

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Chairperson and Members
ROTORUA TE ARAWA LAKES STRATEGY GROUP

UPDATE REPORT FROM ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

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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 new treatment plant is fully operational and receiving and treating wastewater from the Rotomā area.
- The reticulation (pipework) in the Rotoiti area is completed 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. This is not at this stage impacting on commissioning of the Rotoiti component of the scheme.
- Tenders for on-site systems at Rotoiti will be invited from qualified contractors through a Registration of Interest process. That process also identified four potentially suitable systems. The Request for Tender will go to the market within about a month and it is planned to have a recommendation to RLC by September/October.

Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The officers report and recommendations from both Consenting Authorities, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council, were received on 22 May 2020.
- Rotorua Lakes Council (the Applicant) applied to the Court on 25 May 2020 that the application be directly referred to the Environment Court.

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

- The result of the potential in catchment wastewater treatment plant and land disposal system was presented to the Iwi.
- Awaiting guidance from the Tribal Authority on this matter before the proposal proceeds to detailed investigation and design works.

Rotorua Urban Area Comprehensive Stormwater Resource Consent

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council have completed their review of their stormwater consenting process late February 2020. The result of the review is now being implemented on current stormwater resource consent applications.
- A meeting with Te Arawa Lakes Trust was held to discuss the way forward regarding the development of the Cultural Impact Assessment to support the application.

Ngongotaha flooding/review and actions

- The community reference group continues to oversee the joint actions of BOPRC and RLC on a range of operational matters to reduce the risk and effects of future flooding. Most of these actions are progressing and are embedded in business as usual practice.
- The four shortlisted engineering options to improve the reliance of the catchment against flooding have been agreed and initial modelling of these options have been undertaken. The result of the modelling was presented to the community reference group on 14 July 2020 after an initial engagement with key landowners that could be potentially affected by the proposed options.

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 and has been involved in mediation on stage 2 matters. All but the allocation to Treaty Settlement land has been resolved and consent orders issued to the Court. Evidence exchange has been completed a hearing date set for 7 September.

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 ongoing. Submissions and further submissions have been received and Council is working through issues with submitters (including Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuara and Ngāti Whakuae. The Hearing on the plan change is scheduled for the week starting 14 September. Three independent hearing commissioners (David Hill, Antoine Coffin and Rob van Voorthuysen) have been appointed to make recommendations to the Minister.

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 further 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. The Commissioners Recommendations are anticipated and will be reported back to Council in either August or September.

Rotorua Lakes Council: Eastside Wellness Plan

Community consultation is scheduled to start on the Eastside Wellness Plan in early August. The Plan is intended to set out the communities long term aspirations for the Eastside area. The Plan has been developed in consultation with local hapu via the Tatau Pounamu Collective. The draft Plan identifies four Key Moves:

1. Providing for a safe and caring community
2. Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
3. Reinforcing a sense of place and character
4. Promoting development in the right locations.

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.