

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF NGONGOTAHĀ VILLAGE

NGONGOTAHĀ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
JUNE 2025



Over the past few months, we've been talking with the Ngongotahā community — including residents, iwi, local businesses, educators, and community leaders — about the future of the village. Through online engagement and a well-attended drop-in session, over 100 people shared what they value, the challenges they face, and ideas for a thriving, well-planned Ngongotahā.

This summary reflects what we heard and helps guide future planning and investment in the village.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY VALUES

A STRONG VILLAGE IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Ngongotahā is known for its welcoming, tight-knit community. People take pride in knowing their neighbours, supporting local events, and maintaining a shared sense of identity. The community hall, Marae, schools, and local shops all help anchor this sense of belonging.

LOCAL AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT DAILY LIFE

The Four Square, school, doctors, pharmacy, and public transport are all highly valued. Long standing businesses have grown in response to community needs, and there's interest in expanding services so more people can live, work, and shop locally.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL FEEL

The stream, lakefront, and countryside are deeply appreciated. People enjoy walking and cycling, the lack of graffiti, and the peaceful, country character. Iwi are leading environmental initiatives like stream restoration and wetland planting that reflect a shared commitment to kaitiakitanga (stewardship).

WHAT WE HEARD: KEY CHALLENGES

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

Many raised concerns about speeding, unsafe pedestrian crossings, and congestion — especially at school pick-up times. Heavy vehicles using Ngongotahā Road as a state highway are a major issue. There's strong support for traffic calming and better infrastructure to keep pedestrians safe.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SOCIAL WELLBEING

Residents spoke about concerns including gang activity, meth use, and a lack of police visibility. Many people struggle to get GP appointments, and the local medical centre is at capacity. There's strong support for a local health hub and culturally safe health services.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

While local parks are appreciated, there's limited space for youth — especially indoor or wet-weather facilities. People want to see more all-weather courts, recreation spaces, and youth-friendly places to gather.

SCHOOL CAPACITY

Ngongotahā School is central to the community but nearing capacity. Growth from new housing developments could require more classrooms and protect key programmes like the Rumaki (Māori immersion) unit.

FLOODING AND LAND CONTAMINATION

Flooding remains a concern, particularly along Western Road. There are also worries about past industrial uses leading to contamination and a need for safe, sustainable land use going forward.

Industrial land in the village centre

Many feel the centrally located industrial area is an eyesore and no longer fits the village's character. There's strong interest in seeing this land redeveloped for housing, health services, and community use.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS TO SEE

SAFE, CONNECTED MOVEMENT

There's strong support for safer walking and cycling routes, better pedestrian crossings, and improved public transport. Diverting heavy trucks away from the village and creating a more walkable, people-focused main street are high priorities.

A VIBRANT VILLAGE CENTRE

The community wants a refreshed village heart with attractive buildings, public spaces, and better access to shops and services. Redeveloping the industrial area for mixed use — including housing, retail, and health - is widely supported.

ACCESS TO THE LAKE AND STREAM

The lakefront is seen as a hidden taonga (treasure) with untapped potential. People want better access to the water for walking, recreation, cultural events, and tourism — including ideas like waka ama, electric boats, and revitalising the wharf.

MORE DIVERSE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There's strong support for a mix of new housing — including kaumātua (elder) housing, papakāinga (iwi-led housing), and intergenerational homes. New housing should reflect the village's identity and enhance its rural character, not replace it.

YOUTH FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY HUBS

People want more places for young people to spend time, including indoor sports courts and creative spaces. Upgraded community hubs and a potential arts or cultural centre are seen as key to wellbeing and inclusion.

JOBS AND TRAINING

With limited local employment, there's strong interest in creating training and work opportunities — particularly for rangatahi. This could include roles in environmental care, health services, tourism, and small local businesses.

TOURISM AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

People see value in enhancing tourism infrastructure — including toilets, signage, and lakefront access — but want this done in a way that reflects mana whenua leadership and local identity. More visible Māori design, storytelling, and co-design processes were consistently supported.

BY THE NUMBERS

46 ONLINE PARTICIPANTS

62

ATTENDEES
AT THE DROP-IN
SESSION

FEEDBACK FROM IWI
LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
BUSINESSES
EDUCATORS
AND HEALTH PROVIDERS

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT NGONGOTAHĀ'S FUTURE

- **Restore and enhance open space** – Streamside planting, dog parks, upgraded playgrounds, and stronger walking/cycling networks
- **Reimagine the lakefront** – Improve access and connect it to the village centre
- **Transform the industrial land** – Create a vibrant, mixed-use area with housing, health services, and retail
- **Plan infrastructure alongside growth** – Ensure roads, health services, and schools are ready for new residents
- **Celebrate cultural leadership** – Partner with iwi to shape future development in a culturally grounded way
- **Design for youth and inclusion** – Create spaces that welcome young people and foster community
- **Support local jobs and training** – Build pathways for local employment in areas aligned with village values

WHAT'S NEXT?

This engagement will help inform future planning, investment and decision-making for Ngongotahā. Council will continue working with iwi, community leaders, and residents to develop a shared plan for the village's future — one that protects its identity, enhances quality of life, and plans wisely for growth.

If you'd like to stay involved or learn more, please get in touch at participate@rotorualc.nz

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LAKES COUNCIL
To Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua