Appendices

1. **Organisation: Parksyde**
   2021-04-28 Older Persons Community Centre Trust - Parksyde LTP Submission
2. **Organisation: Waikato Regional Council**
   2021-2031 LTP. Submission on Rotorua Lakes Council's draft long term plan. March 2021
3. **Organisation: Creative New Zealand**
   20210430 FINAL CNZ Submission to RLC LTP
4. **Organisation: Bay of Plenty Hospitality**
   Bay of Plenty Hospitality_Rotorua_Submission_on_Long_Term_Plan_2021
5. **Resident: Graham Bidlake**
   Bidlake Graham James_LTP_Consultation_Form
6. **Organisation: Bay of Plenty Regional Council**
   BOPRC submission on RLC 2021-31 LTP
7. **Organisation: Rotorua Chamber of Commerce**
   Chamber Questionnaire Council LTP 2021 with results
8. **Resident: Stuart Milsom**
   Consultation Feedback SM
9. **Organisation: Community Patrols New Zealand**
   CPNZ proposal Community safety Rotorua Lakes Council
10. **Resident: Denis Schubert**
    Denis Schubert_193_Spencer_Road_-_Long_Term_Plan_Submision_2021-2031
11. **Resident: Don Paterson**
    DonPaterson_Long_Term_Plan_Feedback_Westbrook_Sports_Recreation_Precinct
12. **Resident: Toni Withers**
    Feedback to RLC Draft Long Term Plan 2021
13. **Organisation: Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association**
    Final_Submission_to_RLC_on_Long_Term_Plan_2021-2031 (1)
14. **Resident: Fiona McAllister**
    Fiona McAllister Apr 2021 Submission to RLC on Long Term Plan 2021-2031
15. **Organisation: Fordlands Community Centre**
    Fordlands Long Term Plan Submission
16. **Organisation: Forest and Bird**
    Forest_and_Bird LTP 2021 Submission
17. **Resident: Fred Stevens**
    Fred Stevens 2021.04.30 LONG TERM PLAN Submission
18. **Resident: Gillian Beatrice Cook**
    Friday 30th April 2021 - Gillian Beatrice Cook
19. **Resident: Grahame Hall**
    Grahame Hall RLC LTP Submission
20. **Organisation: Grey Power Rotorua**
    GREY POWER ROTORUA LTP SUBMISSION
21. **Organisation: Hurunga Te Rangi Marae Trust**
    Hurungaterangi_SUBMISSION.RLC.April_2021

22. **Resident: Ian McLean**
    Ian McLean_submission_LTP 2021
23. **Resident: Jennifer Couldrey**
    JC Submission RLC Proposed Lake Tarawera Sewerage Reticulation_290421
24. **Resident: Kerry Starling**
    Kerry Starling_Tarawera_Sewerage_Scheme_Letter
25. **Resident: Len Watson**
    L Watson Submission on RDC 10 yr plan 2021-2031
26. **Organisation: Lake Okareka Community Association**
    Lake Okareka Community Association LTP Submission
27. **Organisation: Lakes Water Quality Association**
    Lakes Water Quality_Long_Term_Plan_Submission
28. **Resident: Davina Bruere**
    letter 2020 council update 2021 Submission Westbrook
29. **Resident: Libby Fletcher**
    Libby's submission to LTP 2021
30. **Resident: Graeme Fox**
    Long term Subission by G B Fox 203 Spencer Road
31. **Resident: Lorraine Hall**
    Lorraine Hall Submission 30.4.2021
32. **Organisation: Lake Rotoiti Community Association Inc.**
    LRCA 2021-04-28 Feedback Submission to RDC LTP 2021-31
33. **Organisation: Rotorua Access Group**
    LTP 2021 Submission Final
34. **Organisation: New Zealand War Memorial Museum**
    LTP Submission to Rotorua Lakes Council
35. **Resident: Mark Gould**
    Mark Gould LTP Submission
36. **Resident: Mark**
    Mark_Consultation_doc
37. **Organisation: Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust**
    NUIT submission on RLC's LTP 2021 to 2031
38. **Organisation: Property Council New Zealand**
    PCNZ submission on Rotorua Lakes District Council LTP 2021-31
39. **Resident: Phil Cross**
    Phil Cross Council Submission Long Term Plan 2021
40. **Organisation: Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers**
    RDRR Feedback to Draft LTP 2021-2031 Final Draft 30 April 2021
41. **Resident: Peter and Judi Rice**
    RLC Long Term Plan Submission Tarawera Rice
42. **Organisation: Water Safety New Zealand**
    RLC_LTP_WSBoP
43. **Resident: Robyn Cowley**
    Robyn Cowley_Springfield_Golf_Course_Feedback

44. **Organisation: Bay of Plenty Conservation Board**
    Rotorua Lakes Council - 2021-31 LTP Submission BOPCB
45. **Organisation: Waiariki Park Region**
    Rotorua Lakes Council WPR LTP Submission April 2021 with summary of environmental data report
46. **Organisation: Sport New Zealand**
    Rotorua Lakes District_LTP final_Sp NZ
47. **Organisation: Rotorua Airport**
    Rotorua_Airport_Limited_-_RLC_LTP_Submission
48. **Organisation: Rotora Trails Trust**
    Rotorua_Trails_Trust_Submission_on_RLC_2021_LTP
49. **Organisation: Federated Farmers of New Zealand**
    RTFF on RLC Ltp 2131
50. **Resident: Sandy Clarke**
    Sandy Clarke_RLC_LTP_Consultation_April_2021
51. **Organisation: Sport Bay of Plenty**
    SBOP_Rotorua Lakes Council - 2021-31 LTP Submission
52. **Organisation: Scion**
    SCION_RLC LongTermPlan Consultation 30APR2021
53. **Resident: Veena Kameta**
    Submission Letter to Council - Veena Kameta Resident of Western Heights
54. **Resident: Katie Mayes and Hugh Goodman**
    Submission on treatment plan
55. **Organisation: Te Arawe River Iwi Trust**
    Te Arawa River Iwi Trust_RLC_LTP_Submission
56. **Organisation: Tourism Industry Aotearoa**
    TIA_Submission_-_Rotorua_Lakes_District_Council_LTP_2021-31
57. **Organisation: Tatau Pounamu**
    TPC Submission on RLC 2021 2031 LTP
58. **Resident: Judy and Warren Lloyd**
    W&JLLOYD-LTSS-Submission
59. **Resident: WA Lord**
    WA_Lord LTP Feedback 2021
60. **Organisation: Water Safety New Zealand**
    Water safety New Zealand_Final_29_April__2021
61. **Resident : Ryan Holmes**
    Long Term Plan 2021-2031
62. **Organisation: Lake View Bible Camp**
    Targeted Sewage Rate Remission Policy LTP 2021-2031

Older Persons Community Centre Trust

28 April 2021

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Rotorua Lakes Council
Long Term Plan Submission

The Older Persons Community Centre Trust commonly known as Parksyde and hereafter referred in this document as such ("Parksyde") is on Tarewa Place Council-leased land, on the edge of Kuirau Park. The Trust owns the Centre. It has been operating for 20 years, supporting the older people of Rotorua to be healthy, fit, and active (physically and mentally). On average 1,100 people a week complete activities at Parksyde.

Parksyde would like the Council to consider and address in its Long Term Plan (LTP) the predicted increase in the number of older people in Rotorua. Planning for this is critical.

This submission requests four changes to the draft LTP:

1. Specific reference to the safety of the Rotorua older people in the Community Safety Plan.
2. Financial assistance to Parksyde for the following reasons:
    a. Towards Parksyde's operating costs given the benefits offered to Rotorua older people at the Activity Centre and the impending increase of numbers of older people in the city over the next six to eight years.
    b. Towards the Leadership role that the Parksyde Trustees are increasingly having to take to ensure the older people in Rotorua are being looked after in terms of planning and facilities eg its role this year facilitating the Age Friendly Rotorua Strategy.
    c. Towards the costs of developing and running an Older Persons Community Services Hub at Parksyde (due to be built 2022-23).
3. Support the development of an Age Friendly City Strategy in terms of both funding and leadership from Council (at both staff and governance levels).
4. Address in the Housing Plan specific reference for accommodation for older people, in and around Kuirau Park/Tarewa Place.

Please find below further details of these proposed changes.

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1. Community Safety Plan

Parksyde asks the Council to specifically reference the safety of the Rotorua older people in the Community Safety Plan.

There are currently 10,000 over 65-year-old people in Rotorua. According to Statistics NZ, this figure is expected to double by 2032. By 2028 32% of the Rotorua population will be over 55 years old and 20% will be over 65. The data shows that Rotorua's aging population is increasing disproportionately. It is growing faster than the younger population. The city needs to be preparing for this.

Parksyde would like to see specific reference made in the plan to keeping older people safe, but not just due to the factors referred to in Key Priority 2 (anti-social behaviour, high crime statistics, a culture of drinking and violence, clusters of motels, and gang culture).

The consultation document notes the importance of safety in terms of design, management and planning of infrastructure, regulatory services, and physical safety.

While Parksyde acknowledges these are important and need to be addressed, community safety is also about addressing the physical and mental wellbeing of people in Rotorua, particularly the more vulnerable people.

During COVID-19 lockdown, the personal safety of many of our older people was compromised. Research conducted by various agencies since Lockdown, including Age Concern and University of Auckland, show that while many older people during lockdown felt safe and well-informed, they experienced high levels of social disconnectedness and hardship. The research is showing that many still do.

Parksyde commends Council for including planning tools and initiatives to address community safety but suggests that it doesn't go far enough to include the personal safety of our older people, using the post-COVID lockdown learnings, specifically to do with making our older people safe mentally and in terms of well-being.

Propose – Establish a Rōpū Whakahaere to guide planning for the increasing older person demographics and explore action the community and Council can take in terms of the safety and wellbeing of the older person.

Support – The preferred budget option of $500,000 but add additional budget to explore specific support for the safety and wellbeing of our older people.

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2. Financial Assistance to Parksyde

As mentioned above, there are currently 10,000 over 65-year-old people in Rotorua. According to Statistics NZ, this figure is expected to double by 2032. Council has assisted Parksyde with an annual amount of $10,000 towards its running costs. The amount has been the same for a number of years. Parksyde costs $190,000 per year to run. Parksyde would

like Council to consider a higher amount of support to the Older Persons Community Centre Trust, given the anticipated demand due to the predicted population increase, and the fact that the facility running costs continue to increase.

Parksyde is a community centre providing facilities for active people aged 55 and over. It is governed by the Older Person's Community Centre Trust and employs one staff member. The facilities cater for organised activities, club activities, social occasions, events and more; aimed at the social, recreational and educational needs and activities of the older people within the Rotorua District. It is fundamentally run by volunteers (currently 91 volunteers) and managed by the users. It is unique as there is no other centre like it in New Zealand, having no membership fee.

Effectively the Trust is a facility-manager, and its three main sets of clients are volunteers wishing to deliver activities, the many participants who attend those activities and the commercial entities who occasionally rent space. The Centre has five distinct meeting/activity areas. Over 1,100 people on average attend activities each week. The activities include physical, non-physical, games and information sessions.

These are managed through a weekly timetable. The participants arrive at Parksyde by their own means, and for each activity pay a $4 fee to attend the activity. The collection of this fee is managed by each volunteer Activity Leader.

Parksyde would like to see the Council show support for what Parksyde does for the older people of Rotorua and to financially assist in the facility's role, given it is a Charitable Trust looking after the older people within the Council's rohe.

This assistance is for the following reasons:

a. To assist with Parksyde's operating costs given the benefits offered to Rotorua older people at the Activity Centre and the impending increase of numbers of older people in the city over the next six to eight years.
b. To acknowledge and assist the Trust's Leadership role by identifying opportunities to look after the older people in Rotorua, in terms of physical and mental wellbeing and the development of opportunities to support these. This includes the Trust's role facilitating the Age Friendly Rotorua Strategy. This is being partly funded by the Office for Seniors and will involve an extensive community-collaborative process.
c. Funding towards the costs of developing and running an Older Persons Community Services Hub at Parksyde (with an aim for it to be built 2022-23). The initial steps will be starting this year to work with the many agencies and organisations delivering community services to older people. This process will identify what could be in a Hub. Consultation will include older people to find out what they would like access to.

Propose – increase the Partnership funding from $10,000 to $35,000 per year.

3. Support the Development of an Age Friendly Rotorua City Strategy

The population of older people in increasing disproportionately and the number of older people is likely to double by 2032. See the statistics mentioned above. Parksyde seeks support for the development of an Age Friendly Rotorua City Strategy in terms of both funding and leadership from Council (at both staff and governance levels).

A plan will improve the lives of the older people in Rotorua by focusing on their needs, their wellness, with agencies and organisations taking a more joined-up approach to servicing this important demographic. The aim of a Strategy is not to replace what is being completed already, but to articulate the good work being done, build and strengthen it. The process aims to empower local organisations and agencies to respond to the needs of the older person in Rotorua.

Parksyde has received some funding from the Office for Seniors and is receiving support from Hamilton and Tauranga City Councils regarding their own Strategy development processes and learnings.

Propose – Council supports the development of an Age Friendly Rotorua Strategy by funding $5,000 towards the project.
Propose – Council supports the development of an Age Friendly Rotorua Strategy by providing input both at a staff and governance level.

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4. Housing for Older People

Parksyde commends the Council's proposed Housing Strategy and partnership approach. The Trust wishes to see the plan specifically address and articulate how the housing plan will specifically address accommodation for older people.

Parksyde is working towards providing more opportunities and support for older people at Parksyde. It has already re-purposed 5 Tarewa Place and leases the house to Age Concern Rotorua. In addition, Parksyde has received funding to start the process, working with its people and city partners to develop an Age Friendly City Strategy. It also has funding to start the plans to develop an Older Persons Community Services Hub at Parksyde.

Parksyde would therefore like Council to consider the location of the Tarewa side of Kuirau Park as a possible site for housing specific for the older person.

Given the projected increase in numbers of older people, it is critical that support for elder housing is specifically shown within the Long Term Plan. The prediction is that Rotorua is going to have many older people needing smaller houses to rent as owning increasingly becomes unobtainable for them.

Propose – Council to consider the edge of Kuirau Park as a location to develop elder housing.

Support the development of elder housing (Papakainga) in the Tarewa vicinity, supporting the acquisition of existing housing as they become available. This to be provided through a partnership between Kāinga Ora, Ngati Tuara and Parksyde, effectively supporting the development of an older person's precinct. This precinct will be strengthened by Parksyde's plans for an Older Persons' Community Services Hub at Parksyde.

Thank you for the opportunity for submitting on the Draft Long Term Plan.

File No: 01 12 21S
Document No: 18409746
Enquiries to: Anthea Sayer

Waikato Regional Council
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato
Private Bag 3038
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23 April 2021

Geoff Williams
Chief Executive
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046

Dear Geoff

Waikato Regional Council Submission on Rotorua Lakes Council's 2021-2031 draft Long Term Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Rotorua Lakes Council's draft 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. Please find attached Waikato Regional Council's submission on the draft plan. The submission was formally endorsed by the council's Submissions Subcommittee on 21 April 2021.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this document, please contact Anthea Sayer, Senior Corporate Planner, Corporate Planning team directly on (07) 859 0512 or by email anthea.sayer@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

Regards,

Russ Rimmington
Chair

Chris McLay
Chief Executive

HE TAIAO MAURIORA HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
HE ŌHANGA PAKARI STRONG ECONOMY

Submission from Waikato Regional Council on the Rotorua Lakes Council's draft 2021-2031 Long Term Plan

Introduction

1. Waikato Regional Council (WRC) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on Rotorua Lakes Council's draft 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP).

2. We do not wish to speak in support of our submission.

Climate change

3. WRC supports the ongoing references in the consultation document to a changed future climate during and beyond the life of the LTP. The projected changes to the district's climate are clearly shown in the graphic on page 18 of the consultation document.

4. WRC supports the explicit linkage of Rotorua's climate action plan and draft 30 year infrastructure strategy which leaves the reader in no doubt of the influence one has on the other and that the council is taking the need for climate proofed infrastructure seriously. It recognises that infrastructure is not only designed for a different climate future but it is also mindful that communities now and in future will be operating in a carbon constrained world.

5. As WRC has recently undertaken climate work at both a regional and local scale (including a corporate emissions reduction plan). We are happy to offer Rotorua Lakes Council assistance and/or advice in this area.

6. WRC also supports mitigation efforts for mode shift, building efficiency and use of renewable energy along with low-carbon urban design and the 'wood first' policy in the economic development strategy is a tangible demonstration of the need to decarbonise construction of buildings and infrastructure.

Biodiversity

7. As part of its own draft LTP, WRC is proposing a significant increase in biodiversity investment based on the urgent need to tackle biodiversity decline and to respond to the imminent release of the National Policy Statement (NPS) Biodiversity.

8. WRC suggests that Rotorua Lakes Council also considers a sufficient level of funding to support the planning and delivery of local biodiversity programmes.

9. Healthy biodiversity underpins the presence and success of nature-based industries such as tourism providing income, employment and growth. The investment in biodiversity could take the form of:
   - Staff time and resourcing to respond to the NPS Biodiversity and to be actively involved in developing regional biodiversity strategies;
   - Sufficient budget to enable and respond to the specific requirements to identify and map Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). We would see this as a co-investment with WRC and its proposed increase in investment to the regional biodiversity Inventory programme;
   - Expanding the funding available to private landowners who have SNAs on their property and who wish to undertake management of those sites;
   - An appropriate level of expenditure in council's own parks and reserves budgets where reserves include important biodiversity assets, to support the development of appropriate reserve management plans and delivery programmes (such as pest and weed control).

Three waters

10. WRC recognises the pressures local authorities face in relation to three waters and compliance with all of their water take, wastewater and stormwater consent obligations. We encourage Rotorua Lakes Council to ensure full compliance with its Resource Management Act obligations as it relates to three waters infrastructure.

Submitter details

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creative nz
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

30 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua 3046

By email to: letstalk@rotorualc.nz

E te Koromatua, ngā Kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: **Rotorua Lakes Council**

Subject: **2021-2031 Long-Term Plan (the Plan)**

From: **Creative New Zealand**

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Rotorua Lakes Council's long-term plan. Arts, culture and creativity are an important part of developing strong and prosperous towns, and cohesive and healthy communities. We encourage Council to recognise the essential role arts and culture play in the wellbeing of its residents in its decision-making.

2. We'd be happy to discuss this submission with you further. The key contact person for matters relating to this submission is:

Name: David Pannett

Position: Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement

Email: david.pannett@creativenz.govt.nz

Phone (DDI): 04 473 0772

Key Points

3. **It's excellent to see Council's commitment to opening the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre later this year.** In the lead up to the Centre's opening, we encourage Council to continue to work with arts communities, business owners and tourism authorities to attract residents and visitors to the Centre and view its opening as an opportunity to make Rotorua an even more vibrant place to live and visit.

4. **We welcome Council's commitment to completing work on Te Whare o Taonga o Te Arawa (Rotorua Museum).** The Museum is a highly valued community asset that delivers important social and cultural wellbeing outcomes to the Rotorua Lakes region.

5. **There's strong appetite from local arts communities to see a clearer and more collective vision for arts and culture in the region.** We encourage Council to explore how it might work with arts communities, hapū and iwi, training institutions and funders to develop a new

strategy that can guide the development of arts and culture in Rotorua – and, in turn, enhance the wellbeing of its communities.

Draft Long-term Plan 2021–2031

He Papakāinga, He Hāpori Taurikura – Homes and Thriving communities

6. It's good to see Council's Homes and Thriving Communities Strategic Framework coming into effect through the LTP. We note the Framework includes the outcome 'increased measures of Te Arawa connectedness including participation in kōhanga and kura kaupapa, participation in cultural activities eg, kapa haka, sports, mahinga kai and visual arts, and attendance at marae' under several of its objectives. We encourage Council to continue working closely with Te Arawa iwi and hapū to create spaces and programmes that deliver to Māori communities and provide opportunities to engage with a wide range of arts practices.

7. To deliver to this outcome, we encourage Council to give particular consideration as to how it might work with ngā toi Māori artists and practitioners to provide opportunities that support a for Māori by Māori approach.

8. We encourage Council to recognise the strong contribution that arts and culture makes to thriving communities. Artistic and cultural activity can:
    - play a major role in placemaking and creating great places to live
    - contribute to our identity as individuals, whānau and communities and allow us to tell the unique stories of who we are
    - build inclusive and connected communities, and contributes to all aspects of hauora
    - contribute to education and skills development, and create a more highly skilled workforce.

9. We note Council plans to develop an Eastside Community Wellness Plan and a Westside Wellness and regeneration plan. We encourage Council to consider how it might partner with Rotorua's arts communities in the development and delivery of these plans, in recognition of the contribution artistic activity makes towards our wellness, including mental and physical health. For example, 61% of New Zealanders agree that the arts make an important contribution to community resilience and wellbeing. [1]

Whakahaumaru Hāpori – Community Safety

10. It's great to see a proposal to develop Community Centre Hubs that enable community-led delivery of social and other services. As Council develops plans to ensure these Hubs are fit-for-purpose, we encourage it to consider:
    - whether the locations of the hubs are accessible to those they are intended to serve
    - whether any of the new spaces developed could support arts communities by providing spaces where they can make and show their work to audiences
    - how to work with local artists and practitioners to create a strong sense of cultural identity at each of these facilities.

[1] *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020). Creative New Zealand.

11. We welcome the proposal to support a range of programmes that keep people connected through positive activities in our public spaces including parks and reserves, city streets and neighbourhoods. Again, as connectors, activators and innovators, arts communities are uniquely positioned to help Council deliver these programmes. We encourage Council to ensure there is support for programmes that enable creative activity, and programmes that deliver to Māori communities.

12. Whether Council agrees to a $500k or $750k commitment to the community plan's implementation, we encourage it to ensure there is scope for supporting artistic and creative initiatives within its given budget that can activate public spaces and support community resilience.

Whanake Ōhanga – Economic Development

13. It's great to see Council's commitment to infrastructure projects that will create opportunities in the CBD. We encourage Council to involve arts communities in the creation of the Inner City Plan to consider how they might help strengthen the city as a vibrant, creative location. Artists and creative practitioners are uniquely well positioned to help Council to create inclusive civic spaces that reflect the distinctive stories and history of Rotorua.

14. It's excellent to see the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre's opening scheduled for later this year. A large-scale, high-quality venue will support creative activity, build audiences and make arts experiences more affordable and accessible. Its opening presents a major opportunity to activate the Centre and downtown area to attract more residents and visitors.

15. Prior to the Centre's opening, we encourage Council to actively engage with arts communities, business owners and tourism stakeholders to consider:
    - how to work with tourism organisations, artists and arts organisations to promote upcoming events and shows and make arts and culture a more visible part of Rotorua's unique identity
    - how the arts community could create works in the central city that attract and engage diverse communities
    - managing regulatory levers in a way that enables other sectors (eg, hospitality and events) to work alongside the Centre to drive economic, social and cultural growth.

Hurihanga Āhuarangi - Climate Change

16. We note Council identified 'Delivering education and communicating clearly with our communities' as one action in response to its focus on Climate Change. We encourage Council to consider how Rotorua's arts communities might help Council to achieve this action. Artists and creative practitioners are particularly skilled at communicating, education and designing and delivering innovative, strategic and cost-effective solutions.

Rautaki Hangaroto - Infrastructure Strategy

17. As Council implements its 30 year Infrastructure Strategy, we current it to consider how arts and cultural elements can be incorporated into the city's infrastructure to reflect the stories and identities of Rotorua's communities. Council may consider establishing an Arts Advisory Panel as a part of its infrastructure work or developing a public art policy. Examples of existing

policies include Auckland Council's Public Art Policy, and Dunedin City Council's Art and Creativity in Infrastructure Policy.

Final Comments

18. There's strong appetite from local arts communities to see clear outcomes and vision from Council regarding its support for arts and culture. We encourage Council to consider redeveloping its arts strategy and exploring how it might develop a broader, partnership approach to supporting arts and culture in the region. There's good potential for Council to work in partnership with arts communities, hapū and iwi, training institutions and funders to develop a collective vision for strengthening arts and culture in Rotorua, which can enhance community wellbeing by delivering cultural, social and economic outcomes.

19. We encourage Council to engage Rotorua arts communities in its planning and policy development to ensure its investment and programmes are responsive to the needs of the community. We also note the importance of making sure artists and practitioners have the resource and support needed to engage with Council to ensure these relationships are sustainable.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Rotorua

20. Creative New Zealand is the arts development agency of Aotearoa, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We're an autonomous Crown entity continued under the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014. Our legislative purpose is to encourage, promote, and support the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

21. We recognise the importance of Rotorua to the arts in New Zealand. For arts that are delivered in the wider Bay of Plenty region, **$2.41 million** of direct financial support was provided in 2019/20. Our overall support includes the funding of individual arts projects as well as arts and cultural organisations.

22. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we also fund territorial authorities directly to support local arts activities. Funding provided to Rotorua Lakes Council under the Scheme totalled **$58,500** in 2019/20.

23. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further (contact details are at the start of the submission).

Ngā mihi rārau ki a koutou katoa, nā



David Pannett
Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement
Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono

Hospitality New Zealand
(BOP Branch)

SUBMISSION ON
LONG TERM PLAN– ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Friday Apr 30th 2021

Hospitality NZ is a voluntary trade association which has operated since 1902 and currently represents around 3,000 hospitality businesses throughout New Zealand. This submission is made on behalf of the Bay of Plenty branch of Hospitality New Zealand.

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission on the Long Term Plan. We are committed to working with Rotorua Lakes Council in order to develop a practical and effective plan. **We would like the opportunity to speak to our submission.**

CONTACT DETAILS:
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Priority One - Housing

Hospitality NZ acknowledges the number one issue facing Rotorua is housing. The drastic shortage does impact on the community in many different ways not least of all how it has forced many families into emergency accommodation. Hospitality NZ supports any Council initiatives to increase the number of houses available to Rotorua residents.

Priority Two – Community Safety

Hospitality NZ supports the Council initiative to address this issue and support Option 2 being an additional allocation of $750,000 per year towards improved safety initiatives. Improved community safety will help to encourage further tourists into the region.

Priority Three – Economic Development

Hospitality NZ shares the Council view that the economic recovery of the region is vital to ensure survival and growth for businesses and the people they employ.

Priority Four – Climate Change

Hospitality NZ urges Council to ensure that any initiatives to address Climate Change are cost neutral such that any initiatives taken will achieve measurable gains to the community.

Priority Five - Infrastructure Strategy

Hospitality NZ acknowledges the need for an infrastructure that meets the needs of the community

Covid-19 – The impact on Rotorua

The impact of Covid-19 has resulted in a marked increase in demand for emergency housing. To a large extent that has been driven by the tens of thousands of New Zealanders who have returned to NZ from foreign Covid hotspots. These returning New Zealanders are relatively young and mostly skilled individuals very capable of finding employment. They all need somewhere to live and typically can afford to either buy or rent a property at market rates. Supply vs Demand has pushed up those market rates such that it becomes unaffordable to those who are otherwise disadvantaged by lack of skills or capabilities to maintain employment. These are the people who are then drawn to emergency housing by necessity. This situation is unlikely to change until such time as those tens of thousands of New Zealanders once again head overseas.

The numerous Rotorua motels which are currently providing emergency housing are doing so out of necessity. They have lost their traditional tourism trade and are now filling the need for emergency housing. Please do not blame motel business owners for trying to remain viable while providing much needed accommodation for the otherwise disadvantaged who have nowhere else to live.

The further impact from all this is that domestic tourists who want to enjoy the attractions and amenities that Rotorua provides have difficulty finding somewhere to stay. Motels are full of emergency housing and hotels are full of quarantine guests. Tourists are therefore moving to the only other option available and that is the grey market for short-term accommodation (eg Airbnb). When we looked at this situation in February 2018 there were just under 800 such properties operating. There are now in excess of 1,000 within Rotorua district (source AirDNA data). Hospitality NZ acknowledges that these properties meet a community need (tourists need somewhere to stay). We simply ask that such properties be treated as businesses when that is what they are.

Funding

Hospitality NZ acknowledges that the future initiatives will need to be funded and has the view that any increase in rates be shared appropriately across the district. Specifically we ask that all businesses be treated as businesses.

Rating Differential

It is noted that Rotorua businesses currently incur a rating differential of 1.72 however this is not fairly applied to all businesses operating in a residential environment. We wish to point out that many tourism businesses are evading commercial rates due to them not declaring their commercial status. These are the more than one thousand private residences operating as businesses while being rented out as short term accommodation via Airbnb, Bookabach and similar. While some of these businesses are relatively small many are hugely significant with annual revenue in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. While we recognise that there are some difficulties associated with identifying such properties, this should not be used as an excuse to allow some businesses to operate at a competitive advantage over others. We raised this with the previous Long Term Plan review in 2018 and again we urge Council to fully consider this matter when determining which businesses are to be considered commercial entities and how they are levied as compared to residential.

Hospitality NZ thanks Rotorua Lakes Council for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Plan.

2021 - 2031 Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Long Term Plan Consultation

Let's talk | Kōrero mai

Whakahoki Korero - Feedback form paper

Thanks for taking the time and providing our Elected Members with feedback to guide their decision making on the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

The form below is in a few pages. In the first page we ask for some details from you. The following pages are based around the key questions areas in the LTP as well as some specific options for you to provide feedback on. You can complete as much or as little as you feel comfortable commenting on.

The following form can be used or you can attach further feedback.

Thank you!

Tō Ingoa - Name

(Required)

BIDLAKE GRAHAM JAMES

Tō Īmēra/Nama Wāea rānei - Phone or Email Address

(Required)

Tō Rāngai Hapori - Governance Representation

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- ☐ Te Rāngai Ko Roto Moana Lakes Community Board
- ☐ Te Rāngai Taiwhenua - Rural Community Board
- ☑ E noho taone ahau I live in the urban area
- ☐ E aua Not sure

Answer this question only if you have chosen E aua - Not sure for Tō Rāngai Hapori - Governance Representation

Kei hea koe e noho ana? - Where you live? (Suburb/area)

(Required)

Te Arawa Iwi Affiliated

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- ☐ Ae - Yes
- ☑ Kao No

MAHI.
2021-2031 Long-term Plan Consultation

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

Received
29 APR 2021 10:37am
Rotorua Lakes Council
Customer Centre

Te Whare Kauhoe - Aquatic Centre

Ē pātai ana te kaunihera ki te hapori he aha o rātau whakaaro mo te utu i te Whare Kauhoe

Council is asking what the community thinks about spending on the Aquatic Centre

The community has told Council that it values the Aquatic Centre as a facility for locals to use and enjoy. Council is asking the community how much they want to spend on upgrading the Aquatic Centre to ensure it is a fit-for-purpose, shared public facility.

The Aquatic Centre still needs significant refurbishment and maintenance to address other areas:

- the leaking and deteriorating roof and structure
- aged ventilation system
- poor state of changing rooms and accessibility facilities
- inadequate reception area and wind tunnelling issues

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose any 1 options)

- [x] Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakatika, te utu = $8 Million - Option 1, Repair, cost = $8 Million
- [ ] Kōwhiri Tuarua, Whakapai, te utu = $17.4 Million - Option 2, Upgrade, cost = $17.4 Million
- [ ] Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Whakapai nui, te utu = $28.3 Million - Option 3, Full Master Plan, cost = $28.3 Million
- [ ] E aua - Not sure

Whakahaumaru Hapori - Community Safety

Council is concerned about an increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour, affecting residents and visitors' experiences in Rotorua. To show a dedicated commitment to improving community safety and crime prevention a collaborative partnership between Rotorua Lakes Council, Te Arawa, the Police and key safety stakeholders will be formed.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose any 1 options)

- [x] Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Hanga he mahere whakahaumaru hapori hei whakatinana - Option 1, Create a community safety plan for implementation
- [ ] Kōwhiri Tuarua, Hanga he mahere whakahaumaru hapori ā ka timata te whakatinana i ngā kaupapa o te mahere - Option 2, Create a community safety plan and commence delivery of initiatives
- [ ] Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Me whakatinana i tētahi mahere whakahaumaru hapori, kāore anō he pūtea e tāpae ana - Option 3, Adopt a community safety plan with no further financial contribution
- [ ] E aua - Not sure

MAHI.
2021-2031 Long-term Plan Consultation

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

Utu me ngā Hāmene - Fees and Charges

Revenue comes from fees and charges comes from things such as admission to and hiring rates for venues and facilities, liquor licences, dog registration, building and resource consents and parking management etc.

We are proposing to increase fees and charges in a number of council services to move the burden away from the general rate payer towards the individual directly receiving the service. If this revenue can't be collected for any reason (e.g pandemic lockdown) Council will need to consider cost savings to offset lost revenue.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose any 1 options)

- ☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakapiki ngā reiti kia ea ngā utu - Option 1, Recover costs by increasing rates
- ☑ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Panoni/whakapiki rānei ngā utu me ngā hāmene - Option 2, Adjust/increase fees and charges
- ☐ E aua - Not sure

Ō Reiti - Your Rates

The uniform annual general charge (UAGC) is the fixed portion of rates that every ratepayer pays regardless of property value. A fixed charge ensures every ratepayer pays the same minimum contribution for Council services.

The level at which the UAGC is set can affect the distribution of rates collected. A high UAGC has the effect of shifting more general rates towards low to middle value properties in comparison to the value of these properties. On the other hand, a lower UAGC would see general rates being higher across those properties with higher capital values.

What is being proposed?

The 2020 property revaluation has created a distortion in the overall proportion of capital value across the rating categories resulting in the general rate being skewed towards residential and rural residential and away from farming.

Council is considering reducing the UAGC from $475 to $425. This is to assist with the affordability of rates and to ensure ratepayers are paying a fair share of the general rates. A UAGC of $425 has been included in the budget modelling. This change would see a greater proportion of general rates charged on capital value instead of as a fixed charge.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose any 1 options)

- ☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakaheke i te UAGC mai te $475.00 ki te $425.00 ($50.00 te rahi o te hekenga) - Option 1, Reduce the UAGC from $475.00 to $425.00 (decrease of $50.00)
- ☐ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Whakaheke ki te $400 ($75.00 te rahi o te hekenga) - Option 2, Reduce to $400.00 (decrease of $75.00)
- ☑ Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Kāore he panoni - Option 3, Status Quo
- ☐ E aua - Not sure

MAHI.
2021-2031 Long-term Plan Consultation

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

2021 - 2031 Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Long Term Plan Consultation

Let's talk | Kōrero mai

Kōrero anō mo te Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Further feedback on the Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan includes information on Council's approach/actions to deliver on a number of different strategies/plans:

If you have further feedback on any of the previously proposed options or on Council's approach/actions to deliver on a number of different strategies/plans please use the box below and/ or attach further feedback to this form:

① AQUATIC CENTRE: WE AS RATEPAYERS CANNOT AFFORD MASSIVE RATE INCREASES FOR YEARS TO COME. OPTION 2 AND 3 ARE STUPIDITY IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND A FRIVOLOUS WASTE OF RATEPAYERS MONEY.
ALSO UNDER THE HEADING "WHAT I WILL CONTRIBUTE" IS BLATANTLY MISSLEADING. YOU STATE BORROWING $17·09 MILLION (OPTION 3) WHICH INCREASES DEBT BY $616-24 PER RATEPAYER. WE WILL PAY BACK $8-09 PER YEAR, THEREFORE: $616-24 ÷ $8-09 = 76·17 YEARS!!
SO COUNCIL IS SAYING IT WILL TAKE 76 YEARS TO REPAY THIS DEBT ASSUMING THE INTEREST RATE IS 0%
THIS IS STUPIDITY AND MISSLEADING!!!!

② COMMUNITY SAFETY: TACKLE THE PROBLEM HEAD ON AND GET RID OF THE OUT OF TOWN HOMELESS IN OUR MOTELS. THIS IS DESTROYING OUR TOWN AND ITS REPUTATION AS A TOURIST DESTINATION.
DO THE MAHI!! CONSULT WITH THE COMMUNITY AND COME UP WITH A PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

③ FEES AND CHARGES: AGAIN DO THE MAHI!! CUT SPENDING AND KEEP IT TO CORE SEVICES ONLY. STOP DREAMING.

④ RATE AFFORDABILITY: AGAIN STUPIDITY!! DO THE MAHI!! CUT COUNCIL SPENDING AND TIGHTEN YOUR BELT. ALL PROPERTIES ON AVERAGE HAVE HAD A SIMILIAR INCREASE IN VALUE. DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT A MILLION DOLLAR PROPERTY THAT INCREASES IN VALUE BY A $30K PAYS ONLY 2% MORE. A $288K PROPERTY THAT INCREASES IN VALUE BY $152K PAYS 14·2% MORE. THEREFORE YOUR MAHI!! PLAN IS FOR THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY GET SHAFTED WITH HUGE INCREASES.

IN SUMMARY: THERE IS A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC. PLEASE WOULD OUR MAYOR, COUNCILLORS AND STAFF WAKE UP!! MOST OF YOUR RATEPAYERS ARE IN FINANCIAL STRIFE HOWEVER COUNCIL PROPOSES A ONE MILLION DOLLAR A YEAR INCREASE FOR WAGES. HOW ABOUT A 3 YEAR WAGE FREEZE!!
THIS DOCUMENT IS TITLED MAHI!! DO SOME REAL WORK WAKE UP AND REDUCE COSTS/SPENDING, THANKYOU

MAHI.
2021-2031 Long-term Plan Consultation
ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

Our Ref: A3773222

April 2021

Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Submission
Rotorua Lakes Council

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's submission to the Rotorua Lakes Council Draft Long-Term Plan 2021 - 2031

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Rotorua Lakes Council's proposed Long Term Plan 2021-2031. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not wish to be heard on this submission.

