

From: Bay of Plenty Regional Council sherryn.owen@boprc.govt.nz
Subject: Update for lake structure owners - December
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To: Tom Macky temacky@gmail.com



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December 2020

Kia ora koutou,

We hope everyone is keeping well.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is working hard to progress consents for Rotorua's lake structure owners and we would like to share the latest updates in this newsletter.

In this edition we cover:

- Replacement Consent Project
- Lake structure consent application charges
- Lake Rotoiti Cultural Mapping Report – Ngāti Mākino update
- Existing, previously unconsented moorings
- The Lake Rotoiti Community Association
- Update from TALT
- Second boat ramp and jetty at Komuhumu, Gisborne Point
- Catfish update
- Summer check, clean, dry compliance activity

Replacement Consent Project

All streamlined application packs have been sent to consent holders and most have returned the necessary forms as shown in the graph below. This is great progress, thank you everyone!

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have finished processing consent applications for Lake Rotomā and we are continuing to process consent applications for Lake Rotorua.

We acknowledge that along with the delays due to COVID-19 this process has taken longer than anticipated, however we are carrying out this process in bulk and have spent time following up where lake structure applications have not been returned.

In addition, the Regional Council is collaborating with other agencies, including Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT), on consent applicants' behalf to help ensure a smooth process while addressing any matters raised in the cultural mapping reports.

Lake structure owners can continue to use and maintain their structures under their existing consents while their replacement consent application is being processed. We will continue to keep applicants informed as things progress.

The bulk limited notification process for Lake Tarawera will be getting underway before Christmas. This applies to all lake structure applications provided with minor, more than minor or significant adverse effects assessments in the Cultural Mapping report for Lake Tarawera.

TALT (Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Tūhourangi, Ngāti Rangitihi, and Ngāti Raukawa will be given the opportunity to provide submissions based on these cultural assessments.

There is a 20 working day response timeframe, however this does not include the period between 20 December to 10 January so the submission period will continue through to early in February.

The submissions received will form the basis for next steps which will include the opportunity for parties to meet and resolve the issues with potential mitigation measures which will avoid the need to go to a hearing. The Regional Council will co-ordinate these meetings as required.

[Find out more here.](#)



Lake structure consent application charges

A deposit of \$775 (GST inclusive) is required with all resource consent applications for existing, previously consented structures where there are no changes proposed

changes proposed.

All communications beyond the first hour, and officer's processing time, is charged at \$160/hour (GST inclusive).

To avoid unnecessary charges, we encourage applicants to thoroughly read the website prior to making contact.

Total costs are determined once the consents are processed, but applications that do not raise specific issues are not expected to exceed \$1500 per application (please note the \$1500 does not apply to existing, unconsented lake structures such as retaining walls which will incur additional processing costs because they were not previously consented).

[Click here for more information.](#)

Lake Rotoiti Cultural Mapping Report – Ngāti Mākino update

The Regional Council has met with Ngāti Mākino and is working through a process to enable them to provide comments and feedback on lake structure applications within their rohe (territory or boundaries of iwi).

Existing, previously unconsented moorings

Applying for consent for your existing, previously unconsented mooring (the mooring existed prior to the 2006 Te Arawa Lakebed Settlement and is unchanged).

A mooring is a weighted object sitting in or on the bed of a water body and includes

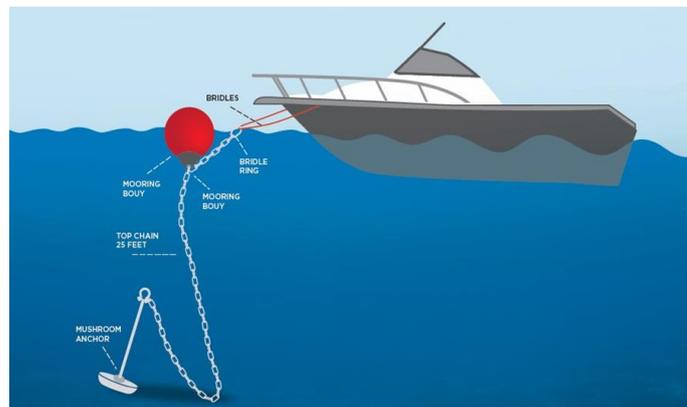
on the bed of a water body and includes any wire, chain, rope, buoy or other device attached or connected to the weight.

Why do moorings need consent?

The purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Resource consents are issued under this act to help manage activities that affect the environment.

