

# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group

## NOTICE IS GIVEN

that the next meeting of the **Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group** will be held in **The Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Administration Building, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua** on:

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**Friday, 8 December 2017 commencing at 10.30 am.**

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Morning Tea will be available from 10.00 am.

Mary-Anne Macleod  
**Chief Executive**  
**Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana**  
1 December 2017

**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.*





# Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Terms of Reference

## Interpretation

In these Terms of Reference:

“Organisations” means the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, the Rotorua District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

“Rotorua Lakes” means Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu, Rotoma, Okataina, Tikitapu, Okareka, Tarawera, Rotomahana, Rerewhakaaitu, Okaro and Rotokakahi.

“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.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Group is 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 with their ancestral lakes.

## Membership

Six members:

- The Chairperson of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and one other senior representative;
- The Mayor and one other elected representative of the Rotorua Lakes Council;
- The Chairperson and one other elected representative of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

## Quorum

As per clause 3.1 of the RLSG Agreement (dated 8 October 2004), the ordinary quorum for a meeting of the Group will be one member from each of the Organisations.

## Group Chairperson

The Group has agreed to rotate its Chairperson on an annual basis.

## Term of the Committee

This is a permanent joint committee under the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006. The *Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement* (December 2004) included clauses establishing the Group (Cultural Redress: Lakes Management and Relationships, clauses 9.1 to 9.3). The Terms of Reference for the Group come from a signed agreement between the three parties (dated 8 October 2004) and included in Part 1 of the Relationship Schedule to the Deed of Settlement.

## Specific Responsibilities and Delegated Functions

The Group will have the following functions:

- The provision of leadership to the Organisations and the community in relation to implementation of the Vision of the Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua district 2000.
- The identification significant existing and emerging issues affecting the Rotorua Lakes.
- The preparation, approving, monitoring, evaluation and review agreements, policies and strategies to achieve integrated outcomes for the Rotorua Lakes.
- The identification, monitoring and evaluation of necessary actions by the organisations and other relevant organisations.
- The receiving of reports on activities being undertaken by the organisations and other relevant organisations.
- Involvement during the preparation of statutory plans in relation to significant issues. Such plans include but are not limited to iwi and hapū management plans, district and regional plans, reserve management plans and annual plans.
- Involvement in applications for activities in relation to significant issues not addressed by existing policies of the co-management partners. 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.

**Note:**

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group reports directly to the Regional Council.

## Public Forum

1. A period of up to 15 minutes may be set aside near the beginning of the meeting to enable members of the public to make statements about any matter on the agenda of that meeting which is open to the public, but excluding any matter on which comment could prejudice any specified statutory process the council is required to follow.
2. The time allowed for each speaker will normally be up to 5 minutes but will be up to the discretion of the chair. A maximum of 3 public participants will be allowed per meeting.
3. No statements by public participants to the Council shall be allowed unless a written, electronic or oral application has been received by the Chief Executive (Governance Team) by 12.00 noon of the working day prior to the meeting and the Chair's approval has subsequently been obtained. The application shall include the following:
  - name of participant;
  - organisation represented (if any);
  - meeting at which they wish to participate; and matter on the agenda to be addressed.
4. Members of the meeting may put questions to any public participants, relevant to the matter being raised through the chair. Any questions must be asked and answered within the time period given to a public participant. The chair shall determine the number of questions.



# Membership

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Sir T Curtis (Chairman, Te Arawa Lakes Trust)
<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b>	Mayor S Chadwick (Rotorua Lakes Council)
<b>Appointees:</b>	Deputy Mayor D Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), W Emery (Alternate, Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor T Marr (Alternate, Bay of Plenty Regional Council), R Meha (Te Arawa Lakes Trust), Councillor K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)
<b>Attendees:</b>	S Lewis (Director Operations, Ministry for the Environment)
<b>Committee Advisor:</b>	M Stensness

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

## Agenda

### 1 Opening Karakia

### 2 Mihi-Welcome Raina Meha

Ms Raina Meha is the newly appointed Te Arawa Lakes Trust Representative, Ms Meha replaces long standing representative Mr Willie Emery who is now the Te Arawa Lakes Trust alternate. Ms Meha has a strong policy and resource management background and brings a wealth of knowledge to the Group.

### 3 Apologies

### 4 General Business

### 5 Public Forum

### 6 Declarations of Conflicts of Interests

### 7 Previous Minutes

#### 7.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group minutes - 08 September 2017

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### 8 Reports

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APPENDIX 2 - Qtr 1 Finance Report 2017_2018 for RTALSG	31
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<b>8.3 Te Arawa Lakes Trust Report - Update</b>	<b>35</b>
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<b>9 Consideration of General Business</b>	
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## Previous Minutes



# Minutes of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Meeting held in The Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council, Civic Administration Building, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua on Friday, 8 September 2017 commencing at 10.30 a.m.

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**Chairman:** Sir T Curtis (Chairman, Te Arawa Lakes Trust)

**Appointees:** Deputy Mayor D Donaldson (Alternate, Rotorua Lakes Council), Councillor K Hunt (Rotorua Lakes Council), Chairman D Leeder (Bay of Plenty Regional Council), Councillor K Winters (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

**In Attendance:** **Te Arawa Lakes Trust:** N Douglas (Manager - Environment), K Vercoe (Chief Executive), R Meha (Trustee)  
**Rotorua Lakes Council:** G Williams (Chief Executive), S Michael (Director Transport and Waste Solutions), J Riini (Partnership Advisor)  
**Toi Moana-Bay of Plenty Regional Council:** M Macleod (Chief Executive), T White (Incentives Programme Director), A Bruere (Lakes Operations Manager), L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager), N Poutasi (Water Policy Manager) M Stensness (Committee Advisor)

**Apologies:** Mayor S Chadwick, Mr W Emery, Mr S Lewis, Mr C Ingle, Deputy Mayor M Donaldson (early departure).

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## 1 Karakia

Opening karakia by Ms Raina Meha.