For matters relating to this submission, please contact Matthew Searle at Matthew.Searle@boprc.govt.nz or 0800 884 881 ext. 8348.

Our Organisation
The Bay of Plenty region spans from the top of the East Coast in the east, to Waihī Beach in the west. Inland, the region extends generally to the ridges of the catchments of eight major rivers which drain into the Bay of Plenty. The Bay of Plenty region includes 9,583 square kilometres of coastal marine area and 18 offshore islands.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is responsible for the sustainable management of natural resources within the Bay of Plenty region. Our role is determined by Central Government through statutes such as the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act, and is different from that of territorial authorities (district and city councils).

A major focus of our work involves looking after the environment by managing the effects of people's use of freshwater, land, air and coastal water. However, we also have a broader responsibility with others for the economic, social and cultural well-being of the regional community. We want to make sure our region grows and develops in a way that keeps its values safe for future generations.

Our Core work
BOPRC's Vision of "Thriving together - mō te taiao, mō ngā tāngata" means we want to ensure that both the environment and the people in the region thrive. Our role includes:

- Working with Māori and other community stakeholders to understand what's important to the region.
- Managing the effects of using our regional fresh water, land, air, geothermal, coasts and waterways.
- Identifying natural hazard risks and working with others so that communities are safe and resilient.
- Using science to understand and improve our environment, monitoring and evaluating what's happening in water and on the land.
- Protecting our region from new plant and animal pests, and helping landowners improve how they use land and protect waterways.
- Developing regional policy statements and plans, and issuing consents allowing people to use our resources wisely.

- Managing our river schemes, providing drainage to low lying areas, providing flood protection and minimising soil erosion.
- Coordinating the region's preparation for regional emergencies, like earthquakes and floods.
- Managing navigation safety on our harbours, dealing with oil spills and other pollution hazards.
- Planning regional economic development and working together with partners on new infrastructure like sewerage systems, road improvement projects, and economic development projects.
- Planning regional land transport and contracting bus services.
- Administering several Treaty co-governance forums.
- Funding hapū and iwi resource management plans.

BOPRC continues to build relationships with its partners to deliver a number of major projects, as well as continuing to ensure its ongoing legislative and policy commitments are met.

Summary

Please find our detailed comments attached. We trust you find them constructive.

We would also like to acknowledge the good work we have done in collaboration with Rotorua Lakes Council and also with Te Arawa Lakes Trust, as part of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme and the important work we will do together in the future, particularly around climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rotorua Lakes Council proposed Long Term Plan 2021-2031 and we look forward to working constructively and collaboratively to support the wellbeing of the community in the Bay of Plenty.

Yours sincerely



Fiona McTavish
Chief Executive

BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION TO THE ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031:

Key proposals/reference	BOPRC response
He Papakāinga, He Hāpori Taurikura Homes and Thriving communities	BOPRC **supports** the following: • RLC partnering with iwi, developers and central Government to help enable and deliver infrastructure and community projects that support the development of thriving communities. • RLC to facilitate neighbourhood safety projects. • RLC to establish community service hubs at Eastside, Westside and Ngongotahā, with neighbourhood co-creation and investment programmes at each of these locations. • The $15,000,000 investment in the Wharenui stormwater infrastructure to enhance the network's ability to protect the district from contaminants, particularly interventions which support the objectives of the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme. BOPRC while supportive of RLC consideration of Land Use Plan Change for the Ngongotahā area would note that due consideration must be given to the provisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and all relevant National, Regional and District Standards, Statements and Plans. BOPRC while supportive of RLC Homes and Thriving Communities Strategic Framework would note that due consideration must be given to the provisions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) before any proposed fast tracking of the consenting process is implemented. BOPRC would also like to acknowledge the continued collaboration with RLC to enable and deliver infrastructure and community projects, such as working together on Urban Development within Rotorua District that support the development of thriving communities.
Whanake Ōhanga Economic Development	BOPRC **supports** the following: • Partnership approach with developer/landowners to unlock residential land to address housing needs. • Iwi/landowner partnership approach to unlock greenfield industrial and business park land to support business relocation and expansion.

	• Creation of an Inner City Plan to build investor and development confidence in the Rotorua CBD • Completion of key infrastructure projects that will deliver benefits to local businesses, revitalise the inner city and support tourism/destination management initiatives • Creation of the Forestry Future plan, in partnership with key stakeholders, to outline opportunities for growth and development in this sector, particularly those that support the transition to a low carbon and/or circular economy. • Review of the Wood First policy and would also encourage RLC to take learnings to other BOP (and NZ) Councils to encourage the utilisation of wood products in residential and commercial development
Hurihanga Āhuarangi **Climate change**	BOPRC supports RLC's Climate Change Action Plan and welcomes its adoption. BOPRC is keen to continue to connect and collaborate with RLC staff on climate change and support the delivery of actions where relevant, and ensure the local and regional approaches are working in harmony and enhancing overall outcomes.
Rautaki Hangaroto **Infrastructure Strategy**	BOPRC would like to request that sufficient funds are budgeted within the LTP to progress the resource consent application for the Rotorua comprehensive urban stormwater to bring it to a close in the first years of the Long Term Plan and also has sufficient funds to implement the conditions of that consent – which we believe is likely to require outlay (operational and capital) over the term of the consent (35 years) and mean RLC will need to adequately provide for infrastructure improvements which may be prompted through the process. BOPRC would like to see RLC prioritise this resource in order to achieve our aspirations for water quality in the district. BOPRC also strongly supports the commitment to provide wastewater reticulation to the Lake Tarawera community, along with the ongoing work to establish reticulation for Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoma, and the comitment to further investigate solutions for Lake Rotoehu, Ngamotu and Mamaku.
Roads and footpaths (land transport)	BOPRC supports the provision of transport infrastructure for multi-modal transport for cycling, mobility access, walking and public transport. Bus shelters are important to good bus user experience and encouraging people to use public transport. Bus priority measures along key public transport corridors also contributes to reliability and improved journey times. We also support the ongoing collaborative work with Rotorua Lakes Council to integrate public transport services and infrastructure, and encourage mode shift.

Te Horanga Pūtea me ngā Mahi Nunui - te Rautaki Pūtea **Funding delivery and action**	BOPRC has contributed funding towards wastewater reticulation for the Rotorua Lakes, including a budgeted $750,000 for Lake Tarawera. Moving residents from on-site to reticulated wastewater has significant environmental and health benefits, though it is expensive. In the past, residents that were connected to other Rotorua Lakes reticulation schemes were able to fund their contribution through a targeted rate over 25 years, however, this is not the case for the Lake Tarawera scheme which requires a lump sum contribution that we understand to be approximately $33,000. We are concerned that this requirement for a $33,000 lump sum payment will have major impacts on the affordability of the scheme and the opinions of residents. At the meeting of Ratepayers on 21st April 2021 at Tarawera Community Hall there were approximately 80 people in attendance who showed overwhelming support for to have the option to use a 25 year targeted rate to pay off their contribution. We are concerned that, due to affordability of the lump sum payment, there will be many objections to the point that the scheme may not proceed. Roughly 170 of the 450 sites are not suitable for OSET systems and would be faced with no realistic option to comply with wastewater rules if the scheme does not proceed. If Rotorua Lakes Council provided an option to pay off the contributions of 25 years this could require an additional $15 million of new borrowings to be taken out. We understand that Rotorua Lakes Council is close to its financial prudence limit on borrowing as presented in LTP supporting information. 

	While we appreciate the considerations of taking on additional borrowing, we note that the following suggestions could mean that Rotorua Lakes Council is in position to take on an additional $15 million of borrowing to support the affordability of the wastewater reticulation scheme for Lake Tarawera residents : • The financial prudence graph presents **total** borrowing/total income, whereas the measure in the Liability Management Policy and LGFA limits are based on **net** borrowing. Rotorua Lakes Council should confirm whether this is simply an understandable typo in the draft financial prudence graph or if the borrowing limit has been understated. • The LGFA covenant on this metric is 280% not 250%, which has been increased to 300% until June 2022 then steps back down to 280% by July 2025. Rotorua Lakes Council could increase its borrowing limit to be in line with the LGFA limits, noting that amending the Liability Management Policy does not require public consultation (LGA s102 (5)) We request the Rotorua Lakes Council • Provides for residents that connect to the Lake Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme to be offered the option of a targeted rates payment scheme over 25 years instead of having to make a lump sum contribution, and • Considers amending the borrowing limit in its Liability Management Policy and Financial Prudence Graphs to net debt/total Income under 280%.
Other	As part of the Ngongotahā Review Action Plan that BOPRC are collaborating with RLC on, it has been proposed for Western Road to be raised to reduce the flood hazard in the surrounding urban area. Investigations are underway to determine the preferred extent of works; we understand it is currently estimated that approximately 150 to 250 linear meters of roadway will need to be reconstructed during the 2021/2022 summer season. While some of the costs may be covered by external funding, we would request that RLC ensure funding is allocated in next year's budget for the completion of the works and any associated utility and access upgrades.

Questionnaire Council Long Term Plan

Rotorua Lakes Council is currently consulting on its Long Term (10 year) Plan. We will be making a submission on behalf of Chamber members and wanted to canvas your views on some of the key elements of the plan. Could you please complete the following survey – it shouldn't take any more than ten minutes? Thank you in advance for your time and thoughts.

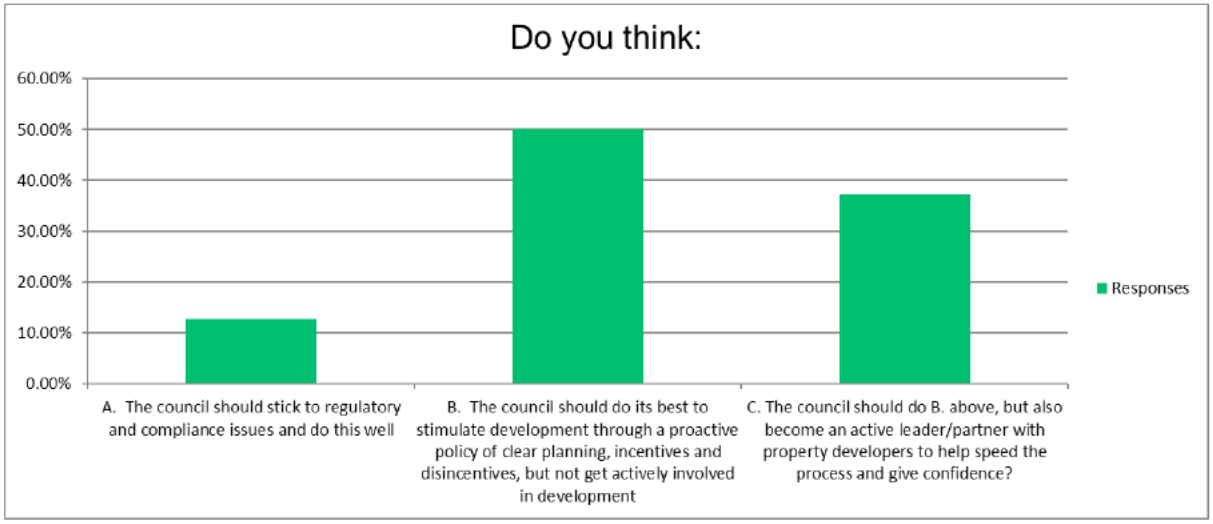
This questionnaire closed on Wednesday 28th April at 4pm.

Our submission must be with council before 4pm Friday 30th April.

Homes, Thriving Communities and Economic Development.

To help address the housing shortage, with consequential high residential prices, unaffordable rents and homelessness, the council plans to encourage fast track house building with new subdivisions, inner city apartments and infill housing. It is also considering becoming actively involved with property developers through partnerships with a Council Controlled Organisation. The Chamber supports positive measures to rapidly increase the housing stock.

1. **Do you think:**



Do you think:

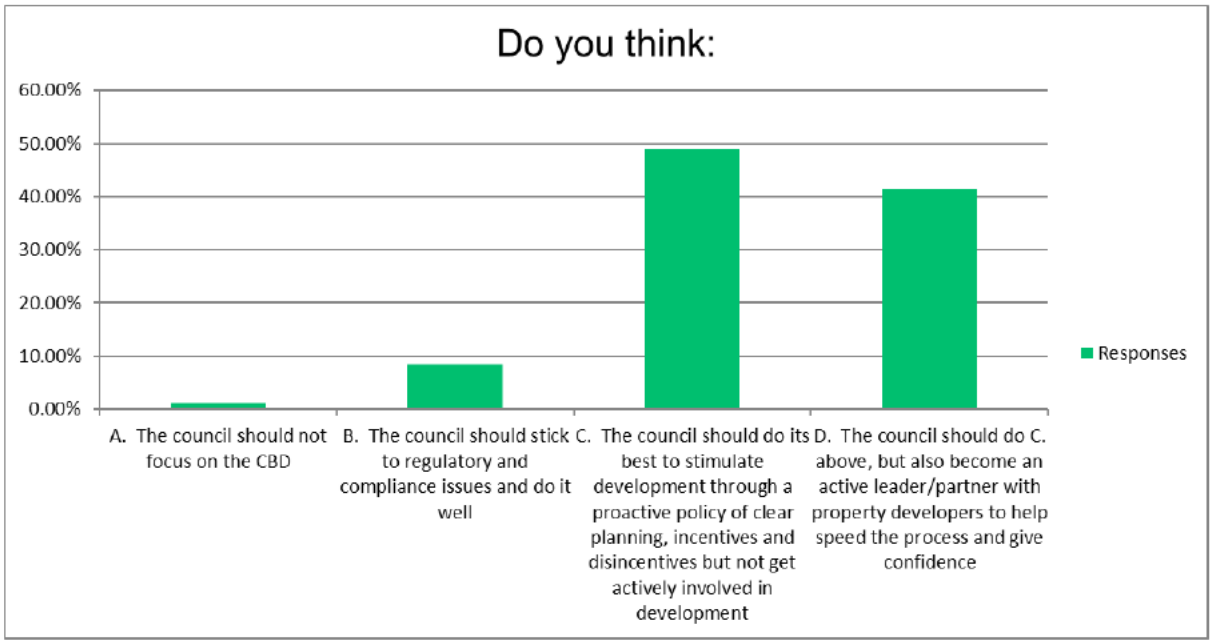
Answer Choices	Responses	
A. The council should stick to regulatory and compliance issues and do this well	12.77%	12
B. The council should do its best to stimulate development through a proactive policy of clear planning, incentives and disincentives, but not get actively involved in development	50.00%	47
C. The council should do B. above, but also become an active leader/partner with property developers to help speed the process and give confidence?	37.23%	35
	Answered	**94**

Inner City Development

The CBD has been in a state of poor presentation and low occupancy for some time. In association with the Chamber, Iwi and CBD interests, the Council is developing an exciting new plan to revitalise the CBD. The Chamber advocates for a thriving CBD with a clear vision, reflective of our unique Rotorua attributes and a clear pathway for investors and property developers.

2. Do you think:

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. The council should not focus on the CBD	1.06%	1
B. The council should stick to regulatory and compliance issues and do it well	8.51%	8
C. The council should do its best to stimulate development through a proactive policy of clear planning, incentives and disincentives but not get actively involved in development	48.94%	46
D. The council should do C. above, but also become an active leader/partner with property developers to help speed the process and give confidence	41.49%	39
	Answered	94

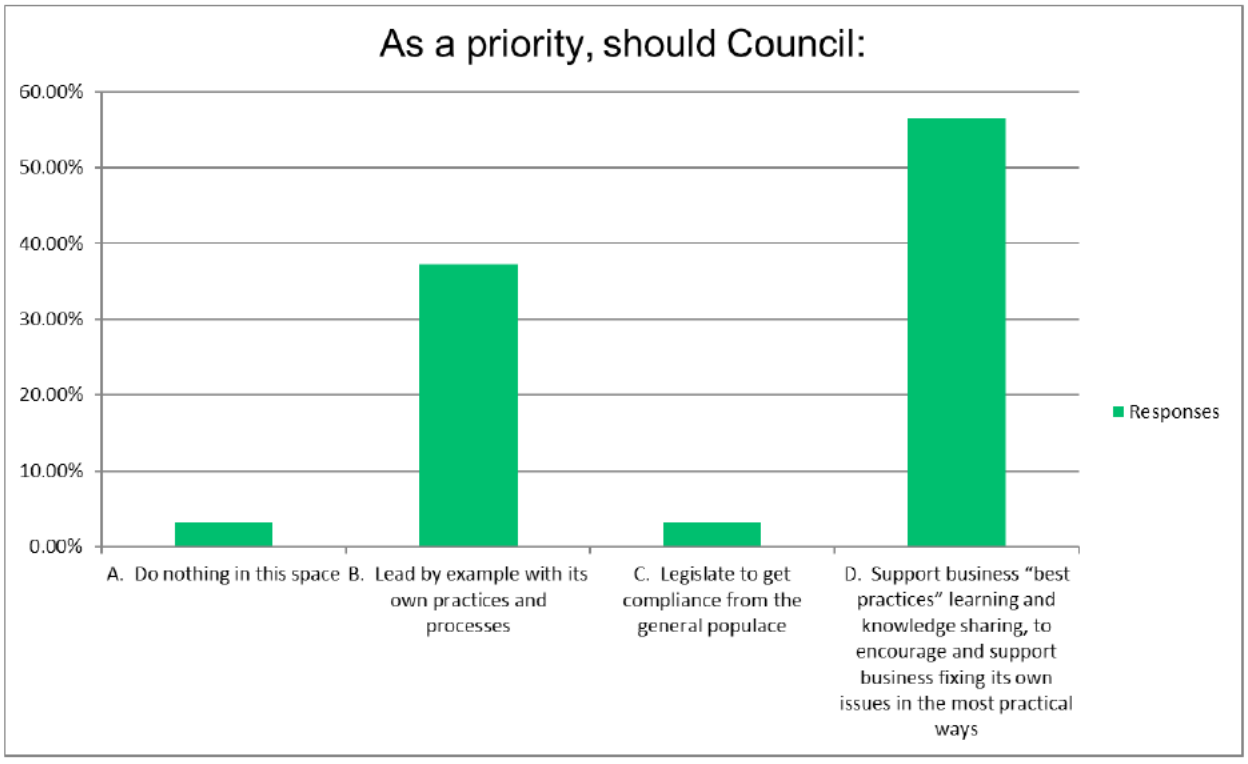


Climate Action Plan

Climate change is an internationally recognised threat to the ongoing welfare of life on earth. The Chamber believes that legislation and rules will be introduced if we do not take a business lead in actively addressing this problem. What do you think council's role is to help address this?

3. As a priority should council?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. Do nothing in this space	3.19%	3
B. Lead by example with its own practices and processes	37.23%	35
C. Legislate to get compliance from the general populace	3.19%	3
D. Support business "best practices" learning and knowledge sharing, to encourage and support business fixing its own issues in the most practical ways	56.38%	53
	Answered	**94**

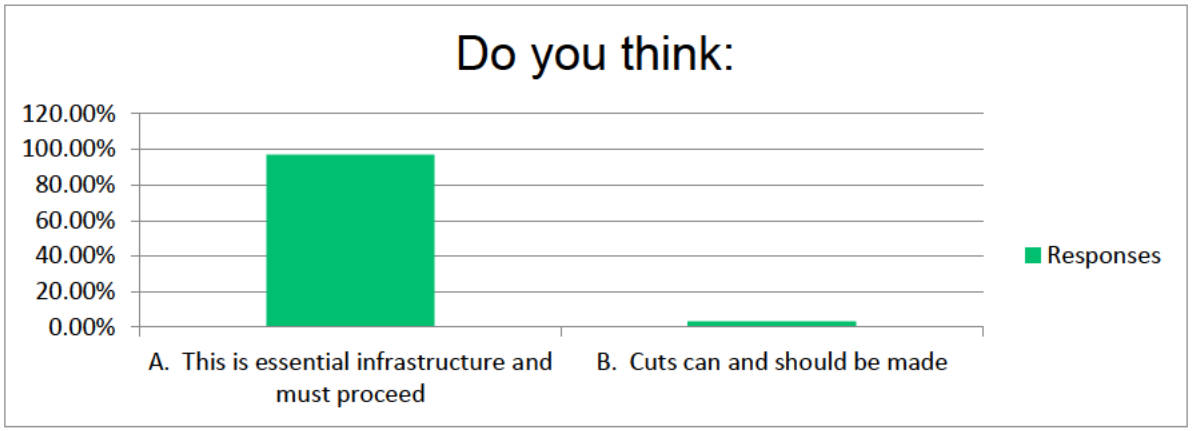


Infrastructure

A key role of councils is to supply the infrastructure needed to live in a modern society. The capital cost of ensuring we have the quality infrastructure required for the LTP period ; Sewerage $173 Mill, Roading $125 Mill, Stormwater $75 Mill, Water Supply $51 Mill. The Chamber believes that infrastructure is essential and supports the infrastructure capital budget for infrastructure.

4. **Do you think?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. This is essential infrastructure and must proceed	96.84%	92
B. Cuts can and should be made	3.16%	3
	Answered	**95**



5. **If you answered b. to question 4 what do you think should be cut/reduced?**

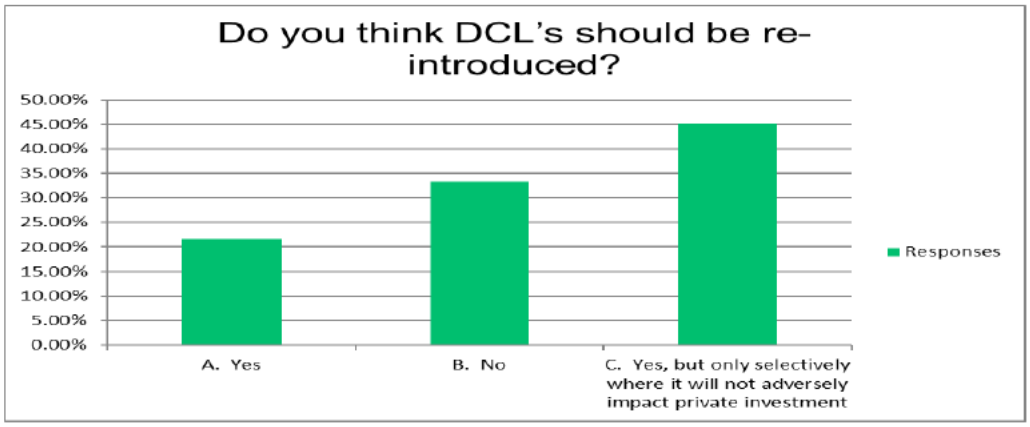
Responses
The wages in council is a good start
staffing numbers
Water supply could be cut as most goes down the drain. New housing should collect rain water and use this for gardens and general non drinking use. Storm water would then be not be over burdened. Sewage to and around all the lakes should be a top priority as the septic tanks are leaching and degrading their quality.
Sort it out, so there is no reason for there to be rates increases. This council and previous ones should hang there head in shame for the lack of spending on infrastructure. The chamber should hold them accountable for getting us in this position. If they had budgeted correctly over the past twenty years and allowed for growth we wouldn't be in the mess we are today. Bloody appalling, every councillor should hang there head in shame:(
Vanity Projects, The council has taken money for years in Rates for these things and spent them elsewhere . That must stop The one thing that they are supposed to do is infrastructure ,not all the other things

Funding and Rates

The Council plans to cover 75% of its operational and capital costs from rates revenues. The other 24% is covered by Subsidies (mostly from Central Government), Fees and Charges, and a proposed Development Contribution Levy (DCL). Development Contribution Levies were removed around 2013 and their re-introduction may be a disincentive for new development to take place. Any reduction in charges included in the Plan, will result in either reduced services or increased direct rates.

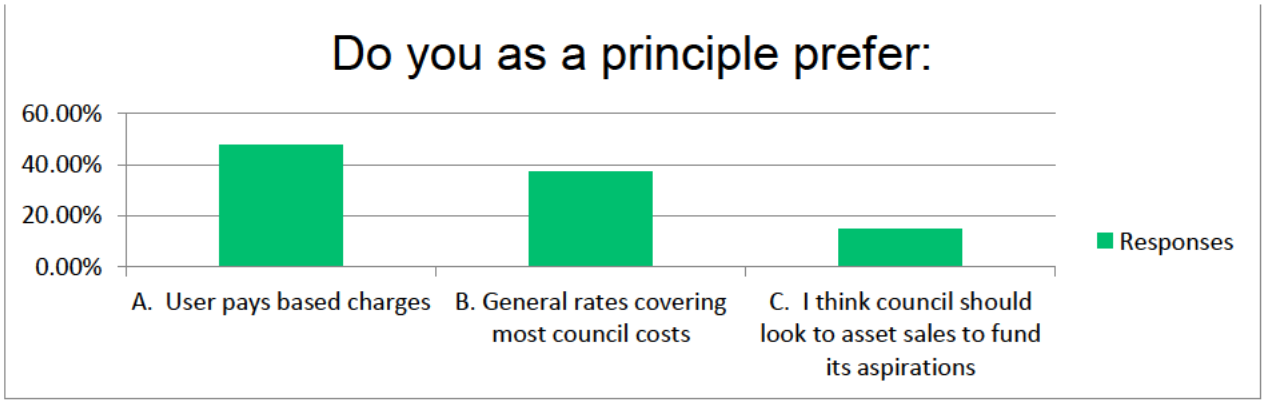
6. Do you think DCL's should be re-introduced?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. Yes	21.51%	20
B. No	33.33%	31
C. Yes, but only selectively where it will not adversely impact private investment	45.16%	42
	Answered	**93**



7. Do you as a principle prefer?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. User pays based charges	47.87%	45
B. General rates covering most council costs	37.23%	35
C. I think council should look to asset sales to fund its aspirations	14.89%	14
	Answered	**94**



8. **If you answered A. to question 7 do you have any suggestions for more direct charge-based rating opportunities.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. Yes	71.64%	48
B. No	28.36%	19
	Answered	**94**

What capital projects might be suitable for toll charging?
Rotorua Airport
Water and some roads.
A bridge over the lake from Airport Ngongotaha :)
roads
not up with what capital projects would be applicable
The missing answer in #7 is targeted rates for specific areas or local projects.. A possible Toll Road could be the future ngongotaha village bypass which links up with Tauranga Direct Road
Visitors to Rotorua as a minimum should pay to use the mountain biking facilities
Roads
Roading, Water...storm water
Water usage plus wastewater discharge
only road tolls were there is an alternative non pay route
None
roading
Use of waterfront
Upgrading sports grounds and municipal facilities
Subdivision Stormwater Ponds

9. **If you answered c. to question 7 what asset(s) do you think could be sold?**

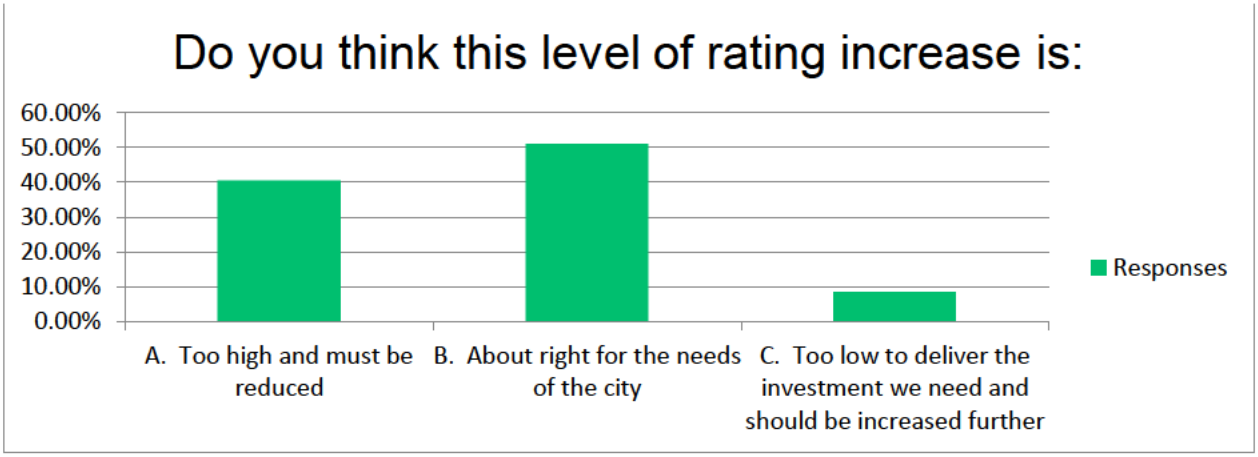
Responses
Event centres could be sold to an independent owners/developers. Residential council flats could be sold to local property investors.
Springfield golf course
Pockets of land not directly producing revenue--parks and reserves, serving no or little purpose in that regard.
Under-utilised land areas
N/a-only sold it “clearly” not needed.
not sure salaries maybe
NA
energy events Centre, Rotorua race course, Rotorua stadium we do not utilize theses buildings or space enough if it was privately owned then some one maybe interested in actually getting events to come to Rotorua
Not familiar with RLC ownership.
Sports ground to the clubs, Museum I side

Land, sell of the land, stop screwing us. I believe we are one of the most highly taxed ratepayers in the country compared to other cities, bloody useless leaders, we are in the shit because of a lack of leadership and jobs for mates. That give absolutly nothing back to the community.
The Council Chambers, they would make lovely luxury apartments and lots of them.... Already earthquake proofed.
Not sure what assets they own
don't know what they own sorry

The overall rating increase for year one of the plan is an average of 9.2%, but this varies from +18% for some to -16% for others. The distortions result from movements in property values since the past rating review. The remaining 9 years of the plan averages 3.45% per year increase.

10. Do you think this level of rating increase is?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A. Too high and must be reduced	40.43%	38
B. About right for the needs of the city	51.06%	48
C. Too low to deliver the investment we need and should be increased further	8.51%	8
	Answered	**94**



11. If you answered a to question 10, please nominate bellow the areas that you feel should be cut to lower the rating bill for rate payers.

Responses
further development
Honestly, looking at councils expenditure in many areas is ridiculous. Having staff coming in and out with big fancy ideas then moving on to something else after wasting so much rate payer money needs to stop. More thought, process and planning with members that are not on the RDC payroll would be a good start. I feel like the council uses their friends in industry and should approach others around our community
the aquatic centre. The other items have started so why mention them
Not sure
Lake Tarawera

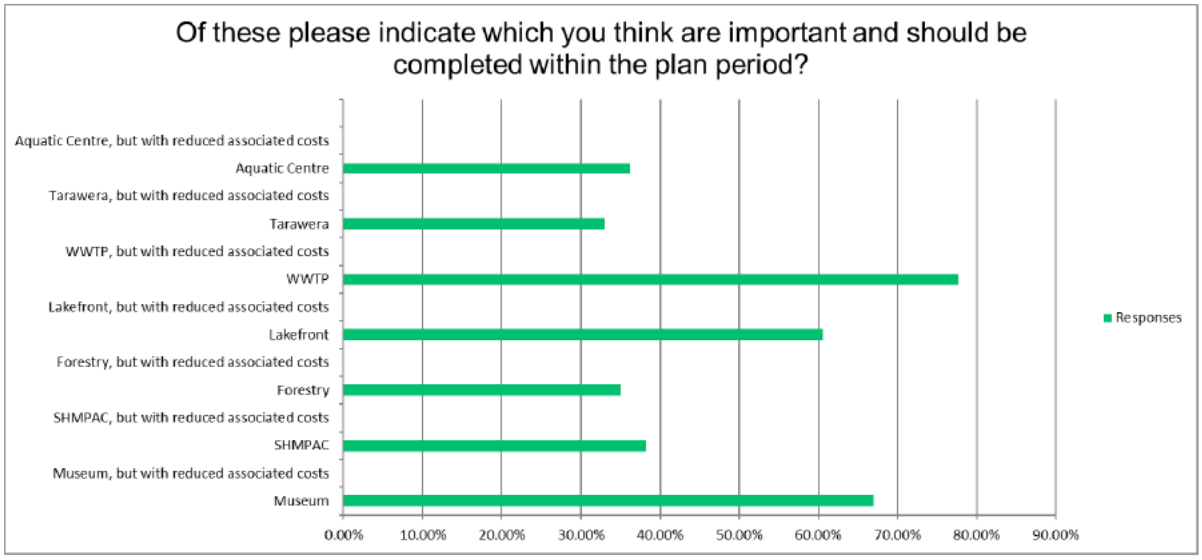
Aquatic centre overhaul, arts,
who will stay
Preforming arts centre and the horrendance salaries they are paying to staff
Council Costs. Its pretty hard to justify 9-18% increase when incomes haven't meet this demand
Without all of the information re council spending this is difficult to answer. In comparison to other regions though our rates in Rotorua are disproportionately high - perhaps we have more land owners here who do not actually pay rates?
Council salaries
council staff, and expenditure costs
Efficiencies need to be made in the way projects are managed and delivered. Council needs to look to the private sector for best practice.
Development of Westbrook Sports & Recreation Project
Unsure.
The rates increases are not an even spread with some facing increases of + 10% and others little to no increase.
Review the spend. Choose wiser with contracts. They spend far to easy the money without consideration.
Wasteful spending on unwanted projects such as the sculpture, the cycleways and inhouse fighting
Glamour projects, statues, Lakefront development, Morrison Centre plus museum (allegedly earthquake proofing but more remodelling, cycle ways)
Get rid of the idiots at the top, clean sweep. CEO is overpaid for absolutely crap leadership. Were constantly bailing out infracor do we need it. How many councillors sit getting paid for absolutely bugger all. This council screwed up our WWTP by failing to invest in it as they bloody well should have. We now have to spend a fortune fixing their laziness, lucky the dick heads didn't get us stuck with a 50year contract to Trility. At least get some funding by joining Taumata Arowai the new water regulator that is giving funding to local TA's when the join up.
Salaries of highest paid council staff should be cut.
without a copy of the expenditure this is impossible. Maybe just stick to basics and show a degree of reserve with expenditure
Council needs to look closely at its own operational costs, staff numbers, and performance.
Vanity projects that are not essential. Leave the CBD alone and it will repair itself, Put back all carparks and more.
to match inflation
Vanity projects like the Hemo Gorge and the second mountain bike hub on iwi land
Council spending money on projects without doing feasibility studies ie. rezoning/redevelopment of Springfield golf course. Restructuring to get rid of the high salary overheads associated with top-heavy management
Look to cost cutting of operational costs

Cannot comment without more information.
museum, howard morrison centre,
"vanity" projects like lake Front hotel, more mountain bike tracks and infrastruture
Owner / Occupier lower rates and landlord rentals and commercial rates
Mayora+C32:C42l & councillor wages.. why are we spending on vanity projects and not infrastructure when we so badly need it.

The large capital budget items for the LTP period includes the Museum $55Mill, Sir Howard Morrison Centre $11 Mill, Forest Projects $3 million, Lakefront $18 Mill, Waste Water Treatment Plant $60 mill, Tarawera WW reticulation $23 Mill, and the Aquatic Centre $29 Mill.

12. Of these please indicate which you think are important and should be completed within the plan period?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Museum	67.02%	63
Museum, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
SHMPAC	38.30%	36
SHMPAC, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
Forestry	35.11%	33
Forestry, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
Lakefront	60.64%	57
Lakefront, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
WWTP	77.66%	73
WWTP, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
Tarawera	32.98%	31
Tarawera, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
Aquatic Centre	36.17%	34
Aquatic Centre, but with reduced associated costs	0.00%	0
	Answered	**94**



13. Do you think any of the above projects could be scaled back? If so, which?

Responses
Sir Howard Morrison Centre
Aquatic centre.
dont know
Aquatic Centre & lake front
SHMPAC.
Yes, probably cut costs in all of em
Its too late to scale back projects already started. Why bring them up.
Morrison centre and aquatic
Aquatic, lake front, museum, HMPAc
Aquatic centre mist definitely.
all
Museum
Not sure of the type of work that is being done, other than earthquake strengthening for Museum
I think the broader issues of the lakefront sedimentation, weed and bird problems are going to detract from the lakefront resulting in minimal usage such that it will be good to look at from far but far from good up close. This should have been scaled back a long time ago. The council shouldn't spend any more on the forest. If we were really serious about protecting our taonga we would build a much more suitable building to house them; one which is nowhere near the sulphur problems of the current site and one which is potentially on much more stable ground. This would likely mean it would be both cheaper to build in the short term and cheaper to run and maintain in the long term. The current building can be maintained for a photograph and small amount of usage eg cafe and display in relation to its original use. Therefore the upgrade should be scaled right back to just strengthening a part of the structure.
Aquatic Center
SHMPAC - should have been a purpose built convention centre with small part for the Arts.
SHMPAC
Do any of these recoup costs ? If not why not ? Everything but the lakefront should be able to stand on its own
SHMPAC Lakefront Aquatic Centre
Do we really need the SHMPAC?
Aquatic Centre
Lakefront
Preserve the exterior of the Museum only. In the future build a fit for purpose museum in a less volatile location.
Lakefront

Waste water Tarawera
Waste water, Forrestry
SHMPAC & lakefront & proposed development of the Springfield golf course
Museum, SHMPAC, LAKEFRONT, FORESTRY
Lakefront although its probably to late. Tarawera WW retic is bloody important but not affordable at present And frankly this council couldn't run a budget if it tried so you should probably double your figures. ask yourself when did they actually come in on budget on any contract, probably never
Lakefront is a complete waste of money
Museum
The lakefront is nothing but a vanity project to enhance the view from the proposed hotel/spa development on the QE site. Probably gone too far to scale back now.
museum and lakefront
SHpac and Museum
Yes all that aren't essential
Tarawera
I think SHMPAC and the Museum should be seen with a greater vision than they are now. We want to be a destination for major exhibitions and performances, but I don't think the renovated buildings are going to provide that, which will be a missed opportunity.
Museum, SHMPAC, Forestry, Lake Front and Aquatic Centre
Howard Morrison and Aquatic centre
SHMPAC , Aquatic Centre
SHPAC because its the quality of performances not the quality of the building that will increase patronage.
From what I have seen of the aquatic centre, it looks far nicer and is far more usable than other aquatic centres around the wider region.
Forestry, Tarawera
Acquatic Centre SHMPAC
Projects that enhance ratepayers lives in Rotorua should be given priority. While the museum and SHMC are iconic, do they dramatically improve lives?
museu, howard morrison centre
Forestry "projects", Lakfront project
LAKEFRONT!!!! Museum & also Howard Morrison centre

14. Is there any other major project that you think should be included in the LTP? If so, please list them below.

Responses
Roading. Reserves
town parking. the width of the car parks are too narrow. Utes etc have trouble opening doors to get in and out as the next vehicle is parked too close. As is this must cause a lot of damage to vehicles and anger

A rigorous and thorough research about ROTORUA and tourism vis-a vis Queenstown and their superior marketing of Lake Wakatipu and district--WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER!!
No
Land banking and consolidation in the CBD-turn land banked areas into green spaces(for now).
Helping to keep small business going especially accommodation
Housing if govt do nothing
Community Safety project should be massively scaled up. Next to infrastructure it is the major issue affecting the city
We have outstanding natural amenities together with tourism and accommodation options for visitors. Encouraging retail to the CBD and eateries, perhaps smaller more intimate spaces.
Open up the roads in CBD, scrap Amahou Street plan removing lanes- the city must have a cross town route, remove city cycle lanes, more 15 minute parking bays. Maintain reserves and open spaces
Changing Rotorua's perception from being a dumping ground for the homeless (which it has been) and Motels filled with unemployed (unemployable) people, Chamber should be more vocal about this as it will have a huge negative effect on people wanting to come here. Ask yourself, Australia opened up, how many tourist did we get? There needs to be a time limit on people staying in motels so they move on or out of the city. Frankly look around Fenton Street and other areas of Rotorua, are you looking through rose tinted glasses, its looking like a Dump.
Stormwater
More Car parks for the CBD especially reinstate the ones taken by the green corridor and new Bus routes.
Council Housing
Address the deterioration in our city centre and neighbourhoods caused by dumping homeless people into motels, general lawlessness and joblessness. One of the major reasons we are moving to Tauranga is the deterioration clearly in evidence in Rotorua. This city is dying
Task force / outside business to manage holiday rental compliance, this will bring in revenue on its on right, and bring houses back into the rental pool. This is a good solution to bring houses back to the market faster. regards mike gallagher
A project to move the homeless out of motels on Fenton street and restore the Glenholme community to the safe suburb it once was. Elderly residents shouldn't have to live in fear
A project initiative to see alternative zoning in CBD to stimulate building of apartments and inner city living.
Roading. It is taking far too long for the projects currently being undertaken and it seems debatable if they will markedly improve our traffic congestion/flow.

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire. We appreciate and value your views to help us advocate in the best interests of the business community of Rotorua.

Consultation Feedback

Stuart Milsom
Caland Holdings Limited

Introduction:

This feedback relates to the need for more housing in our District.

The concern we have is that Rotorua's current housing shortfall, resulting in people living in temporary accommodation, will not be addressed by this 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan (LTP). The LTP does not provide robust targets or milestones to be achieved so as to provide confidence that the plan will overcome the current housing shortage and to accommodate further growth.

We believe the plan should be clear about where and when land will be made available for housing development with the steps Council will take to achieve the necessary outcomes.

Background for Concern:

According to the census during the period 2013 to 2018 Rotorua's population grew by 6597 an average of 1319 people per year. Statistic's NZ data states that the average house hold unit in Rotorua accommodates 3.03 people. This collective data suggests that in order to meet the District's growth demand during this period, on average, 435 new living units per year needed to be built.

We are informed by the 2020 "Homes and Thriving Communities Strategic Framework" presentation that during this same period only 1017 homes were built in Rotorua, an average of 203 homes per year. Therefore we built less than 50% of the living units required to meet the demand. In the same presentation it was estimated that Rotorua District has a shortfall of 1500 to 1700 homes. This is supported by a recent news article estimating Rotorua has 2000 people living in 45 motels across the city.

Rotorua's housing shortage is also impacting house prices (which leads to rental increases). The median house price in Rotorua increased by 63% between 2015 and 2019 from $263,000 to $428,000. Further, recent figures placed the median sale price in a given month at an all-time high of $650,000.

Long Term Plan:

The LTP states;

"Our proposed LTP actions give affect to the Homes and Thriving Communities Strategic Framework adopted in September 2020.

• Accelerate 2,000 new home builds

• Enable 3000 sections coming to market

• Develop the inner city, including two inner city apartment buildings.

• Establish community service hubs at Eastside, Westside and Ngongotahā, with neighbourhood cocreation and investment programmes at each of these locations.

• Facilitate neighbourhood safety projects.

• Partner with iwi, developers and central Government to help enable and deliver infrastructure and community projects that support the development of thriving communities."

"Providing for growth:

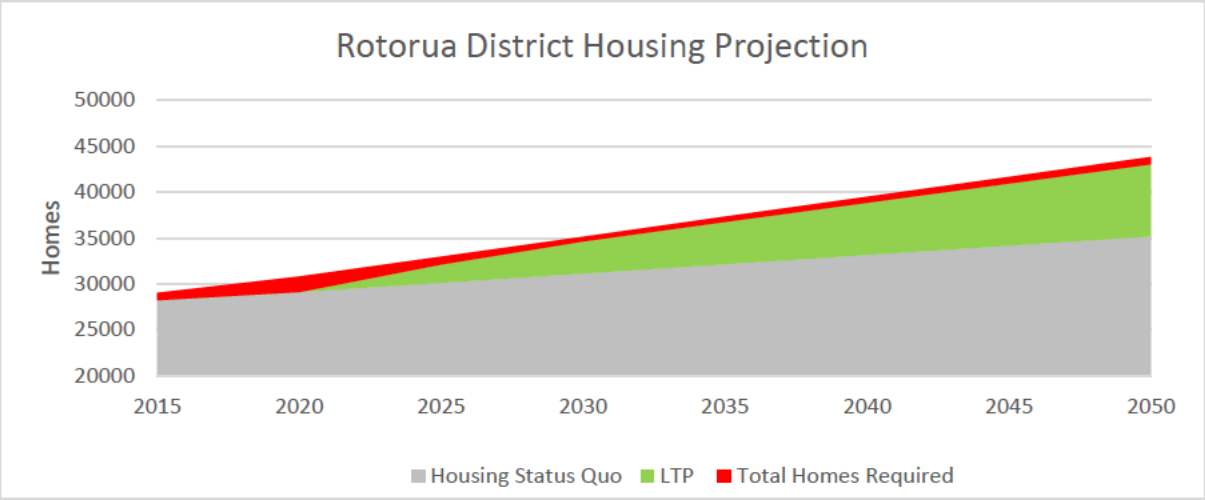
Central and eastern parts of Rotorua is where most of the development and growth is forecasted to occur. These two areas are projected to have 3,201 and 4,150 additional household units by 2051 respectively based on the latest growth projections (as at March 2020)."

Housing Requirements:

Based on the data available, Rotorua may require 6050 new homes by 2031 and 14,750 by 2051. These estimates are reached based on the District's current housing shortfall of 1700 homes and the housing demand continuing at 435 new homes per year.

Below are three graphs each demonstrating a possible outcome of the LTP. The first graph makes the following assumptions;

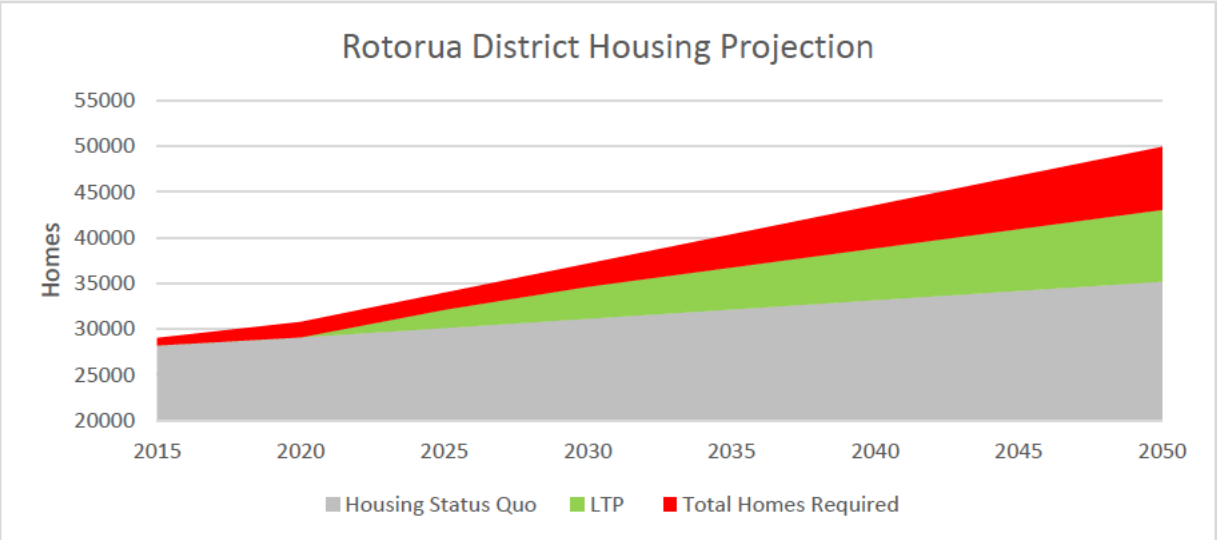
1. Housing demand continues to trend at **435 new homes per year**.
2. The two housing areas collectively creating 7351 new homes by 2051 are **in addition** to the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
3. The two inner city apartments collectively contain 500 living units.
4. The two inner city apartments will be completed within 10 years and are also **in addition** to the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
5. The 2000 accelerated homes will be completed within the first 5 years.
6. That 5030 sections will have been made available and built on within the first 10 years.



If these set of assumptions are correct Rotorua District will continue to have a housing shortage, the shortfall in 2031 will be 520 homes and in 2051 809 homes.

The second graph makes the following assumptions;

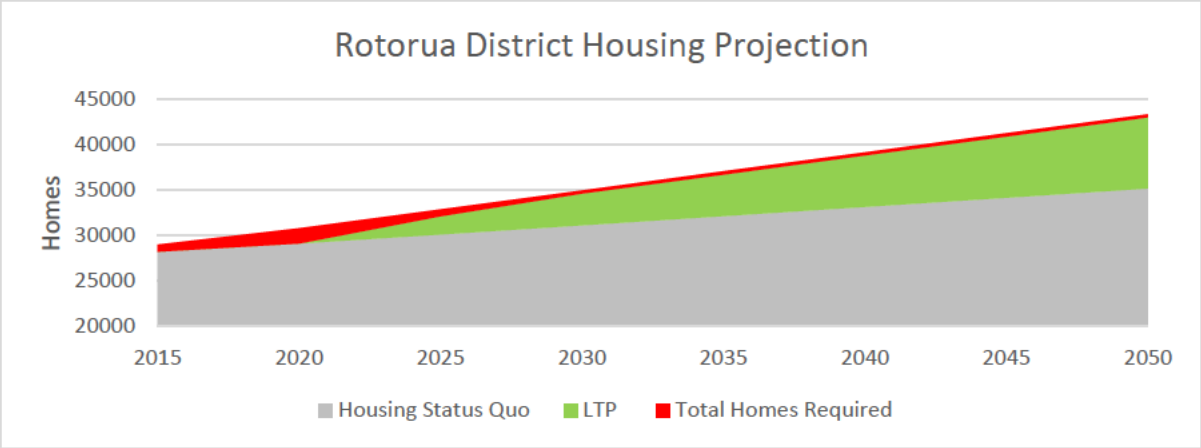
1. Housing demand continues to trend at **435 new homes per year**.
2. The two housing areas collectively creating 7351 new homes by 2051 **are inclusive of** the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
3. The two inner city apartments collectively contain 500 living units.
4. The two inner city apartments will be completed within 10 years and are **in addition** to the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
5. The 2000 accelerated homes will be completed within the first 5 years.
6. The **3000 sections** will have been made available and built on within the first 10 years.



If these set of assumptions are correct Rotorua District will continue to have a housing shortage, the shortfall in 2031 will be 2550 homes and in 2051 6899 homes.

The third graph makes the following assumptions;

1. Housing demand **declines by half to 217 new homes per year**.
2. The two housing areas collectively creating 7351 new homes by 2051 **are inclusive of** the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
3. The two inner city apartments collectively contain 500 living units.
4. The two inner city apartments will be completed within 10 years and **are inclusive of** the 203 new homes currently being built each year.
5. The 2000 accelerated homes will be completed within the first 5 years.
6. The **3000 sections** will have been made available and built on within the first 10 years.



If these set of assumptions are correct Rotorua District will continue to have a housing shortage, the shortfall in 2031 will be 370 homes and in 2051 359 homes.

Summary:

Our fear is that LTP will not address the Districts housing crisis.

The LTP is commencing with a 1500 to 1700 house shortfall which means it is starting with a 4 year housing deficit, and will likely increase if 400 plus homes are not built by the end of 2021.

Based on the data, Rotorua District requires large amounts of land to be rezoned in a very short time frame (months rather than years) and for 2000 living units to be built as soon as possible.

To provide confidence that the LTP will address Rotorua's current housing crisis and the ongoing housing demand, we suggest that robust targets and milestones be clearly stated. This will include where and when land will be made available for housing development with the steps Council will take to achieve the required outcomes. This will involve working with land owners such as ourselves to rezone land to create first world subdivisions without the complexities that currently exist.

Questions:

- What are the growth projections that underpin the LTP?
- Is the LTP additional to the current numbers of new homes being built?
- When will the 2000 new builds be completed?
- When will 3000 sections be made available?
- In what other areas of Rotorua will sections or lifestyle blocks be made available?
- How many living units will be created by building two inner city apartments?
- Does the LTP have a multifaceted plan to accommodate various lifestyle options such as retirement villages, terrace housing, and lifestyle blocks?
- What importance is placed on lake quality when rezoning land and how is it evident?

Rotorua Lakes Council
Whakahaumaru Hāpori - Community Safety

This proposal is submitted in response to requests for initiatives by the Rotorua lakes Council to enhance their Community safety Plan between 2021 and 2030

Community Patrols of New Zealand (CPNZ)
CPNZ is a registered charity that focuses on community safety by establishing and supporting Community Patrols throughout the entirety of New Zealand. As an organisation we are fully supported by the Police at National, District and community levels. An MOU between Police and CPNZ forms the basis of our relationship, however the recognition by Police that the community are capable guardians of their own community is an essential basis on which community patrolling operates. Now, entering its 20th year as a national organisation, CPNZ is recognised as an organisation that is capable of impacting crime levels within communities and is also able to assist in raising the level of safety felt by those living in the community.

There are over 150 Community Patrols and approximately 4,000 volunteers currently serving their communities and making people feel safer.

CPNZ Structure
CPNZ is led by an experienced Trust Board that includes significant expertise in crime and community safety. Four FTE positions, led by our National Support Manager, are funded by the government and these staff members are housed within the Police Prevention Team at Police National Headquarters in Wellington. Our proximity to the police leadership for community safety allows us to maintain a finger on the pulse of the issues and complexities faced by communities working towards a safer community.

Each of the 12 policing districts has a volunteer District Support Team Leader and a team that assists patrols within that area. This person or team maintains close liaison with patrols as well as Police at the District Command level.

A community patrol is set up only when there is an evidence-based need within a community. Every community patrol must have a Police Liaison Officer (PLO) appointed by police. This is often a community constable but at times may include police officers up to the rank of Senior Sergeant, but certainly the PLO is someone with a critical understanding of the crime levels and trends within a community. This allows the community patrol to be deployed to areas, or hotspots where the preventive patrolling measures can be carried out. The community patrol has a unique ID number issued by police , and is logged on to the

Police Comms system while on patrol. They carry radios as well as cell phones to maintain communication with the police.

A community patrol is run by an established committee that includes a Patrol Leader, Secretary/Treasure, Health and Safety officer, Training officer as well as authorised vetting persons who assist in ensuring that new recruits are appropriately vetted by CPNZ and the Police National Vetting Service.

Rotorua Community Patrol
Rotorua currently has a single community patrol based at Ngongotaha. This patrol, formerly branded as the Ngongotaha Community Patrol has been assisting Police with extra patrolling of the inner city areas and with plans to expand was rebranded as the Rotorua Community Patrol.

Rotorua Community Patrol development
A steering group including members of the Trust Board, District Team Leader and the Rotorua Community Patrol have commenced planning for the growth of the patrol to eventually include a total of four patrol vehicles and a suitable number of patrollers to allow for full coverage. The Bay of Plenty Police District Commander fully supported this plan as do the Rotorua Police area commanders. The local MP Todd McClay has agreed to act as Patron to this Patrol.

The future of the Rotorua Community Patrol will then be compatible with the Hamilton setup (three patrols currently with an extra patrol being considered essential), Dunedin (North and South Community Patrols).

This project is fully supported by the CPNZ Trust Board as an opportunity to look innovatively towards the future as to how communities are supported by Community Patrols, as well as how Community Patrols are funded and supported by both councils, local boards, community funding as well as operationally by the Police. It will also look at how the Community Patrols operates and integrates with other community safety groups such as private security, wardens etc.

Development Costs
The following costs are seen as appropriate and consistent with developments in other areas of the country.

Patrol vehicle	$35,000 per vehicle	x 3	[$105,000]
Annual running costs	$5,000 per vehicle	x 3	[$15,000]
Recruitment drive	$10,000 (A one-off cost to launch the community patrol)		

Fundraising is carried out by every community patrol in the country. Many patrols easily obtain sufficient fundraising for running costs etc from local funding initiatives. This has been part of the way CPNZ community patrols have operated, and we would see this remain as part of the culture of the new setup. There is every reason to suggest that this would eventually contribute significantly to the costs and free council funding for other initiatives. However, the stability of council funding for this project would underpin the operation and allow it to move forward expeditiously.

Paid Rotorua Community Manager
Consideration should also be given to the initial or eventual employment of a Rotorua Patrol Manager. There is currently no position such as this in any area of the country. However it would be similar to positions held in Neighborhood Support NZ. In Rotorua this person is currently housed within the Rotorua Police Station itself. The importance of the position is quite obvious and would be equitable to the role carried out by the NSNZ counterpart.

How will CPNZ patrols operate in the Rotorua environment?
CPNZ patrollers often say that they operate as 'eyes' and ears' for the police. They observe and report either immediately if necessary or report by way of written or electronic reports to police who sift through the information and use it to assist in solving crimes or provide valuable information to assist in policing initiatives. Patrollers are non-confrontational. They do not carry out face-to-face work that could be considered security work. However in many situations patrollers carry out foot patrols, and even visits to local shops to inform them of their presence.

Community Patrols help patrol arrears where police resources are tied up elsewhere. This ensures that a 'presence' is maintained as required.

Once setup the resource is available, at no costs, on a 24/7 basis, bearing in mind they are all volunteers.

To complete this proposal, it is important to state that the primary function carried out is patrolling to prevent crime. Every Police District Commander in New Zealand has stated that Community Patrols contribute significantly to the prevention of crime. However there are many other ways, too many to list, that community patrols assist Police. We can look at some of the ways in which these carefully selected, vetted, trained volunteers are able to assist the community;

- Ellerslie, a small community on a busy Auckland bus route became inundated with petty theft by school kids and juveniles. A foot patrol initiative, over a period of time but showing the presence of community patrollers completely negated the theft issue. A good example of the community empowered to police itself.
- A missing person with severe depression, six community patrols in Waitemata policing district came together to assist police search. Over a three day period vast areas were able to be covered. A community Patrol located the man, sadly deceased but, a community response to a community issue.
- On numerous times community patrollers have been called out to assist in the search of missing people suffering from dementia or other diseases.
- Community Patroller in Tauranga located a missing 11 year old boy who had run from his home due to abuse. They were able to keep him warm until Police arrived to deal with the matter.
- Edgcumbe floods, 8 community patrols from around the Bay of Plenty assisted policing the community while they had to evacuate their houses. Community patrols have been used in the event of emergencies such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruption, bush fires, mass movement of people
- Community patrollers assisted Police in the Waikato review of premises such as shops at risk of robbery and being supported by fog cannons.

- A police officer received a broken hand during a violent arrest. The community patrol assisted by driving the officer to the nearest hospital for support while her colleagues were able to deal with the offender.
- Community patrollers assisted Police searching through tens of thousands of historical driver's licences trying to locate one person's signature. A needle in a haystack operation but the patrollers found the document and assisted police solving a crime.
- On seeing a vehicle that was not normal in a small town, the registration number was noted by the community patrol and passed onto Police. The registration number belonged to a car driven by an assailant who had murdered someone. Police were able to make an arrest in 24 hours due to the work done by the patrol.
- Community patrollers, first on the scene of an accident were able to manage the scene until Police and ambulance arrived.
- Police recruits while waiting for a position in a training wing are often utilising their passion for community safety by volunteering with their local community patrol. This is buelign a solid relationship for the future.
- Community patrols have assisted police by providing a training ground for citizens from diverse ethnic communities. Many have been supported and have eventually joined the police as recruits.
- Many community patrols assist theri local councils in reporting council related matters either directly or via APPS.

Conclusion
Within CPNZ we firmly believe that the contribution we can make to the safety of Rotorua community will be immense. Enabling members of the community to help keep their own city, or township safe is part of providing a healthy community. All community patrollers are volunteers. The cost for the significant number of hours is nil apart from the running costs of the patrol vehicle. The only situation better than a CPNZ/Police programme will be a CPNZ/Police/Council programme, of this I have no doubt whatsoever.

Myself and others from our organisation are available to meet and discuss this initiative or any other way we may assist your community.



Your in service
Chris Lawton
National Leader
Community Patrols of New Zealand

29 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
Private bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046

Email to: letstalk@rotorualc.nz

Re: Long Term Plan Submission 2021-2031

1 Introduction

I write to convey my assessment of the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan 2021-2031. I am in total support of the proposed reticulated wastewater scheme for Lake Tarawera and totally accept that there will be costs to each property for this.

2 Sites Unsuitable for OSET Disposal System

Unfortunately, many residents have not been clearly informed of critical aspects of the project such as the 169 properties that will not be able to be occupied (and will be red stickered) as they cannot install an OSET system on the site. This is a significant issue that needs to be communicated to all residents. Please ensure that all these 169 properties are included as being totally supportive of the proposed reticulated wastewater scheme even if they have not specifically submitted to you.

3 OSET Disposal System Option

Many residents consider that they can install an OSET system on their properties but have not been advised of the significant disruption to their properties including restricted access for pedestrians, recreational and leisure activities on the property due to the surface disposal field. This also applies to restricted access for vehicles on the sites. Again, this is a significant issue that needs to be clearly communicated to all residents.

Residents should also be advised of the physical restrictions on sites such as distance from the lake edge, water courses and from cliff slopes etc that would make installation technically challenging on many sites.

4 Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA)

I totally support the submission from the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association as attached.

5 Rotorua Lakes Council 2021/22 Rates Calculator

Our property shows an increase of 16% is forecast but note the calculator has omitted the GST calculation in this value. This is important to correct.

I also support the assessment provided below. This shows how the $33,000 contribution per household has been made and I am concerned with the 3 specific Points as noted and detailed here.

Total Estimated Scheme Costs		**$22,500,000**	Based on 550 HUEs
LESS the following funding:			
• Ministry for the Environment funding	6,500,000		Obtained by LTRA
• Regional Council Subsidy	750,000		
• Rotorua Lakes Council funding	825,000		÷ 550 HUEs = $1,500 per HUE
		$8,975,000	
Outstanding		**Balance $14,425,000**	÷ 446 HUEs = $32,343 per HUE* (**$33,000** round figures per RLC lump sum payment expectation)
Compared to a lower figure if divided by 550 HUEs		*$14,425,000*	*÷ 550 = **$26,227** per HUE*

Point 1:
So, if the total scheme costs are based on 550 HUEs and Rotorua Lakes Council is providing funding for 550 HUEs, why is the balance outstanding being divided by 446 HUEs (making the cost to us much higher) and not 550 HUEs (spreading the costs more fairly and reducing the cost to all).

Point 2:
We 446 existing HUEs Tarawera residents are effectively expected to pay for the Rotorua Lakes Council's 104 "future developments" they have planned for Lake Tarawera. Rotorua Lakes Council should at the very least be footing the bill for these 104 HUEs by contributing a further $2,727,608 ($26,227 x 104 HUES) and recouping costs when these "additional" residents come on board! RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT BE PAYING FOR THEM!!

Point 3:
The amount of $26,227 is still a ridiculous amount to expect existing residents to contribute when the Regional Council made this scheme a requirement back in 2008 and the Lake Tarawera community have been pushing to have this scheme installed since then. We are affectively paying for cost creep due to the Rotorua Lakes Council's ongoing delays with this project. Rotorua Lakes Council should be held accountable for further funding to bring this figure down to a more comparable figure to that of other Lake Communities.

Please advise if I can clarify any of these submission details.

Yours faithfully

DR Schubert
For BM Schubert Trustees Limited

Attachment: Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA) Submission

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

Your worship the Mayor, Elected Members, President Gary, President Robert, invited guests, Springfield Club Members, ladies & gentlemen.

My name is Don Paterson.
I'm Rotorua born & raised and have lived here all of my life bar one year studying in Marketing in Auckland.
I'm a member of Springfield Golf Club and a local resident of this beautiful, heritage suburb.

I urge the Rotorua Lakes Council to reconsider the proposed redevelopment of the Springfield Golf Course into a mix of housing and the Westbrook Sports & Recreation Precinct.

Why?
Our Visitor Industry is struggling after the impact of Covid-19.
Rotorua now needs a NEW Market to focus on.
We need NEW money to fill our Hotel Beds and spend in our devastated hospitality industry.
GOLFERS are that Market.

How? Easy really.
We use the template so expertly employed by RLC to turn Mountain Biking in this city from a simple personal mode of exercise, into a multi-million dollar revenue earner for our region.

Now, I don't profess to be an economic wizard…but Sir John Key certainly is.
This is an excerpt from a recent article…

When quizzed by a golfing podcast on whether golf could play a role in helping the tourism industry get back on its feet, Key acknowledged that it could be a driver for recovery.
When I was Minister of Tourism we said 'look, we get about 3.5 million tourists a year – how do we get the people we actually want?'
Obviously, that doesn't mean we don't want young backpackers who might fall in love with New Zealand and have a long-term affinity for the country, but the truth is, you want people who spend money, so targeting high net-worth individuals via golf tourism is a big part of that.
"You look to people who come to New Zealand and spend a lot of money – [golf courses attract] a phenomenal number of tourists and they really spend a lot of money in the economy – so they're just a great magnet for bringing people to our country."
In a more recent interview, when asked about why he loves golf and golf courses, he said "it's the experience…because it's a bird sanctuary. It's incredible, you can be walking down the fairway and there'll be at takahē walking next to you."

In another podcast, former Champion, Phil Tataurangi, talked about how golf had really surprised everyone and taken off. Golf courses were busier and memberships were up. The statistics he rattled off were that memberships were up 6.5% this year over the same time last year. Rounds were up 39% and we have seen a big increase in the 20 to 35 year age group membership categories.

So, Rotorua should take advantage of this opportunity that is within our grasp.
We are well positioned to do so with THREE top quality courses to provide the variety that golfers want.
Top quality Hotels to match and excellent restaurants with bars & cafes to provide post round entertainment.
Let's not sell the goose that laid the Golden Egg.

Golf Clubs are quite capable of raising their own capital.
The only help from the Rate Payers would be the same support extended to the Mountain Biking Community…marketing expertise.

So…lets SAVE $62 Million, Lets Save Springfield and Lets MAKE Millions for generations to come!

Nga Mihi

Don Paterson

Feedback to RLC Draft Long Term Plan 2021-2031

From

Toni Withers

28 April 2021

The fundamental justification given for the LTP 2021-2031 is to implement Council's *Vision 2030*, without significant change. However Covid-19 ended Rotorua's international tourist annual income of $300M per annum, further limited employment options in a low wage economy with high unemployment rates and exposed a lack of developed land with appropriate infrastructure that is needed for commercial and industrial development.

I believe the global climate-change crisis in addition to the global COVID-19 pandemic requires significant and urgent changes in local and central government priorities. In particular: International Tourism is over. Rotorua has enjoyed its status as a tourist destination since the Tarawera Eruption, but we must change with the times and STOP all expenditure on tourism, and contract all facilities in size, scale and number to be suitable to operate in a significantly reduced domestic and trans-tasman tourism bubble ONLY for the next decade at least. This belief is reflected in all my responses below. Council's *Vision 2030* is dead. Drop it now and get real. Spend within the current debt ceiling, and do not increase, but rather retire debt.

GOAL STATEMENTS

1. **A Resilient Community – Inclusive, liveable and safe neighbourhoods give us a sense of place, and confidence to be involved and connected.**

The goal of resilience is defined as the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. Given the context of multiple crises, and the challenges being endured by people and businesses, it is regarded as a primary criterion for evaluating Council's performance. Sadly, community resilience is being undermined by poverty, job loss, escalating crime and resultant reputational damage.

2. Homes That Match Needs – Quality, affordable homes are safe and warm, and available to meet everyone's needs.

This goal is implausible because it is not a Council responsibility. Council currently maintains 152 pensioner flats,[1] plans to refurbish 11 in 2021/22 and to add another 11 during 2021/22. I believe significant more investment could be made in this to reduce numbers on the waiting list so why is this unmentioned in the draft LTP 2021-2031. ? Urgent attention is called for.

3. Outstanding Places to Play – Recreation opportunities are part of our lifestyle; connecting us, transporting us, and surrounding us.

This is an extravagant goal out of touch with the current post-covid climate of poverty and an extremely low wage economy with also high unemployment rates. Team sport requiring uniforms and equipment and fees is a luxury many can no longer afford, which is why mountain biking and running in the forest is so popular for so many, once a bicycle has been sourced, it is almost free. Many of the current clubs struggle to have sufficient volunteers to keep the clubs afloat, let alone service and maintain the club rooms. Clearly the councillors are not familiar with Rotorua's revolting sports toilet facilities. Have any of you actually changed your clothes in one of the cold stinky concrete cess pits?

I am strongly OPPOSED to the Westbrook Sports and Recreation Precinct and its purposted $61 million!. Spend a fraction of this on supporting the current local clubs and upgrading the current club facilities, and DO not spend on such a luxurious increase in sports fields beyond that which our poverty stricken population can utilise. It is utter madness. Leave the Springfield Golf Course alone.
Why does CRANKWORX need continued injections of cash?
Why does Forest Hub 2 need 11 showers and now a massive marquee to cover what? For the 2 or 3 events that will be based there every year a marque could be hired from Andy's. It was disgusting for the permanent marquee expenditure to be approved, let alone the 3 phase power installed at the ratepayers cost to that site on private land. You are spending rate payer funds on things which bring no return, or which should be generating their own income to invest back in themselves. Stop the hand outs. This town CANNOT afford it.
Aquatic Centre – do Option 1 ($8M) includes replacing the pool hall roof, replacing the ventilation and upgrading safety systems and painting the changing rooms. NO MORE. We cannot afford it. Families in poverty do not need extravagant Bombing pools.

4 Vibrant City heart – Our inviting and thriving inner city reflects our unique heritage and lakeside location.

Why has the Greg Brown Report, which recommended the systematic redevelopment of the CBD, not been adopted and costed as a major project in the draft LTP 2021-2031.? What happened to the excellent proposals for private sector development of high-rise flats (which would help meet 2. HOMES THAT MATCH NEEDS!), consenting to achieve inner city repopulation, pedestrianizing Tutanekai Street, encouraging themed precincts, encouraging the redecorating or recycling of buildings, and converting the CBD cycleway back into parking.
The current price of parking established by the Rotorua Mall, and replicated at the Trade Central and other suburban convenience shopping centres, is $0. This means the parking charges in the CBD, and the annoyances of using the iPark parking machines, combine to redirect customers elsewhere. DO NOT renew that outrageously expensive iPark contract in 4 years time. Make all parking in the CBD free.

5 Business Innovation and Prosperity – We boast a diverse and sustainable economy energised by our natural resources and innovative people.

I have little confidence in the CEO and senior staff of RLC to be able to meet this goal. RLC has a string of costly business disasters to its credit including Terax, Mudtopia, the International Airport, the Airport Redevelopment, the Children's Health Hub, the Central Park tourism rebranding, and Destination Rotorua. Not one of these ventures have created ANY of the jobs, profits or rates relief on the scale promised and those that have not collapsed are dependent on ongoing subsidies.

However, there is evidence of how ‘light partnering’ is distracting Council from core service delivery, such as rural road maintenance, reserve maintenance, footpaths, improvements and infrastructure. I am shocked RLC plans to establish a Real Estate CCO so that it could become a fully-fledged developer in the private sector. I have no faith in RLC. Leave the business to the business people.

6 Employment Choices – We are a prosperous connected community; growing our education, training and employment opportunities.

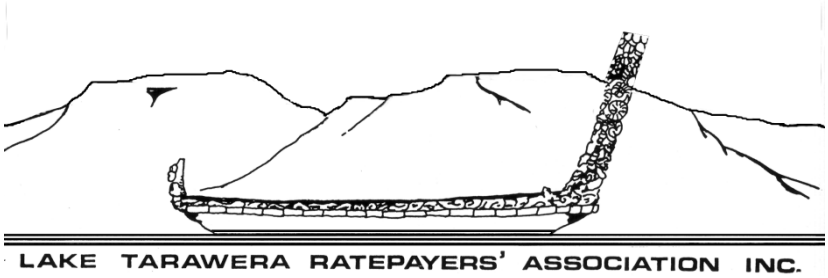
Why is this an RLC goal?
What on earth are you proposing to spend $65million on community leadership for?

7 Balanced environment – We are known globally for our clean, natural environment, air quality and healthy lakes.

I support the Kawaneta Proposal for long term alternatives to the proposed WWTP upgrade. This should be a priority for RLC. It is infrastructure that needs to be invested in, along with a plan to upgrade underground services. The aged pipes and misconnections allowing undue amounts of storm-water to enter the wastewater system must be replaced more urgently than the Trility contract provides for. This infrastructure investment could be easily affordable if the extravagant proposals for unnecessary luxury developments were DROPPED. For instance on p. 17 of the draft LTP 2021-2031 it is confirmed that $2M was allocated in the 2020/21 Annual Plan to plan a Rotorua Lakefront commercial and hospitality building. Elsewhere it is described as a café and communication center. In our current global pandemic situation this is entirely unjustifiable. Rotorua already has a beautiful Visitor Centre and clock tower just a short walk from the lake front, it already has countless cafes. Why do we need another visitor centre build by public funds? Just leave it alone and spend the money wisely not foolishly.

Conclusion

In the last five years I have had a 1% per annum increase in my salary. While the CPI has increased at three times my salary. How on earth can you justify the proposed rates increase -in my area- at 9.6% when last year I already had a 13% increase?. You are so grossly out of touch of the cost of living compared to the low wage economy that I fear for the future of this town. Your rates rises you have imposed upon us are caused by RLC increasing its spending. The expenditure needs to stop so that the rates rises can cease. Unless a fresh approach is developed that seriously considers the affordability of rates to ratepayers, the patterns established since 2013 will be repeated in coming years and intensify what is already unacceptable to ratepayers and morally offensive. Why are you not planning to retire debt or constrain expenditure to provide rates relief in our stagnated low-wage and high unemployment economy?



LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION BY LAKE TARAWERA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The issue

1 LTRA has been asking for a reticulated wastewater scheme for Lake Tarawera since 2012.

2 On 26 November 2020, Council passed a resolution agreeing to the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme, comprising the installation of low pressure grinder pumps on each property and a mains pipeline connecting the new Tarawera network to the Ōkāreka wastewater pump station and then to the main city treatment plant.

Submission in support of the proposal proceeding

3 LTRA fully supports the Council decision to proceed with the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme as:

3.1 Lake Tarawera is iconic, a gateway to NZ tourism and to cultural tourism.

3.2 Its water quality is declining and steps to reduce that decline are an immediate priority to protect this area of significance.

4 Accordingly, the LTRA submission is that the Council should not delay any further the reticulation to the main city treatment plant and the LTRA is seeking that this proposal is commenced as soon as possible, in July of this year, not commencing in 2023/2024, as proposed in the consultation document on Long Term Plan.

5 The LTRA submission is that the community will suffer financial harm if the reticulation does not occur as soon as possible, as:

5.1 The Government Freshwater Improvement funding of $6.5mill for this project could well be lost. It is unacceptable that any further Council delay could result in ratepayers having to make up that shortfall.

5.2 Residents will have to upgrade septic tanks, at significant (and unnecessary) cost. This is avoided with reticulation.

5.3 The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has advised that if reticulation does not go ahead at Lake Tarawera, then it will enforce the OSET system. This will leave

approximately 169 properties not able to be occupied, due to the fact that physical constraints mean that they are unable to accommodate the OSET system.

5.4 Building costs are increasing incrementally each year and the contribution sought from the ratepayers will increase with every year that goes by. There is no certainty for residents of total cost at this point.

