

---

## 5 Responsibilities

---

### 5.1 Introduction

There are a range of public organisations charged with managing the natural and physical environment for a number of different purposes. The primary resource management agencies found in the Bay of Plenty include Environment Bay of Plenty, district councils, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council. The large number of organisations with interests in resource management requires considerable coordination between Environment Bay of Plenty and these other organisations.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 and other relevant legislation, the following general responsibilities apply:

### 5.2 Individuals

All people have responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991. Section 17(1) sets out a general duty of care as follows:

*Every person has a duty to avoid, remedy, or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment arising from an activity ... whether or not the activity is in accordance with a rule in a plan, a resource consent, ... or section 20 certain existing lawful activities allowed.*

The responsibilities of individuals form an essential part of resource management.

### 5.3 Environment Bay of Plenty

Environment Bay of Plenty has the responsibility of implementing the integrated management of the land and water resources in the Tarawera River catchment area (refer to section 30 of the Resource Management Act 1991). Environment Bay of Plenty has established objectives, policies and methods to achieve this in the Tarawera River Catchment Plan. Methods to achieve any regionally identified objectives for land management issues outside the scope of the plan are the responsibility of district councils.

### 5.4 District Councils

The Tarawera catchment includes part of two district councils - Whakatane and Rotorua, and wholly includes the Kawerau District (Map 3). The Whakatane District has jurisdiction over the catchment of the Lower Reach of the Tarawera River and the majority of the catchment of the Upper Reach of the Tarawera River except for the area within the Kawerau District. These two territorial authorities encompass most of the population within the catchment, and the bulk of the area in pastoral agriculture and production forestry. The Rotorua District Council spans the Tarawera Lakes catchment.

Section 31 of the Resource Management Act 1991 specifies the functions of district councils under the Act including among other functions, subdivision control, land use planning, noise control and the control of recreation on the surface of water bodies. Some functions, such as natural hazards avoidance and mitigation, can be, or are, shared between district councils and Environment Bay of Plenty.

## 5.5 Department of Conservation (DOC)

The Tarawera River catchment is in DOC's Bay of Plenty Conservancy. Under section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987, DOC is responsible for managing for conservation purposes, all land and other natural and historic resources held under the Conservation Act 1987, and all other land and natural resources whose owner agrees with the Minister that they should be managed by the Department. Sections 6(a) and (b) of the Conservation Act 1987 require DOC to "Preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats". Section 6(e) requires "... that to the extent that the use of any material or historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with its conservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and to allow their use for tourism".

The Department is also responsible for advocating the conservation of natural and historic resources generally, and promoting the benefits to present and future generations of conservation of natural and historic resources. DOC also administers the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, and the Wildlife Act 1953. An important role of the Department of Conservation is to foster the use of natural and historical resources for reactions, and to allow their use for tourism. The Department proposes management strategies for areas of Crown land, to which the councils must have regard as detailed in clause 4.6.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board has responsibilities for the environment under the provisions of sections 6m(c) and 6(n) of the Conservation Act 1987.

## 5.6 Eastern Region Fish and Game Council

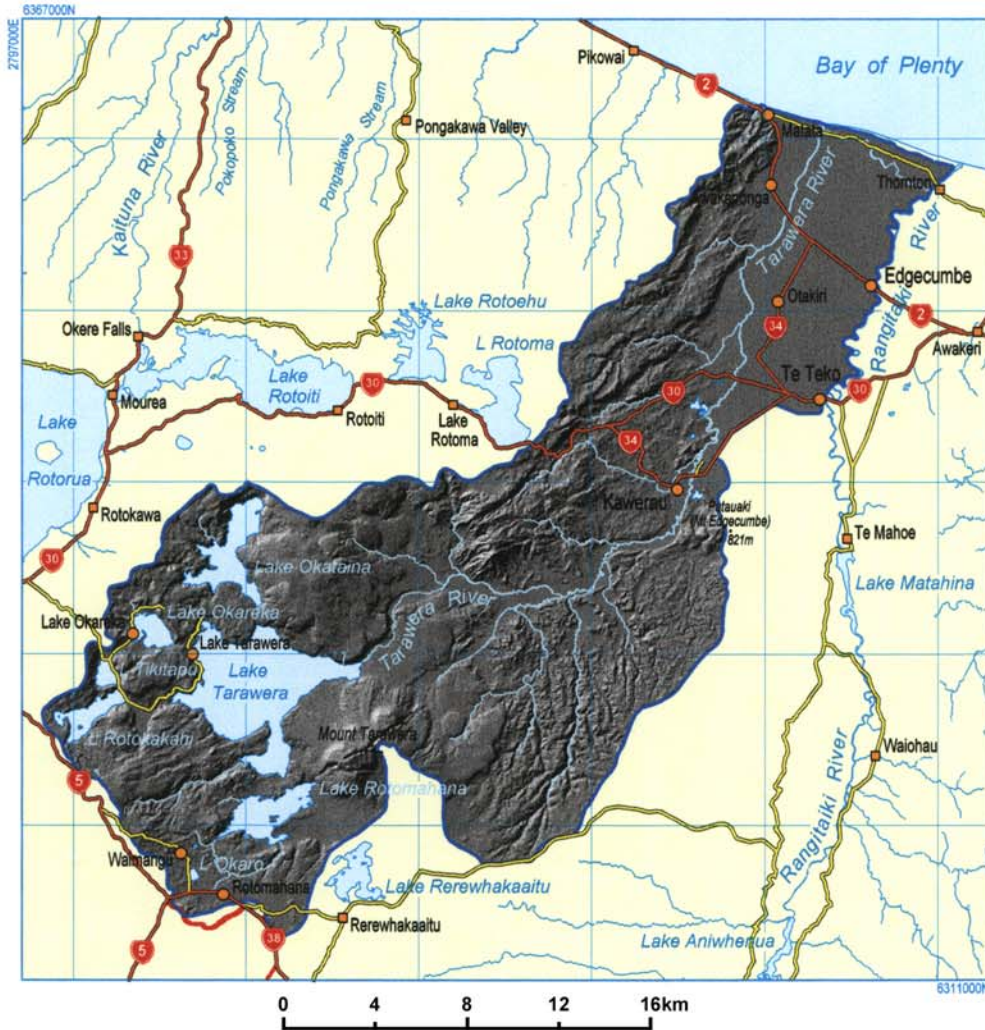
The Eastern Region Fish and Game Council was established under section 26B of the Conservation Act 1987. Its purpose is to represent the interests of anglers and hunters and manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource. The Fish and Game Council regulates the taking of a number of species of fish and game through licences.



**Map 2**

**Regional Plan for the  
Tarawera River Catchment**

**Topography**



**LEGEND**

- Land Relief
- Lake
- River, Stream
- Township within Tarawera River Catchment
- Township outside Tarawera River Catchment
- Tarawera River Catchment Boundary
- Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Boundary
- State Highway
- Main Road

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

<b>Tarawera River</b>	
Length (from L Tarawera Outlet to the Sea)	58.5 km
Mean Flow into the Sea	30,694 l/s
<b>Tarawera River Catchment</b>	
1. Total Catchment Area	98,367 ha
2. Lake Surface Area	7,149 ha