## 2 Apologies

### Resolved

That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:

- 1 Accepts the apology tendered by Mayor S Chadwick, Mr W Emery, Mr S Lewis, Mr C Ingle and the early departure of Deputy Mayor D Donaldson.

Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED

## 3 General Business and Tabled Items

The Chair requested that Mr D Atkinson Chairman of the Lakes Water Quality Society provide an update to the members on the Bi-Annual Water Symposium – “Trouble Makers”

## 4 Public Forum

No Public Forum.

## 5 Declaration of conflicts of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 6 Previous Minutes

### Matter Arising

Members were advised that the MOU for the Nitrogen Accounting Approach for the Rotorua Waste Water Treatment plant had been signed.

### Resolved

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Confirms the minutes of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group meeting held 27 June 2017.**

**Curtis/Hunt  
CARRIED**

## 7 Reports

### 7.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme

L Goldsmith (Rotorua Catchments Manager) introduced two new areas of information to be included in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme ('RTALP') were:

1. Trophic Level Index ('TLI'); and
2. End of year financials results.

The TLI update highlighted five lakes, Rotorua, Ōkaro, Rerewhakaaitu, Tikitapu and Rotomā had reached the TLI target with this year's annual average results. It was considered a great improvement from the previous year's results. Members were also advised that four lakes, Rotoehu, Ōkātina, Tarawera and Rotoiti were below the TLI while noting the TLI units were based on a three yearly average.

Members queried what the TLI trend was in previous years and whether science indicated trends were impacted by climate change or other issues. Members were advised that the trend fluctuated every year. Particular issues encountered were:

- algae bloom thriving in summer weather;
- high rainfall and overflow of storm water;
- forest harvesting; and
- management and pre-empting suitable alum dosing for each lake.

In response to queries regarding forest harvesting and high rainfall it was noted that staff were not aware of any specific forest harvesting reports but confirmed measurements in place included;

- 1) the use of bunds;
- 2) monitored management of catchments;

It was explained that the high rainfall experienced lately required opening the Ohai Weir to release pressure, noting the key positive was that aerated water took longer to flow.

In response to queries whether Lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti were swimmable it was confirmed that both lakes were swimmable and that Toi Te Ora officially monitored the lakes. Members were informed of two health warnings issued this year for Lake Rotorua caused by the high rainfall and overflow of the WWMP.

The end of year financial report was introduced which included a financial summary for each Deed funded lake and also identified the funding provided by each Council and the Ministry for the Environment ('MFE'). Audit signoff of the financial report would be completed in September 2017.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report - Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme**

**Winters/Donaldson  
CARRIED**

## **8 Presentations**

### **8.1 Mātauranga Maori approach to the land contact beds for the Waste Water Treatment Plant ('WWTP')**

*Objective Reference A269997*

Partnership Advisor Ms J Riini and Director of Transport and Waste Solutions Mr S Michael provided key points of the presentation as follows:

- Three years ago residents of Whakarewarewa forest were told by CNI that they may need to move as the whenua-land was saturated in waste water;
- A steering group was established with 15 key parties involved, supported by a technical advisory group;
- Two-three year collaborative approach undertaken, working with Iwi, hapu, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and councils to achieve the common objective - to protect the quality of lake waters and future management of waste water;
- A WWMP that acknowledged and encapsulated mātauranga Maori was drafted;
- Mātauranga Maori wānanga had been held with 23 respected attendees offering expert knowledge that assisted with the design of the WWTP;
- Four Mātapono were adopted - Mauri of the Wai-water was restored, Wai is of our Atua-God, kaitiakitanga-protectors/guardians over the Wai and the WWMP was to align with Te Arawa cultural values and Ngā Wai o Te Arawa document;

- The WWMP treated all types of water, sewerage, rain, storm - approximately 20 million litres was pumped up to the forest;
- Once upgraded the WWTP would be built to handle severe water events, track the progress and increase the capacity to cope with 70 million litres;
- Focussed on the discharge option – run water of contact bed into holding ponds with rocks then release water down the lake into Puiringa Awa;
- Community, hapū and iwi engagement undertaken, with a few more hui-meetings to be held with various hapū.

Staff commented that matters of significance to Te Arawa such as whakapapa-genealogy had not been addressed and that Te Mana o te wai needed to be reconciled with a connect between western science and māori science. It was noted that Te Arawa leaders came together to reconcile this space and supported an alternative solution from a Māori perspective. The practice of including indigenous input was considered a world first and was an example of Te Mana o te Wai in action.

## Resolved

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the presentation - Mātauranga Maori approach to the land contact beds for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.**
- 2 Requests the presentation be sent to the Ministry for the Environment.**

**Winters/Donaldson  
CARRIED**

## 8.2 **Presentation - Embedding Te Tūāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural Values) and Te Arawatanga – Supporting Te Arawa Kaitiaki around our lakes, Kaitiaki forum establishment and project development led by hapū and iwi.**

*Objective reference A269997*

Te Arawa Lakes Trust ('TALT') Manager - Environment Ms N Douglas presented members with an overview of the presentation. This included key objectives that focussed on forming partnerships with key stakeholders and councils to build a frame work that allowed TALT to reignite the values of Te mana o te wai by embedding Te Tuāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural values) into the programme. These values included:

- Te Whakapapa o te wai;
- the guiding principles; and
- activities and investment.

Members were provided with a brief historical account of Te Arawatanga and the significant cultural relationship between Te Arawa and the lakes. The TALT were committed in establishing a collaborative working relationship with councils and key stakeholders that:

- encouraged Te Arawa to lead investment opportunities – deliver and manage projects embedding Te Tuāpapa, building capability and capacity in Te Arawa;

- allowed for a co-designed framework on a working relationship with councils on how to embed Te Tuāpapa into projects that encouraged hapū and iwi participation and input;
- Te Arawa could proactively participate in the programmes, as they had engaged iwi technicians with capabilities to manage their input in resource consent process; and
- TALT were open and willing to work with the lake stakeholders and dedicated to take the lead role on working with their hapū and iwi.

## Resolved

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the combined presentation - Embedding Te Tuāpapa (Te Arawa Cultural Values) and Te Arawatanga – Supporting Te Arawa Kaitiaki around our lakes, Kaitiaki forum establishment and project development led by hapū and iwi.**

**Hunt/Leeder  
CARRIED**

## 9 Reports Continued

### 9.1 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme – Status Report

Rotorua Catchments Manager Ms L Goldsmith provided members with a simple visual summary of progress on key projects and verbally updated them as followed:

Plan Change 10 - recommendations had resulted in the reallocation of nitrogen discharge noting the main impact related to properties less than 40 hectares, Land listed under Te Ture Whenua Maori Act in forestry plantation or bush/scrub had the ability to undertake land use change and gain a higher nitrogen discharge allocation allowing the landowners to turn their land into pasture.

A cross-team workgroup had been meeting on a weekly basis to develop the necessary documents and processes for the implementation of proposed Plan Change 10. The Nutrient Management Plan ('NMP') was being revised. Staff confirmed that resource consents in relation to plan change 10 would remain free of charge to farming enterprises over 40 hectares until the end of September 2017.

Lake Rotorua Advice and Support -126 farming enterprises were engaged in advice and support, 20 of these had requested resource consent. The advice and support service had been on hold due to Plan Change 10 and the revision of the NDAs and NMPs. Advice and support service would progress resource consent applications as soon as the NMP template was finalised and the applicants had a revised NMP from their Land Use Advisor.

Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund - Five projects (dNITRO, best practice videos, Whenua ora, the land resource guide and the Hazelnut) had progressed well. dNITRO tool was proving invaluable and the best practice videos produced by Land connect were launched. The Whenua Ora was ongoing and was affected by the requirements for the landowners to be provided with updated NDAs. The Land Resource Guide was undergoing its final editing

stage before release to the public. The hazelnut project was progressing with trees been planted and the research project set up as agreed.

Lakes TLI results - five of the lakes reached or exceeded their target. It was noted that looking at a year in isolation did not give the full picture as weather patterns could have an influence. The three yearly average TLI measure helped smooth out annual fluctuations and showed two of the lakes had reached their target TLI with Lake Rotomahana close to its TLI being 0.1 above target.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report - Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme – Status Report**

**Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED**

### **9.2 Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme – Update Report**

Incentives Programme Director Mr T White reported that the Lake Rotorua Incentives Board secured five incentive agreements totalling 8.5 tonnes in-lake nitrogen with a further eight landowners registered with the scheme willing to negotiate. Negotiations with landowners had been stalled due to a 'bug' in the system Overseer which was now reconciled and nitrogen plans had been refreshed to include another 8 tonnes equalling 16.5 tonnes against the target of 20 tonnes. The dNITRO project has concluded and proved to be a useful tool for Maori land owners Over 30 Maori landowner groups attended presentations on the use of the tool and to date 10 groups expressed a desire to progress discussions.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report – Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme – Update Report**

**Winters/Hunt  
CARRIED**

### **9.3 Update report from Rotorua Lakes Council**

Members discussed the functions, purpose and the position of the strategy group that adopted the integrated framework for the lake restoration project. M Macleod informed members that Plan Change 10 was in the appeals process so further discussion on that matter would be addressed at the appropriate time.

Members queried the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme funding and noted it was capped at three years from 2019-2022 and was subject to a grant of \$2million from Toi Moana-BOPRC. Director of Transport and Waste Solutions Mr S Michael confirmed the Freshwater Improvement Funding came through the Tarawera Steering Group that MFE had approved a grant of \$6million and that MFE not the applicate had set a minimum local and regional contribution of \$2million was required.

Members were assured by Rotorua Lakes Council ('RLC') that the application did not premise Toi Moana-BOPRC as funding the project but the application forced on the ability



to achieve a number of key objectives of significant interest locally, regionally and nationally.

Chief Executive M Macleod congratulated RLC on the successful application for funding and advised members that she would discuss the terms of the application during a meeting with RLC Chief Executive however, the meeting would largely focus on the applications process as set out by MFE. Toi Moana-BOPRC had multiple applications to balance and had still to consider the application.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report – Update report from Rotorua Lakes Council**

**Hunt/Leeder  
CARRIED**

### **9.4 Lake Rotoehu Sewage Reticulation**

Toi Moana-BOPRC staff requested support in principle for the reticulation of the Lake Rotoehu sewage scheme. Members voiced concern that the Rotoehu community had the opportunity to join the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti reticulation scheme back in 2012 but declined the offer. Staff informed members that those in the Rotoehu community who supported the need for a sewage reticulation scheme had strengthened in numbers.

The benefits of a reticulation system in that area would contribute significantly to the health of the lake. The government had indicated significant interest in the environmental outcomes of the key objectives of the application which had been the key drivers of the application's success.

It was requested the minutes reflect that it was not the position of Toi Moana-BOPRC to subsidise Waste Water applications without full consideration of the application, open consultation with stakeholders and consideration of competing applications. Toi Moana-BOPRC also stated that supporting in principle reticulation for Lake Rotoehu did not mean any support in principle or otherwise for funding of the scheme. This was acknowledged by the other members.

Concern was expressed that there was an inference on a regional basis that Toi Moana-BOPRC would be expected to fund the scheme. Staff recommendation 2 was discussed and motioned subject to appropriate funding being available.

## **MOTION**

**Moved: Chairman Leeder**

**Seconded: Cr Winters**

**Supports in principle the reticulation of sewage from the Lake Rotoehu community to the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti sewage scheme.**

Members were advised that there was no inference in the wording of recommendation 2 that Toi Moana-BOPRC were expected to fund the scheme which satisfied members.