Submission in opposition to the details of the funding

6 What LTRA does not support is what Council is proposing in terms of how this reticulation is funded and the 'conditions' it is imposing before detailed design and construction will proceed. In particular:

6.1 That each household pays an estimated $33,000 lump sum contribution 'as soon as the scheme is completed and commissioned[1]'. Council has advised this lump sum amount will increase as construction costs increase and cannot be fixed until detailed design has been undertaken(e.g. hardship or special circumstances).

6.2 That at least 75% of affected ratepayers accept this scheme proposal in writing.

7 The concerns that the LTRA has with this funding approach are:

7.1 The open-ended cost that each ratepayer is potentially exposed to, with no option to pay this over time and no suggestion that individual circumstances of each ratepayer will be taken into account (e.g. hardship or special circumstances).

7.2 The fact that Council is making only a lump sum payment option available to the Lake Tarawera ratepayers is confirmed in the Capital Project Funding Plan (attached to the 12 November SP&F Committee report), which suggests invoices will be issued on 1 July 2024 and will need to be paid by 20 August 2024.

7.3 It is inequitable to impose large amounts on individuals when Council is better placed to fund the amount and be repaid over time. It is also inequitable between ratepayers in the district because Council has adopted a different approach for other sewerage schemes in the district (such as Mourea/Okawa Bay, Hinemoa Point, Brunswick/Rotokawa, Okareka/Blue Lake, Okere Falls/Otaramarae/Whangamarino Hamurana/Awahou, Rotoiti/Rotoma where residents were given the option of payment over 25 years.

7.4 It is unclear why this approach has been adopted in this case or what it is based on. The response from Council (dated 11 February 2021) to LTRA's information request was that no analysis of alternative funding options has been undertaken by the Council.

7.5 The Capital Project Funding Plan needs to be authorised prior to invitations to ratepayers being issued under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LG Rating Act). Invitations have been issued but there is no lawfully approved Capital

Project Funding Plan. This means the basis for the requirement of one=off lump sum payments by the ratepayers is unlawful (as the Plan has not been adopted in the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan as required by section 117B of the LG Rating Act).

7.6 In Council's most recent letter to ratepayers (dated 16 April2021) it states:

The Council's current scheme capital funding plan anticipates that it will borrow the required funds to commence and conclude the scheme over a period of three years. These borrowings will be carried over by the Council's debt until repaid upon completion and commissioning of the scheme. If the debt is not repaid as planned the Council's balance sheet will be adversely affected and it will reduce its ability to invest in other capital improvement projects for the district.

7.7 There is no analysis provided of how Council's balance sheet will actually be adversely affected or whether alternative payment options could address some of those impacts. For example, does it make a difference if there were instalment options at key milestone dates, rather than a lump sum payment? Alternatively, does it make a difference if a certain number of the ratepayers opt into the lump sum payment and the balance take a 'pay overtime' approach? Based on the responses to date, there are at least 156 ratepayers who are willing to adopt the lump sum approach - with the government funding and Council and Regional Council funding, this would mean half the total cost would be paid by completion of the project, with the other half (approximately $11mill) to be repaid over time. This does not seem unreasonable or an excessive drain on the Council's balance sheet.

7.8 It is unclear what the lawful basis is for the alleged 75% requirement and there is no assessment of why a 75% commitment to the lump sum payment is reasonable or even necessary:

7.8.1 The Council has the power to impose a targeted rate (as it has done for other schemes) to fund this proposal.

7.8.2 There is no statutory requirement for the 75%.

7.8.3 It results in the apathetic determining the outcome (i.e., even if the ratepayer is not opposed, they are counted as a 'no' for the purposes of this exercise).

7.8.4 The results to date from the letters sent to ratepayers have overwhelmingly supported the reticulation proposal. 95% of the 240 respondents supported the proposal (noting that 30% sought an option to be able to pay overtime and reduce the impact of a lump sum contribution).

7.9 There is a lack of confidence in the process of determining a 75% commitment by affected ratepayers. For example:

How are the 'affected ratepayers' determined? It cannot simply be the total number of rateable properties in the area as:

(a) Some do not have buildings on them.

(b) Some properties are to be exempt. The Capital Project Funding Plan (attached to the 12 November SP&F Committee report) noted that public facilities and marae are excluded.

7.9.2 How is Council certain that all the relevant ratepayers received the correspondence? LTRA has had feedback that there were overseas owners and local owners who did not receive the Council letter, as well as owners of Māori land blocks.

7.9.3 Were the owners of the 169 households that cannot install on site effluent treatment advised that they will not be able to occupy their houses if this reticulation does not proceed? LTRA is not aware this has been made clear to those residents and this must be relevant to them in deciding whether to 'sign up' to Council's proposal.

8 Accordingly, the LTRA seeks that the Council:

8.1 Accepts the support of the proposal from the respondents to date as sufficient to proceed with this proposal (i.e., it waives the 75% requirement as it has had sound endorsement of the proposal from respondents).

8.2 Commences the work on the reticulation proposal for the Lake Tarawera wastewater to city treatment plant in July 2021 (i.e., not commencing in 2023/2024, as proposed in the draft Long Term Plan).

8.3 Provides an alternative payment option for the ratepayers who do not wish to commit or cannot commit to the lump sum payment. That is, it provides an option for payment as a targeted rate over a period of 25 years, as it has for all other schemes in the district.

9 It is submitted that this will ensure the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Rotorua people and its communities are provided for and that the natural environment is enhanced.

Libby Fletcher
Chair

libby@ultimatenz.com

021 670 774

27 April 2021

Fiona McAllister

April 2021

To Rotorua Lakes Council

RE: Long Term Plan Submission 2021-2031

1/ Tarawera Reticulated Sewerage

1.1 This is the only realistic solution for Tarawera and as such should be progressed immediately with planning commencing July 2021 so that ratepayers have more certainty over the proposed cost. The open ended figure of $33,000 payable as a lump sum in completion is unfair and unreasonable.

1.2 Failure to commence planning means further delays, increased cost and most importantly the potential loss of the $6.5 M from MFE. This is totally unacceptable.

1.3 The 75% threshold of ratepayers that must agree to the scheme before council will commit to reticulation and start proper planning is arbitrary, unprecedented and a ridiculously high benchmark. The apathetic who don't even bother to respond to the council letter should not determine the outcome. Those who have responded have overwhelmingly been in favour including those who agree but not to the terms and conditions.

1.4 For all other sewerage schemes in the district, ratepayers have had the opportunity to pay the debt over a 25 year period through their rates. This option must be given to Tarawera residents as there are too many people who don't have the cash to meet the council requirement of a lump sum payment. Not to do so is inequitable and unreasonable. The issue is already causing real division in the community between those who can and those who simply cannot afford a lump sum and are therefore anti the scheme.

1.5 There should also be provision for those who want to make a minimum lump sum part payment (Say $10-15K) and pay the balance on their rates

1.6 Almost 160 ratepayers have indicated they are happy to pay the lump sum, plus the $6.5M from MFE, means the debt Council has to carry is nowhere near the $22 M touted for the scheme and is perhaps half.

1.7 At the Lake Tarawera Steering Group meetings and at Community Meetings it was agreed and stated that ratepayers who had installed a modern OSET system would receive some rebate given they have a near new, viable, safe system which will need to be removed and replaced with an LPGP system when reticulation occurs. This point seems to have vanished out of any Council communications, including the letters sent to all ratepayers in February and April this year. Ours is around five years old and we know of several other people who have OSET systems of similar age and some that are brand new. It is simply unfair to renege on some form of rebate for these affected property owners. Some of them

have already publicly stated they won't agree to reticulation because they have such a system which is counter-productive to the Council's plan and the wishes of the majority in the community.

1.8 Given ratepayers were informed the reticulation scheme if progressed was to be completed by **July 2024** why does the 'MAHI' Council's LTPC 2021/31 on page 33 show the scheme only starting in 2023/24 and finishing in 2025/6?

1.9 The contributions from RLC and BOPRC should be increased to allow for inflation and the fact that the proposed price has increased so markedly in the past 18 months.

1.10 After more than a year of delay waiting for an unnecessary second CIA, why were Maori land block owners not sent the letter of February 2021 and why are they not included in the number of ratepayers amongst whom the scheme is being charged to?

1.11 Tarawera ratepayers are not all wealthy; they want and deserve certainty, fairness and equality and have been more than patient. This battle has been going on since 2012. Enough talk – Time for some action.

2/ Aquatic centre upgrade

2.1 I do support **Option 2** but I am totally opposed to **Option 3** (page 11 LTP) – a play lido, bombing pool etc are 'nice to haves' but given the fight Tarawera ratepayers are having to get help paying for reticulated sewerage these proposals are totally insensitive, given the projected borrowings of $17.9 M.

2.2 The council shouldn't be running cafes and businesses like fitness centres either and Rotorua probably has enough of them. (Have you done a business case study for these business options?)

3/ Climate Action Plan

3.1 Re transportation and urban Form, page 19. If you want to promote walking and cycling Tarawera residents have been asking for footpaths for a long time. The warped, broken pieces of 4 x 4 pine timber that were installed in an attempt to make the footpath that (mostly) exists from number 1 Spencer road safer, are an unsightly, ineffective, dangerous hazard. At a Community Board meeting last year the community unanimously voted to have them removed. This has still not happened. I emailed Community Board Member Phill Thomass recently to remind him of this and suggested the use of flexible plastic orange bollards instead. I have not received a reply.

3.2 While Spencer Road residents recognise a paved footpath the length of the road is not practical, there are some areas that badly need it; in particular the area both sides of Stoney Point, and further on where there are several areas that have no area to walk on either side of the road, except actually on the road itself. Given the speed vehicles travel at, it's a miracle no one has been hurt.

3.3 Despite paying some of the highest rates in the district, Tarawera ratepayers don't receive a lot compared to other residents, for example no bus service to Rotorua. A limited bus service several times a day would be useful and fit in with your aim of promoting public transport.

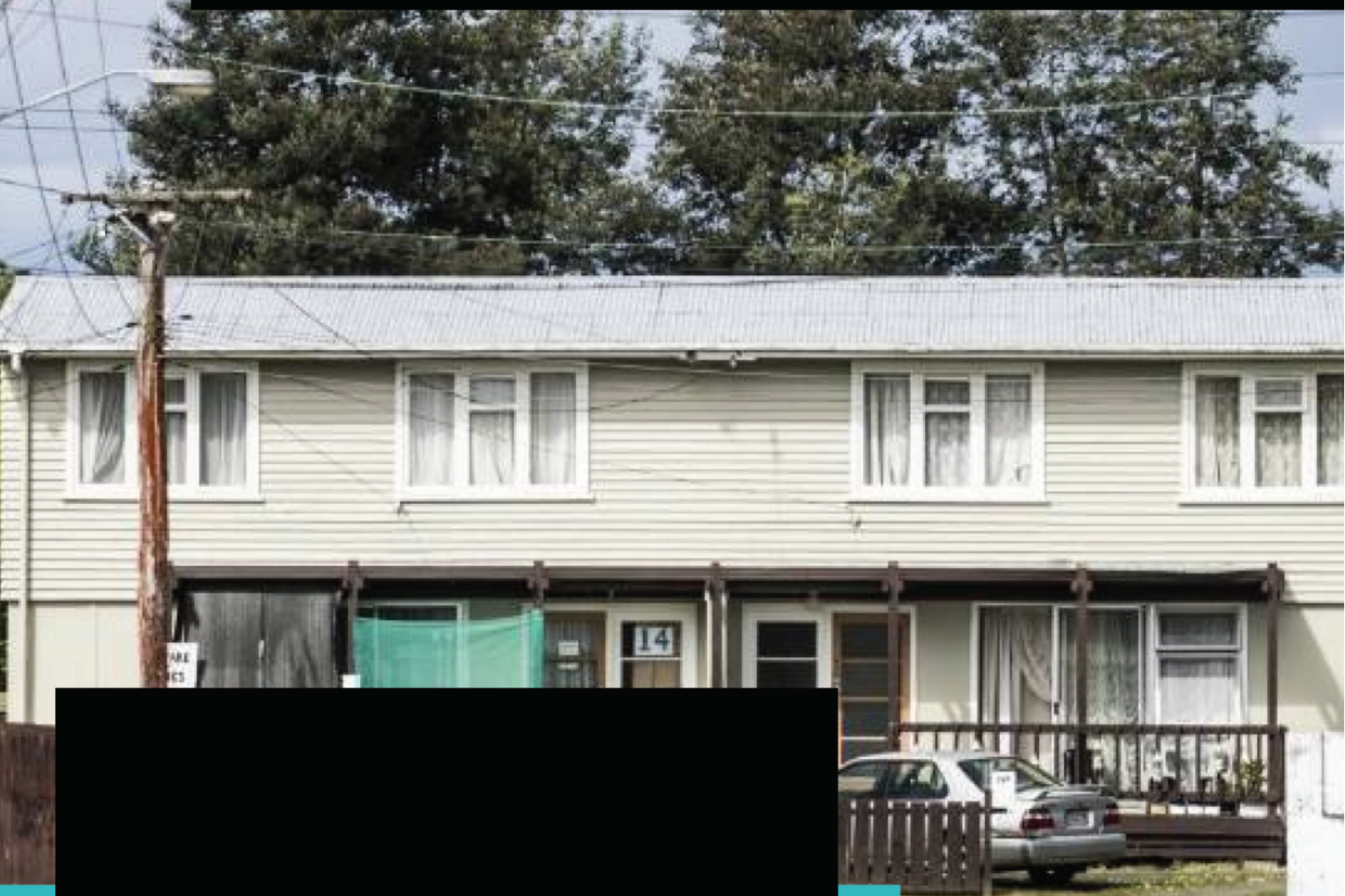
3.4 Many of us at Tarawera are disturbed by the high levels of contamination of waste at the local Transfer Station. Often this is just through ignorance but here's a suggestion to mitigate it.

Suggestion for Tarawera Transfer Station

There should be pictorial signs showing exactly what can and cannot be recycled. Many people (including myself) are confused as to what is green and what is considered brown glass, especially with wine bottles. Many people think the plastic code number in a triangle on a product indicates recyclability when it actually just indicates the material. This results in a lot of plastic being put in the bins when it cannot be recycled.

Fiona McAllister

FORDLANDS LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION 2021



FORDLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

KO TE TUARA TOTARA O FORDLANDS INC.

"The Strengthening Backbone of Fordlands"

fordlands.co.nz



Long Term Plan Submission

We fit under Council Priority 1 (Homes and Thriving Communities) and Council Priority 2 (Community Safety - for consultation).

Our Community - Fordlands Statistics

The Fordlands Community is a community in great need. Since COVID, there is more deprivation now than there has ever been. Fordlands was identified as the most deprived neighbourhood in NZ (Huffadine, 2017). It was found that people who live in Fordlands suffer extreme deprivation over a range of 7 domains - housing, employment, education, income, health, crime and access. Fordlands in a snapshot (Statistics NZ, 2018):

- 2000 residents, mostly Maori
- 600 houses, 30% owned by Kainga Ora
- Average income $19,000 per year
- High levels of unemployment
- Most families live in rented dwellings
- High numbers of young people
- Large families
- 30% have no qualifications
- Predominant occupation is labourer
- One block of corner shops including four square dairy and liquor store
- Essential services e.g doctors are not within walking distance or bus route

Our Observations

The majority of our staff and committee are Fordlands residents and so we witness suffering that people and children experience on a daily basis.

Methamphetamine, alcohol and drug abuse is prolific; speeding cars, motorbikes, and dangerous dogs roam. Rents are rising and transiency is increasing due to high investor activity and the housing crisis. Many of our long-term residents are losing their homes and being moved into emergency housing in motels. There has been high gang tensions due to the emergence of transitional housing providers moving people from other areas into Fordlands.

Food and living costs are unaffordable and whanau are often in need of food. We have also noticed a sharp increase in truancy since COVID hit.

All these factors ensure that the people of Fordlands live in abject poverty. Extreme poverty and the inability to access the basic needs of life results in inequality, decreased health and wellbeing and a lifestyle of stress, drugs, crime and hopelessness. The problems are only becoming worse. Mental health services are notoriously difficult to access for our families and there are huge barriers to accessing appropriate and timely help. Police have seen a marked increase in deviant behaviour over the past year or so and community cohesion is declining.

Our Organisation - Ko Te Tuara Totara O Fordlands (Fordlands Community Centre)

At the end of 2019, an entirely new Committee and staff came on board and developed a new strategic direction and action plan.

Vision: A safe, sustainable, successful and connected community
We aim to achieve this by providing access to a range of programmes and services that meet needs and build community capacity

Over the past year we have grown from one staff member to now 9 staff and 4 new services to address some of the key priority areas: Whanau support, Housing, Youth and Kai.



We are in the process of developing our new programme TuWhenua, that has a focus on employment and the environment. This is only the beginning! We want to develop a range of other programmes e.g. education; arts; an affordable medical centre and dental services.

Our ultimate goal is to build a purpose-built centre – a place where our children and whanau can connect, learn, and be exposed to opportunities that will enable them to lead successful lives, out of the grip of poverty.

Essentially, we are building a social and health service. We have begun working alongside key stakeholders by forming a Fordlands Steering Group. We meet every 3 months, and our current partners are: Rotorua Police; Internal Affairs; Kainga Ora, MSD, Rotorua Lakes Council, Oranga Tamariki (TBC). It is at this forum that we bring up issues and work out how to create solutions together.

The History of Fordlands

When the Rotorua airport was established in the 1960s, a number of families were removed from their traditional lands and re-housed into social housing in Fordlands, a process known as 'pepper-pottering'. We acknowledge that the dispossession of land is a major cause of generational poverty, and we see the result of that systemic injustice today in Fordlands.

Rotorua Council and the government have a responsibility to right the wrongs created through pepper pottering.

Historic LTP Submission

Over 10 years ago during the days of Huia Lyon and Marni Flavell, the community of Fordlands approached council during the long-term plan submissions to ask for a community hub. They had strong community support and around 20-30 people from Fordlands attended. They identified a community hub as being a game changer for Fordlands. The Council at the time rejected the proposal as they thought it was too expensive and could not connect with the vision that the Fordlands people had for their community.

Thoughts: Council Priority 1

Scanning through the westside priorities, we spotted the proposed community hub on Pukehangi.

We believe that further investment in already affluent communities will result in widening the existing inequality gaps in Rotorua. Not investing in a deprived community means that our people stay deprived. No one in Fordlands will be able to access the Westside community hub due to distance. Access is a huge barrier to our community in accessing help. The IMD report showed that the difference between Fordlands and the wealthiest community in NZ, Merivale, was access to services. Merivale residents have a huge range of services and resources within walking distance of their homes. In comparison, Fordlands residents have a four square and a liquor store. In a research article completed in 2017 by Sonia Hawkins (Hawkins, 2017) she stated the following point of interest:

> ***"A health equity lens would suggest that Fordlands residents' disproportionately low share of resources is unfair, avoidable and unjust. In contrast, the already advantaged people of Merivale have greater access to government-funded primary health care and attractive local amenities."***

An article was posted by the Daily Post on the 20th April 2021, outlining that council are planning to spend 60million developing a sports hub on the Springfield golf club. Again, this is investment into one of the most affluent areas in Rotorua. No one in Fordlands will be able to access this.

We have one small park and skatepark in Fordlands, the Huia Lyons Reserve situated across the road from the centre. At the weekends there can be up to 50 children at the park at one time. At our weekly programme, we can have between 50-100 children, and at big events, around 200. We are outgrowing our facilities with the growing number of staff and community we have at the centre and park on a daily basis.

We are asking for council to consider supporting us financially alongside our other stakeholders to build a purpose built centre in the Huia Lyons Reserve. We are also asking for use of the reserve to build the centre on.

The children of Fordlands have requested an extension of the skatepark to include a skatebowl, like the Puketawhero park in Owhata. The skatepark is used everyday because due to poverty, children can't participate in extracurricular activities.

We need our services to be in the middle of our community – our centre is placed in prime position. During the last election we held a voting booth which was extremely successful. This showed us that being in a central position allows people to access services more easily. People who have never voted walked down the road to vote for the first time.

Council has wanted everything to be centralized e.g. in town. But this doesn't work for our community as due to poverty, people don't have cars and can't drive into town, nor do they feel comfortable going into a service full of people they don't know.

Thoughts: Council Priority 2

We fit directly under this priority. Our community is currently an extremely unsafe one as highlighted on Page 1, with the negative statistics and our observations.

- Antisocial behaviour
- High crime statistics
- A culture of drinking and violence
- Gang culture

We believe that a purpose-built centre will contribute to the development of a safer community by increasing community connection and providing a safe space for our children, especially those who have issues at home.

Socio economic deprivation is strongly linked to child maltreatment. Maori are more likely than non-Maori to experience socio-economic deprivation. Deprivation is a direct effect of colonisation and urbanization. It is proposed that the higher rate of childhood maltreatment among Maori can be explained by the higher rate of socio-economic disadvantage experienced by Maori (Cooper, 2009).

Children who live in Fordlands are at a high risk of suffering from maltreatment due to high socio economic disadvantage.

We believe that our community centre, our services and our willingness to collaborate and work with existing organisations to generate innovative solutions will contribute to Fordlands and Rotorua:

- Being a safe place to live
- Having a positive reputation
- Being a place where children grow up in nurturing and safe environments
- Reducing antisocial behaviour, alcohol and drug use
- Reducing crime stats and victimization
- Developing collaboration with Police, Community Groups, Oranga Tamariki.

Housing

The housing crisis is a key issue that is affecting our community and the ability of our organisation to make lasting change. Many long term residents are being moved out of Fordlands into ghetto like motel emergency housing. The housing crisis means that transiency is increasing, and Fordlands children who are already high risk are at greater risk when they don't have a stable dwelling.

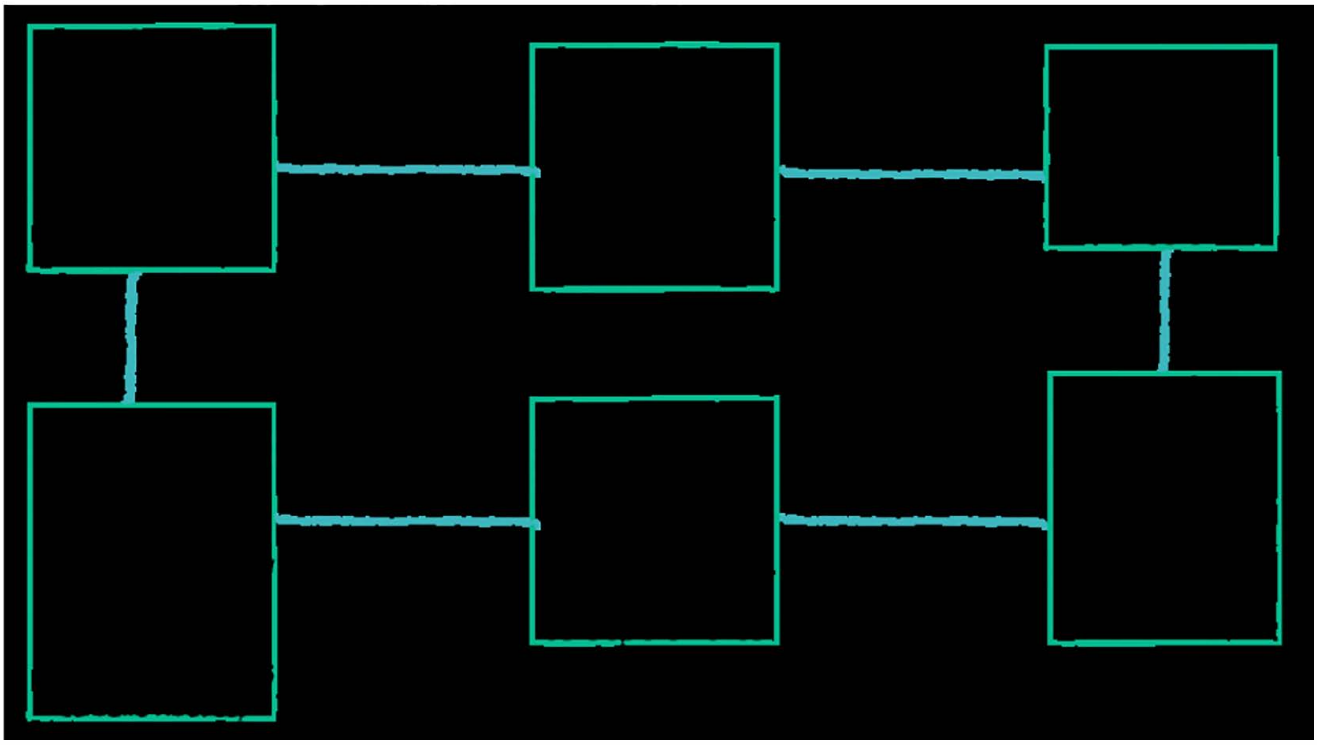
In response to the housing need and a community survey we undertook, our organisation has developed its own housing strategy 'Te Tawharau.' There are two main components to our service:

1. Housing Support: Supporting whanau one on one to access housing, tenancy support and healthy and warm homes.
2. Home Ownership: Developing permanent housing solutions and home ownership options for Fordlands residents.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
Long term Fordlands rental residents issued 90-day notices and being moved out of the area.	• Establish Fordlands Property Trust for buying land / leasing land to place Fordlands residents in housing. • KTTToF to own all investment properties for our tenants to work towards owning.
High investor activity and low home ownership • 30% of housing homeowners in Fordlands • 70% of homes owned by private investors & Kainga Ora.	Supported movement along the housing continuum for long term Fordlands residents to become homeowners.
Expensive and difficult subdivision process for investors.	Change/alter the council regulations and simplify the process to make it easier. Although this is not the ideal solution, we want to create more housing stock.
Development of cluster housing from Kainga Ora and other providers – placing tenants with complex needs close together with little to no support. This is creating an unsafe environment in Fordlands.	• Investigation and development of housing 'communities' • KTTToF to work CHPS & KO with strategic placement of tenants to create safe environments • KTTToF becoming a CHP • KTTToF and housing providers working together to develop wrap around social support

Since the establishment of 'Te Tawharau' 4 weeks ago, we have had 18 enrolments, with 5 clients being successful in obtaining private rentals. One of these clients were sleeping in a car, 2 were given 90 days notices and successfully obtained rentals before they became homeless, 1 was in emergency housing since November last year, and 1 was in an overcrowding situation. We placed two people in emergency housing due to substance and mental health issues. We are working with Kainga Ora and other housing providers to house people with a range of complex needs and provide wrap around services. We have identified that we need to become a Social Housing Provider and are working on becoming a registered CHP through the establishment of a new trust, the **Fordlands Property Trust (FPT).**

Proposed RLC & FPT Collaboration





References

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Submission completed on behalf of KTTToF by:



Ana Phillips
KTTToF Manager

MAHI 2021-2031 Long Term Plan Consultations

The Rotorua Branch of Forest and Bird have looked at this document.

In 2020 we made a detailed submission on the Rotorua Climate Action Plan. Many of the points we made in that, apply to this document.too.

This plan covers the period of the post-COVID 19 recovery with an opportunity to focus on Climate Change, Sustainability and the associated protection/restoration of our natural environment.

We support the Emissions Targets and support the implementation of national strategies such as Three Waters and NZ Bio-Diversity Strategy as fundamental to all planning in our region.

We do not have specific comments on the main issues presented in the Plan, but look forward to contributing to some of the "Future Conversations "mentioned in it.

Rotorua Branch, Forest and Bird
Sec. Margaret Dick
Rotorua.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz

25.4.21.

Rotorua Lakes Council
Long Term Plan Mahere Pae Tawhiti 2021 – 2031 Consultation
Submission of TIAKI TARAWERA (Tarawera Lakes Protection Society)

INTRODUCTION

Firstly, thank you, to the Mayor for confirming that the Council is dedicated to completing the place shaping projects committed to in the 2018 – 2028 Long-term Plan, which included the reticulation of wastewater for the Lake Tarawera community. That mahi is perhaps the most important facing the district – the protect and enhance the water quality of the, jewel in the crown, nationally significant Lake Tarawera.

Unfortunately, the reticulation of wastewater from the Tarawera lakeside community is only given a fleeting mention on page 24 of the Long-term Plan consultation document, and not even mentioned within the seven strategic infrastructure challenges of Rautaki Hangaroto. Apparently, a solution for Tarawera is to be constructed in year X-year, whatever that means or when that is likely to be!

We would like our community to thrive like the rest of Rotorua. Burdening us with an open-ended lump sum payment of well in excess of $30,000 for something that should really part of Council's own infrastructure budget, will see many in our community unable to even survive, let alone thrive!

Tatau tatau – let's do this together! - and let's do it sooner than later.

TARAWERA SEWERAGE SCHEME

We submit that the Council needs to increase its investment in capital infrastructure investment, of which sewerage is a component, by increasing its overall capital expenditure by a further $15,000,000 or 3% from $424,000,000 to $439,000,000.

The 2018 – 2028 Long-term Plan gave the impression that Council was proposing to spend $17,800,000 (now $23,000,000) on the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme. This was inaccurate and misleading since in reality Council is only committing, and reluctantly I might add, a pitiful 0.75 million dollars - only $1,500 per household for what could end up costing each Tarawera household upwards of $33,000 each.

Tiaki Tarawera submit that Council contributes the entire $23 million cost of the Tarawera Sewerage reticulation scheme, and that the scheme be commenced in 2021/2022 and not 2023/2024.

Council should give more cognisance and priority to this most significant project, to protect the water quality in the recognized nationally significant Lake Tarawera – "the jewel in Rotorua's crown". The wastewater system at Lake Tarawera should have been completed 10 years ago when Lake Okareka was reticulated.

It was only after that committee secured $6.5 million from central government's MFE freshwater fund that Council was forced to acknowledge, like central government has, that this is a serious issue requiring urgent attention.

Council is seeking a $2.7 million, possibly more by now, "development contribution" from Tarawera ratepayers to connect to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is grossly unjust and deceitful, especially when there is not yet even a development contribution policy for new development within the district (p.30). Note also that the quantum to be charged for such new development would be in the vicinity of $7,500 for each new property, which would contribute towards providing new roads, footpaths, wastewater, stormwater, water and open space. Note in this regard that the Tarawera settlement is not new, it has existed for over 50 years, yet we are being asked to each pay a development contribution in excess of $33.000 as well as an indirect development contribution of $6,136 – being the $2.7 million divided by 440 households.

The capacity generated by the Tarawera settlement connections was already factored into the amount of effluent to be received by the City treatment plant at the time the Lake Okareka scheme was introduced. There are connection points already available for the Tarawera pipeline to connect onto. Further, Tarawera ratepayers have over the years already contributed financially by way of rating to the city wastewater treatment facility.

Tiaki Tarawera strongly urge Council to waive the $2.7 million "development contribution" for the Tarawera Sewerage Reticulation Scheme thereby making the scheme a little more affordable for Tarawera ratepayers. This waiver is sought since Rotorua does not presently, and for many years now, has not had a development contribution policy. The levying of this charge is considered grossly unjust.

To add further insult to injury, and "salt into the wounds", Tarawera residents, are being required to pay the capital contribution to the wastewater reticulation scheme upfront without any option of adding the cost to their rates and spreading that cost over 25 years, as was the option afforded to all other lakeside and rural communities where wastewater reticulation schemes have been established. involved in the establishment of reticulated sewerage schemes.

Council has suggested a hardship provision, however, Tarawera residents should be entitled to retain their dignity without having to disclose their financial position to Council and the community. Many residents at Tarawera are not wealthy and resent the often-articulated assumption by Council that they are all "rich buggers" and can afford to pay whatever Council imposes on them – exorbitant rates included.

Council should contribute significantly, if not entirely, to the wastewater reticulation scheme since all the ratepayers of Rotorua will benefit from the possible improvement in water quality.

The only reason Council is not able to afford the debt on such an important project for all of Rotorua is that Council is not properly prioritising its spending. Council continues to spend on "feel good" projects rather than on important core infrastructure. Please note also that any "debt" carried for v25 years will not be a debt to ratepayers, but rather an amount held that would be paid off by the Tarawera property owners separately from their usual rated amount.

Tiaki Tarawera submit that, like all other lakeside and rural communities before us, that Council allows the capital contribution to be repaid over 25 years.

CONCLUSION

The Long-term Plan is characterised by a serious lack of vision. Council should be focussing its energy and resources on strengthening those attributes that make Rotorua special for residents and visitors alike. Rotorua is a city of many beautiful lakes, but none more beautiful or set within a recognised nationally significant landscape as the Tarawera Lakes – the seven lakes surrounding the iconic landmark that is Mount Tarawera.

This area deserves to be protected in perpetuity by having its status recognised by the United Nations as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Imagine what that status could achieve in terms of putting Rotorua on the international map and in drawing visitors to such a culturally, geologically, ecologically, and historically rich area that lies within a stone's throw of the

city of Rotorua - to be protected for future generations just as the late Environment Court Judge John Bollard required.

This outstanding natural landscape area warrants appropriate recognition and accordingly should be included for protection and enhancement in all future vision statements and planning documents for Rotorua such VISION 2030, SPATIAL PLAN, DISTRICT PLAN and this LONG-TERM PLAN.

For a comparatively small investment the rewards for the district could be huge both environmentally and financially, and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Fred Stevens President
TIAKI TARAWERA – Tarawera Lakes Protection Society

Friday 30th April 2021

Please find attached some documentation I would like tabled at the next RLC LTP Meeting coming up soon.

I have not attended the small community meetings out at the lake where I live because I didn't like the tone of the meetings BUT fellow Tarawera ratepayer and resident Owen Dawe and I have been working hard on understanding what the usual process for the RLC has been to install sewage reticulation for all the other Rotorua Lakes and Todd McLay explained to us this morning at a private meeting, that the fair and proper approach to the installation of OCET tanks attached to a sewage line should be the same as the arrangement made with the residents of the other lakes, which is that the RLC install an OCET grinder tank at each property, and pay for the reticulation infrastructure which the grinder tanks attach to, as well as service them and check them (just like at Lake Okereka he said) then we as resident ratepayers have a portion of the cost of the NEW sewage scheme installed by the RLC placed on our annual rates each year for years to come. (Council must provide the infrastructure under the Act of 2002 which outlines that local councils must provide new infrastructure for water and sewage)
As a Government Minister he was able to explain the acceptable and appropriate process for the installation of the new sewage scheme and he will explain that to you in his own submission which you will receive from him.
What ISN'T "usual" (he said) is for a local council to send a letter to ratepayers (which so many of us felt very frightened and threatened by), telling us we might be charged $33,000 per ratepayer "as a lump sum" and there would be "no exceptions" with a due date 3 and a half years away!
I almost fainted at the letterbox!

I have written many letters to the mayor and Stavros Michael (a "trail of emails" apparently) opposing the scheme if we have to pay for it as "a lump sum" and also voicing my concerns for disturbing the earth to instal the infrastructure, causing silt and flow to the lake and pollute the shoreline causing a mudbath instead of sandy bottom of the lake.
More recently I have become concerned about the stability of the infrastructure in the event of an earthquake, which we experience frequently between us, Makatiti Dome and the coast. We have had some sizable ones this year already. Damaged underground sewage pipes can go undetected for many years.
I have sought advice from a seismologist whom will provide me with data soon.
Todd said that the RLC have people to check the grinder pump tanks for us if we are ever concerned about them not working etc which is a positive. Apparently this is the norm for the neighbouring Lake Okereka properties.
Owen and I had no idea about ANY of this before we met with Todd this morning and certainly the small community group led by Fred Stevens didn't make any attempt to find out that we didn't have to pay for the scheme ourselves at al! What a waste of time those meetings were in my opinion.

At the February meeting of that small group, it was hoped that the NIWA specialists who tested the lake quality for us this year, would simply prove that septic tanks were to be eliminated because of increased nitrogen levels in our water caused by us as residents...only to discover its FARMERS...not us at all!
We don't even own a dishwasher or put fat or coffee etc down the sink we are so careful!

The "L Feather" document is now out of date and the water sampling may have been carried out in summer for example when bach owners with slumped tanks were here!
Well what would you expect!

The RECENT water quality findings (attached) are however very good and very encouraging.
We pat ourselves on the back as permanent residents!

Having met with Todd McLay this morning, it is clear that the same fair process of sewage reticulation for all lakes has to be the same, meaning that the RLC has to pay for the complete and entire project for the new infrastructure then we as ratepayers have our rates increased in the same way the other lakes have, in fairness.
Knowing we in fact DON'T have to pay a lump sum of $33,000 is a great relief.
Todd did say that if a person was rich enough to opt to do that by personal choice, it may be possible that the rates rise may not apply to them.
We still need clarity on this option.

In the future, can the RLC never send out such frightening letters to it's taxpayer, ratepayer residents again.
All the unnecessary talk about "red stickering" properties who would not pay up and "no exemptions" must never be repeated.
Some very eldery people out at our lake, new home buyers, retirees and just ordinary hard working kiwi's were both scared and offended to have received such an awful letter.
The council needs to check all its facts in future before frightening a community as we needlessly have been.
The truth revealed to Owen and I this morning is all the council needed to impart to us.
Same fair process as all the other lakes.

I have had locals come on to my property when I've been happily weeding and watering my flower garden, asking me to sign that dreaded form attached to the letter too!
This "letter" has divided a usually united community.
The council needs to remedy this by way of an apology in the next letter we receive letting us know there will be no lump sum payment required, the council provides the infrastructure and we will see a rates increase to cover costs over future years.
Only approximately 240 out of about 440 residents have signed agreement of the sewage scheme because of the cost!
Once you tell them that the infrastructure cost will be covered initially by the RLC then our rates, (like the other Rotorua lakes) you will probably find people are far more receptive to the idea and welcome the change.
We have always cared about the lake so any scheme which will further be provided by the council to continue protecting it is important to us.
Our homes will one day be our children's homes and their children's homes and so on. Family assets for future generations and a very special place to come to.

