

IMPORTANT UPDATE – EXISTING LAKE STRUCTURES JULY 2022

As advised in previous updates, Existing Lake Structure Owners who applied to renew their resource consents that expired in 2017 – 2020 were assessed in the Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) Cultural Mapping report. Those with ‘minor/more than minor adverse cultural effects’ were limited-notified to TALT, and they made submission to Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BoPRC) approving some aspects of consents and opposing others, and sought to be heard at an Independent Commissioner Hearing.

BoPRC has recently communicated this to relevant applicants, enclosing the TALT submission, and their section 95 report. They will be separately communicating to those structure owners that applied to include previously unconsented existing structures in their consent. We understand there were 47 such structures.

LRCA has been in regular dialogue with BoPRC for 4 to 5 years to track progress with this process for other lakes that were dealt with before Rotoiti’s turn. We formed a working group of structure owners spread around the main settlements of the lake and had a recent Zoom meeting with BoPRC to discuss the TALT submission. We are awaiting the draft Conditions and Advice Notes that BoPRC propose and will have a further meeting with Council to discuss them.

This will then most likely lead to a meeting soon in Rotorua with LRCA, BoPRC and TALT, to discuss the Consents and to attempt to find some common ground on terms and conditions which, if taken up by applicants, may avoid a Hearing on all or most applications, or narrow the issues as much as possible to reduce the scope of any Hearing.”

Of course, LRCA are not a party to your applications, cannot bind any applicant and we will not make commitments on your behalf without authority to do so. Ultimately individual structure owners may agree with where LRCA gets to in these discussions or may wish to pursue a different path. Rest assured in discussions with TALT and BoPRC, it will be very clear that LRCA will pass on all proposals or agreements in principle relating to renewed consents to our members, with any recommendations that LRCA may have, and it will be entirely up to you as applicants whether to follow our recommendations, or to pursue any points in a different manner and so on. At this juncture, given the hundreds of applicants involved, it seems more efficient if LRCA as a community organisation has these initial pre-hearing discussions and reports back to our members, than every applicant needing or wanting to try to set up meetings with BOPRC and TALT.

We appreciate these communications or those received from BOPRC may raise concerns or queries, and you are welcome to email these to LRCA <lrca@rotoiti.co.nz>, and we can discuss these with you. Please encourage non-members or former members to join the association so we can include them in our communications and strengthen our position. This links to our membership page. <https://www.rotoiti.co.nz/membership>

Finally, although we will be continuing our dialogue with BOPRC and are likely to meet with TALT, and will not be committing any members to any outcomes (as explained above), if for any reason a structure owner wants to have your own direct dialogue with those bodies and wishes LRCA to advise them when we meet that our discussions should not apply to your particular structure, please advise us.

LRCA Lake Structures sub committee