The motion was **WITHDRAWN** with agreement of the majority.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report – Lake Rotoehu Sewage Reticulation;**
- 2 Supports in principle the reticulation of sewage from the Lake Rotoehu community to the Rotomā-Eastern Rotoiti sewage scheme subject to appropriate funding.**
- 3 Confirms that the decision has a medium level of significance as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. Council has identified and assessed different options and considered community views as part of making the decision, in proportion to the level of significance.**

**Leeder/Hunt  
CARRIED**

### **9.5 Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Verbal update Report**

TALT Manager - Environment Ms N Douglas advised members that TALT had been transparent in their position regarding Plan Change 10 and had full frank discussion with key stakeholders on this matter noting TALT agreed with the RPS framework. It was confirmed the TALT were not proceeding with an appeal to Plan Change 10 but wanted it noted that their position not to appeal did not reflect full support of Plan Change 10. TALT was looking forward to working with Toi Moana-BOPRC during the implementation.

Members were provided with a brief report on TALT involvement to date:

- Working with key stakeholders to eradicate Catfish;
- Discussion with Toi Moana-BOPRC around alum dosing of Lakes continued;
- Proposed further engagement with Toi Moana-BOPRC in the implementation Plan Change 10 programme;
- Were engaged to provide a cultural impact assessment statement for the Tarawera Lake reticulation scheme, a draft was expected to be finalised at the end of September
- Te mana whakahono a rohe agreement with TALT preparing to engage in the RMA process;
- Committed to introducing and delivering Te mana whakahono and Kaitiakitanga to their hapū/iwi
- Tūhourangi and Okaraka pipeline progressing – various works had happened and TALT recognised the need for further extensive consultation.

Mr Atkinson of the Lakes Water Quality Society was congratulated on a superb Water Symposium and their dedication and commitment to the lakes.

## **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report – Te Arawa Lakes Trust verbal report.**

**Hunt/Winters  
CARRIED**

## 10 **Consideration of General Business**

Mr Atkinson reported that accolades were received for the Bi-annual Water symposium which indicated that it was well received. Mr Atkinson thanked Toi Moana-BOPRC and RLC for the financial contributions. He highlighted key topics of discussion at the symposium included:

- Inclusive nature of symposium was clearly community orientated;
- It takes a village to raise a child – it takes a community to save the lakes
- Catfish were widespread, Toi Moana-BOPRC monitoring allowed for better scientific knowledge of the critter. Challenges were ahead but believed in time Catfish would effectively be eliminated.
- The lake weed issue was a focus as was the MPA which was under review - long term goal. No focus on weeds at this stage.
- 90% of the aquatic species focussed on Tarawera lakes at this stage - if nothing was done it would get worse, major costs was approximately \$12million - the investment the Society had made to eradicate the weed;
- Focus on the Tarawera lakes pertaining to the sewage
- Farmer engagement had been undertaken, were committed to clear objectives of what was needed but were hindered as no funding was available at this stage
- Expressed the need to record oxygen levels with a tool that recorded in a consistent manner.

The Lake Water Society were thanked for their tireless work and commitment to the lakes over the last 50yrs. It was noted the society was largely made up of volunteers.

### **Resolved**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 That Toi Moana-BOPRC send a letter of gratitude and thanks to the Water Society for their efforts and commitments to the lakes and congratulate them on the success of the Bi-annual Water Symposium.**

**Hunt/Winters  
CARRIED**

## 11 **Closing Karakia**

Chair Sir Toby Curtis closed the meeting with a Karakia.

**The meeting closed at 12.45pm.**



# Reports



**Receives Only – No Decisions**



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

**Meeting Date:** 08 December 2017

**Report From:** Chris Ingle, General Manager, Integrated Catchments

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## **Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - Status Report**

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### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress made in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme, as well as outlining any issues or actions which are not covered by other agenda items.

This report covers the period since the last Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group meeting, held on 8 September. It provides an update on key programme work and also provides an update on Plan Change 10 and the catfish situation.

### **Recommendations**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - Status Report;**

### **1 Programme Status**

The programme status dashboard is attached as Appendix 1. This provides the simple visual summary of progress on key projects in the programme for the financial year and provides a summary of overall programme progress, planned activities and programme highlights as well as a summary of current risks in the programme. This was presented at the Programme Steering Group on 11 October.

The programme financial report is attached as Appendix 2 and covers the period July to September as discussed at the programme's CFO forum meeting on 22 November 2017. The report includes a financial summary by each Deed funded lake and indicates the funding provided by each Council and by the Ministry for the Environment.

## **2 Project Updates**

### **2.1 Plan Change 10**

Council decisions on Proposed Plan Change 10 were publicly notified on 15 August 2017 with a 30 day timeframe for the lodgement of any appeals to the Environment Court. A total of 4 appeals and 28 section 274 notices were lodged with the Environment Court. Key issues raised in the appeals relate to the nutrient allocation methodology, treatment of underutilised Māori land and the approach taken with the wastewater treatment plant. All appellants have agreed to mediation, with this expected to commence in early 2018.

### **2.2 Lake Rotorua Advice and Support**

63 landowners have applied for free resource consents and their revised Nutrient Discharge Allowances have been calculated.

The Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) template has been updated to ensure that it meets the requirements of Schedule LR 6 of Plan Change 10 and will satisfy all requirements for preparing and monitoring the resource consents.

The priority now is supporting landowners through the resource consent process, with a view to getting resource consent applications processed in a timely fashion. The reworking of NMPs by Land Use Advisors for priority properties is continuing. A reworked NMP is required before a resource consent can be granted.

Standard clauses for good management practice of phosphorus have been developed for the NMP template and the revised NMPs will use these. Training in identifying critical source areas for phosphorus loss has been undertaken, involving Land Use Advisors and Land Management Officers. Site visits to assess phosphorus critical source areas are now occurring.

### **2.3 Lake Rotorua Gorse Scheme**

Negotiations are underway and detailed mapping is in progress for over 50 hectares of gorse. The landowners are keen to plant some of this land in pines and some in mānuka.

