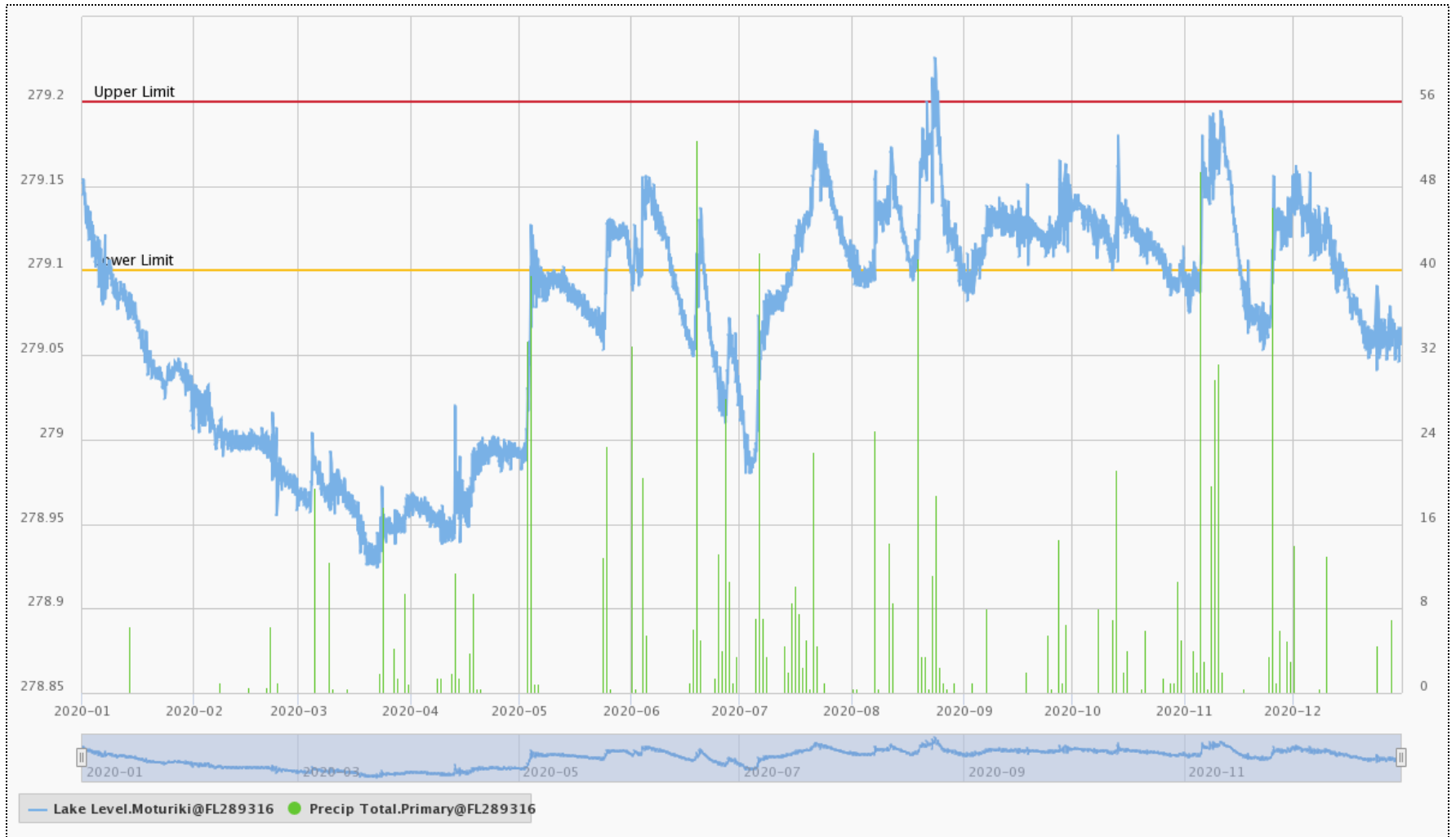
2020 Operations
Consent Application
Update and Progress



Primary Aims (Normal operations)

- Okere/Kaituna River outflows equal to or greater than Ohau Channel inflows to prevent reflux (backflow of Lake Rotorua water into Lake Rotoiti) for enhancement of water quality.
- Maintain Levels between 279.10m and 279.20m Moturiki Datum (main operating range) wherever possible. Consented Range is 279.40m (Max) and 279.00m (Min).
- Optimally manage levels to:-
 - Maintain Okere/Kaituna River minimum flows.
 - Minimise flooding (problematic above 279.20m).
 - Facilitate recreational access (problematic below 279.10m).

GRAPH – Levels and Rainfall Jan-Dec 2020



Proposed Variation - 3 year trial

- Joint Proposal between Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Ngāti Pikiao Environmental Society.
- Drop lake level to 278.85m and hold for one week (between 6 Feb and 30 Jun) to allow investigation of impacts (cultural, social, environmental and economic) identified in the Rotoiti Cultural Management Plan. Levels to then revert to normal operation as soon as possible.
- Low level trial intended to allow community to observe effects first hand. One-off event with no intention to permanently alter normal operations.

Proposed Variation - Permanent

- Dispense with current aspirational percentage range [Condition 7.4(b)(i)(a)-(d)] and replace with:-
 - Ohau Channel Inflow / Okere Outflow Regime.
 - Maintain levels within normal operating range (RL279.10m – RL279.20m) where possible.
 - When lake falls below RL279.10m reduce outflows to minimum.
 - When lake rises above RL279.20m increase outflows to maximum.
- Addition of mechanical weed control to Condition 12.3 which covers weed control by the use of herbicide on two beaches (Operational).
- Remove Condition 13.1-13.5 - Annual lake level drawdown to 279.00m for flushing of the Ohau Channel (Operational).

Proposed Variation - Status

- January to July 2020.
 - In accordance with standard policy and to ensure impartiality, BoPRC Regulatory Arm engages independent Professional to carry out community consultation and complete Consent Application (CA).
- July 2020
 - Application lodged with external Environmental & Planning Consultancy to assess environmental effects and furnish recommendation.
- November 2020
 - Following delay due to processing Consultant becoming incapacitated for a period of time, an amendment to the CA was then sought to accommodate a proposal by RTALOLG to remove the existing 'aspirational percentage ranges' permanently.
- December 2020
 - Amended Application lodged and now awaiting further processing.