To minimise the impact of lake structures (including moorings) on the environment, the use, construction and maintenance of lake structures requires a resource consent from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. In the Rotorua Lakes area, the majority of resource consents for existing lakes structures have, or are due to expire.

[You can find out more about moorings and the consenting process here.](#)



The Lake Rotoiti Community Association

Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff have been working with various community associations in relation to the replacement consents for lake structures.

The Lake Rotoiti Community Association

has asked us to let you know that their purpose is to promote the interests, the welfare and relationships within our community, and its natural environments and amenities.

If you are interested in finding out more about LRCA, [please check out their website](#).

TALT reminder to all structure owners

Please note that modifying or extending structures requires prior written approval of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust as the lakebed owner and a license to be entered into.

Retrospective applications for licenses will not be considered and a higher penalty charge will be levied for any unauthorised use of the lakebed as well as a requirement for unauthorised structures to be removed.

Please note a resource consent from the Regional Council is not permission from the landowner for the structure to be on the lakebed.

For more guidance on what you need to consider in your licence application for a new structure or to extend an existing structure please review [Te Tūāpapa o ngā Wai o Te Arawa Te Arawa Lakes Trust](#).

Second Boat Ramp and Jetty a Komuhumu Gisborne Point

After more than five years since a formal request was made through the Lakes Community Board and Rotorua Lakes Council, the second boat ramp at Komuhumu (Gisborne Point) has now

KOMUHUMUHU (GISBORNE POINT) HAS NOW been essentially completed.

A Karakia (blessing) was performed by local iwi on 2 October 2020, to officially open the new facilities which are designed to ease congestion and enhance the needs and expectations of the locals and visitors alike.

Gisborne Point is historically a pa site known as Komuhumu, and is a heritage site, which means once the resource consents were approved, Bay of Plenty Regional Council worked with Heritage New Zealand to appropriately improve the area. The finishing touches to the upgrades will be cultural interpretation panels that will help to share the significance of the area. These are being created in collaboration with Ngati Pikiao Koeke and local hapu Ngati Te Rangiunuora.





Catfish update

The feasibility of reducing catfish numbers in Lake Rotoiti through the use of biocontrol is currently being investigated. The process, which has successfully been used overseas, involves releasing sterile male catfish into a waterbody to prevent successful catfish reproduction by causing catfish eggs to be left unfertilised. The Regional Council is keen to reassure people that catfish biocontrol doesn't involve genetic modification of any kind and is regulated by multiple Central Government agencies.

An initial feasibility study and modelling carried out by NIWA has indicated that suppression or even eradication of catfish might be possible through the use of biological control. Next steps for the project involve proof of concept work in a laboratory-based environment, the results of which will be available April. Community consultation, along with iwi and hapū engagement will be an integral part of the project development.

In the interim contractor netting and the amazing work of the Catfish Killers and local residents in fyke netting will continue for a long time yet as biocontrol takes multiple breeding seasons to make an impact.



Summer check, clean, dry compliance activity

The start of the fishing season on 1 October marked the beginning of a summer programme aimed to ensure that boat ramp users are following the 'check, clean, dry' protocol when entering and exiting any of the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes.

Building on the success of last year's spot checks, a team of warranted Biosecurity Officers from Te Arawa Lakes Trust will be helping boaties and other lake users to understand the steps that they need to

take to stop the spread of aquatic pest weeds and pest fish.

The new Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan (2020 – 2030) goes further than the previous plan with the introduction of a new rule requiring boat users to self-certify that they have removed any freshwater pest fish or aquatic pest plants

- No person shall leave boat trailers in any water body other than for the purposes of launching and/or retrieving boats.
- No person shall transport ballast water from any water body to any other location.
- All occupiers of vessels or craft entering any water body within the Bay of Plenty shall ensure their vessels or craft (including trailers) are free from freshwater pest fish and freshwater pest plants including fragments.
- *All occupiers of vessels or craft using a boat ramp with a self-certification checkpoint must complete the supplied certification form and display it in the vehicle used to launch the boat.*

As year one of the new self-certification rules, the focus is very much on informing and educating rather than enforcing. New explanatory signs are being produced and the check, clean, dry team will be using their boat ramp checks to answer any questions, check compliance and ensure a good understanding of the new rules by lake users. Self-certification stations will be set up after Christmas at 10 separate boat ramps and vessel owners are encouraged to start making use of the forms over the summer period.

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For more information on lake structures and the replacement consent process please visit www.boprc.govt.nz/lakestructure



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