### **2.4 Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme**

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year, the Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme secured five agreements totalling 8.5 tonnes in-lake nitrogen. There are currently a further nine landowners registered with the scheme willing to negotiate.

A separate report is in the agenda relating to this scheme.

### **2.5 Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund**

Two of the six Low Nitrogen Land Use projects are now complete and their final reports have been received: the dNITRO tool and the Good Management Practice videos.

The Tipu Whenua One Health project takes a group of farmers through potential changes to their farm systems. It has now reached a gate review and is being re-focused onto implementing the advice provided.



The Land Resource Guide project has been printed and the website is complete. It will be launched on 4 December at the GHA building in Rotorua and invitations have been sent out.

The Hazelnut project ran a workshop for the growers, and will be drawing up an information leaflet so that the growers understand fertiliser requirements and the timing of any pruning for this five year project.

The sixth project is with Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands, relating to both free range eggs and dairy sheep. A report has been received on the industry analysis for Rotorua for free range eggs. The initial step in the investigation into dairy sheep farming has been a report on the industry analysis for Rotorua for dairy sheep, which has been reviewed with the Land Use Advisor and the General Manager.

## **2.6 Tikitere Zeolite Plant**

Work continues on the detailed design for the Zeolite plant at Tikitere. A cost update and refined feasibility of construction is due in December.

## **2.7 Catfish**

Netting has commenced again for the year with increased water temperatures. Initial catches contain a high proportion of large fish (30mm+) that are currently getting ready to spawn. Removing these large fish is very important. The vast majority of fish caught to date have been within Te Weta bay.

The tag retention trial has begun at the University of Waikato. This is to see if the catfish reject the tags, something the species is notorious for doing. The trial involves implanting 20 large catfish (200mm+) with dummy tags and monitoring them over a two month period. It is an important step before we implant expensive tags into fish in Lake Rotoiti to track their movement over a period of one year.

## **2.8 Phosphorus locking resource consent**

The BOPRC is progressing on re-consenting for the Utuhina and Puarenga P-locking plants. The current consents expire in 2018 and 2019. P locking activity is still needed if we are to continue to maintain and improve the water quality of Lake Rotorua into the future.

Consultation with key iwi and community groups has commenced. The use of alum to lock phosphorus has occurred since 2006. In that time BOPRC has undertaken considerable research into the effects of the programme. Sediment and ecological monitoring has not identified any major adverse effects, while the positive effects have been significant. Improved water clarity, fewer algal blooms and improved TLI scores are the major benefits. The numbers of koura and kakahi have also improved in some near shore areas where they have been absent for some time.

Linda Goldsmith  
**Rotorua Catchments Manager**

**for General Manager, Integrated Catchments**


















**27 November 2017**










# **APPENDIX 1**












































## **2017-11-09 Te Arawa Rotorua Lakes Programme Dashboard PSG**



**Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme - September 2017**

Programme Manager		Linda Goldsmith		As of PSG meeting		Sep-17		Green 		Programme Highlights - September 2017	
Project Sponsor		Chris Ingle		Previous RAG status		Jul-17		Green 		 <i>Advice and Support</i> - New NMP templates have been finalised. Rework of NMPs for priority properties is underway. CSA training has been organised for team members and LUAs. Abby Harding has commenced as the new Technical Support.	
Category	RAG Status Previous	RAG Status Current	Comment on any RAG where status is not Green								
Overall	Green 	Green 	<i>Tikitere</i> - Staff have completed negotiations on the HoA re zeolite supply and awaiting sign off from the supplier. Plant design progressing but the Lakes Operations Officer has been pulled onto Lake Ōkāreka water level work and so this aspect is at risk of falling behind. <i>Ohau Wall</i> - Continuing to progress fish pass and maintenance schedule. Fish passes to be installed in the next two weeks. Discussions with Ngāti Pīkiao have not been completed regarding compensation for the attachment of the wall to their land. This is likely to require some additional funding. This needs to be discussed with senior management so that negotiations can proceed. <i>LNLUF</i> - The Tipu Whenua project is looking at modelling a move to biological fertiliser for one of the farms in the group. Unfortunately one of the farms is being sold so the group is getting smaller. <i>Lake Ōkareka</i> - No further progress - awaiting Anna's return expected Nov/Dec.								
Schedule	Green 	Amber 									
Scope	Green 	Green 									
Resources	Green 	Green 									
Budget	Green 	Green 									
Programme Overall Progress	The Programme is on track . All key project plans are in place and are tracking in accordance with those plans.										
			 <i>Relationship and Fund Management</i> - First contract signed by Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands (free range eggs and dairy sheep) Final reports received from dNITRO and Landconnect best practice videos projects								
			 <i>Lake Operations</i> - Installed whalers for Ohau wall, finalised contract with Prof Hamilton for continued support of the programme and PC 10, support PC 10 requests relating to data analysis, managing emergency works for high lake level of Ōkāreka, discussing work priorities with University, Lake Ōkaro alum dosing completed 5 tonnes on 20 Sept, Establishing the Tarawera modelling project								
			 <i>Rotorua Lakes Council - Rotomā/Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme</i> - Resource consent has been granted <i>Land treatment system</i> - Consultation on the proposed land contact bed design continues. CIA will be progressed.								
			 <i>TALT</i> - First Te Arawa Kaitiaki Forum hui - 24 September 2017, Commencement of TALT Iwi Management Plan Project - to inform consent processes and future plan changes, Planning for effective engagement with Iwi and hapu and others to embed Te Tuapapa, Cultural mapping project and associated engagement								