So to summarise, I agree with Todd McLay that the Lake Tarawera Sewage Scheme needs to be provided by the RLC at their expense (as new infrastructure and in fairness and equality with other Rotorua lakes) and I strongly disagree that the ratepayers should pay anything else towards the scheme than additions to their rates over many years.
I will definitely not be paying the RLC anything other than a rates increase towards this new scheme if it goes ahead.
It seems that about 200 other residents may be of the same mind!

And without 75% approval for the scheme, the "usual" and "fair" process is the only way forward for this project.

All the best with working out the rates increase and the work project itself.

Kind regards,

Gillian Beatrice Cook (M.Ed L)

SUBMISSION TO THE 2021-2031 RLC LONG TERM PLAN

Grahame Hall

In making this submission to the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan, I have reread all of the 247 pages of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plans as background. I have taken this action because of the serious concerns that I, and many other rate payers in our community have with the direction this Council is taking.

Council has achieved some good community outcomes over recent times, such as the upgrade of the popular and well used Long Mile Road, and the continuation of the attractive and much appreciated flower beds in the CBD.

However, there is much that rate payers and residents have reason to be very unhappy and extremely concerned about:

- The ongoing delays in repairing our much-loved Museum, Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa, while other projects forge ahead including big new unaffordable projects on the horizon

- the ever-increasing rates and debt which is about to get a whole lot worse

- Our roading in a mess

- Being dumped on with homeless and quarantine facilities

  …. and many others.

In the preparation of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, obviously under somebody's instructions, complete disregard has been given to the current economic and social climate that prevails in our community at present, which is alarming to say the least. The "business as usual approach" that has been taken is clearly "head in the sand" mentality.

While not suggesting Council should shut up shop, a far more realistic approach is called for in these uncharted times our district is facing. Progress can be made in our District without spending millions of dollars unnecessarily and without ramping up Council / rate payer debt to over $460 million.

The huge increase in Council spending and debt put forward in the LTP is in my opinion irresponsible, unaffordable and unsustainable in our current economic and social times or even looking further into the future. **One would have to ask the question of the experience in these matters of those responsible for it.**

In case the Mayor and Councilors need reminding:

- The Covid 19 effect in our community has seen our GDP experience the third largest drop in NZ

- More than 3000 people have reportedly lost their jobs in our community as a direct consequence of Covid 19 with a resulting loss of spending power.

- The use of Methamphetamine in our community is more than 50% higher than the New Zealand average, resulting in disruptive behavior on and around our city streets, in our schools and in health facilities

- Domestic violence and disputes are more than 80% higher in Rotorua than the New Zealand rate

- We have been dumped on with out of town homeless and had quarantine facilities established for Covid 19 in a higher proportion than any other city on a per capita basis.

I have to say unfortunately, I strongly agree with recent comments in the press by a respected local businessman Mr. Reg Hennessey who stated, "he has never seen Rotorua in such a sad state."

We have clearly got into this social and financial mess through a complete lack of experience at the helm of Council.
Also, some of the good Councilors are being forced to work in a fatally flawed portfolio system currently operated by Council which stifles the democratic process.

Along with the above issues, Council has embarked on large and extremely costly ($20m of ratepayer's money) pet projects such as the Lake front, which wasn't broken and didn't need fixing. Cleary. A complete make over was not needed. It should never have been started in today's economic and social climate as it inhibits the Council's financial ability to undertake other more important and essential work.

It is sad to see this term of Council go down in history as one of "Destruction and Debt."

The 2021-31 LTP would have been a good opportunity for our Council to "get back on track" and support the real needs in our community, compared to wants. However, unless dramatic changes are made by Council to the final LTP document, (which I must confess is extremely hard to imagine going on past experience with this council) we have lost this opportunity and once again been taken down a path of totally unneeded expenditure and debt.

I strongly contend in the 2021 – 2031 LTP that:

- apart from essential work on the outdoor dressing sheds, further redevelopment of the Aquatic Centre should be put on hold until all existing major projects are completed, especially the Museum and reassessment of Councils financial situation is undertaken.

- the draft economic development strategy should be reviewed and infrastructural expenditure increased to allow private enterprise to develop housing and take on other developments.

- **once again in case Council need reminding**, in the last term of Council, five priorities were set, with infrastructure being number five out of five. We are now paying and will continue to pay in the future a high price for that inexperienced decision.

- the suggested financial strategy needs to be urgently reviewed and some zero-base budgeting undertaken with a view to making the hard decisions and getting Council expenditure and debt back under control and to a more realistic and sustainable level.

- Poor financial management of Council is highlighted by the fact that the three out of five years, Council has not been able to balance the books without a large increase in borrowing.

-

  Looking back over recent year's Annual and LTP's, Council's forecasted expenditure and debt, increased in both on every occasion within a very short time frame,

  Consequently, I have no doubt the same thing will happen to the 2021-2031 LTP figures. So clearly under the current regime, we cannot trust the figures of this plan to remain in place very long without increasing.

Rates

We were told in 2015, a one off 7% increase in rates was needed to catch-up and get the Council's finances back on track. Rates were then shown on a graph in the then LTP to continue for the next few years with a 3% increase. The current LTP is now asking for a one-off 9% increase to catch-up and get Council's finances back under control.

If we continue with the current Council's policies and expenditure, rate payers will soon be asked once again for a huge one-off increase in their rates to catch-up.

Debt

The current Mayor prior to being elected last term, stated publicly on a number of occasions that the then debt of $165M was totally unsustainable. However once in office the debt has continued to escalate at an alarming rate to a proposed staggering $450M. UNBELIEVABLE

It is worth noting, 17 years ago, the Council / rate payer debt was at $42m !!!

The $450 million plus projected debt shows total out of control and irresponsible spending by Council of other people's hard-earned money. While it may be within the current law with recent changes to legislation to allow Councils to increase their debt ratio, **I believe it is well beyond our community's ability to maintain and repay**

For example, with a debt of $450M and estimated then 29,500 rate payers, (Council figures) **Rate payers are the only ones Council can serve a rate demand on**, will be in debt to Council to the tune of **$15, 254 each**. (This is over and above the $30,000 Lake Tarawera rate payers are being asked to pay for their sewerage and other who are currently paying).

It is accepted that while some residents do pay rates indirectly through rent, they are not legally liable for Council debt.

Interest rates on the above level of debt:
At 6%, will cost rate payers $27 million per year.
At 7%, $31.5 million per year
At 8%, $36 million per year.

In view of the above submission, I genuinely believe it would be totally irresponsible to proceed with the 2021-31 LTP in its current form. A review and a more sustainable business plan and priorities are desperately needed to be put in place in this plan.

While the proposed debt level may be legal with the current legislative changes made by Government to allow local government to increase their debt levels, the suggested ultimate debt is definitely unaffordable and unsustainable in our Rotorua community.

It is just a very sad fact, that with the unfortunate and unnecessary expenditure and debt commitments being made in this draft LTP, most if not all of the present incumbents will not be there in future years to be held accountable.

Should Council decide to continue with the current LTP without major changes and with the unacceptable proposed increase in debt levels, it will put a severe stranglehold on at least the next two elected Councils.

I trust all elected councillors make their views on the final LTP know publicly in order for the voters to decide who to support in 18 months' time.

I apologies for my direct comments should it be necessary, but obviously to me and many other rate payers who have spoken to me, we all have serious concerns and they don't seem to get heard.

I am happy to provide further comment and factual information on this submission should it be required.

Grahame Hall QSO JP

Grey Power Rotorua

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SUBMISSION TO ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN APRIL 2021

1. INTRODUCTION

Grey Power is an advocacy organisation with the aim of representing the interests of the older age group. We believe that it is essential that their interests be specifically recognised in forward planning.

2. THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

For several reasons, we find it quite difficult to respond to the consultation document:

- We are aware that the consultation document is the result of many hours of effort by councillors and staff in non-public workshops. While we appreciate the effort involved, we do find ourselves at a disadvantage without being aware of all the information, background and debate that has led to the current document.
- We note that the consultation document and the survey response form on your website encourages respondents to focus on just four chosen issues. Given the overall importance of the long term plan, we do not find this satisfactory.
- On several key issues, you ask respondents to select one of multiple choices. We do not find this satisfactory, as these are complex issues with many nuances that cannot be addressed in a simple multiple choice.

Rather than respond to your online questionnaire, we have chosen to provide this written submission. We would be glad of an opportunity to talk about it.

3. A KEY UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE

A key issue is that the elderly age group will becoming an increasingly high proportion of Rotorua's population within the timescale of this long term plan. It becomes increasingly important that their interests are specifically recognised and provided for. We would urge that, in any proposed policy, programme or project, consideration of the impacts and consequences for the elderly is an automatic and key component of the planning process. As a mechanism to achieve this, we recommend that Council considers the creation of a specific role within the council and/or the creation of an effective means of early consultation with organisations representing the elderly as projects and programmes are developed.

This LTP consultation process is itself an example where the needs of the elderly should have been considered at the planning stage. Many older people have problems driving or attending events after dark. We would have recommended that at least one of the consultation sessions occurred during the day at a location easily accessible by public transport.

(The CBD parking system is another example where early consideration of the needs of the elderly might have avoided subsequent problems. Many elderly simply cannot use the fiddly machine keyboards or the phone app because of tremor. We are aware of older people who are completely avoiding the CBD for this reason.)

Some more specific comments follow.

4. HOMES AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

We of course support moves to free up land for housing to meet growing needs. We note that you refer to *"houses do not meet the needs of our people".* We feel that particular attention needs to be paid to the needs of the growing older generation.

We see a gap in the market for elderly people seeking suitable modern accommodation for their post-retirement phase of life. In many private subdivisions, sections are designed for large family homes. The ability to build compact accommodation on small low maintenance properties is often prevented by covenants imposed by the developers. For older people wanting a modern warm but compact home, often the only option is to move to a retirement village. This is not to everybody's liking. We urge that for future housing development projects, whether private or public, Council requires that suitable provision is made to meet these needs.

We note the proposals to build "community service hubs" in some locations. Their function is not described. We trust that they will be designed to incorporate the special needs of the older population.

6. COUNCIL'S ROLE IN LAND DEVELOPMENT

We firmly believe that Council needs to have an active role in land development for housing. Private developments are driven by commercial considerations and often constrained by developer covenants. Consequently, they are often beyond the means of first home buyers or do not meet the needs of the elderly and other groups. Development by Council provides the opportunity for a wide range of living styles. For example, these might include "pepper-potting" of small properties, well-designed enclaves of suitable dwellings, or well-designed terrace houses in quiet cul-de-sacs.

Development by Council would also offer the opportunity to offer other options that may be welcomed by some older people, such as secure lifetime leases of a range of purpose-built dwellings.

These proposals would complement the existing Council's pensioner housing units facility and the rates rebate scheme.

7. AQUATIC CENTRE

We agree that the Aquatic Center is an important community facility, and we certainly support the need to encourage and help our young people to learn to swim and to enjoy this healthy activity. However, we are also conscious that low-impact water-based activities are very beneficial for older people for therapeutic reasons and for relaxation. We note that most of the new facilities proposed under option 3 are very oriented to the young. We are concerned that the centre could become less attractive for older people. We urge that in redeveloping the centre, careful consideration is given to the needs of elderly so that it remains an attractive and peaceful facility for them.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

We support any moves that will give older people a greater sense of security and safety.

9. INFRASTRUCTURE

We note that in the commentary on infrastructure and the proposed capital infrastructure investment proposals, there is no specific mention of footpaths. We trust that adequate attention will be given to new footpaths and the maintenance of existing paths as more detailed planning is done. Footpaths become increasingly important to the elderly if and when they can no longer drive. The condition of many existing footpaths and street crossings is far from satisfactory for those unsteady on their feet or using walkers or mobility scooters.

Please also refer to our earlier submission on Open Spaces.

10. FUNDING DELIVERY AND RATES

The proposed heavy rate increase in 2022 is obviously a concern for older people on fixed incomes. Also, while increases in the following years are smaller in percentage terms, they are of course cumulative. A rough calculation suggests that rates will rise by more than 50% over the 10 year period. It seems unlikely that superannuation will increase by a similar proportion, so the burden on superannuitants will increase.

Superannuitants continuing to live in the long-time family home can find themselves “asset-rich but cash-poor.” Consequently, rates can be a real burden. Anything that can be done to reduce that burden would be good.

The consultation document discusses development contributions and fees and charges. In general, elderly superannuitants are unlikely to be undertaking developments that incur contributions, or doing activities that incur large fees and charges, such as major building consents and resource consents. We therefore strongly favour the option of acquiring as much revenue as possible on a user pays basis through development contributions and fees and charges.

11. CONCLUSION

As noted previously, we find it difficult with the limited information provided to comment in detail. However, because this is a long term plan, we believe that acceptance of underlying principles to provide guidance over the coming years is more important than current detail.

As an advocate for the growing older community, we reiterate our firm belief that Council must have effective processes in place to consider their needs from the outset of any proposed policy, programme or project. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this.

SUBMISSION	**ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2021**
From	**HURUNGA TE RANGI MARAE TRUST**
DATE	**30 April 2021**
CONTACT	**Selwyn Insley** **Selwyn.Insley@gmail.com** **027 6121240**
SUBMISSION	We have serious concerns about the pump station in Ngapuna (see the wastewater infrastructure section on p 24). This has suffered significant failure recently. We need urgent action, particularly for the residents of Ngapuna who live with the stench of wastewater and the noise and disruption of sleep when the pump station breaks down. This is part of the bigger problem of the impact on the health and wellbeing of our people who have suffered sore eyes, emphysema and respiratory problems from the impact of Council approved activities in our papakainga. We need direct and meaningful discussions with Council about the seven strategic district infrastructure challenges on page 20. These are urgent, critical challenges for our people. We want to be involved in the decision-making. We seek alignment with the principles of the Three Waters Strategy, particularly regarding public health and iwi partnership (p23). Our long-term priority is the removal of the pump station and the waste water treatment plant as well as the associated pipes and infrastructure from their current locations in and around Ngapuna. The existing infrastructure does not serve our communities, as shown with the breakdown of the Ngapuna pump station. How will it cope with the added pressure of new housing (p6) and climate change (p18)? On page 21 of the document there is a note that "*Across 2021-2031 we will invest $424 million into core infrastructure to renew and upgrade our assets to meet current demand and future growth expectations." What are the specific intentions for the infrastructure in Ngapuna? Furthermore, we want to be involved in the investigation of future land use options around Vaughan's Rd (purple areas on the map on p6). The impact of industrial land uses in Ngapuna has had severe negative impacts on our whanau for generations

Submission by Ian McLean on the RLC LTP

1. I respectfully make this personal submission on the Rotorua Lakes Council LTP.
2. The submission deals only with the funding of and charging for Lake Tarawera sewerage.
3. A letter from the council to ratepayers at Lake Tarawera sets out the basis for charging for the proposed sewerage scheme. It also states that 75% of ratepayers need to agree before the scheme will proceed. Presumably these terms are included in the draft LTP now open for submissions.

Summary

4. I respectfully submit that:
   a) The Council should accept the overwhelming majority of responses in favour of the sewerage works scheme as an indication of strong support, and proceed with the scheme.
   b) The Council should proceed with drawing up plans for the sewerage works scheme forthwith.
   c) The Council should investigate ways by which it can offer a spreading over time of each ratepayers' share of capital cost for all ratepayers that require it, and implement the best way of spreading such cost.

Background

5. Over the years the Council has done great work and spent large sums of money to help save the Rotorua Lakes from degradation. The charging policies have continued in generally similar form for over 15 years. These policies have permitted ratepayers to spread their share of the capital cost over 25 years, paying interest on outstanding sums.
6. Lake Tarawera is the last of the lake sewerage schemes to be implemented, apart from the northern bays of Lake Rotoehu. Because Tarawera is not one of the Deed Lakes, outside funding is less than for most other lakes. Despite that, both RLC BOPRC and Central government have offered to contribute funding. But the individual ratepayers' contribution is large as compared with other lakes' schemes.
7. Lake Tarawera is the lowest and final lake in a system of eight Lakes. Indicators of water quality show it is both declining and at risk of further deterioration.
8. The larger Lake Tarawera catchment is adversely affected by considerable amounts of geothermal inputs. This means that action is needed on each of the other sources of nutrients:
   i. septic tank effluent;
   ii. erosion under indigenous forest caused by pest animals;
   iii. erosion under traditional forestry management, especially harvesting:
   iv. nutrient run-off from farms (which is already being significantly dealt with in the contributing Lake Rerewhakaaitu catchment).
9. Great work has been done by the Council, BOPRC, Iwi and the rest of the community in reaching agreement on a sewerage scheme.
10. If the sewerage scheme does not proceed now, outside funding is at risk.

11. The community, led by the Tarawera Ratepayers Association have done great work to promote to the protection of Lake Tarawera, and the establishment of a sewerage scheme.

The risk

12. If the funding and charging arrangements as set out in the Council's letter to ratepayers are endorsed in the final LTP, Lake Tarawera is at risk.
13. Not enough ratepayers are likely to be able to afford to pay the $33,000 upfront in order to reach a 75% agreement. Under the arrangements proposed in that letter, this would mean no sewerage scheme.
14. OSET is not a satisfactory alternative because OSET systems cannot fit on about a third of the Tarawera properties. This is because of contour, area of the section, or existing structures.
15. In any case, ratepayers face the same cost problem with OSET as with the proposed RLC funding and charging arrangements and many would be unable to fund individual OSET systems.

Proposed solution

16. Several methods of spreading the ratepayers' individual cost look feasible. My recommendation is that the Council investigate these and adopt the one which best suits its overall purposes, while proceeding with the scheme.

Option A

17. Fund the ratepayers' contributions through an SPV as was done with the Milldale Project near Silverdale. Such an SPV could be a useful vehicle for the Council in providing funding of ratepayers' or developers' contributions for other service extensions or new developments. The objective would be to leverage off the Milldale arrangement and legal agreements to minimise establishment cost.

Option B

18. Build on the excellent work done by the Steering Committee and Ratepayers Association in obtaining trading banks' support. This option would mean that Council funding would only be provided where bank support was not available. At the same time investigate other means of focusing Council funding to ratepayers who most need it. An example is to make the balance of any ratepayer's debt repayable as a capital sum if the property is sold.

Option C

19. Examine whether the changes in circumstances since the policy in Council letter was determined are such that Council is now able to fund ratepayer's individual capital sums within its overall strategies. The two changes that have taken place are:
    i. The support by trading banks for funding ratepayers' contributions which is likely to reduce the call on Council without any further action; and
    ii. This decision by the Local Government Funding Agency which gives RLC greater headroom than the 250% debt/revenue in the LTP:

"In the years to June 2021 and 2022, authorities with credit ratings of 'A' or higher will be able to take out debt three times (300%) the value of their revenue. Previously this net debt to revenue ratio sat at 250%. From 2023, the cap will taper back to 280% by 2026."
RLC now sits comfortably below these limits at 238%.

Discussion of options

20. These options differ from each other in cost of administration, effect on Council's debt ratio and future opportunities opened up. They are listed below in order of ease of implementation.
21. **Option C** (just spread the capital charge for those who seek it) would be the cheapest to administer. However it would increase Council debt by about $10m above the proposed funding and charging arrangements as set out in the Council's letter. It also opens no framework to assist in funding future projects.
22. **Option B** (tighten the eligibility for spreading ratepayer's contributions) would involve slightly more administrative cost, but would impact somewhat less on the level of Council debt than Option C. Again it offers no framework to assist in funding future projects.
23. **Option A** (an SPV along the lines of Milldale) would not increase Council debt above the existing proposal, but administration of it would be more costly than the existing proposal. It would offer the opportunity to draw on outside finance for future infrastructure development without impact on Council debt ratios.

Conclusion

24. Adopting any of the options to spread the ratepayers' individual cost in this submission should allow RLC to stay within its overall objectives. Any of them should allow the sewerage scheme at Lake Tarawera to go ahead and hence help save Lake Tarawera from degradation.

Development and evaluation of proposals

25. I would be happy if required to assist in the development and evaluation of these options without cost to the Council.



Ian McLean **28 April 2021**

NAME of Lake Tarawera Resident: Jennifer Couldrey and Mark Cullen

29 April 2021

Stavros Michael
GM Infrastructure
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua 3046

Dear Mr Michael

Re: Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme

Thank you for your letter received 20th April (Doc No: RDC 1121313) confirming Rotorua Lakes Council's (RLC) agreement to the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme comprising of the installation of Low Pressure Grinder Pumps (LPGP) onto each Tarawera property and a mains pipeline connecting the new Tarawera network to the main city treatment plant via the Okareka wastewater pump station.

We live at 19E Te Mu Road, Lake Tarawera. We are absolutely committed to protecting the ecological and environmental health of the precious taonga that are the Rotorua Lakes. We fully support reticulation as being the best instant remedy for direct human environmental impact on Lake Tarawera.

However, we are vehemently against both the open-ended cost that ratepayers would be expected to pay for the scheme and the lack of options in regard to fair and equitable (with other ratepayers in the Rotorua Lakes Catchment) payment over time.

We feel that there must be a limit to potential cost to ratepayers rather than the "blank cheque" approach that RLC is asking of us currently.

Having installed an AWTS+NR approved by BOPRC just over 12 months ago, we also believe we are personally being unfairly penalised by being required to join the reticulation scheme and contribute funds as requested on top of the considerable outlay for a compliant system.

We also wonder how the Rotorua Lakes Council can, in all fairness, calculate the cost of the scheme based on 446 actual HUEs plus a further 104 projected HUEs (total 550 HUEs); then divide the balance after funding is taken into account by only 446 HUEs. We have been led to believe that RLC will require future developers to pay the lump sum payment as they join the scheme; despite the fact that the 446 current ratepayers have already covered it.

Please take this as a resounding NO to the current proposal from RLC.

Yours faithfully

Signed:.....

Name:.....

[redacted]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Of the Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme

This signed acknowledgement of the proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme is provided subject to and strictly on the basis of the following:

1. I agree, in principle, that the proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation system is an acceptable environmentally appropriate system for managing wastewater at Lake Tarawera and that the Rotorua Lakes Council should proceed with urgency, to avoid further cost creep, assuring a transparent, fair and well communicated process to the Tarawera community.
2. I agree to financially contribute a **capped amount of $20,000** towards the net capital cost of the proposed Lake Tarawera Low Pressure Grinder Pump sewerage reticulation system (reticulated to the Rotorua wastewater treatment plant, via the public road network corridors to the existing Okareka pumping station), this being a fair and equitable comparison to that paid by other Rotorua Lake District communities (taking into account inflation), in particular Lake Okareka.
3. I require the same fair and equitable payment option of that capital contribution, by way of an adjustment to my annual or quarterly rates demand over a 25-year period, as offered to other Rotorua Lake District communities, in particular Lake Okareka.

Name: ……..

Signed: …….

Date: ……

Contact Details

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]…….

Contact Number:… [redacted] ……

Sandy Clarke
On Behalf of Te Mu Road, Lake Tarawera Residents

15 March 2021

Stavros Michael
GM Infrastructure
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua 3046

Dear Mr Michael

Re: Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme

Thank you for your letter dated 3 February (Doc No: RDC 1094476) confirming Rotorua Lakes Council's (RLC) agreement to the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme comprising of the installation of Low Pressure Grinder Pumps (LPGP) onto each Tarawera property and a mains pipeline connecting the new Tarawera network to the main city treatment plant via the Okareka wastewater pump station.

Te Mu Road property owners believe the LPGP system is an acceptable environmentally sustainable option to remotely dispose of our wastewater. However, we reject claims that our wastewater has any significant detrimental effect on the water quality of Lake Tarawera. Our proximity to the lake makes this extremely unlikely and we challenge you to provide the scientific justification for including us in the scheme catchment.

That said, as a responsible Tarawera resident, we acknowledge that minimising the possibility of our wastewater entering the lake is morally the right thing to do and in principle we support this objective. However, if we are legally compelled to connect and financially contribute to this scheme, we do not expect to be treated any differently to those in other Rotorua Lake District communities, that have been required by RLC, to install the same system.

The amount of **$33,000 (and probably more) lump sum payment** expected of us, as outlined in your letter and acknowledgement form, is discriminatory. It is more than double that required of those connected to the Lake Okareka and Rotoiti schemes. Moreover, longer-term payment options incorporated into annual rate payments are not being offered as they were to all other district scheme participants. Your proposal is both unreasonable and unfair and could cause possible hardship.

You state in your letter that Lake Tarawera is a valued taonga for Iwi and the whole community and that it is important to maintain the bathing water quality of the lake. So, given that the lake is enjoyed by the entire district and in fact the greater country, and is one of New Zealand's jewels for tourism, shouldn't the financial burden to improve the water quality be shared by the entire district's rate payers and central Government ministries.

Rather than requiring Tarawera property owners to foot 100% of the scheme costs we propose that our contributions be capped at **$20,000** (which we note is higher than both the Rotoiti scheme at $14,500 and the Okareka scheme at $14,000, adjusted for inflation using the December 2020 CPI index of 1,059 vs March 2007 of 823.8, which would calculate to **$17,997**). We believe the balance of the scheme's costs should be met by the wider Rotorua district and other stakeholders. To achieve this, we challenge RLC and BOPRC to source or provide funding to reduce the unreasonable financial expectation of Tarawera property owners.

As you will appreciate, expecting us to sign your acknowledgment form attached to your letter, based on the very open-ended costs and unsubstantiated facts and figures provided, is not an acceptable proposition.

Instead, please accept this letter as confirmation of our support, in principle, for RLC to urgently progress an acceptable sewerage solution in the Lake Tarawera catchment, to avoid further cost creep, subject to and strictly on the basis of our proposal outlined above. Te Mu Road residents will be sending you directly their individually signed acknowledgment forms in the Acknowledgment form format attached.

We also note that RLC has been liaising with the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA), however Te Mu Road residents would welcome more direct communication to discuss the following concerns:

- Will the cost of the scheme include deactivating existing septic tanks and remediating the affected area?
- Will there be any compensation for those Te Mu Road residents who have recently incurred significant cost to install OSET systems?
- Will the system require a dependable water supply? If so, where will the water be sourced from and dependent on this, will there be any ongoing cost? Many of us are on tank water which must be carefully consumed to sustain extended dry periods.
- Does the prospect of overflowing grinder chambers pose a health & safety or environmental risk to residents and/or the lake?
- What is the contingency plan should the system become damaged due to an earthquake?
- Given the significant civil engineering works involved to accommodate the sewer main, at significant cost, has RLC considered the installation of reticulated water at the same time to avoid unnecessary future environmental impact and cost? If not, please explain.
- For the same reason as the point above, has Chorus been approached to take the opportunity to utilise the sewer trench or thrusting to install fibre and contribute to the civil engineering costs, thereby reducing the overall scheme costs. If not, please explain?

Te Mu Road residents would like the opportunity to meet with you in person at a convenient time, in the near future, to discuss the above concerns. Please could you contact me directly to propose a convenient time. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your positive response by return.

Yours faithfully

Sandy Clarke
On behalf of the **Te Mu Road, Lake Tarawera Residents**

CC:

Geoff Williams, Rotorua Lakes Council, CEO Geoff.williams@rotorualc.nz Mayor Steve Chadwick steve.chadwick@rotorualc.nz Rotorua Lakes Councillors: Dave.Donaldson@rotorualc.nz Fisher.Wang@rotorualc.nz Mercia.Yates@rotorualc.nz Merepeka.Raukawa-Tait@rotorualc.nz peter.bentley@rotorualc.nz Raj.Kumar@rotorualc.nz Reynold.Macpherson@rotorualc.nz Sandra.KaiFong@rotorualc.nz Tania.Tapsell@rotorualc.nz Trevor.Maxwell@rotorualc.nz	BOP Regional Councillors: kevin.winters@boprc.govt.nz lyall.thurston@boprc.govt.nz matemoana.mcdonald@boprc.govt.nz Toi.Iti@boprc.govt.nz TeTaru.White@boprc.govt.nz doug.leeder@boprc.govt.nz bill.clark@boprc.govt.nz jane.nees@boprc.govt.nz norm.bruning@boprc.govt.nz Stacey.Rose@boprc.govt.nz stuart.crosby@boprc.govt.nz andrew.vondadelszen@boprc.govt.nz paula.thompson@boprc.govt.nz david.love@boprc.govt.nz

Hon Todd McLay - todd.mcclay@national.org.nz
Tamati Coffey, List Member, Labour Party - Tamati.Coffey@parliament.govt.nz
Rawiri Waititi, Member for Waiariki, Māori Party - rawiri.waititi@parliament.govt.nz
Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Local Government - nanaia.mahuta@parliament.govt.nz
David Parker, Minister of Environment - david.parker@parliament.govt.nz
Dr David Clarke, Minister of Health - david.clark@parliament.govt.nz

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Of the Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme

This signed acknowledgement of the proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme is provided subject to and strictly on the basis of the following:

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3. I require the same fair and equitable payment option of that capital contribution, by way of an adjustment to my annual or quarterly rates demand over a 25-year period, as offered to other Rotorua Lake District communities, in particular Lake Okareka.

Name: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Contact Details

Physical Address:.....

Postal Address:.....

Email:.....

Contact Number:.....

Signed: A x Rt ..... Deidre a Robertson.

Name: ARNOLD ROBERTSON ..... DEIDRE ROBERTSON

Date: 16/3/2021 ..... 16/03/2021

Signed: S J. Clarke .....

Name: Sandy Clarke .....

Date: 16/3/21 .....

[redacted]

Signed: ASheffield ..... M Sheffield

Name: Andrea Sheffield ..... MERLIN SHEFFIELD

Date: 16.3.21 16-3-21

Signed: .....

Name: L W Goddon .....

Date: 16/3/2021 .....

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u Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed: .....

Name: STEVE GATENBY .....

Date: 16/03/2021 .....

Signed: Davidge .....

Name: LYN DAVIDGE .....

Date: 16/03/21 .....

Signed: .....

Name: Judi Rice - Peter Rice

Date: 15/3/21

[redacted]

Signed: .....

Name: Bevan Dunseath, Angela Dunseath

Date: 15/3/2021

Signed: .....

Name: ~~Angela Dunseath~~

Date: ~~15/3/2021~~

Signed: .....

Name: Sandy Corbett

Date: 16/3/2021

Signed: .....

Name: Carl Hurford & Kayla Manssen

Date: 21/3/21 21/3/21

Signed: See Attached

Name: .....

Date: .....

Signed:.....

Name: JOSHUA & ALDELLE MORGAN

Date: 16/3/21

[redacted]

Signed:.....

Name: GLENN & CAROLINE ORSELL.

Date: 15/3/21

[redacted]

Signed:.....

Name: Kendall + Sheryl Russ

Date: 15/3/2021

Signed:.....

Name: NORAH LEATHERLAND

Date: 15/3/21

[redacted]

Signed:.....

Name: JENNIFER COULDREY

Date: 18.3.21

Please refer to my individual letter under separate cover.

[redacted]

Signed:.....

Name: JOHN & DENISE CARLYON

Date: 15/03/21

Signed: See Attached

Name:

Date:

Signed: See Attached

Name:

Date:

Signed:

Name: NORMAN DONALD

Date: 16/3/21

[redacted]

Signed:

Name: Jason Bennett

Date: 16/3/21

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:

Name:

Date:

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:

Name:

Date:

Signed: 

Name: Clark Dury, Director, Anglers Cottage Limited

Date: 25th February 2021

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

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Date:.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....

[redacted]

Signed: 

Name:.....BARRY RODNEY GROUBY .....

Date:.....22/02/2021.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

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Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

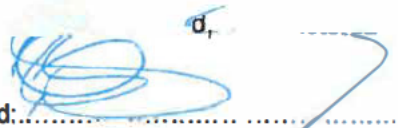
Date:.....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....

Signed: 

Name: Blair Gourley

Date: 25 03 2021

.... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:.. ....

Name:.....

Date:... ....

..... Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

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Date:.... ....

..... . Te Mu Road, RD5, Rotorua

Signed:... ....

Name:.....

Date:.. ....

30 April 2021

From:
Len Watson

Submission on Rotorua District Council's Draft 10 Year Plan ("Plan") - 2021 to 2031

1. I have made a number of submissions in the past on the likes of Council 10 year and annual plans. After doing so I have been left with the view that the exercise is a total waste of time, given my belief that Council has already decided what it wants to do, and, in the knowledge that the public is generally apathetic about such matters, it simply proceeds with its plans.

2. In this regard, I note the quotation on page 28 of the Plan –

> *"There are two rules for being successful:*
> *1. Figure out exactly what you want to do, and*
> *2. Do it"!*

The quote begs the question about who the "you" is (my view, in a Council context, is that it refers to political factions within Council, aided and abetted by Council officers). As such, the quote smack of arrogance! Council is never going to receive any substantial view about what the collective citizenry of Rotorua want and I am left with the impression (as alluded to in the rest of this submission) that the Plan and all of its hugely significant financial consequence will simply proceed without due recognition of the impact on ratepayers of the future.

The quote in itself might have relevance when the person/s to whom it applies has financial skin in the game and can appreciate that there is significant personal capital at risk in making any particular decision. This does not apply to councils. Indeed, it is recognised, as set out on page 34 of the Plan, that:

> *"Unlike residential and business borrowing, which is secured against assets, Council's borrowings are secured against its revenue, in particular its ability to rate.*

So, in setting out the contents of the Plan, Council's assessment of the financial impact on ratepayers is limited, given that most ratepayers will not react in any way to the proposals of Council. I believe this to be a somewhat irresponsible approach to the assessment of financial risk.

3. Despite this view, I have addressed myself in this submission to what I consider to be the more questionable parts of the Plan, looking more, as I usually do, at the big picture (especially from a financial perspective). I have not commented on many aspects of the published Plan document, not because I agree with them, but more because to do so would make this submission considerably longer than it is already.

Purpose of Local Government

4. Central Government recently changed the purpose of local government as set out in s 10 of the Local Government Act (LGA). It returns the purpose to what was set out prior to the change that was made in 2012. The current purpose is now:

   (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
   (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

   compared with the purpose that it replaced:

   (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; *and*
   (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way the is most cost-effective for households and business

5. Most people I speak to consider that the real purpose of councils is to do what is set out in the recently replaced purpose provision given that the now current purpose (the so-called 4 well-beings) gives licence to councils to do anything that they wished to do. The reality since the earlier 2012 change is that councils have by and large stuck with the earlier 4 well-being principles, knowing that they were unlikely to be taken to task when they deviated from the 2012 established purpose. I tested this matter a few years ago with the Audit Office but was advised that they were not at all interested in ensuring that Council complied with the then law (with respect to its legislated purpose).

6. Applying the 4 well-being principles is a direct reason why we, the citizens of Rotorua, are now confronted with a 10 year plan that creates a huge increase in Council debt and an increasing level of rates that is vastly beyond what has been charged in the past.

Debt

7. In my submissions on the 2018 to 2028 10 year plan, I commented, somewhat negatively, on the then proposed increase in debt (rising as it did from $165m in 2018 to the proposed $241m in 2028). I struggle to apply suitable words to the increase in the current plan (from $277m in 2021 to $432m in 2031)!

8. The position is made worse when one considers the projected debt position set out in the Plan and to recognise just how far out those projections were when compared with the current actual level and the amounts set out in the earlier 2018-2028 10 year plan for the same years, as set out following:

	2018-2028 Plan	2021-2031 Plan
2021	$245m	$277m
2022	$258m	$340m
2023	$270m	$387m
2024	$269m	$407m
2025	$265m	$421m
2026	$259m	$431m
2027	$252m	$430m
2028	$241m	$432m

Thus, 2028 was projected to have a debt of $259m in the 2018-2028 10 year plan, whereas in the current Plan, that 2028 debt is projected to be $432m!

I might add that there were similar changes in the earlier 2015-2025 10 year plan where there was an update of the projected debt amounts for the same years as set out in the 2018-2028 plan. Therefore, if past performance is anything to go by, we, as ratepayers, can have no confidence that the current 2028 debt level projection of $432m will be achieved (and based on past performance, this debt could well escalate to something like $750m)!

Debt to Income Ratio

9. In 2018, Council had a debt level maximum set to be 175% of its annual income. The 2018-2028 Plan increased this, without justification, to 225%. The current Plan has this ratio increasing to 250%. At the time of establishing each of these levels, Council commented that the levels were considered "prudent". I have no basis for assessing the justification of the current 250% but, like the debt position, Council is most likely in the future to increase this 250% in order to justify the actual level of debt that is likely to arise as the end of the plan period approaches. The use of this ratio is therefore little more than a debt justification "tool"; if there is a need to increase the debt, simply increase the ratio to a new "prudent" level.

10. I comment in this submission on the drivers that create this proposed debt level and with it, suggest that it is time that Council starts making choices between options, rather than trying to do all in the mistaken belief that this is what the general citizenry want, regardless of financial consequences.

Rates

11. Councils throughout the country are planning significant rates increases, increases that are well beyond the normal cost of living increases than we all endure (as measured by the CPI produced by Statistics NZ). Councils proclaim that their rates of inflation is somewhat different (and higher) than what the rest of us experience and I continue to not understand just why this is the case.