Programme Planned Activities		Risks
<p> <i>Advice and Support</i> - Continue to engage with landowners who require a NMP. Continue to engage with landowners eligible for the Gorse Programme. Continue reworking NMPs to reflect the new requirements.</p>	<p> <i>Relationship and fund management</i> - Second contract with Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands to be negotiated (mānuka)</p>	<p><b>Overall Risk Register: 8 open risks</b></p> <p><b>Risks 12 and above:</b> 0 open risks</p> <p><b>Risks 8-12:</b> 8 open risks</p> <p><b>Risks 1-7:</b> 0 open risks</p>
<p> <i>Communications</i> - Incorporate RTALP messaging on Maritime signage Develop #loveourlakes Marcomms Plan for summer.</p>	<p> <i>Lakes Operations</i> -Continue implementation on project plan with Rerewhakaaitu farmers to get farm plans in place for the greater Tarawera catchment, discussing with UoW how key projects will progress.</p>	
<p> <i>Incentives</i> - Further engagement with landowners post PC10 Council decision notification Communications Strategy to be implemented working closely with LMO team.</p> <p>Continue to look for opportunities with drystock farmers and Māori landowners  Recommence negotiations with landowners who will progressively receive a new NMP.</p>	<p> Planning the management of work required by the ToR for the PC10 Science review, Progress ToR for the P loss from Lake Rotorua catchment to support PC10 science work and Ohau wall works to install fish pass.</p> <p> <i>Rotorua Lakes Council - Rotomā/Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme</i> - Detailed design of the scheme continues, <i>Alternative to Land Treatment System</i> - Consultation on the proposed land contact beds continues, CIA will be progressed.</p>	
<p> <i>Planning</i> - Preparation for the appeals process  Project Planning for the Rotorua WMA process.</p>	<p> <i>TALT</i> - Workshop with Council to co-design Rotorua Lakes WMA process, Draft framework for cultural monitoring tool for the Tarawera System &amp; Completion of cultural mapping assessment report for Lake Rotorua, Rotoehu and Rotomā</p>	<p><b>Financials</b></p> <p>Currently all financials are on track. Change requests related to Deed expenditure are expected during the year.</p>

No.	Annual Work Plan 2017/18	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Schedule	Budget	Scope
	<b><u>Lake Rotorua</u></b>															
	Advice and Support Service													Green 	Green 	Green 
	Gorse Conversion Scheme													Green 	Amber 	Green 
	Plan Change 10													Green 	Green 	Green 
	Tikitere Zeolite													Amber 	Green 	Green 
	P-locking Utuhina and Puarenga													Green 	Green 	Green 
	Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund													Amber 	Green 	Green 
	Brunswick Sewage Connections													Green 	Green 	Green 
	Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme													Green 	Green 	Green 
	<b><u>Lake Rotoehu</u></b>															
	Weed Harvesting													Green 	Green 	Green 
	P Locking Soda Springs													Green 	Green 	Green 
	<b><u>Lake Rotoiti</u></b>															
	Sewage Scheme Curtis Road to Hinehopu													Green 	Green 	Green 
	Ohau Wall													Amber 	Green 	Green 
	<b><u>Lake Ōkāreka</u></b>															
	Lake Ōkāreka Land Use Change													Amber 	Green 	Green 
		Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Schedule	Budget	Scope



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Qtr 1 Finance Report 2017\_2018 for RTALSG**





Funding deed clause 5.4.1				5.4.2 (a) Note 1					5.4.2 (b) / 5.2.2 (d)			5.4.2 (c)	5.4.2 (d) Note 2	(E - F)	Comment	
Interventions	(A) Council Annual Plan Budget	(B) Actual year to date expenditure	( B - A) Variance to date over/(under) spend	Quarter 1 phased project budget	(B / A) Actual progress to date	Intervention Financial progress indicator	Project to date	Intervention project progress indicator	(D) Council Funding excluding Crown grants (50% of B) \$000	(E) Approved Crown funding 2017/18 \$000	(F) Crown funding received to date \$000	(G) = ( B - D) 50% Crown funding applied to date \$000	(H) Reserve interest accrued \$000	(I) Other funding sources \$000		Total funding pending 2017/18 \$000
	\$000	\$000	\$000	%	%	%										
Lake Rotoehu																
Weed Harvesting	100	1	(99)	25%	1%	🚩	At risk	✅	1	50	25	1	0	0	25	
Land Management Change	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Phosphorus Locking Soda Springs	136	30	(106)	25%	22%	🚩	On track	✅	15	68	34	15	0	0	34	
Aeration	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sediment	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wetlands	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Lake Rotoehu	236	32	(204)						16	118	59	16	0	0	59	
Lake Ōkāreka																
Sewerage Reticulation	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Land Management Change	0	2	2	0%	0%			✅	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Outlet Structure	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Lake Ōkāreka	0	2	2						1	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Lake Rotorua																
Advice and Support	501	25	(476)	25%	5%	🚩	At risk	✅	13	251	126	13	0	0	125	
Phosphorus Locking	750	97	(653)	25%	13%	🚩	Moderation risk	✅	49	375	188	49	0	0	188	
Tikitere Diversions	684	129	(555)	25%	19%	🚩	Moderation risk	✅	65	342	171	65	0	0	171	
Gorse	547	23	(524)	25%	4%	🚩	At risk	✅	11	274	137	11	0	0	137	
Wetlands	0	11	11	0%	0%		On track	✅	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	
Land Incentive Payments	6,000	105	(5,895)	0%	2%	🚩	On track	✅	52	3,000	1,018	52	0	0	1,983	
Land Incentive Board Administration	500	95	(405)	24%	19%	🚩	On track	✅	47	250	125	47	0	0	125	
Low Nutrient Land Use Fund	501	87	(415)	25%	17%	🚩	Moderation risk	✅	43	251	126	43	0	0	125	
Sewerage Reticulation	320	17	(303)	25%	5%	🚩	At risk	✅	9	160	0	9	0	0	160	
Total Lake Rotorua	9,804	588	(9,216)						294	4,902	1,889	294	0	0	3,013	
Lake Rotoiti																
Sewerage Reticulation	4,920	446	(4,474)	10%	9%	🚩	On track	✅	223	2,460	0	223	0	0	2,460	
Ohau Wall Reconsenting	514	2	(512)	25%	0%	🚩	At risk	✅	1	257	128	1	0	0	129	
Total Lake Rotoiti	5,434	448	(4,986)						224	2,717	128	224	0	0	2,589	
Rotorua District																
Treatment and Disposal	0	0	0	0%	0%			✅	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Lake Rotoiti	0	0	0						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Programme by Council																
Rotorua Lakes Council	5,240	463	(4,777)						232	2,620	0	232	21	0	2,620	
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	10,234	608	(9,626)						304	5,117	2,076	304	14	0	3,041	
	15,474	1,071	(14,403)						535	7,737	2,076	535	34	0	5,661	
Total Programme Expenditure	15,474	1,071	(14,403)						535	7,737	2,076	535	34	0	5,661	
Programme reserve account interest accrued																
5.4.2 (a) Note 1: Funding detail - Council																
RLC general funding			232													
RLC reserve			232													
BoPRC reserves			304													
BoPRC targeted rates			152													
BoPRC general funding			152													
Total funding detail - Council			1,071													
5.4.2 (b) Note 2: Funding detail - any other source																
Miscellaneous income			0													
Total funding from any other source			0													



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

**Meeting Date:** 8 December 2017

**Report From:** Nicola Douglas, Environment Manager  
Te Arawa Lakes Trust

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### **Scope**

This report outlines the activities that have taken place in alignment with the strategic outcomes sought by the Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Strategy Group. This report also provides insight into the broader activities of the Te Arawa Lakes Trust as they relate to these outcomes.

### **Summary**

The Te Arawa Lakes Trust team is establishing itself in the Lakes Programme and across hapu and whanau lakes associate's issues.

The TALT team has once again expanded and we are pleased to welcome Jasmine Waerea – Executive Support Officer to the Trust. Jasmine will be the first point of contact for the Trustees and Karen.

## **Te Arawa/Rotorua Lakes Programme**

### **Te Tuuaapapa is embedded into the Lakes Strategy programme**

1. Input into Lakes Programme Plan primarily with regard to ensuring work continues with regard to Te Arawa values as articulated in Te Tuuaapapa.  
This includes engagement with hapū and iwi in respect of the CatFish incursion, Alum Dosing consents, Weed Management Plan.

### **Sewerage and reticulation**

2. Cultural Impact Assessment for Tarawera Sewerage Scheme completed with findings and recommendations made to the Steering Committee. High level of engagement with Landowners and Iwi members in the scope of the Scheme. Also want to acknowledge the support of Chair, Glenn Snelgrove and staff of RLC for their engagement with the hapū and iwi.

## **Te Arawa Lakes Trust - Statutory responsibilities**

### **Te Arawa Freshwater Fisheries Regulations**

1. The bylaws have been submitted to the Minister of Fisheries – Stuart Nash and it is expected public consultation will begin in February 2018. The Komiti Whakahaere are currently providing an update to hapū and iwi prior to the public consultation process. The bylaws will enable a more formal management approach to the taonga species by Fisheries Officers. The species included are koura, kōaro, morihana, kakahi, tuna and īnanga.

### **Lakes structures and Consents**

2. The cultural mapping reports for Rotoehu and Rotomā are complete with Rotorua on track to be completed by 20 December 2017. These reports will help inform decisions by BOPRC in regard to the re-consent of 1000 Lakes Structures across these Lakes. Tarawera, Okareka, Rotoiti will have a cultural mapping assessment undertaken in the 2018 calendar year.
3. Relaunch of the Te Arawa Lakes Structures Policy along with the Fees and Charges schedule.
4. Input and support to consent application for a significant event at Lake Tikitapu in Feb 2018.
5. Te Arawa Lakes Trust active in the engagement for the Okareka Pipeline.
6. Engagement advice and support on Alum Dosing consent

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

### **Support to whanau and hapuu**

1. Engagement in Plan Change 9 with Ngati Pikiao.
2. Co-hosted with TARIT the Iwi Advisory Group Pou Taiao hui in Rotorua and also the Iwi Advisory Groups Working Group on Climate Change.
3. Development of Engagement framework with Ngati Pikiao – to take the form of a Service Level agreement and/or MOU
4. Development of MOU with Tuhourangi with regard to resource consent matters.

### **Broader Engagement with Community and Councils**

1. Presentation to Lakes Community Board on Te Arawa Lakes Trust overview and Lakes Structures projects.
2. Attendance at pohiri for Troy Baisden and follow up meeting with Te Arawa Lakes.
3. Meeting with Lakes Quality Society Chair following on from Symposium
4. Discussions with Toi Ohomai and Sustainable Business network regarding potential projects in future.



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

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**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****Rotoma / Rotoiti Sewerage Scheme**

- The resource consent for the Rotoma/Rotoiti wastewater treatment plant and land disposal system has been approved without any objections.
- The design and implementation of the project is going well. Contracts have been let for all long lead equipment. Tenders for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant and land disposal system will close on the last week of November. Tenders for the Rotoma reticulation network construction are expected to be invited shortly..

**Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- Engagement with Iwi regarding the proposed land contact bed has been concluded. The resource consent application is currently being finalised.

**Tarawera Sewerage Scheme:**

- The Tarawera Steering Group continues to consider the different options available to the community.

- Work is underway towards the development of Project Plan for the proposed Scheme. This will become the basis of the Work Programme that will be developed as part of the Funding Deed between RLC and Mfe.
- The Rotorua Lakes Community Board is writing to Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) asking that they include the required funding support for the proposed Tarawera Sewerage Scheme. This is supported by the Tarawera properties' wastewater systems survey initiated by the BOPRC which indicates that 43% of the Tarawera properties could not be serviced by OSET and 56% require further and significant upgrades. Overall some 95% of the Tarawera properties do not meet current standards for wastewater management and in relation to the lakes water quality objectives. Therefore wastewater reticulation is the only viable and cost effective option to improve lake water quality.
- The Rotorua Lakes Community Board is also writing to RLC requesting that the steering group for Tarawera be formalised as RLC did for the Rotoma/Rotoiti scheme.

## 5. PLANNING POLICY AND STRATEGY

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

- RLC has applied to the Court to join three appeals to PC10 as a 274 party
  - RLC supports the CNI Iwi Land Management appeal which seeks a natural capital approach. RLC supports this approach as we consider it to be more sustainable, better economically in the long term and more equitable. Natural capital considers the sustainability of land as a finite resource and does not limit its use based on past investment at a point in time as the grand-parenting based PC10 does. In the longer term (after allowing for appropriate transition) the economic output will be higher if the most productive land is utilised closer to its potential. Lastly natural capital does not pick one group of the community over another as it does not rely on ownership or past investment to allocate and instead looks at the natural productive capacity of the land.
  - RLC opposes the Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust appeal and part of the Federated Farmers appeal which oppose the provisions allowed for in PC10 for urban expansion into rural land and the implications for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

### **Vision 2030 – The Rotorua Way and the Rotorua Spatial Plan:**

- RLC released the draft Spatial Plan on 9 October for consultation. The opportunity for submissions closes on 17 November. RLC are using the special consultative procedure during December with a final Spatial Plan expected to be released in February 2018. The Spatial Plan is intended to be a high level blueprint for development over the next 30 years. Planning for growth and lake water quality will be a key issue influencing the Spatial Plan. For more information go to [www.letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://www.letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz).

## 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.



**Receives Only – No Decisions**



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

**Meeting Date:** 08 December 2017

**Report From:** Chris Ingle, General Manager, Integrated Catchments

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## **Update on Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme Activities**

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### **Executive Summary**

At the end of the 2016/17 financial year, the Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme secured five agreements totalling 8.5 tonnes in-lake nitrogen.

There are a further nine landowners registered with the scheme willing to negotiate, with seven of these landowners currently keen to negotiate to final settlement.

The target for the end of this calendar year including the 8.5 tonnes already achieved is 20 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen. While the target has been challenging, deals currently under negotiation could achieve close to 19 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen.

### **Recommendations**

**That the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group under its delegated authority:**

- 1 Receives the report, Update on Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme Activities;**

#### **1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress made by the Incentives Scheme towards achieving its nitrogen reduction targets within its terms of reference and within approved budgets.

#### **2 Background**

The objective of the Incentives Scheme is to permanently reduce the level of nitrogen entering Lake Rotorua by 100 tonnes within a budget of \$40 million, by purchasing rights to discharge nitrogen below the level established by the assigned nitrogen discharge allowance. The timeline for this to be completed is 2022.

#### **3 Activities**

The focus continues to be on engaging with landowners, developing a pipeline of opportunities and negotiating and concluding deals.

Five deals were settled in the 2016/2017 financial year totalling 8.5 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen.

There are an additional nine landowners registered in the pipeline, of which seven are keen to conclude a deal.

The dNITRO application ([www.dnitro.co.nz](http://www.dnitro.co.nz), a Low Nitrogen Land Use Fund project) has played an important role in the decision-making process for Māori landowners, allowing them to clearly see the cash flow involved with moving some or all of their farming activities to forestry or mānuka. dNITRO was presented to over 30 landowner groups, of which 10 groups requested follow-up discussions. Five of the groups who have used dNITRO are in the current negotiations pipeline and it is expected that more will follow. While the initial focus of the dNITRO project has been with Māori landowners, an invitation has been extended to the Rotorua Primary Producers' Collective to engage with them.

## **4 Issues**

The decision to proceed before the Rules (PC10) for nitrogen discharge had been confirmed has been challenging in terms of facilitating and negotiating deals. Whilst the recent decision by the Council to adopt the recommendations for PC10 increases the level of certainty, until the Environment Court process is concluded, there is still the potential for allocations to change.

The reallocation of nitrogen following the recommendations of the Independent Commissioners, together with Overseer changes, has required the reassessment of Nitrogen Discharge Allowances and re-work of Nutrient Management Plans, so that the amount of nitrogen available for sale by the Incentives Scheme customers can be determined. The Advice and Support Team is prioritising the re-work, but for some landowners the changes have meant a reconsideration of the best way to progress with their farming activities and potential Incentives Agreement.

## **5 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to report, other than a likelihood of an underspend for the financial year.

## **6 Conclusions**

The target of achieving 20 tonnes of in-lake nitrogen by the end of this calendar year, while challenging, remains in place. Relationships with landowners currently in the pipeline have remained positive and meaningful negotiations are underway.

Reluctance by landowners to participate continues as the PC10 process proceeds.

On current projections, if the 20 tonnes end of calendar year target is achieved, then this will require Incentives to achieve an average of around 16 tonnes per year for the next five years.

## **7 Council's Accountability Framework**

### **7.1 Community Outcomes**

This Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme directly contributes to the Community Outcomes of Water Quality and Quantity and Environmental Protection in the Regional Council's Long Term Plan 2015-2025.

The Lake Rotorua Incentives Committee has the primary objective to contribute to the sustainable improvement of water quality in Lake Rotorua, by achieving a permanent 100 tonne reduction of nitrogen entering Lake Rotorua and ensuring this investment of Council is protected in perpetuity.

### **7.2 Long Term Plan Alignment**

The Incentives Scheme is planned and funded under the Rotorua Catchments Activity of the Regional Council's Long Term Plan 2015-2025 and the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme. Implementation of the Incentives Scheme is in accordance with planned targets and directly contributes to KPI 4 of the Long Term Plan which relates to nitrogen reduction in Lake Rotorua, contributing to the total 320 tonne nitrogen reduction target of the Integrated Framework.

#### **Current Budget Implications**

The Lake Rotorua Incentives Scheme is within the current budget for the Rotorua Catchments Activity in the Annual Plan 2017/2018 or Year 3 of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025.

#### **Future Budget Implications**

There are no implications for future expenditure other than that already expected and provided for.

Te Taru White  
**Incentives Programme Director**

**for General Manager, Integrated Catchments**

**24 November 2017**