12. It is interesting to consider the impact of this position, over time, on the body of ratepayers when it comes to understanding the impact on the available financial resources of ratepayers. The following table sets out a brief historical period comparative of Council inflation compared with the CPI and the compounding effect of the increases:

	RDC Actual Revenue Incr.	Compound Increase	CPI	Compound Increase
2015	2.8%	2.8%	0.4%	0.4%
2016	9.3%	12.4%	0.4%	0.8%
2017	2.5%	15.2%	1.7%	2.5%
2018	4.6%	20.5%	1.5%	4.0%
2019	6.8%	28.7%	1.7%	5.8%
2020	5.6%	35.9%	1.5%	7.4%
Over 6 yrs	**31.6%**	**35.9%**	**7.2%**	**7.4%**

Thus, between the years 2014 and 2020, Council revenues increased by a compounded total of 35.9% compared with the compounded actual CPI increase of 7.4% for the same period.

13. A similar comparison can be made of rates increases as proposed in the current Plan, with Treasury's prediction of CPI for the same period:

	Proposed Incr. 2021-2031	Compound Increase	Treasury CPI Forecast	Compound Increase
2022	9.15%	9.15%	1.1%	1.1%
2023	5.23%	14.90%	1.4%	2.5%
2024	4.21%	19.70%	1.8%	4.3%
2025	4.85%	25.50%	2.2%	6.6%
2026	3.47%	29.90%	2.0%	8.7%
2027	1.85%	32.30%	2.0%	10.9%
2028	2.95%	36.20%	2.0%	13.1%
2029	4.56%	42.40%	2.0%	15.4%
2030	4.80%	49.20%	2.0%	17.7%
2031	2.48%	52.90%	2.0%	20.1%
Over 10 yrs	**43.55%**	**52.90%**	**18.5%**	**20.1%**

Thus, at the end of the 10 year period, Council revenues are proposed to increase by a compounded total of 52.90% compared with Treasury's compounded CPI assessment of 20.1% for the same period.

14. At the time that capital rating was being considered by Council, I made submissions opposing the proposal. Some of the reasons for my opposition to the change still exist today especially with respect to the perception that those who live in, or work from, higher valued properties, are more able to afford higher rates (and as a consequence, they are paying their fair share of the rates collect). Many relatively higher valued properties are owned, and resided in, by our elderly ratepayers whose income, in these times of dealing with Covid 19, has been devastated (in terms of the rate of interest that they earn from investments with banks). The proposed rates increase will severely impact on many ratepayers, especially the elderly.

15. Set out among the proposal for the changes to the structure of rates, is one that suggests a reduction of the UAGC charge from $475 to $425, to "*assist with the affordability of rates*". I am of the view that all ratepayers should contribute more or less equally to the rates collect (on the assumption that rates are a charge for services, defined in its widest sense) and not a tax (given

that in New Zealand, personal taxes are applied to income and councils have no idea of the levels of income of its individual ratepayers). I accept however that some see otherwise and accept that there should be some form of ability to pay to be incorporated into the imposition of rates (albeit that capital values are used as an extremely crude proxy of affordability). Having said that, if, as Council suggests in the Plan, the average residential rate is $2,778, the current level of UAGC is but 17% of that average. Accordingly, I see no need to change the level of UACG as proposed. To do so will do little more than tinker around with the system in the hope of fooling ratepayers to believe that the proposed overall increase in rates is going to impact more on others rather than on themselves.

16. In summary, the level of increase in Council's generated income (including rates) is vastly beyond the ability for ratepayers to pay when measured against their likely increase in disposable income (which would generally follow the CPI). Council's should have greater focus on the ability of ratepayers to absorb these increases. How this might be achieved would require some extensive review of Council's cost structure (in the interest of reducing both operating costs and proposed capital expenditure, especially in the case of the latter, where elements of it are considered by many to be vanity or legacy projects). While the purpose of local government has been reinstated to the 4 well-beings, spending focus should be in accord with what I believe most ratepayers think about the role of councils – the provision of infrastructure, facilities and essential services.

Capital Expenditure

17. I am quite frankly astounded by the level of capital expenditure proposed for the 10 year period of the Plan, and in particular, the consequential impact on the rates increase referred to above. While the total of $731m will be offset in part by anticipated capital contributions of approximately $204m from third parties (principally Central Government), the overall intended net spend creates $200m further debt compared with the position that exists at present.

18. The main items of spending set out in the Plan, includes:

Aquatic Centre	$29m
Whakarewarewa Forest	$3m
Westbrook Sportsgrounds	$61m
Rotorua Museum	$55m
Energy Events Centre	$4m
SHMPAC	$14m
Economic Recovery	$20m

I have no idea about the detail of a number of other items listed with the plan but many have multi-million dollar costs associated with them.

19. With respect to the Aquatic Centre, feedback is requested in the Plan, with Council's preferred option being a full upgrade of the facility. This proposal should be set aside and work undertaken to simply repair what is there and solely to the extent that repairs are a real need. I have little time for quoted "selling points" about a full development that it includes regional and national events, given that such occur relatively infrequently as sports in general seek to hold such events at major centres. Further, the cost cannot be justified on the basis of the potential of holding such events. Aquatic centres, like libraries, do get used by residents, but one has to tailor developments to provide for the reasonable needs of the community and within the bounds of ratepayer value and affordability.

20. Council has already spent a considerable amount of money on mountain biking facilities in Rotorua, including the new hub off Tarawera Road. While I use the forest for mountain biking (and am highly appreciative of being able to do so), I believe that Council is in the process of spending too much on this activity, including expenditure on land that is privately owned. I hear on the grapevine that proposals are being developed to include a gondola from the new hub, and I have no problem with this, provided that it is fully funded by other than ratepayers. I believe that we have a more than adequate cycling network in the forests and adding more to the investment is not likely to do much to provide for the needs of the people of Rotorua or to attract further visitors to the city.

21. I have earlier seen some outline proposal for the development of the Westbrook grounds and while it looks great, it is simply unaffordable and the proposal should be scrapped. This is so even if the development might be part-funded by third parties.

22. I do not know what the total planned cost is of the Museum and the SHMPAC but given the above, what has been spent to date and from what I observe when driving past the SHMPAC, the total spend is likely to be huge (especially so with the recent publicity about a further 3 years delay in the re-opening of the Museum). My recall from media reports at the time is that both buildings were closed as a result of the Wellington/Kaikoura earthquake and damage was caused to the building by the earthquake. I have heard nothing about insurance recoveries as a consequence of the earthquake event (and presume that there has been none) and believe instead, that Council has simply proceeded to both repair and extend the scope of the facilities with little consideration of the costs and the ability of the operations of the facilities to cover both their capital and operating costs. The end result is that further unjustified costs are being imposed on ratepayers.

23. Covid 19 has caused significant financial issues for the world at large, let alone New Zealand in general and Rotorua in particular. Rotorua, along with Queenstown, has placed a significant emphasis on tourism, and has suffered more than many other locations as a result of Covid 19. However, Rotorua could be seen, with respect to tourism, to have had too many eggs in the one basket and perhaps, rather than tossing money at tourism activity during the process of recovery, it is time to re-think the state of tourism in the area. My belief is that we have some considerable time to pass (and by this I mean years) before the world returns to anything like the pre-Covid levels of tourist activities (especially tourists from overseas). As a result, our whole tourist economy is going to have to undergo a significant re-think, and like it or like it not, there will be casualties (or more correctly, further casualties) along the way. I question whether it is appropriate for Council to think that it is going to be the saviour of selected tourist activities as it seeks to "*support their economic recovery*" by pouring ratepayer money into them.

24. The economic development overview set out in the Plan covers a range of subjects. Some is in the area of residential and commercial land development and to (yet again), seek to build confidence in the CBD. Country-wide, CBDs are struggling, not helped at all by the development of big-box shopping centres. In addition, in the case of Rotorua, there have been a number of other commercial developments that do little more than move tenants around, creating further vacant space in the CBD as premises are vacated. I do not know what controls can be brought to bear, but, I believe, Rotorua has to cease for some time, further retail and commercial development given that it is not supported by increased demand arising from an increase in population. Instead, the new developments are the result of property developers seeking to perpetuate their own business activities. It is time in my view, for some collective sanity to

prevail and for Rotorua to get a good handle on its needs rather than seeing benefit to the city in the value of building consents granted by Council. In other words, it is time for commercial and retail property consolidation, rather than expansion, if we are to avoid more vacant space in and about the city.

25. I note that included in the Economic Development outline is the implementation of bi-lingual signage in Rotorua, in support of the vanity project created by a group on Council to be the "first bi-lingual city" in the country. Associated with this intention is the recent change of our laws with respect to the creation of Māori wards at the local government level and the letter of support that Council provided at the time for the proposal (the contents of which were without reference whatsoever to the people of Rotorua). The net result of these will, I believe, create a significant cost for Council as it seeks to find Māori names for features in the city that are currently named in English only. This change is exemplified by the recent change of name to the Long Mile Road and the museum, and the extended name for Rotorua associated with Council's events activities. There has been no discussion to date in the public arena about the English names to be used for those features that currently have a Māori name only (bi-lingual means that both have to be considered). Further, with respect to the Central Government's proposal for Māori wards, there are no details provided about how, for each of the Māori wards and the general "ward", the likes of the number of councillors, candidacy for positions (including Te Arawa and non-Te Arawa Māori), electoral enrolment and the process of voting, are to be dealt with. Some of this at least is likely to require consultation with the citizens of Rotorua especially given that the proposal creates a significant change in both the principles and processes associated with democracy at the local government level. I refer again to the earlier comment on the quote referred to in the Plan – just who is Council meant to be acting on behalf of; the community at large or majority faction within the body of Council?

26. There is also likely to be further unplanned costs to be incurred by Council as it seeks to extend the application of its bi-lingual intentions (and again, without referral to the people of Rotorua). At the present time, I see the present blending of English and Māori into single publications (such as in the Plan document itself, and with the likes of Council's home page on its website) to be rather confusing, given that doing so interrupts and confuses the natural reading flow when using only one language. This current blending might be seen as tokenism, and if the intentions are to be further extended (as I suspect it is), then documents etc should be prepared in full in each of the two languages to create a truly bi-lingual situation. This will involve additional cost for Council and ratepayers, and Council needs to be upfront with its citizens (including with respect to cost) as it implements what are arguably political policies that involves little or no consultation with its citizens.

27. I see the proposed expenditure on infrastructure (water services, waste disposal, roading, general facilities and the provision of Council administrative services) to be in keeping with what most see as the role of councils. Over recent years, deterioration in some of these has been observed (especially roading and footpaths) and recent media reports comment on significant failings in this regard in other councils in the country. This Council needs to ensure that appropriate spending is made to ensure that these services and facilities are maintained to at least, if not better than, the current standards in order to remove the risk of failure in the presence of adverse situations.

28. I do not understand how Council intends to spend money on developing residential and industrial land, including in conjunction with Iwi. Generally, I believe that Council's role in this regards is one of facilitation and administration of regulations. Capital development costs for

community housing is a Central Government role, and for ordinary housing, the private building sector. If Iwi finds property development to be an appropriate activity for them, it should proceed just like any other property developer without the "need" to partner with Council. Council should not spend ratepayer funds on such developments, and certainly if there is little expectation of an appropriate financial return for ratepayers.

29. We already have a privately developed business park opposite the airport, the success of which, from observation, is questionable (based on the amount of unutilised land that remains). I do not know what real demand exists for further industrial developments in this area but whatever is required should be left to private enterprise (including Iwi) and not Council. Council's role should be that of facilitator and regulations administration, although it should ensure as much as possible that other established areas of Rotorua will not be decimated as tenants move to the new developments (as has been the case over the years with the CBD where former tenants of pre-existing properties moved to the new developments).

30. Included in the plan for "Homes and Thriving Communities" is the development of two city apartment buildings. The inference in the Plan is that this will be a development of Council, meaning, if true, that Council is intending to become involved as a residential property developer. This is not an area that Council should become directly involved in. If there is a need for such developments, there are businesses in Rotorua that exist for such purposes and it should be up to them (based on their assessment of demand) to undertake such developments. It is, in my view, a totally improper activity for Council to become involved in, despite the newly revised LGA definition of the purpose of local government.

31. Overall, the planned capital expenditure and economic development expenditure are hugely excessive and Council needs to make priority decisions with respect to the list of proposed capital expenditure. In these difficult economic times, whatever is deemed essential to Rotorua in the next 10 years should be considered at a least possible cost while maintaining (if not, improving on) the level of services provided currently. Spending on vanity and legacy projects generally provide little in the way of economic return to ratepayers (best measured by a reduction of rates) and should be avoided in order that the cost does not impact on the financial resources of ratepayers.

32. The greatest issue in this regard relates to comments from Council that its borrowings are secured, not over its assets as is normal for most of us, but instead, against the ability of Council to levy rates upon its ratepayers. In the private sector, personal assets are generally always at risk when borrowing and the borrower, as a result, needs to assess the possible loss of value when making risky investments (especially those that have a limited scope for the earning of a reasonable financial return). Council in effect when borrowing, mortgages the future income earnings potential of its citizens and ratepayers. As a result, there is little in the way of incentive for Council to limit spending on capital projects and in the process, borrowing money, despite the right of ratepayers to expect that the developments be both affordable and, in a tangible way, able to provide a return on investment to ratepayers. Using amenity value (a highly nebulous expression) as a means of expenditure justification is meaningless (and at worst, totally unquantifiable). Historically, ratepayers have seen little in the way of a return on any significant Council investment, given that rates have increased year on year (and at excessive levels of more recent times). In looking at capital investments, Council needs to change its approach when determining value to ratepayers and ensure that the value of projects is measured to a greater degree on the financial impact for ratepayers.

General

33. Apart from the commentary above on debt, capital spending and rates, there are a number of other observations that I have made with the Plan that I wish to comment on. This includes views about the position that we are all in (the World, our Country, Rotorua and people as individuals) as a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic and what we all might be forced to do in the medium and long term, as a consequence of it.

Tourism and Events

34. Rotorua in particular (along with Queenstown) has for a long time placed a huge emphasis on the business of tourism, especially that which can be generated from travellers from overseas. This is also a path taken by many cities overseas, most of whom are now struggling as a consequence of Covid 19. In hindsight, it could be suggested that this emphasis on tourism for a relatively small city has been too much, and that this position should be reconsidered, perhaps with a greater emphasis on the local market, as we move away from the effects of Covid 19. It is however not the first time that Rotorua has suffered from a decline in tourist activity (I recall many years ago the impact when Koreans stopped travelling to New Zealand and many businesses that were set up in Rotorua to deal with this sector of the tourist market, were forced to close. Lessons were not really learned from this situation and we are yet again suffering as a result of Covid 19 (although to a significantly greater degree).

35. Rather than trying to work ourselves back to our pre Covid situation, perhaps our tourism activities and offerings need to be rationalised in a prudent manner so that we avoid similar financial devastation in the future. Further, it is not reasonable for Council (and Central Government for that matter) to simply throw money at the problem in the hope that all will be good in the fullness of time. Such as approach cannot be afforded.

36. Any such consideration of our tourism sector should not be left to Council alone, but instead, be lead more by those in the tourism industry. They, after all, are the ones with the dollars invested and can make better decisions as they consider the financial consequences of re-investment decisions that they need to consider. Council should provide a supporting and facilitation role in this regard, rather than throwing ratepayers money at the problem and in the process, second guessing what should be the more favoured activities. In all likelihood, there will be casualties from the exercise, but such casualties will not be the province of tourism alone. Many other sectors in our community will suffer long-term financial losses as a result of Covid 19 but, regrettably, that's life! Ratepayers cannot be treated as insurers to cover these losses.

37. I believe that our overcoming of the more significant consequences of Covid 19 to be a long term exercise (in the realm of 5 to 10 years) which creates a major issue for Rotorua. Despite talk about re-opening borders (including into New Zealand) and encouraging the return of tourists, the nature of Covid 19 and the ease by which community infection can occur, will, in all likelihood, mean very limited overseas tourism activity for some time (especially if we are to avoid lockdowns in the future). Vaccinations will reduce the level of spread but it is a big wide world out there and immunity of the world's population is probably never going to happen. We are simply going to have to live with Covid 19 and its consequences for a long time. The emphasis going forward is likely to have to be on the domestic tourism market.

38. Included in the tourism sector is the support (including for some, direct financial support) of events and sporting activities. Too often in the past, councils financially support events more to

avoid them being moved to other council areas. With the likely reduction in participation in events (and certainly from overseas participants), Council should review the current level of financial support being provided in order to avoid, in these Covid 19 times, wasting ratepayer money when there is unlikely to be any significant financial return and benefit to the ratepayers of Rotorua.

39. My point in making this assessment of the position of tourism is that we need to plan for the likely position (as I see it to be) rather than hold to a hugely optimistic position and with it the belief that we can beat the consequences of Covid 19 and make an early return to "normal". There is unfortunately, likely to be winners and losers along the way, and Council, using taxpayers money, should not be trying, one way or another, to save one and all in the hope of a speedy recovery from Covid 19. I do not read any significant attention to this matter in the Plan and given the significance of tourism to Rotorua, there is a need for Council to become involved with the tourism sector in order to work through the problem.

Community Safety and Wellness Plans

40. Some space is taken up in the Plan with the creation of so-called safety and wellness plans, including for Eastside, Westside and Ngongotaha, the creation of service hubs. I do not know the form of such hubs but they cannot be created without the incurring of some cost. Rotorua is not a large city so whatever is needed to "deliver social and other services" that are perceived to be the province of local government rather than central government, can surely be provided via the Council's existing CBD premises.

41. Page 13 of the Plan sets out a list of questionable objectives (questionable in terms of their likeliness to be achieved) associated with the development of Community Safety Plans. It seems to me that what is listed is largely the province of Central Government involving, as they do, aspects of our lives (good and bad) that demand the involvement of various government agencies. Perhaps the greatest issue is that the objectives themselves are in the nature of the "ambulance at the bottom of the hill" rather than addressing the root causes of the issues in the first place (all of which is again the role of Central Government). The allocation of $500,000 in this regard is going to achieve little and this money is better saved. Central Government needs to be encouraged to do its job with respect to the issues noted in the Plan.

Climate Change

42. The Plan itself falls into the trap of many where so-called climate change is conflated with more real issues confronting our New Zealand society, especially environmental protection, clean waterways, pollution mitigation and control of waste products. Under the heading, the Plan also proposes to "test our resilience" with respect to earthquakes, landslides, flooding, volcanic eruptions and storms", some of which has nothing to do with climate change.

43. Personally, I am not in the camp of the climate alarmism zealots who pedal their proclamations, initially about global warming, but more recently about climate change (given that current climate readings suggest that there is no significant recent overall warming). Climate has always changed (and always will) but the human impact on such changes is more than questionable, despite the misguided and the dispelled claim that "97% of scientists agree" that there is a significant anthropogenic effect on climate change and that CO_2 is the main culprit.

44. I question the validity of the chart that is set out on page 18 (Statistics NZ website suggest that the risks in some areas to be opposite from what is recorded in the Plan) and believe that the chart does little more than perpetuate the fear in the community that has been created by the likes of politicians and the unquestioning media. The chart does not quote a source and does not note any timeframe over which the purported changes will take place. Further, the impact of action against climate change that a small country is likely to have on the world scale, is likely to be next to nothing especially when the likes of China and emerging economies intend doing next to nothing. Our focus instead should be to deal with environment associated issues to help clean up the physically obvious issues.

45. Having said that, Central Government has decreed that there is an issue and that councils need to comply with the objectives that have been set at a national level. Further, with respect to the likes of fossil fuels, we are dealing with finite and non-renewable resources, so sooner or later, substitutes need to be found and utilised.

46. Among the suggestions to mitigate the purported effects of climate change, are the promotion of walking and cycling, and working from home. Perhaps politicians should lead by example and if they truly believe in the objectives, they should immediately abandon their vehicles and aeroplanes and walk or ride everywhere! The reality of these mitigation actions would soon come home to roost as adverse weather conditions, hills and possibly increased accidents show just how problematic the suggestion is. We are not like a number of mid-European cities (such as Amsterdam) that are generally very flat and have for decades used cycling as a significant means of personal transportation about town. I see the promotion of walking and cycling (and other physical activities) being more for the purpose of promoting health and physical well-being, especially at a time when we are becoming a more obese society and our health systems are starting to struggle to deal with the medical consequences of this obesity (and our general lack of good physical health). Doing so will be much more beneficial than the purported, but unproven, consequential reduction in CO_2 emissions that might be achieved by the reduced use of fossil fuels.

47. The promotion of working from home is not an area where Council should be involved. That is something for business owners to determine as they measure the possible impact of the proposal on the operation, control and success of their business. Further, we already have an excess of commercial office space in Rotorua and the further reduction of the need for them (because of increased working from home) will do little more than repeat the impact of the significant rate of retail shop vacancies. Unfortunately, commercial property developments continue in Rotorua without their being a demonstrable need for them, and Council would do well to find ways to curb any further new developments.

Environmental including *Three Waters*

48. I believe that the creation and maintaining of a healthy natural environment to be among one of the true purposes of Council under both of the more recent legislated sets of purpose as set out in the LGA. Among these is the conservation of our water resources in terms of the quantity used and quality. Many years ago Council briefly considered the installation of water metering as a conservation measure and I believe that it is now appropriate to again consider this. Sure, there is capital costs associated with this, but when consumers are confronted with the prospect of a charge for their use of water, their usage is likely to be more responsible.

49. While not having full knowledge of Central Government's proposal with respect to *Three Waters* (and my guess is that there is likely to be adverse suggestions in the proposal that I would take issue with, particularly with respect to possible assertions about the ownership of water), it is appropriate for Council to ensure the availability (including reticulation) and quality of water (especially our potable water), the collection, treatment and disposal of waste water, and the collection and safe dispersal of stormwater. Some of the issues that have confronted other cities of recent times (Wellington and Hastings in particular) suggest that councils throughout the country are sitting on something of a time bomb as a consequence their maintenance neglect over many years. Clearly, Rotorua needs to do what is reasonably required to avoid these issues and to properly maintain these water related services.

Development Contributions

50. I believe that it is appropriate for new property developments to pay for the cost of services that need to be provided to the developments. This has been a topic for past Rotorua councils and I recall then the words of one developer stating that they would not undertake future developments in Rotorua if the contributions become payable.

51. The alternative is that ratepayers have to pay the costs which is somewhat irrational given that the general body of ratepayers do not receive any benefit in return from the supply of the services. Instead, ratepayers, in effect, would be providing a subsidy to the property developers.

52. The cost of a contribution should be paid by the developer, who would as a consequence, include the cost in the sale value of the developed property/ies. As to when the contribution should be paid, it could be argued that this should be when consents are provided. However, I believe it more appropriate for the payment to be made at the time that the developed property is sold. This would avoid the further capital that a developer would otherwise need prior to a sale being made of the developed properties.

Property Development CCO

53. I was, quite frankly, astounded to read on page 9 of the Plan, the proposal to set up this CCO because of a desire to "alleviate market failures". Council's role is to administer the process of development including appropriate consenting, and many reports have been published that show that the consent processes of councils has become increasingly slower over time. Central Government promised 100,000 houses over 10 years and their plans to date have failed miserably (and this is not a market failing). It is a bit rich for this Council to suggest that it will be able to achieve what Central Government failed at, to say nothing about how Council becoming a property developer or real estate agent is an improper use of Council resources (including financial resources).

54. Instead, Council should improve its consenting processes in order to facilitate the residential development intentions of the private sector, and perhaps liaise with developer representatives in order to free up land for development that might otherwise be restricted for this purpose by the likes of district plans, land use policies and land zoning.

Final Observations

55. Of all 10 year plans that I have reviewed over the years, this has to be the most disappointing one. Sure, we are trying to extract ourselves from the effects of Covid 19 but the level of rates

and Council debt increasing to the extent proposed, demonstrates that Council has no respect for the ability, or desire, of ratepayers to fund the proposals.

56. Council needs to review its intentions and make considerable changes to their overly ambitious intentions. Further, projects that are being considered should be assessed on a business case basis, rather than as a perpetuation of vanity and legacy desires of some on our Council. In the past, considerable sums have been spent on projects that have created negative financial outcomes (including for example, costs associated with the likes of an international airport, across-town cycle-ways, the destruction of the former City Focus, and the Terax project, and more currently with the lakefront development, the museum and the SHMPAC). Most of these, I suggest, would fail a business case test.

57. While the purpose of councils has been changed recently, most in the community, I suggest, would believe that the real purpose of local government is the provision of infrastructure, facilities and services along with the efficient performance of its regulatory functions. The so called 4 well-beings that form the current purpose, leaves Council in a position of being able to do as it wishes (and not necessarily what the body of ratepayers want). Regrettably, this is what this Plan does.

58. Council needs to give greater consideration to the situation of its ratepayers and act reasonably in their interests. Masking the excesses of its intentions by the likes of increasing, over time, its borrowing multiplier (to the now 250% of income) is simply a self-serving exercise. Further, if the past is anything to go by, Council's ability to keep to its 10 year plans is woeful, and if nothing is done to significantly reduce its current intentions, I shudder to think what the real debt level will be like in 10 years from now.

59. Regrettably, the nub of this submissions and the concluding comments mirror comments that I made in submissions on earlier 10 year plans. Clearly, Council chooses to ignore such comments (which it is able to do because most ratepayers are complacent, largely because the process of making submissions is not easy, along with the fact that there is little media reporting on Council proposal). In the end, the consultation process is something of a farce. So, coming back to the quotation referred to in paragraph 2 of this submission, who is the real "You" that Council is acting on behalf of?



Len Watson

Kia ora,

I was just submitting LOCA's submission on the LTP on behalf of our committee and the whole thing just froze on me! Then it said it has closed. Please accept this as I was having some issues entering it on the system.

Please find as below our submission:

1. Aquatic Centre - Option 3 ($28.3 Million)
Feedback: As mentioned in the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan consultation document; *"Our district is surrounded by lakes and rivers, therefore it is important our tamariki/children have the skills and confidence to be safe in our waters and the Aquatic Centre plays a vital role in this."* Lake Okareka is often frequented by swimmers. Residents know too well some fatal and near drowning incidents that have happened in the lake and swimming education is essential for safe enjoyment of surrounds.

Lake Okareka Community Association also supports the development of the Aquatic Centre for the facilities that it will provide for entertainment. What Lake Okareka has noted more recently, is the popularity of structures by sufficiently deep water. Along the Boyes Beach to DoC Campground Walkway in the Lake Okareka Scenic Reserve, well-worn paths have formed off the main track to jumping rocks. The increasing heavy use of these features has led to some erosion by trampling and pressures on the existing campground from day visitors (crowding out overnight fee paying guests). Similarly, the recently built Acacia Road boat ramp jetty has high piles installed for the purpose of jumping. The use of the jetty for jumping has caused some nuisance to boat loading – posing a safety hazard (one shared with the Harbourmaster).

Bomb's, manu's, gorilla's, māngare's, staple's and cannonball's are all a favourite pastime adventure in Rotorua waterways – the perfect combination of gravity and water. The increased celebration of this sprot following the 2019 Lake Tikitapu Bomb Competition has placed pressure on Lake Okareka as the main station near Rotorua. Council needs to recognise this interest, influx and the pressures that it generates on public areas. More features to jump off need to be provided at more places and the proposed upgrade to the Aquatic Centre is the best opportunity for this. The purpose built multilevel diving platform for 'bombing' absolutely needs to be built, incorporating the essence of this pursuit and made affordably accessible to all the public. LOCA fully support the redevelopment of the Centre to accommodate all water activities and safety for use by its own residents and the wider Rotorua catchment.

2. Community Safety: Option 1
Feedback: The Lake Ōkareka Community recently, within the last year, experienced an event where intimidation against residents was openly shown and a firearm discharged at the boat ramp. A police drug bust also took place in this past year. Despite the friendly atmosphere and Lake Okareka's reputation, we are certainly not a gated retirement community. Crime does occur. Residents are becoming more vigilant.

Through a joint initiative with Rotorua Lakes Council, LOCA raised $50,000 to fund ANPR cameras at the two entry points to the community. We know that the information from these cameras are monitored by police and do assist in providing information that can lead to convictions and may act as a future deterrent. We are aware of an initiative by the Harbourmaster to install a camera at the boat ramp – we welcome this proposal.

Traffic safety is another concern of local residents – particularly at high use summer times. Through

working with Council we are installing flashing lights to warn speeding cars to slow down. We will also continue to lobby for reduced speed limits from 50km/h to 40km/h through the community.

Broadly we support safer outcomes in Rotorua and in Lake Ōkareka. We receive many visitors from town and likewise our residents make full use of the Rotorua CBD and surrounds for work and leisure. Improving the safety of each is of mutual benefit.

3. Fees and Charges - Option 2 (Adjust/increase)
Feedback: Increasing fees and charges relative to the direct benefit services is nothing new for local residents. In 2010 Okareka undertook the upgrade of sewerage services with targeted individual ratepayer contributions a one off or annual payment to install systems to take wastewater from the catchment. We appreciated the additional funding from Central Government, Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The ability to have a range of options for payment was of benefit to ratepayers and the local community are now benefitting from the reduced input to lakes. We look to other catchments and express that similar opportunities for flexibility can help in achieving long-term goals.

LOCA understand that rates will rise and infrastructure spend in some cases needs to be targeted when there is a direct benefit. We ask that this is distributed fairly among the benefiting population and spread evenly over years by Council to reduce financial impact.

Most of the lake public facilities are not only used locally, but at times significant seasonal demand does come on services such as our boat ramp and reserves from visitors. We would want to encourage that any targeted benefit needs to consider all users of a service and not just those within proximity.

4. Your Rates - Option 3 (Retain at $475.00)
Feedback: The Lake Ōkareka catchment is a blend of rural and rural residential properties (some of the latter being bach/holiday accommodation). On one side of the coin, there is an easing of rates impact (UAGC at $425) for the rural properties (-4.66%) and on the other, an increase (15.75%). The general rate for residential ratepayers will shift to rural ratepayers, as well as seeing a shift from low value to high value properties. Lake Ōkareka Community Association recognizes that this will impact a majority members of its community relatively more due to higher property values – therefore it

Our rural landowners have seen a variety of RMA planning measures undertaken by both Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua Lakes Council in response to protecting lake water quality and natural amenity – respectively; Plan Change 10 and Lakes A-Zone Plan. It must be acknowledged that these measures have progressively affected rural landowners ability to generate income and capital value from their land. These changes have also largely been to the benefit of the rural residential population and visitors.

Setting the UAGC at $475, $425 or $400 makes no difference on the rate % for rural residential land owners (15.74%, 15.75%, 15.75%). However maintaining the current rate represents the largest decrease in rates for farms. On this calculation method we seek the status quo to support our rural areas in the catchment.

Further Feedback:
Lake Okareka supports long term investment and planning for the wider Rotorua Community infrastructure, housing and economic development. A “ready for business” focus provides opportunity for the employment and business of most of our residents and maintaining Rotorua as a place of choice keeps back owners and holiday makers coming back.

With respect to Climate Change, the risks to our catchment we have already seen with flooding and rainfall. The flood of late 2017 to mid 2018 affected many lakeside properties and caused significant impacts on the outflow to Lake Tarawera. These deluges have the potential to create significant erosion and sediment that can affect water quality. It also impacts on the walkway assets that Rotorua Lakes Council and LOCA work hard to construct and maintain.

Being in a bush settlement also poses a risk in drought and forest fire events. Having properties set against the greenery is attractive and valued, but provision to reduce the impact of fire to the area is best managed in coordination with emergency services – Lake Okareka is grateful for the services it currently maintains, including its new fire station, and would like to see that service is supported.

Adaptation to the incoming challenges of climate change will be important, as will the mitigations necessary to prevent greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. LOCA supports this action in the Climate Action Plan and welcomes investigation into capital options to strengthen lakeside community resilience.

Our catchment is no stranger to the hazards posed by volcanic and seismic hazards – being part of the Okataina Volcanic Centre. We recognize that one road in and out of the Lake Okareka and Tarawera catchments (Tarawera Road) is, in itself, a potential hazard and adds to some complications around emergency planning. We are open to discussion about securing longer term access options in any event with Council and relevant landowners.

Mā te Wā,

Mitch Collins
Secretary

Lake Ōkareka Community Association
PO Box 6210, Rotorua 3043

Long Term Plan Submission

28 April 2021

Submission provided by LakesWater Quality Society

On the matter of: 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan Consultation Document - Mahi, Rotorua Lakes Council

The LakesWater Quality Society seeks immediate action to develop the Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation Scheme. This is a critical infrastructure project for the district. We ask for a commitment from the Council that the scheme will be in place and operating by 2024.

Summary of Submission

Lake Tarawera and its associated catchment areas are iconic natural assets to the Rotorua District and justifiably should be viewed at one of New Zealand's strategic tourism assets. The water quality of Lake Tarawera has been declining and there are many concerns regarding ongoing degradation of the catchment environment around Lake Tarawera and its associated lakes. Addressing sewage discharges into natural waters is a key function of the Rotorua Lakes Council. The existing proposal to reticulate Lake Tarawera sewage back to the Rotorua City Wastewater Treatment Plant offers a practical, feasible, affordable, and timely solution to the ongoing risks associated with water contamination and eutrophication arising from septic tank discharges to groundwater and to the Lake. The LakesWater Quality Society requests the Rotorua Lakes Council revises its Long-term Plan and make a definitive allocation of funding to complete the scheme by 2024 in a manner that meets environmental outcomes and avoids onerous conditions for the Lake Tarawera community.

LakesWater Quality Society

- The main goal of the LakesWater Quality Society (LWQS) is to restore the Rotorua Lakes back to their conditions prevailing during the 1960s and that the lake TLIs meet or better the target values for each lake as identified in the Lakes management plans and that endemic fish, plant and invertebrate communities are re-established, abundant, and healthy.

- The society was originally formed in 1961 as the Lakeweed Control Society and in 2000 changed to its current name taking on the greater responsibility of advocacy for the restoration of the lakes across the Rotorua district. We work with the Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Iwi to achieve our goal. In addition, we foster research and education on lakes; work with local, regional, and central government and community groups in our quest to restore the lakes to health.

- The LWQS has a paid up membership of 120 and a mailing list of over 350. The members and associates of the LWQS consist of a broad range of people including local lake side residents and property owners, members of "lake" residents and ratepayer4s associations, members of the Rotorua community, people with science and technical interests, and a range of other water related user groups.

- The LWQS has held 11 symposia since 2001 which have canvassed many water quality, biodiversity, biosecurity, catchment management, and water policy development issues. These symposia are

strongly scientifically based and capture and summarise much information pertaining to the Rotorua lakes and their long-term management.

- The LWQS has a range of strategic partners and linkages which include the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, BoP Regional Council, Waikato University (with the Chair Lake and Freshwater Science), NIWA, Rotorua Lakes Council, Land Information NZ, Department of Conservation and a wide range of other local agencies and community groups.

- The LWQS has made major contributions to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes programmes over the last 20 years through making submissions, participating on advisory groups, hosting symposia, and constantly acting as the 'community voice' and in encouraging regulatory agencies to undertake their functions in a transparent and effective manner.

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Long-term Plan 2021 - 2031.

The Rotorua Lakes Council has proposed in its 2021 - 2031 Annual Plan that the Lake Tarawera Sewage Reticulation Scheme is constructed in year X (Page 24 of the LTP 2021 – 2031 consultation document):

The LakesWater Quality Society asks that the Long-term Plan be amended to make sure that the Lake Tarawera sewage reticulation scheme will be constructed and fully operation by 2024; and that the Council work with the community to avoid onerous conditions for the Lake Tarawera Community ratepayers.

Submission

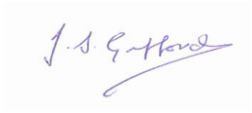
The reasons for changing the current Long Term Plan proposal are:

- Substantial delays have already occurred in implementing the scheme.
- Significant cost escalation is highly likely unless design, planning and implementation are started as soon as practicable.
- Unreasonable conditions are being placed on the Lake Tarawera community which is making it less likely that the scheme will ever be developed.
- Appropriate funding mechanisms need to be developed to make the scheme viable for the whole Lake Tarawera Community.
- Future proofing further development of tourism and other activities in the area which are critical for ongoing economic development of the area.

In particular, the Society asks the Council to consider the following:

- Investigate and offer to the Lake Tarawera Community a suite of viable funding options that allow the effective spread of any ratepayer contributions over an appropriate period.
- Return to the RLC ratepayer-contributions policy of allowing ratepayers to spread repayment of contributions over a period. This has worked well in the past.
- Commence the design work without the condition for a 75% approval rate from the Lake Tarawera community. 95% of responses so far are in favour.
- Sewage emissions must be removed from the Lake as soon as possible to safeguard water quality and the use of the lake water for household use.

LakesWater Quality Society Chair



John Gifford
Dated: 28 April 2021

Dear Stevee Chadwick and Councillors,

It is with a sad heart and that I could think you could make the decision to destroy a well-used golf course that I understand pays its own way.

Why would a council take out a beautiful golf course that is well used and would cost millions to re-build?

I have heard the land was donated for recreation which it is being used for.

I believe that returned service men did lots of voluntary work to help establish it, they would turn in their graves to be seeing it carved up for sports fields and housing that could easily be established somewhere else.

My first question is

What other options have been considered?

Why do all these different sports grounds have to be together in one place? Pros and cons to the locals not visitors.

Is there any thought to the 70 year old trees that will be taken out?

Has there been more than one independent study that proves there is a need for more sports fields. Also has there been a study of the present sport fields and what percentage of time are these in use? We seem to have lots of "community" sports fields and "school" sport fields that already have car parks established. I'm sure these local schools and communities would benefit from council upgrading what they already have. Have you asked the School boards and Principals if they would be happy to have upgraded fields?

Has there been any thought that golf is a sport that the elderly can do well into there 80's and 90's. It is an investment in their physical and mental health and wellbeing. What percentage of recreation and sport money encourages and supports these elderly?

I would like to know how other groups in the community are feeling about the project and what their views are on it. Eg Golf course, RSA, DOC, Forest and Bird , Home owners on the boundary and Grey power. The council appears to have been thinking about this for 5 years without others knowing a thing.

Why did you only invite clubs to these earlier meetings that you knew would be pro the development?

I also wonder if centralising sporting facilities is an issue from a transport perspective, with the proposal to relocate sports facilities from across Rotorua into one place.

I stress I am 100% against this proposal but if you bulldoze ahead regardless of Rotorua residents views….I would want the development to be as attractive and safe as possible. There should be considerable effort put into landscape design to ensure that the facilities integrate well with existing residents and provide an attractive environment for the users of the fields etc. Things like encouraging adjoining residents to maintain an outlook over the park will increase the safety of the Park. Adjoining residents are more likely to maintain an outlook over the Park if there is a landscape buffer and perhaps see through fencing provided/encouraged.

Further down the track it will be important to have

input on the detail of any development. Things like lighting, access routes/paths and landscape design will have an impact on adjoining properties.

If this project has a negative financial impact on the property owners who back on to and are close to this golf course when they sell, is the council going to compensate them financially?

I am afraid to say this is going to be another case like when the council acquired the land from local Iwi to establish the present airport beside Lake Rotorua. I know for a fact that the Iwi offered the council "other land options" to build the airport but the council pretended to go through negotiations and just bulldozed the Iwi. I believe the Iwi were moved to Ford block. What a contrast!

Lastly I have one very important Question,

What is it going to take to stop this development? ……

or are you going to repeat history……pretend to talk with the public and bulldoze on with your plan like you did with the Maori Iwi at the airport .

I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours Faithfully

Davina Bruere.

LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION 2021 – 2031 TO THE ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

LAKE TARAWERA SEWERAGE RETICULATION

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the Rotorua Lakes Council's Long Term Plan Submission 2021 -2031

On 26 November 2020, Rotorua Lakes Council passed a resolution agreeing to the proposed Lake Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme, comprising the installation of low-pressure grinder pumps on each property and a mains pipeline connecting the new Tarawera network to the Lake Okareka wastewater pump station and then to the main city treatment plant.

I fully support the Council decision to proceed with the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme because, the water quality is declining. In 2021 septic tanks are not an acceptable way to dispose of wastewater and there is no other viable option for wastewater.

Whilst I am supportive of the Council's wastewater reticulation scheme, I have difficulty in accepting the terms of the scheme as outlined in the letter all ratepayers at Lake Tarawera received in early February.

1. 75% support for the scheme from every ratepayer at Lake Tarawera before design and planning starts. The apathetic ratepayers could put the whole scheme in jeopardy. As stated in the joint letter from the Rotorua Lake Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council dated 16 April 2021, 65% fully supported the scheme, 30% supported the proposed schemed but urged Council to explore potentially more flexible funding options and 5% opposed. Please waive the 75% requirement and proceed with the design and planning immediately.
2. The open-ended cost of $33,000.00 is difficult to accept when there building costs are rising annually, there is no certainty of the final cost.
3. Why after 15 years of Council support for all sewerage schemes in the Rotorua district have the payment terms changed? A lump sum payment only, this is totally unjust, many people in the community do not have the ability to pay that amount on top of the highest rates in the Rotorua district, they are due to rise significantly as per the Long-Term Plan Consultation document. Tarawera has many amazing contributors to the community, some of them will be unable to pay a lump sum and will have to sell up and leave their homes and that would be a very sad state of affairs.
4. I request the Council to look at other options to pay for this scheme for the Tarawera.
    - 4.1 Lump Sum payment
    - 4.2 To pay by a targeted rate to be paid off over 25 years (as all other communities) have benefited from.
    - 4.3 A $10,000 or $15,000 payment on completion and the balance as a targeted rate.
    - 4.4 Council look at hardship cases, particularly for residents who may have to sell their property
    - 4.5 If Council accept the targeted rate over 25 years option. Should a property owner sell their property the balance of payment be paid to Council on settlement of the sale.
    - 4.6 Increase the current subsidy of $1,500.00 to $3,000.00

5. It is disappointing that people who have had to install OSET systems when either renovating or building a new home, there is to be no rebate for people with new OSET systems, that is a bitter pill to swallow.
6. On page 11 of the Long-Term Plan Consultation Document Option 3 for the Aquatic Centre which is Council's preferred option (Council will have to borrow $17.9 million). Really, a new play lido, new bombing pool and a new café and upgrading the spas. These are nice to have but not essential, that money would be better spent on reticulated wastewater for Lake Tarawera.

Driving from Tirau to Rotorua over the Mamaku Ranges you see a large billboard – not a photograph of the Museum, Te Puia, the Rotorua Lakefront but a beautiful photograph of Lake Tarawera, Council are happy to show the stunning beauty of Lake Tarawera to every visitor entering Rotorua but is reluctant to proceed with the wastewater scheme.

I urge you to reconsider the 75% of all ratepayers agreeing to the scheme before starting design and planning and look at various payment options for reticulated wastewater so our homeowners are treated fairly and equitably.

Libby Fletcher

Lake Tarawera

30 April 2021

Long term Subission by G B Fox Lake Tarawera

Reticulated wastewater for Lake Tarawera residents.

Submission in Support of the proposed proceeding:

We fully support the submission by the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association which we have attached to our email.

Further to the LTRA submission, we wish to submit that the waste water scheme should proceed without delay. When the scheme was first proposed in 2012 the indicative costs were around the $6million mark. Delays and procrastination by council now means the cost is likely to be in the $22 million range. Any more delays will only cause more financial pressure and opposition by residents. Foremost what is most important is the lake water quality. Therefore, work needs to start immediately or the chaos caused by not proceeding will, I think, begin to attract extensive litigation against the council for failing to address and provide a proper solution to the waste water.

I note that as a LT ratepayer we seem to pay a disproportional amount of rates for very little council supplied services.

Submission in opposition to the details of the funding

In addition to our full support of the LTRA submission in opposition to the details of the funding - we would personally like to submit that residents are given the option of spreading payment over 25 years or by payment of a lump sum as offered to other residents in similar schemes in the district. We submit that the council accepts the support of the proposal from the respondents to date as sufficient to proceed with this proposal - (dropping the 75% requirement which has no legal or statutory requirement) - and that the work starts if not immediately then by July 2021.

Graeme Fox

28th April 2021

Submission	**Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan 2021**
From	Lorraine Hall
Date	30 April 2021
Contact	_____
Submission	We have serious concerns about the pump station in Ngapuna (see the wastewater infrastructure section on p 24). This has suffered significant failure recently. We need urgent action, particularly for the residents of Ngapuna who live with the stench of wastewater and the noise and disruption of sleep when the pump station breaks down. This is part of the bigger problem of the impact on the health and wellbeing of our people who have suffered sore eyes, emphysema and respiratory problems from the impact of Council approved activities in our papakainga. We need direct and meaningful discussions with Council about the seven strategic district infrastructure challenges on page 20. These are urgent, critical challenges for our people. We want to be involved in the decision-making. We seek alignment with the principles of the Three Waters Strategy, particularly regarding public health and iwi partnership (p23). Our long-term priority is the removal of the pump station and the waste water treatment plant as well as the associated pipes and infrastructure from their current locations in and around Ngapuna. The existing infrastructure does not serve our communities, as shown with the breakdown of the Ngapuna pump station. How will it cope with the added pressure of new housing (p6) and climate change (p18)? On page 21 of the document there is a note that "*Across 2021-2031 we will invest $424 million into core infrastructure to renew and upgrade our assets to meet current demand and future growth expectations." What are the specific intentions for the infrastructure in Ngapuna? Furthermore, we want to be involved in the investigation of future land use options around Vaughan's Rd (purple areas on the map on p6). The impact of industrial land uses in Ngapuna has had severe negative impacts on our whanau for generations.

LAKE ROTOITI
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

REGISTERED CHARITY CC11386
Mail Address: PDC Mourea, Rotorua, 3074
Email: lrca@rotoiti.co.nz
Website: www.rotoiti.co.nz

28 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
ROTORUA 3046

FEEDBACK SUBMISSION TO RLC LONG TERM PLAN 2021-31

The *Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated (LRCA)* welcomes the opportunity to provide this feedback to Rotorua Lakes Council's Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document (CD). The Association continues as a long standing charitable organisation which takes a leading role in representing a large community of interest. We wish to acknowledge the ongoing assistance provided by Council and Council staff towards the various associated activities undertaken by LRCA in support of our local communities.

GENERAL

We generally concur with the direction proposed in the CD to address the challenges faced, particularly around housing and infrastructure, along with the completion of major projects and enhancements intended to support economic development and meet community aspirations.

HOMES AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES

These proposals essentially reflect the aims of Vision 2030 and more recent outcomes of spatial planning. We acknowledge all of these objectives. With regard to our specific lakeside communities, there are often conflicting ideals in maintaining levels of environmental integrity and social improvements that would allow for the expansion and improvement of homes and home ownership for many of our permanent residents.

For example, the apparent desire of iwi to provide for existing and future whanau in terms of upgrading and adding to housing stock on their own lands is duly recognised. There of course remain a number of barriers to advancing these desires, several of which are outside of local Council control. These include principle restrictions of affordability, financing difficulties, and navigation of consenting and compliance processes regulated by the Building Act and RMA. However, we would support in principle the promotion of local government assistance towards mitigating these barriers to better enable such aspirations to be pursued.

AQUATIC CENTRE

The upgrade, enhancement and reinstatement of the Aquatic Centre has been previously supported. That support is considered to be enduring within our communities. Whilst most are fortunate to be close to natural swimming opportunities, the amenities and services provided by the Aquatic Centre continue to be utilised, especially by our local school children.

We note that proposed expenditure substantially exceeds the projections put forward in the LTP 2018-28. The reasons for this are unclear from the current commentary.

Notwithstanding, whilst Options 1 and 2 in the CD provide for essential repairs and enhancement of existing facilities (Option 2), there is evidence of community support for Option 3 based on the outlined costing proposals. This is on the understanding that it would not proceed without requisite partnership funding and in the event that this was not forthcoming, such investment would be reconsidered. We therefore support:-

Option 3 (Preferred) - Upgrade and Enhance existing facilities and provide new services as prescribed. Will increase individual rates by $8.09 per year.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Most would be concerned over any level of anti-social and criminal behaviour occurring within our communities, whether in the city precincts or elsewhere. Many believe the increased prevalence of this type of offending is commensurate with recent developments surrounding the emergency and transitional housing placements in Rotorua. This has been highlighted by constant expressions of dissatisfaction and calls for redress from local residents.

Whilst the necessity to implement viable solutions is recognised, we believe many of our ratepayers would be resistant towards bulk funding of increased remediation measures. We believe continuing urgent dialogue around seeking provision of additional resources both locally and nationally to mitigate these occurrences should be undertaken with a view to containing costs borne by local ratepayers. We would therefore support :-

Option 3 - Continue to provide existing levels of service and further develop safety plans based around the provision or targeting of additional funding/resources.

Other perspectives of community safety revolve around Civil Defence initiatives being implemented specifically for our localities. There have been past attempts by our community organisations spanning many years towards achieving a collaborative Civil Defence Plan but for various reasons have failed to materialise. We are currently re-engaging with Council in seeking to resurrect this position. Whilst this is likely a separate issue for discussion outside of the LTP, we nevertheless bring it to your attention as a matter of community safety that is increasingly important to our residents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We acknowledge the CD proposals and funding committed for economic development within the district. Like others, our lakes communities are reliant upon forestry and aspects of tourism in supporting our economic and social wellbeing. Many of our residents have experienced the impacts of Covid-19 and look to Council initiatives in assisting the restorative processes needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Most within our communities would rate concerns over the impacts generally attributed to climate change as a priority issue. Focus areas should include collaborating with communities, incorporating climate change in decision-making, provision of services and reducing Council's own footprint. In supporting Council's adoption of its Climate Action Plan, we would be keen to endorse the promotion of these objectives.

INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The needs and challenges related to aging and new infrastructure requirements have been at the forefront of local and national conversations over a number of years. The responsibilities and priorities relating to delivery of these services are again well identified in this CD. We all await the impact of outcomes from the Government's Proposed 3-Waters Reform and Water Services Bill.

Irrespective of outcomes, ever increasing levels of service requirements and associated costs present major concerns for residents and ratepayers in terms of ongoing affordability. This is especially so for our lakes communities who not only pay a premium in rates due to significantly higher property values overall but are also burdened with the capital costs of new schemes for sewerage reticulation. A potential requirement for potable water reticulation in West Rotoiti would further exacerbate this issue. Whilst the equalisation of operational costs associated with these services has been welcomed, the opportunity to provide for a more just distribution of capital costs remains under debate.

FUNDING DELIVERY – FEES AND CHARGES

We are generally of the belief that, where reasonable and practicable, costs should be targeted to individuals and exacerbators. One caveat is that such fees and charges should also reflect a commensurate level of service, i.e. costs relating to efficient and effective delivery. For instance, Building and Resource Consenting charges are often perceived as being excessive in relation to particular projects. Nonetheless, we would support

Option 2 (Preferred): Proposed amendments based on increased costs where current funding does not meet the funding policy.

FUNDING DELIVERY – CAPITAL SPEND

The Plan Programme details new expenditure of $731 million over 10 years. This includes just $2.03 million for Lakes Infrastructure Enhancement and $1.25 million of devolved funding to Lakes Community Board to expend across all lakes within the current boundaries. Neither the CD nor the associated Programme documentation expands beyond this. So we have been unable to ascertain projects relating to our communities.

We would reiterate that our communities do not seek high levels of infrastructure and in fact most of our needs generally revolve around maintenance and upgrades to reserves, playgrounds, toilet blocks, boatramps and jetties, and appropriate footpaths and cyways. Expenditure averaging $328,000 per year for ALL of our lakes is viewed as somewhat inadequate and inequitable.

We do note the impending upgrade of the Hinehopu playground and impending improvements to one of the toilet blocks in that area. And we are assuming that the existing proposals to upgrade facilities at the Otaramarae boatramp will be carried over. However, we would anticipate further demands on capital expenditure in subsequent years.

We would reiterate that the impact to our District of both permanent and visitor growth on core infrastructure and existing amenities and facilities has been of increasing significance over a number of years. Pending reopening of borders, this will again become a factor. We will continue to urge Council to take advantage of any available and contestable funding such as the 'Tourism Infrastructure Fund' to assist in meeting the cost of necessary and desirable upgrades.

Whilst we appreciate the magnitude of projected needs to upgrade and maintain core infrastructure such as wastewater, LRCA is concerned that the Revenue and Funding delivery proposals again increase debt to unprecedented levels over the foreseeable period. A net debt to revenue forecast of 224-238% against the current 174% and limit of 250% would seem to put the district in worrying and uncomfortable territory despite audit approval. Current levels of rate increases are imposing severe strains on many of our ratepayers. We would urge Council to consider further prioritisation of these proposals with a view to alleviating the 'loading' of debt and rates increases over at least the next three years.

FUNDING DELIVERY - RATES

The LTP provides for an average General rates increase of 9.2% in the first year and 3-5% for the following 5 years. We recognise the ever increasing costs of renewals and maintenance (particularly infrastructure). However, based on a proposed reduction to the UAGC, this is projected to extrapolate to 15.75% for rural residents as opposed to 11.4% for urban residents and 8.1% for business. Whilst we have been assured that this is primarily due to the effect of property revaluations and a greater portion of general rating to our sector, it is nevertheless viewed by our sector as continuing to receive the 'thin edge of the wedge'.

The overall burden of regular increases (both general and targeted rates) well above the CPI has become a significant encumbrance upon a large group of our general ratepayers. We continue to note that LRCA has perpetually challenged Council over its resistance towards reinstating considered fairness and equity which has been a source of dissatisfaction within our lakes communities over many years. Despite the recent rating review, the removal of rural sector differentials from General Rating which are justified based on convincing differences in services and benefits only exacerbates the issue and continues to be viewed as unduly disadvantaging.

The proposal to reduce the UAGC to $425 is supported in principle. Whilst this inevitably shifts a portion of the General rate to the rural sector, we recognise the impact of a higher UAGC on lower valued properties which, in addition to incurring higher revaluation variances, are generally occupied by those in the lower socio-economic bracket, many of whom reside in our communities. We therefore support:-

Option 1 (Preferred) - Reduce the UAGC from $475 to $425.

Nāku noa nā

Reina *Jim S*

Reina Engelen **Jim Stanton**
Chairperson **LTP and Annual Plans Response Co-ordinator**

ccs disability action
Including all people

TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOA

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
2021 LONG TERM PLAN

Submission from
Rotorua Access Group

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1 Who We Are

The Rotorua Access Group comprises representatives of Rotorua's citizens with various impairments. It is chaired by the CCS Disability Action Access Coordinator, Max Hales, who is based in Tauranga and meets approximately six times per year. It is usually also attended by an elected councillor and a number of staff representatives.

Members and organisations who support this submission include:

- Max Hales: Chair, Rotorua Access Group. Access Coordinator CCS Disability Action Midland
- Mary Barnett: Lakes District Local Area Coordinator, Journey Together NZ
- Kevin Crowe: Disability advocate, Rotorua
- Roger Loveless: Local Area Committee member, CCS Disability Action BoP.
- Timothy Lee: Disability Advocate, Rotorua
- Robert Aisable: Blind and Low Vision Advocate, Rotorua
- People First New Zealand Inc – Rotorua Group

Although the group is hosted by Rotorua Lakes Council, RLC, it has no official status, and as such has no formal reporting channel to elected members through the committee process.

Rotorua's disability community comprises significant numbers of people with disabilities. In the 2013 disability survey, the figures were as follows.[1]

- Hearing 5,505
- Physical 10,113
- Psychological 4,098
- Vision 2,640
- Overall 17,040 (Note some people have multiple disabilities)

In addition to these figures, it is also important to recognise visitors with impairments that visit the area.

It is also unfortunate that the 2018 census only collected a limited disability data set and it is unlikely a new full set will be collected until 2023. These figures also significantly understate the numbers as the period 2013 – 2018 witnessed a population growth for the district from 65,280 to 71,877, a 10.1% increase. [2]

[1] Ref Rotorua District 2013 census impairment data accessed from Statistics NZ website https://statisticsnz.shinyapps.io/Disability/ .

[2] From Infometrics data ref http://community.infometrics.co.nz/Rotorua%2bDistrict/Profile/Age

2 Introduction

The 2021 /31 Long Term Planning process should be an extremely important avenue for residents of Rotorua to provide feedback to RLC on what they consider to be priorities. To this end the Rotorua Access Group considers a more wide ranging submission than called for in the consultation document to be the only way our concerns can be placed before RLC.

We firmly believe the LTP should set out a plan for how RLC will include all its citizens and visitors, including those with disabilities. The Rotorua Access Group has recently had a change of chairperson and its terms of reference clarified.

We would remind RLC that it has obligations to the disability community under the NZ Disability Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We make no apologies for this submission not being in the preferred format for public submissions in accordance with the consultation document. This is because many of the items of concern are not considered as material by RLC and are not mentioned. However we believe they do have a material influence on the health and wellbeing of Rotorua's diverse disability community and who should be able to enjoy the city in the same way as their peers.

3 Disability Data

A significant barrier to providing resources to progress work that benefits the disability community, that is not peculiar to Rotorua, is the lack of quality data. This data needs to be available for several reasons.

- To enable fair prioritisation of resources when making decisions on capital works and maintenance of infrastructure and other facilities.
- To ensure all sectors of society do not encounter unnecessary barriers to participation.
- To provide costing data to enable works benefiting the disability sector to be planned within standard processes.
- To provide supporting data for benefit / cost analysis for use when seeking non-traditional funding for new services, new facilities, and for upgrading existing infrastructure.
- To enable resourcing constraints for disability related improvements to be identified and used in support of proposals to government to update funding methods.

It is particularly of concern as life expectancies increase, impacting on the incidence of various disabilities. Furthermore, there is now increasing recognition that younger persons with disabilities should not face barriers to have meaningful and enjoyable lives on a par with their peers.

Unfortunately without quality data, detailed planning is difficult, and furthermore there is insufficient evidence to support adequate funding to resolve disability access issues within planning priorities. Furthermore, once funding priorities are set with the adoption of the LTP, the disability community does not have an opportunity to influence significant funding decisions for a further three years.

One area where disability data is needed is in determining the number of walking trips not made. Although in relation to a Lime Scooter incident when a user collided with a pedestrian, this public social media quote from a leading transportation professional, Bridget Burdett, PhD, Principal Researcher at MR Cagney clearly demonstrates the way disabled people can often be excluded

> *Fear of *this* makes busy city streets ableist, ageist places.*
>
> *I've interviewed dozens of older and disabled people who say the genuine fear of being injured by collision with an e-scooter puts them off walking. So they stay home.*
>
> *A 'trip not made', which is evidently too difficult for the transport engineering industry to measure or care about, despite my trying to explain it, over, and over, and over.*
>
> *This is not the place for education or signage.*
>
> *It's time for honesty in transport decision evaluation so that we are clear about the extent to which we exclude people.*
>
> *Allow e-scooters if you want to, but include the KPI of "disabled people excluded" in your board reports and see where that lands you in the court of human rights.*

Trips not made can be the result of shared paths being too narrow and unfit for purpose, fear of cyclists, reversing cars or a multitude of other factors which are conveniently not recognised.

Where direct ratepayer funding for works is limited and it is expected central government funding will be sourced, good quality asset management data has the potential to alter a reactive approach that seeks funding from government directed funding programmes to a proactive methodology that places works in a sensible priority.

As an example, RLC has recently initiated a programme to replace its street lights with those based on LED technology. This appears to have occurred only because subsidies were provided by NZTA Waka Kotahi. In the years since the inception of this technology for street lighting, RLC has missed out on significant cost savings in maintenance and energy costs which good asset management practice would have identified.

4 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNCRPD

Local government in New Zealand, including Rotorua District Council, has a number of obligations with respect to persons with disabilities who live in and visit the region.

In 2017, the NZ Disability Strategy was updated after consultation with the community and to ensure compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As the "head" document we believe it is worth reminding Council of the key articles of this convention which have particular relevance with respect to Council discharging its obligations which include:

Article 1: Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Article 2: Definitions

"Communication" includes languages, display of text, Braille, tactile communication, large print, accessible multimedia as well as written, audio, plain-language, human-reader and augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, including accessible information and communication technology;

"Language" includes spoken and signed languages and other forms of non-spoken languages;

"Discrimination on the basis of disability" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation;

"Reasonable accommodation" means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"Universal design" means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. "Universal design" shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

Article 9: Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

(a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;

(b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:

(a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;

(b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

(c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;

(d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;

(e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

(f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

Article 19: Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to the present Convention recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

(a) Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community;

(c) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.

Article 21: Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention, including by:

(a) Providing information intended for the general public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost;

(b) Accepting and facilitating the use of sign languages, Braille, augmentative and alternative communication, and all other accessible means, modes and formats of communication of their choice by persons with disabilities in official interactions;

(c) Urging private entities that provide services to the general public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities;

(d) Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities;

(e) Recognizing and promoting the use of sign languages.

Councils have an important role in implementing these obligations throughout the country and in accordance with the NZ Disability Strategy.

5 Consultation Document and Vision 2030

As representatives of the disabled community, we appreciate having a forum to collaborate with you via our access committee, with the expectation it will foster inclusiveness within our region. However, we believe the current planning & consultation processes are discriminatory, albeit possibly inadvertently and by omission. The Local Government Act allows RLC to determine areas on which it should seek opinions, but there appears to be no formal opportunity to raise concerns or alternative ideas that would benefit the 20% plus proportion of our residents who identify as having an impairment.

Although the final Long Term Plan is required to include significant details of such things as asset management and planning processes, there appears to be no formal avenue by which those processes can be questioned and, where there are is no national guidance on issues, such as footpath maintenance, locally developed processes cannot be formally challenged.

We believe that the over-arching position given to Rotorua's so called Vision 2030 in guiding the direction of development discriminates against our community in that it excluded us. Vision 2030 is introduced on RLC's web site as an integrated planning approach, and states:

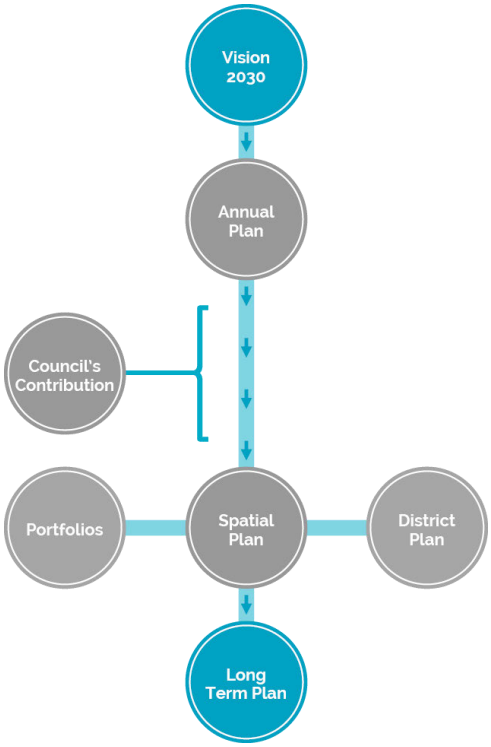
"The Rotorua Way provides the direction for the next few years, guiding our long-term, annual and spatial plans and decision-making around key projects and initiatives. These future-focussed plans, key projects and initiatives are how we will deliver Vision 2030."

Since Vision 2030's initial development which began in 2013 there have been many significant events, as well as an increasing awareness that society has not always met its obligations with respect to its disadvantaged members. This means it cannot be regarded as fit for the purpose of guiding the direction Rotorua should be taking over the next ten years. This especially when it needs to be recognised that persons with disabilities are over represented in the sector on limited incomes and are being required to pay the increased costs. Examples of events that should have led to changes in Vision 2030 to retain its credibility in 2021 include:

- The re-instatement into the purpose of local government of the four well-beings as clause 10 (1) (b) of the Local Government Act in 2019 which now reads

"to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future."

- Rotorua Museum, which was closed for extensive earthquake repairs in July 2017.
- The Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre which closed in November 2017 for earthquake strengthening.
- The introduction of a revised NZ Disability Strategy in 2016 that includes under its Outcome 5 on Accessibility that "we aspire to a society that allows everyone to access all places, services and information with ease and dignity."
- The Covid 19 pandemic that has severely affected the incomes of many New Zealanders and numbers of tourists able to enjoy Rotorua's attractions.
- When RLC itself states in the consultation document that "we need to adjust our approach to managing our roading network and provide an appropriate level of prudent investment for maintenance and renewals to provide the right level of service at a cost the community can afford."



We therefore believe it essential for the Long Term Plan to be the lead document that will allow delivery of a revised Vision 2030 that recognises the significant events, as well as an increasing awareness that society has not always met its obligations with respect to its disadvantaged members. Previous consultations should not override the opportunity to review decisions and priorities within the Long Term Planning process, especially when circumstances have changed. Placing the Long Term Plan below the Annual Plan, Spatial Plan, District Plan and other Portfolios in the hierarchy demeans not only the importance of that plan, but also any feedback on the Long Term Plan Consultation Document, and is an affront to those making serious submissions.

6 Engagement

We note that although RLC does acknowledge persons with disabilities in many ways, it has no group representing the disability community that is required to report to any of RLC's committees. As noted above, the Rotorua Access Group, although hosted by RLC, has no official status and RLC has no obligation whatsoever to consider any recommendations made by the group.

We note that an initiative under the "Positive Ageing Rotorua" name was formed several years ago but rapidly became dysfunctional and no longer meets. This group needs to be rejuvenated and others along similar lines need to be established to include the disability community and possibly others. All such groups should be supported by RLC with secretarial services and their minutes referred to Council through the Strategy, Policy and Finance Committee.

A significant concern for our community has been the number of limited scope consultation processes that have been used in recent years. These appear to have been designed to merely support pre-determined outcomes that well intentioned staff have deemed worthy of consideration. The situation is frequently complicated by RLC prioritising works based on whether they can source external funding. This skews prioritisation decisions, advancing new projects ahead of urgently needed works that would benefit not only the disability community but all residents and visitors. RLC should not merely react to funding opportunities promulgated by central government, but should be prepared to negotiate with them in a proactive way so that all funding is directed to developing infrastructure where it is most needed.

Just because a previous consultation in more affluent times has supported a project, does not mean it should proceed without question or review when it may affect the affordability of other more deserving projects.

Examples are:

Te Manawa O Owhatiura Safety Improvements in Lynmore.

RLC was granted funding from NZTA Waka Kotahi Innovating Streets for People fund to trial design improvements on Ōwhatiura Drive, Larcy Road and Iles Road outside Lynmore School. The consultation document stated:-

> *This project is about creating child-friendly streets that allow all people to move safely around our community. Te Manawa ō Ōwhatiura will change the way people drive, walk, bike or scooter through the area on their way to school, work, or the Whakarewarewa Forest.*

As this project covers a very limited area around the school, Larcy Road has no footpath whatsoever on the south side and many other footpaths in the wider area do not meet modern footpath standards as detailed in NZTA's Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide it is extremely unlikely that the change envisaged will result. When seeking an accessible route between two places it only requires a single barrier anywhere along that route to make it inaccessible and it is wishful thinking to believe that changes in such a small area will encourage parents to allow their children to walk, bike or scooter to and from school. Furthermore, the community consultation process using a dedicated Facebook group solicited minimal stakeholder feedback, had only 16 members, and cannot be regarded in any way as representative of community opinion. As at April 2021 the latest post on the group was dated 17 November 2020.

Ngongotaha Village Traffic Safety and Place-Based Improvements.

This consultation appears to be in response to an initiative by CCS Disability Action that resulted in the preparation of a report "Ngongotaha Street Accessibility Report" prepared for them by Taylored Accessibility Solutions in 2017. This report, after consultation with the local disability community, identified a range of issues split into serious risk, significant concern and minor concern with estimated costs to remedy of $100,000, $237,500 and $200,000 respectively. This report appears to have been received by Council but the findings were never acted upon. Further to this RLC decided to initiate a wider conversation under the above title, and which was approved on receipt of a report to the Operations and Monitoring Committee on 4 June 2020. This has resulted in:-

- The recommendations of the street accessibility audit being overridden.
- The issues being put to the residents with a consultation process before presumably considering any resources being allocated in the 2021 / 31 LTP.
- Continued failure to recognise that the current desired level of service should be the NZTA Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide for today's conditions, not what they were decades ago.
- Subject to approval from residents to proceed with the more expensive options, an expectation of getting NZTA funding.

- The concerns only covering one particular part of the RLC network, ignoring the fact that good asset management would be bringing all footpaths in the Council area up to NZTA Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide standards.
- Possibly abandoning the need for improvements as the report includes a particularly concerning statement under the section on risk stating "It may be, following public consultation that an option does not proceed."

Whilst members of the disability community may not be familiar with RLC planning processes that may require them to temper short term expectations that would possibly require resourcing from limited maintenance budgets, seeing no apparent physical progress since 2017 cannot establish a more positive co-operative relationship with the disability sector and provide avenues for addressing deficiencies in legacy infrastructure based on changed requirements and decades of normal wear and tear.

Te Pūtake o Tawa

This development beside Tarawera Road may have been completed after some consultation with the mountain biking community, but a wider consultation would almost certainly have resulted in a different outcome. The hub remains largely unused in summer time whilst the Tikitapu Lake area is placed under extreme pressure, with parking on the grassed area back from the lake. It is also ironic that the target market for users, being overseas visitors, has all but dried up due to Covid 19 and is unlikely to reach pre-pandemic levels for several years. On most weekends far more vehicles are parked on unformed informal areas besides Tarawera Road than in the car park. Surely it would have been more sensible to prioritise these areas, for example opposite Selwyn Road or besides the water reservoir on the west side of Tarawera Rd, before completing the hub??

7 Supporting the Disability Community

Whilst we acknowledge that a number of RLC staff endeavour to support the disability community in many ways, limited budgets, decisions driven by reactive responses to targeted central government funding and inadequate asset management processes hold back their ability to make many improvements in a timely manner for the benefit of the disabled community.

We would like to see a commitment within the LTP to effective consultation with all sectors of the disability community to ensure those with impairments do not encounter unnecessary barriers to living and enjoying the Rotorua environment. This commitment needs to extend to the districts increasing elderly community, a community with higher incidence of disability than the general population.

The lack of specific requirements to address the needs of an expanding disability community in the LTP is a major concern, especially when it is clear RLC faces significant challenges to fund currently proposed projects.

One way of supporting the disability community would be for RLC to appoint a disability liaison officer with a lived experience, either to a full or part time position. This person could be responsible for, but not limited to the following tasks:-

- Developing a implementing a local disability strategy to ensure RLC staff and elected members are aware of and take necessary action to ensure they meet their obligations to the disabled community.
- Hosting regular meetings with representatives of the disability community and reporting back to RLC through the normal committee process.
- Liaising between the disability sector, RLC elected members, community board representatives and staff.
- Providing disability awareness training for RLC staff.
- Consulting directly with sectors and representatives of the disability community who may be uncomfortable with using more formal channels.
- Advising RLC staff on accessible and inclusive design for facilities and infrastructure.
- Advising tourism attraction operators on providing accessible options for disabled persons.
- Celebrating diversity by co-ordinating an annual awards event for inclusive tourism ventures.
- Collecting and reporting on disabled person's participation in Rotorua society and its attractions.
- Reporting regularly to RLC elected members through the normal committee process.

One of the foundations of good planning is to have a clear idea of the levels of service RLC wishes to provide for all our citizens and not to assume that a lack of concerns raised is a sign that RLC is meeting people's needs. Levels of service will depend on usage patterns and the facilities RLC decides to provide for its citizens and increasing numbers of visitors of all descriptions. In addition to assessing the extent and state of the existing infrastructure, it is necessary to monitor usage patterns and determine potential costs of bringing it up to a common, district wide level of service that recognises everyone that wishes to use it. An absence of people with disabilities using pedestrian infrastructure gives a clear indication that they do not consider it safe to use and/or has access barriers. Levels of service should be based on both current potential usage levels and demographic, and what is expected in the future population.

8 Particular Concerns

Although RLC believes it has sufficient in-house processes to ensure its obligations to the disabled community are met, all too often this is not the case. It should not be necessary for representatives of the disability community to point out deficiencies and omissions after works are completed.

Examples are:

- Acacia Bay Boat Ramp Parking Upgrade. This was completed in late 2020 and had no designated accessible parking spaces or kerb cut-outs to the foreshore.
- The new accessible toilet in the block at Lake Tikitapu did not initially have a grab bar on the door as indicated in the NZS4121 standard, with one only being installed after a complaint was made.

To remedy this situation, as will be the case for other interested parties, we suggest RLC engage suitably qualified access advisers, preferably with a lived experience of disability, to check over plans for new infrastructure before building commences.

8.1 Bus Stops and Shelters.

Many existing bus stops are not fit for purpose.

Access to public transport is an important part of ensuring equal access to the community by disabled people, especially those who do not have the ability to drive their own vehicle. Although the BoP Regional Council provides a good service, it is let down by the state of many bus stops and shelters. As a minimum, every bus stop should have a sealed set down area to enable deployment of wheelchair access ramps and also kerb cuts to allow disembarking passengers to access the nearest footpaths, which may be on the opposite side of the road.

8.2 Rotorua Aquatic Centre

It is pleasing to see recognition that the Aquatic Centre requires redevelopment as many in the disabled community have expressed concern over the state of the changing facilities. Of the three options, we do not consider that option 1 in any way acceptable, even for those in the disability sector who are able to enjoy the facilities. For those that can enjoy the facilities, the availability of suitable accessible changing facilities should be a priority. We would appreciate detailed consultation around the room needed for wheelchairs and portable hoists was regarded to changing facilities. Also, the need for privacy in these rooms is vital. Please consult with us on this.

It is disappointing that the consultation document makes no mention of a possible hydrotherapy pool at the Aquatic Centre, although Steven Watene, Sports Development Manager indicated at a Rotorua Access Group Meeting on 21 April 2021 that, of the three options included in the consultation document, only option 3 included a hydrotherapy pool, albeit combined with a new Learn to Swim pool. He also indicated that the Rotorua Aquatic Centre is one of only a few such centres in New Zealand that do not have such a facility. With Rotorua's present demographic a hydrotherapy pool would allow the Aquatic Centre to provide water based activities for everyone, including the elderly and disabled, many of whom are excluded at present. Until late 2017 some of those with disabilities could use the hydrotherapy facility at the Cantabria rest home, but this has now been closed to non-residents.

There are plans for QE Health to build a replacement hydrotherapy pool in their new building but, as is the case with their current facility, it will primarily cater for their rehabilitation programmes and will only be open to the public for very limited times. Based on its size and current availability to the general public, it will have an estimated maximum capacity of 10 clients at a time, allowing no more than 40 sessions per week.

With only limited hydrotherapy facilities, many disabled persons in Rotorua either miss out entirely or must travel to another centre to use hydrotherapy or similar facilities.

Those that would benefit from a modern facility would include:

- Rheumatism and arthritis sufferers
- Children and others with disabilities
- People with other conditions such as multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease and the muscular dystrophies.
- Those recovering from knee and hip replacement surgery.

- The tetraplegic community
- Those recovering from sports injuries
- Elderly people with limited mobility

The LTP should include a hydrotherapy facility at the Aquatic Centre. This would acknowledge the fact that QE Health will remain primarily focussed on rehabilitation and that there are benefits for others, including the elderly and those with chronic long term issues to have continued access to aquatic facilities within a more relaxed environment.

Whilst RLC may consider the current facilities cater for those with disabilities, it needs to be recognised that the recommended temperature for a hydrotherapy pool is 34°C which is somewhat higher than standard Aquatic Centre Pool temperature of 29.1°C. Ideally we would suggest a pool built in accordance with Australian Standard AS3979-2006, Hydrotherapy Pools should be built.

As the consultation document only has three options we see option 3 as the most appropriate, but note the requirement for substantial external investment, which presumably includes additional facilities over and above a combined Learn to Swim and Hydrotherapy Pool. We see these additional facilities as lower priority as they do not make the complex more inclusive, and should this external funding fall short of expectations then we still submit that the hydrotherapy pool should proceed to be built.

8.3 Housing

RLC needs to become more actively involved in ensuring Rotorua's housing stock meets the populations' needs.

The LTP should include some expectations as to the numbers, locations and types of dwellings that should be built within the district to enable better planning of new infrastructure.

We note the majority of housing in the district comprises individual detached dwellings, which require servicing with a level of infrastructure which could be reduced significantly if areas designated for new housing had maximum section sizes, with revised planning rules to allow, for example, terraced housing and upward expansion. A significant number should be required to be built to Lifemark® or alternative universal design standards to meet the needs of an increasing disability community including the elderly. There needs to be a different approach to street design that allows slow speed zones that can be shared by pedestrians and motor vehicles, eliminating the need for separate footpaths in much the same way as happens within gated older person's developments.

Affordability in Rotorua is extremely important, as it is well recognised that a home owner has far more incentive to maintain a home well than a person renting. Affordability can be improved by ensuring larger numbers of smaller houses are built, including one and two bedroom houses and apartments with communal green space. Council should introduce more flexible planning rules that would allow more rapid consenting and location of factory built homes using innovative design, and also accommodate further villages within the Maori style.

8.4 Footpaths and Other Recreational Facilities

Many of Rotorua's footpaths are no longer fit for purpose, and the consultation document makes no attempt to solicit opinion on how the community considers their current state.

Footpaths provide an important role in allowing the disabled and elderly to enjoy their local neighbourhoods including parks and reserves. Unfortunately the condition of many of Rotorua's footpaths is poor. Driveway crossings and cut outs need to be repaired when concrete has broken off leaving jagged edges. A full condition assessment using a recognised risk modified profile technique as used by WSP (Previously Opus International Consultants) would enable the extent of any upgrade programme to be determined.

For major roads, there should be safe, at grade, crossing places at regular intervals so that kerbs do not create barriers to safe passage by wheelchairs and strollers.

When repair is contemplated, consideration must be given to meeting modern day standards, particularly where pedestrian usage has increased and paths have been re-designated as shared paths. Changes can be caused by the addition of new housing, schools and other facilities.

Considerable effort has been put into developing cycleways in Rotorua which also benefit the disability community. However many that are designated as shared paths have not been designed in accordance with current design standards such as NZTA's Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide. I believe off road footpaths and shared paths are an important part of our recreational facilities. They should all be fit for purpose and where increases in vehicle traffic have occurred it should be recognised that safety risk to users may well have changed, meaning the original design criteria are no longer valid. Issues to consider include, for example:

- Construction of older person's villages and rest homes.
- Infill housing.
- Extension of cul de sacs to areas of new housing.
- Construction or extension of schools.
- Construction of new commercial premises.
- Greater incidence of people with disabilities in the community.
- Provision of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators for the visually impaired.

A major impediment to the enjoyment of our environment by persons with disabilities is access to suitable public toilet facilities and hence these should be included where appropriate.

Where new playgrounds are contemplated, not only should the immediate area be considered, but also associated issues such as car parking, disability access and public transport links. A disabled person should be able to make a complete journey to a recreational destination without facing barriers, as it only takes one problem to deny access to the facility.

New subdivisions such as Redwood Park need footpath access from Forrest Place onwards. We appreciate the need for proactive consultation with landowners were water drainage and burn widths are relevant. Please could this be a priority that we are consulted about? We would appreciate being involved in this to achieve a

suitable outcome, which will not only benefit mountain bike uses, but make accessibility a priority for the full length of that road, and provide safety for all!

8.5 Provisions for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Rotorua's CBD does not cater well for the blind and visually impaired. There are limited numbers of intersections with Tactile Ground Surface Indicators and commercial premises appear to be able to compromise the continuous accessible path of travel with impunity. This normally requires 1.8m of clear access beside the building line, recognised as be the main orientation cue followed by people who are blind or have low vision.

It is recommended audits of the main CBD streets be undertaken with support from Blind Low Vision NZ to determine deficiencies that need to be addressed to enable improved compliance with the Waka Kotahi NZTA document RTS 14 – Guidelines for facilities for blind and vision impaired pedestrians 3rd Edition - May 2015.

8.6 Lakes Access

Within the last few years it has been recognised that many persons with disabilities would appreciate opportunities to enjoy the lakes on an equal basis with others.

Lake Tikitapu is a case in point, and has a popular camping ground. It is also normally swimmable in the summer and therefore would be an ideal place to locate a simple beach mat with a suitable submersible wheelchair available for use and stored at the motor camp.

Another opportunity for the Rotorua disabled community is an increasingly active Sailability group based at the Yacht Club in Mataiawhea Street. For many disabled people in this community, transfer in and out of the yachts involves use of a hoist mounted on the jetty alongside the club. Unfortunately when the lake level is low, there is insufficient water depth to float the Sailability yachts without them resting on the lake bed. We would ask Council liaise with this group to provide an alternative launching site so that sailors with disabilities can be transferred to the yachts safely and access deeper water. Their chairperson is Timothy Lee, email timothyleehome@gmail.com

Advice and assistance may be available from Parafed Bay of Plenty, http://parafedbop.co.nz/

9 The Four Questions

The consultation document asks four specific questions. As the basis for meaningful consultation they are not fit for purpose, as is evident from the issues raised above. However, in the interests of completeness we respond as follows:

1. The Aquatic Centre – (fix the issues or upgrade to provide a regional facility to be proud of?)

We submit that it is not merely being proud of the facility that is important. It should be a facility that is able to be used by everyone, including those with disabilities. Similar complexes around New Zealand now cater for everyone by including a hydrotherapy pool within the complex, and there is no mention of such a facility in the consultation document.

Please also refer to section 8.2 above.

2. A Community Safety Plan (the development of the plan and the level it should be funded)

We submit that this is an issue that should not require ratepayers approval. Providing a safe environment for our citizens, especially our most vulnerable, is a reasonable expectation, just as is the supply of safe drinking water. Community safety is complex and when many people deem it a serious issue, addressing the issues should be considered a matter for urgent attention, whatever the cost.

3. Fees and charges (a proposal to increase fees and charges or increase rates to fund these services)

We do not have a particular opinion on this issue, except to say that whatever the method of charging adopted, the costs should be controlled and preferably increases should be kept below the level of inflation.

4. Consideration of the rates affordability (a proposal to lower the uniform annual general charge)

We are seriously concerned that the proposed increases in rates for Rotorua will cause increasing hardship to our most vulnerable citizens, within which sector the disabled are over represented. We believe lowering the uniform annual rate may possibly help, but we liken it to shifting the deck chairs on the Titanic.

10 Conclusions

Now that the four well-beings which were removed from the Local Government Act have been reinstated, we believe RLC is obliged to treat its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the New Zealand's Disability Strategy more seriously. It is not sufficient to limit involvement with the disability community to merely hosting the Rotorua Access Group that has no formal connection to RLC.

In making this submission we believe the 10 year Long Term Plan must be the key document used to make decisions for the future and that the Vision 2030 document should only be considered as fit for purpose if it reviewed as circumstances change. We believe that the over-arching position given to Rotorua's so called Vision 2030 in guiding the direction of development discriminates, albeit possibly inadvertently, against our community in that it excluded us

Consultation with all sectors of the disabled community should be an important part of the asset management process, especially when determining the levels of service to be delivered to the community. It is simply not good enough to rely on reactive complaints from the limited number of disabled persons who are prepared to lodge them.

We strongly recommend the appointment of a Disability Liaison Officer with a lived experience of disability, preferably full time, to provide a focus to ensure Council meets its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as recognised in New Zealand's Disability Strategy.

Unfortunately Rotorua, along with local government generally, has failed to invest adequately in many areas and now also has the added burden of remedial work to ameliorate the risks of seismic events and climate change. This means there is a danger that issues that could enhance or even merely make possible access to community facilities by the disabled are not recognised. We therefore recommend RLC allocate funding to collect data on the presence, or lack of, persons with disabilities enjoying the facilities Rotorua has to offer. This can be arranged by contracting CCS Disability Action who are familiar with undertaking such surveys. A particular group who appear to be absent from the CBD are the vision impaired, which may indicate that insufficient attention is being given to installing the ground surface indicators that many in this community must rely upon to access the community.

In respect of specific concerns we have made recommendations on:

- Bus Stops and Shelters
- The Aquatic Centre
- Housing
- Footpaths and Other Recreational Facilities
- Provisions for the Visually Impaired
- Lakes Access

We wish to speak to our submission.

Max Hales

Chairperson, Rotorua Access Group

Access Coordinator. CCS Disability Action



NEW ZEALAND
WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM
LE QUESNOY FRANCE
— A PLACE TO REMEMBER —

New Zealand
Memorial Museum Trust
– Le Quesnoy, France
PO Box 90345
Auckland 1143
New Zealand

21 April 2021

Long Term Plan Submissions
Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029, Rotorua Mail Centre
ROTORUA 3046

Submitter: New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust – Le Quesnoy

Contact: Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon ONZ GCVO
Chairman
Email: info@nzwmm.org.nz

SUBMISSION TO LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031

REQUEST FOR FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTRE, LE QUESNOY, FRANCE

Background

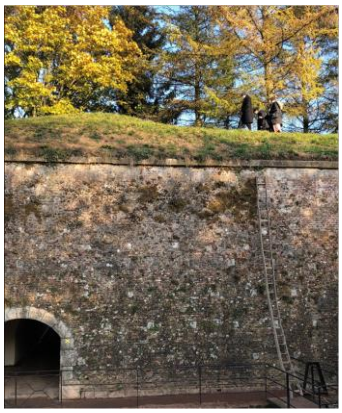
In the closing days of the First World War, our soldiers on the Western Front, exhausted survivors of battles on the Somme, Messines, Passchendaele and from halting the 1918 Spring Offensive, had one last wall to climb – literally.

The small town of Le Quesnoy in northern France had been under German occupation since August 1914 and this was November 1918. Surrounded by a moat and a 17th century wall complete with ramparts, the medieval town was like a fortress that had survived many an invasion in the preceding centuries. It had one more force to reckon with. The New Zealand Division had arrived to liberate the town from the German occupiers, who continued to defend the ramparts using howitzers, machine guns and rifles. Orders had been given to the New Zealand troops not to shell the town, to avoid any casualties among the 1600 civilian inhabitants.

Instead, some 300 flaming oil drums were fired onto the ramparts to create a smoke screen obscuring the assault by New Zealand infantry using long ladders to scale the outer walls and inner ramparts. The liberation of the town was completed with the capture of over 700 German soldiers, against just on 500 New Zealand casualties including 142 dead - the liberation was achieved without



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the loss of a single civilian life. This is an achievement which the town and its people have never forgotten, even today - over 100 years later - which is now beyond living memory. They speak of the liberation with awe, still amazed that men would come from the far side of the world to free their town and citizens, to rescue them in their darkest hour.

The liberation of the historic walled town by the New Zealand Rifle Brigade just one week before the end of the Great War was a demonstration of Kiwi ingenuity and an act of courage. The story of Le Quesnoy is different from that of many other World War One sites – the town was liberated without being destroyed, and the residents were not displaced, and in that respect, it is a story of hope. The town was preserved intact and stands as a place where memories are lived and relived to tell the story to all who will listen; of the price that was paid for freedom in a war that stole much from our world.

The Project



The NZ Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy (a non-profit charitable trust) believes it is time to build a permanent memorial to our soldiers who perished on the fields of Flanders and France in the "war to end all wars". Indeed, it did not end all wars and many more New Zealanders lost their lives on European soil in the Second World War. Over 12,400 New Zealanders are buried in France and Belgium. It is appropriate that the sacrifice of a significant number of New Zealanders, who will remain forever in a place far from home, is acknowledged and remembered.



The Trust has had the opportunity to purchase a heritage property, the former Mayor's residence and Gendarmerie (military police headquarters), in Le Quesnoy, which is directly connected to New Zealand's World War One experience in Europe.

The Trust is working towards the vision of creating "a Kiwi place in France where memory and relationships are alive". We are working towards this goal through the establishment of a Museum and Visitor Centre in Le Quesnoy where our story will be told across multiple platforms – through artefacts, interactive activities, movies, audio stations, an app and other media.



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The museum itself will include space for exhibitions and interactive activities, both digital and manual, designed to encounter and explore the stories of New Zealand's liberation of Le Quesnoy, New Zealand's contributions to the war in Europe, the history of the town of Le Quesnoy, an introduction to New Zealand's culture and heritage to Europeans, and the unique relationship that has developed between New Zealand and the French in Le Quesnoy.

Our Objective

Through this project we seek to celebrate:

Freedom – which inspired our people to go to war

Friendship – the unique bonds which developed between the people of Le Quesnoy and New Zealand which are still strong 100 years on

Future – the opportunity to create a better future with a focus on how to avoid war

Our Partners

To fully realise the link between past, present and future, we have engaged New Zealand's most respected professional museum experts to help shape and guide the concept through strategic planning and interpretative masterplanning. We have recently approved the Internal Experience Design Brief for the Museum and Visitor Centre prepared by museum experts Lily Frederikse, Tim Walker and Karl Johnstone. The Feasibility Study prepared by French company, Lamaya, was signed off last year and our Māori Advisory Group has provided a Māori cultural framework to inform the overall visitor experience.

We are in discussions with the French government about a potential partnership. They are very supportive of the project.

We have raised $8M to date towards the $15M total. Most of this has come from private individuals and businesses, who are on board with the vision of establishing "a Kiwi place in France where memory and relationships are alive". This is not just a project about remembering the past but focuses on the future, developing an experience which is cross-cultural, connecting across nations, through educational experiences and exchanges, offering an opportunity to reflect and learn from the past as we step into the future. As it is so beautifully expressed in Te Reo:

Ka mua, ka muri

We walk backwards into the future.

Our Request

We have previously presented to your Mayor at the Rural and Provincial Council Sector meeting. We wish to request that you consider a funding commitment to this project as part of your Long-Term Plan.



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Our submission is to request that Rotorua Lakes Council supports the project to build a Museum and Visitor Centre in Le Quesnoy with a donation equivalent to $1 per resident of your district, to remember those who gave their lives in the World Wars to give us freedom.

The funds are not required immediately and can be paid over the next three years. We are currently seeking a commitment from you towards the project.

Soldiers came from this city and region as evidenced by your War Memorials. Their names stand in perpetuity here in our country. Their descendants live here and maybe even sit in this Council Chamber. Soldiers came from cities, towns and villages across New Zealand, not knowing what they were going to face on the other side of the world but stepping forward with a courage and belief in what was right and just and good for our country and our world. They went with a belief that tyranny and injustice threatened the very essence of our lives, threatened the freedom, friendship and future which, because of their sacrifice, generations that came after them have been able to enjoy.

In this day and time, we cannot even imagination what they must have faced on the battle grounds of Europe, but we can remember and honour them.

The NZ Memorial Museum Trust asks that you do just that through support of our project.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission which we hope will be favourably considered.

Rt Hon Sir Don McKinnon ONZ GCVO
Chairman
New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust





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TRUSTEES Rt. Hon. Sir Donald McKinnon *ONZ GCVO PC* (Chair), Maj. (Ret.) Mark Hall, Britson (Buddy) Mikaere,, Rt. Hon. Sir Lockwood Smith *KNZM*, Jude Dobson

Dear Sirs,

Subject 10 Year Plan.

Mark Gould

Against Present Plan.

I am against the present plan with Rate increases of Urban Residential Increases of 14.7%, 15.5%, 12.4%, 10.1%, 6.1% Farming Lower CV 18.1%, Business 6.7%, 5.1%, 6.7%, 6.1% Rural Residential 15.9%, 17.8%, 12.1%.These increases are too much for the current time.
With COVID 19, no tourists (up until last week), Lockdowns, NZ Economy being weak,
Shipping issues, overseas travel uncertain ,Government Debt increasing.Appears interest Debit charges increasing.(Press)

The Audit Report on Pages 40and 41 by Leon Pieterse of Audit New Zealand raises major concerns.
Uncertainty over 3 Waters reform.(Central Government Decision which will impact RDC)
Uncertainty over external funding of Capital projects Pages 11 and 29
Refurbishing of the Museum.Press Release recently stating Museum delayed 3 years no cost to Council.The impact is major as costs increase over these years and 3 years of no Museum Income due to doors not open.
Westbrook Sports Precinct
Aquatic Centre
Funding has not yet been sought.

With the Budget of 60 Million for Westbrook Sports Precinct it would be better to do a 2x 6 year renewals to Springfield Golf Club with rent reviews every 3 years.Look at this project in 12 years time to see if this project will go ahead in this area or another part of Rotorua.
My opinion would be Delay or Postpone.Do not go ahead and spend $60 Million Dollars plus.

Other Major concern is page 34 forecasted Debt position of 2021 over $200 Million Dollars and from 2023 to 2031 over $400 Million Dollars.Your page states Total revenue
238% against limit of 250%.RDC has no buffer for a real emergency if happens in Rotorua and effects Council.There is no guarantee revenue will increase to the levels as stated.
The present debt interest charges are too low and within the next 10 years will rise.This means the Council would need to find more funding to pay the interest.

My opinion would be not to increase the debt level over $200 Million Dollars as any debt over this figure would not be able to be repaid.Have another look at the budgets and there is 2 months to adjust the figures ,cancel projects or postpone projects.The 10 year plan would be signed of last week of June 2021.

Your report recommends to reduce the UAGC charge from $475 to $425 on page 37.I would be against this and would leave it at $475 as long as the Urban Residential Increases is less than 4%, Farming Lower CV at 18.1% too much Rural Residential to less than 4%.The Farming sector these figures need to be reassessed.NZ is a trading Nation and the farming sector is very important to NZ balance of payments.
With farmers having more income more money will be spent in the Rotorua area.

Page 2 states Work together, Collaborate,Cooperate
I would delay money being spent on

Inner City Incentives Policy
Development Contributions. (Council would increase its revenue in future years with developers completing projects.Need to talk to developers and find ways which they can increase developments)
Economic Development Action Plans (Issue with young people not wanting to take over retail businesses from parents or start new retail businesses.Not much selection of shops in Rotorua, Too many nail shops, vaping shops, Food places.Need more retail variety owner operators.)
Organic Waste Collection. Need to think of Green Waste first to reduce landfill.
Sustainable Forrest Approach.(A lot of money has already been spent in this area.Let the Forest Companies do more tree planting ,exporting of timber products)
Water Reticulation.Yes spend funds where required to maintain health.Be aware of Central Government and 3 Waters.
Three Waters Reform by Central Government.Wait and see what happens/there approach is .Who pays, what assets and RDC losses from loss of income.
RDC do not have the funds to develop 2 inner city apartment buildings.Leave this for developers and assist them with Council Charges and faster projects (consents)
Your report states 3000 sections.Need to work with developers ,faster development time less costs.Costs with some aspects of consents too high.
Plan change Wharenui Road to Airport (Mostly NZTA).Costs should be paid by NZTA.
Ngongotaha.Need to develop ideas with Ngongotaha Locals?
Plan Change to unlock land for development.Care needed due to flooding in the Ngongotaha area.
Aquatic Centre.Get RDC accounts/budget in order before spending $28.3Million Dollars.Fin Partners.Your cost possible forgetting debt interest charges.
Gang Culture.Should be Central Government and Police concern.Option 3 at this stage due to Council debt.

Draft Economic Development Strategy.At present 2021/2022 year Council could not afford.$20 Million Dollars relook at Budget and work out what is urgent and what can be delayed a number of years.
Forestry Companies are developing what interests are needed and seeking funding where required, Not Main Council Business.
Crankworx. Cancel this funding.Has had plenty of Council funding in the past.
Rotorua Lakefront Commercial and Hospitality Building.Seek outside partner or partners for funding.
Industrial Business Park seek outside funders.
Greenhouse will be an issue for future years, main driver will be Central Government.
Residential Land Development ,Look at cost of $10 Million Dollars.I do not think Council should pay for rather majority.
Climate Change.Do Farm Exports suffer.This is an area which also effects Central Government and BoPRC.Again NZ is a trading Nation without exports Rotorua will suffer.Need care in this area.

Propose 3 Water Reforms by Central Government.RDC could and would loose assets and funding.Less Rates.Would be better to know more information before large funding is made.Yes our pipes are old and need replacing.768 km of pipes.Rotorua we has 11 water sources .Pump stations need back up plant to maintain services.With 3 Waters Rotorua May loose the 11 water sources and this will add extra costs to Ratepayers.(Water will cost more and Water Meters will be required)

Sewerage Treatment.Need to have overall look at system due to recent failure at Eastside 2 months ago.
153 km of open drains too many major safety concerns.Example like eastside more people living there more people at risk, drowning of health issues.
122 km of unsealed roads.Still need to do regular sealing program.Farming sector pay high rates get

little return and expect basic services.
26 Major Culverts.Will need to be inspected due to increase population and the Geothermal issues of the Rotorua Region.Sulphur eats and damages concrete.
Road Bridges some are too small and can not handle more heavier trucks.A number of bridges would need to be upgraded.
Your report states 385 km of footpaths but does not state the km number of streets which does not have footpaths.Some areas of town developed 70 plus years ago still no footpaths on one side of the street.These residents have paid a lot in rates over the years.People are living older and more people want to walk in there areas safely,not tripping over pot holes and slipping on dead leaves.
Bus shelters.Need shelters to be paid for by BoPRC.
Fees and charges.Need better service time and service from Council.
Rates increase 2022 Average of 9% Too High.Need to look at no more than 4% for the next 10 years.
Compliance and Regulatory costs, Look to Central Government to pay more in funding.
Adjust/Increase fees and charges.Look at value for money for increases and need a far better turn around.Do not wait for the last day.
Figure page 33 Museum 2022/2023 $55 Million Dollars wrong year due to recent press release.Museum costs have increased.No income due until 2025 need to down size
Income from this area for tears 2021/2025.
Aquatic Centre.Look for outside funders.$11 Million Dollars,$9 Million Dollars,$9 Million Dollars.May need to look at what is being spent and adjust or extend cost of centre.
Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.On going I've use with costs too high for residents.Need to look at time frame and work through costs.May need to go to Central Government cap in hand requesting more funding.Will costs over $20,000 per property be Councils costs knowing in the future Council will get extra payments in Rates higher value properties.
Lakefront.Is enough enough.Who Will benefit.Ratepayers?
SHMPAC Will the final cost be $11 Million Dollars.Who Will pay for the extra costs.Will the project be extended like the Museum.

The Councils Rate increases are compounded and Rates never come down.
The issue is Future Generations Will they be able to afford Council Rates.

People on fixed incomes can not afford the high Rate increases.

Example is people on Super Income only who own property in Rotorua are finding the Rate amount of there Super Payments are very high mainly single people over 65.
Sometimes the amount is over 20% of there Super Income.I do not believe any one who is a member of Grey Power and owns property is happy with Council and there proposed Rate Increase.

You have shown in your figures high Residential Property Values the rate increase is low.Is this fair?

The future Rotorua Council Debt of $400 Million Dollars Plus is just too much.
Please reduce costs.The CE may even have to put a cap on Staff numbers and hold staff increases in line with inflation.

Council needs to understand they can not, Spend , Spend, Spend.

The dangerous factor is Three Waters and what income and assets are taken from Council.

The CCOs at what cost to Council in Future Years?

Regards

Mark Gould

A Resilient Community –

Resilience - the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. Due to the challenges being endured by people and businesses, it is regarded as a primary criterion for evaluating Council's performance.

'Build back Better' is an overused plagerised slogan that has no meaning to today's environment. Reconstruction will pave the way towards prosperity, and well-being.

The community is plagued by poverty, job loss, reputational damage, groups being trivialised by Council's partnerships, further targeted by accumulating rates rises.

Residents have lost their sense of neighbourhood security, Council and Government agencies denying if not actually lying about the problem.

Homes that Match Needs

This goal of 'homes matching needs' – there is already in place a requirement that new homes are supplied are safe and warm and is not a Council responsibility it is a central Government responsibility. Council can only initiate policies to allow developers the wherewithal to build such home. Re-zone areas if required, reduce building consent fees and time constraints, fast-track subdivision processes.

Building affordable homes on Māori land for the homeless should be viewed with restraint. Any development should be structured in such a way to avoid substandard housing resulting in slum areas – see parts of Morey Street and Pohutukawa Drive plus other areas around Rotorua.

I respect that Ngati Whakaue are an important part of the community and are directly involved in planning and consultation, but there are other community groups that deserve the opportunity to be involved in various aspects and they deserve time to fully develop their submissions for consideration.

There is Maori land being investigated for new residential zoning. As that land is Maori Land and thus remains in Maori ownership I suspect this would possibly involve "Papakainga Development". If this is to be the type of development that is proposed then this should be made known to residents in the area.

If the designated cultural precinct is for Papakainga then I would expect that the usual planning and development requirements would be in place to "enhance the environment and maintain the area as an attractive place to live".

Ngati Whakaue has a fantastic opportunity to ensure that any development does align with the document (Wellness Plan) by "protecting & enhancing our natural environment" and "providing for a connected community" which to me means everyone in the community. I think it is Council's responsibility to avoid misinformation/misunderstanding over various terminology to ensure there remains a cohesive community.

If it is to be Papakainga, what I would wish to see Ngati Whakau develop is a 21st century type of development similar to how Retirement Villages are now developed e.g. the Lynmore Rise Retirement Village. Obviously without limiting to retirement age (although that would also be acceptable). A development that remains under the Ngati Whakaue stewardship – not leased to

the Crown to develop as any type of development by leasing to Crown is likely to fail due to change in successive Governments or Councils. We all know what happens when Government Departments become involved – much red tape and not a lot of action, or if there is action it is usually in the wrong direction, cheaply developed which down the track end up sub-standard.

One of the benefits of the retirement village type of development would be that the land remains under the stewardship of Ngati Whakaue. The beauty of this type of development is that the resident would purchase an Occupation Right Agreement ("ORA") which would usually cost less than the purchase of a freehold house and section. There would be ongoing weekly or monthly payments that cover insurance and maintenance. These types of developments are maintained by an Operator that sees to the day to day maintenance of the grounds and the ongoing maintenance of the buildings.

However any such development should be in consultation with ALL residents in the areas in question.

Council is not a housing developer and should not become a housing developer. It is not the responsibility of Council to undertake the building of apartment blocks in the inner city but should provide the means for which independent housing developers can operate in this city.

It is Council's responsibility to maintain and where necessary upgrade rubbish collection, safe drinking water, stormwater, wastewater, reserves, recreation facilities, roads and footpaths.

Service hubs should not be required. Council should be able to co-ordinate services from its current location in the Civic Centre.



Submission on RLC 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan

Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust was formed by the Iwi and will always be guided by the Iwi to fulfil Iwi aspirations to ensure the values of our Tupuna are never forgotten, to strengthen our cultural identity and to have the ability to create and control our destiny.

Please find below the whakaaro from Ngati Uenukopako Iwi Trust in response to RLC's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan

Community Centre Hubs

Reference is made in the Mahi discussion document in Council Key Priority 2, to support the development of Community Centre Hubs that enable community-led delivery of social and other services. Ngati Uenukukopako is ideally placed within the fabric of Eastside communities and is a foundation champion of Tatau Pounamu which gives our Iwi identity, Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust (NUIT) a unique position to lead and assist development of such a community centre hub. NUIT invites open discussions with our organisation and Tatau Pounamu Collective, to explore possibilities where we can assist with delivery of social and other services across the Eastside rohe.

NUIT is actively involved in many socially responsive activities bettering lives of whanau members and others who live in suburbs that are characterised by high socioeconomic deprivation. In conjunction with Tatau Pounamu we welcome RLC and Government Agencies to engage with our two organisations to establish delivery of social services across our Eastside rohe from and with a community-led lense.

NUIT also advocates that with the knowledge we have of extensive plans for transitional housing and community housing projects earmarked for the Eastside, community safety will/could come into sharp focus in some suburbs on the Eastside in the not too distant future…much as it has in those areas where motels have been utilised for transitional housing in the CBD areas. Need for social services and wrap around support to vulnerable whanau will increase substantially when these developments occur increasing the need for a community hub offering social services within the community.

Community Safety

Eastside (as in other areas of Rotorua) have suburbs that are characterised by high socioeconomic deprivation. Feeling unsafe is an experience many of our community experience on a daily basis. NUIT identifies the need for community safety to be improved within the CBD, but also within the neighbourhoods.

NUIT acknowledges RLC's role in community safety from using CPTED principles in playground design, to food licensing to reducing the harm caused by roaming dogs. We advocate that RLC strengthens its relationships with its communities to ensure that it has a good understanding of what

safety means for each community. The locality planning process currently underway Eastside is a primary mechanism for ensuring this.

NUIT also advocates that with the knowledge we have of extensive plans for transitional housing and community housing projects earmarked for the Eastside, community safety could come into sharp focus on the Eastside in the not to distant future…much as it is now in those areas where motels have been utilised for transitional housing in the CBD areas.

With regards to CCTV we would encourage Council to be again working alongside community and agencies to see if this will actually achieve outcomes. They may have a role in crime prevention around key community assets.

Homes and Thriving Communities and the Eastside Locality

Ngati Uenukukopako and the Tatau Pounamu Collective have been working in partnership with RLC on the 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan (ECWP)' and the wider Eastside Locality Planning Process. This ECWP is almost finalised and it is a blueprint to deliver on the Homes and Thriving Communities Strategy for the Eastside. A wide range of 'key contributors' (e.g. Waka Kotahi, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua Airport, Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands Inc, Ministry of Education) have also inputted their actions that support the Plan. The Plan has also had significant community engagement. Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust welcomes the ongoing partnership as the Eastside Community Wellness Implementation Plan is developed and employed to ensure that actions and expected outcomes of the ECWP are actualised.

In terms of land development we note that Council is looking to increase its role in partnering with land owners & developers. NUIT welcomes this move as long as it aligns and delivers on the 'Key moves' described in the Eastside Community Wellness Plan'.

Papakainga is another contentious issue for NUIT and whanau members. The restrictive rules around Papakainga development have actively precluded Papakainga development for a long time now and to our best knowledge, those restrictive rules and regulations still apply to Papakainga development. This needs to be addressed.

It needs to be acknowledged that there are a number of lands/owners (often multiple owned Māori land) that would welcome a form of partnering to help unlock papakainga/development for housing for future generations. Please consider all opportunities to partner no matter what the scale, many of these smaller blocks have owners who also hold significant ownership in Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands Inc where Council seems to be focussing most of their attention currently.

While this partnering is signalled in the LTP to support the development of the required infrastructure to remove barriers etc, it should be noted also that other forms of partnering can be achieved. A number of our owners and hapū groups would also appreciate partnering in the form of a navigator type person to help awhi owners through the planning, RMA, consenting and building processes. This type of support would assist in expediting the process and ensure that our valuable resources can best be used to deliver homes for our people and community.

Rotorua Aquatic Centre

NUIT supports the upgrade (Option three) of the Aquatic Centre via a Full Master Plan. We note that the only real difference between option 2 & 3 in terms of debt is approx $500k as the extra funding required of $10.4mil will be sourced from external funding for option 3. However, it is important that no extra burden be placed on debt and the ratepayers if external funding level is not achieved. Council needs to stay true to this commitment.
The opportunity for our tamariki to have a dedicated learn to swim facility is important for our whanau.

Also, the current charging philosophy needs to be maintained to ensure that the facility is accessible. For Eastside whanau the centre is already a reasonable distance from the community. This distance is already enough of a barrier with the entry fee being increased and becoming another barrier.

Economic Development Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan
The 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan' outlines a number of actions (e.g. Master planning for Stormwater and Infrastructure) that align with these 3 strategies. It appears that we are all talking the same thing and wanting similar outcomes in terms of homes for our people, protections from flooding and the effects of climate change along with improved environmental outcomes. However, what we in the NUIT/TPC believe is important, is that the achievement of the actions will require relationships, coordination and contribution from Eastside Hapū, Tatau Pounamu Collective, Key Contributors and the Eastside Community to be truly authentic and effective. This commitment is the partnership that underpins the 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan' and wider Eastside Locality Planning Process - our hope is that all partners in the uphold, stay true and are committed to that 'way of working together'.

We also note that much mention is made throughout the Mahi document of development of Stormwater infrastructure…but only lightly references Wastewater infrastructure within the communities. And those references relate to new infrastructure to assist opening up land for development, new infrastructure that joins old dilapidated infrastructure to traverse to our treatment plant. NUIT wants serious conversation around renewal of existing wastewater infrastructure to stop the continuing systemic failures of our aging infrastructure which has led to massive spills of raw sewage entering Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe recently.

NUIT contend that if our aging infrastructure cannot cope with our current population why are we then pushing forward with new development to increase our population and putting further pressure on old dilapidated sewage infrastructure that with recent examples, has proved it can't cope with our current population size without catastrophic failures occurring?

NUIT has been an active voice in discussions over many years on issues such as the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and discharge options for disposal of the treated effluent from that plant. We have also had our voice heard in the Environment Court processes around the Planned Rule Change 10 to reduce nutrients entering Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe, have advocated strongly to fix the issue of cross contamination of our stormwater and wastewater systems that sees a 300% increase in discharge on wet weather days versus dry weather days at our wastewater plant and on the dilapidated state of our existing three waters infrastructure…especially the wastewater drains that systemically fail and discharge untreated sewage into our taonga.

Rates Affordability and Equity
The ever-increasing effect of rates, their affordability and inequity is a concern for NUIT and our communities where many whānau live in circumstances of high deprivation and poverty. We note in the LTP that the proposed average rates increase is 9.2% across the district.
However, of high concern is that while this is an average for the district, the actual average for residential properties in Rotorua is 11.44%. The 'Proposed Rates for 2021/22' table on page 39 of the LTP Consultation Document clearly demonstrates that lower valued properties will be picking up a much higher increase that is likely to be between 11%-15%.

These increases are likely to adversely affect most Eastside communities - certainly the more deprived Eastside neighbourhoods and also the better off one (Lynmore) that has a range of 'working poor' many of whom have young families heavily mortgaged with little disposable income. Large spikes in rates increase (11%-15%) signalled in the first year of the LTP and the effect it will

likely have across all the Eastside communities appears to be counter intuitive to a number of the core strategies in the LTP (e.g. Economic Development & Homes and Thriving Communities).

We are aware that the Uniformed Annual General Charge (UAGC) portion of the General rate has been proposed to be reduced by $50 to help lessen the burden on lower valued properties as the preferred option. NUIT would like to challenge Council to be bolder in trying to reduce the inequity in the rating system and the resulting burden on lower valued properties by reducing this further.

The raising of the Fees and Charges to lessen the burden on the general rate appears sensible. However, in looking at the schedule of proposed fees and charges on the web site it appears that some of the individual charges need to be challenged by Elected Members as to whether the raising of some individual charges is actually worthwhile. Raising the fee will likely be a further barrier to achieving these outcomes.

Climate Change

The Mahi document states *"Our infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to the anticipated effects of climate change, such as increased rainfall, drought and rising temperature."*

Rotorua is already seeing the effects of climate change and how our aged infrastructure is failing to cope with those changes. The Mahi document talks about "*establishing ourselves as a resilient community that can adapt to the changes in climate"* rather than asking how we can change the way we do business to lessen the effect of climate change on Papatuanuku.

Ngati Uenukukopako Iwi Trust contend we need to revisit the Council's Climate Action Plan to position Rotorua as the leader within Aotearoa on sustainable ways Council can go about their core business to lessen climate change and to then actively promote these to fellow councils across New Zealand….only then can we hold our heads up and say to our mokopuna "we are doing constructive Mahi to help sustain Papatuanuku".

If there is the opportunity, NUIT would like to speak to its submission. Of course, we welcome requests for further information and look forward to working with RLC on the mahi identified in this submission, e.g. the establishment of an Eastside Community Centre Hub

Property Council New Zealand

Property Council New Zealand

Submission on

Rotorua Lakes District Council Long-term Plan 2021-31

27 April 2021

For more information and further queries, please contact
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Property Council New Zealand

27 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
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Rotorua Lakes District Council Long-term Plan 2021-31

1. Recommendations Summary

1.1. Property Council New Zealand Bay of Plenty Branch ("Property Council") welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Rotorua Lakes District Council's ("Council") Long-term Plan 2021-31 ("the LTP").

1.2. At a high level we recommend the following:

Rates

- Consider alternative options for the stated rates increase to ease the funding burden on ratepayers in the post-COVID-19 recovery:
  - increase rates in 2022/23;
  - split the increase over four years and then return post this.

Uniform Annual General Charge

- Maintain the Uniform Annual General Charge ("UAGC") as it currently stands;

CAPEX programme

- Consider alternative funding tools, such as user charges, targeted rates, public-private partnership, asset recycling and special purpose vehicles ("SPVs") and asset recycling to successfully deliver the CAPEX programme;
- Adopt Option 1 (the bare minimum to repair the Aquatic Centre);

Alternative funding tools

- Explore alternative funding tools, including targeted rates, public-private partnerships ("PPPs"), special purpose vehicles ("SPVs"), asset recycling to ensure there is no burden on ratepayers to cover the costs and to successfully deliver the CAPEX programme;

Debt levels

- Take on more debt to help deliver the CAPEX programme, while keeping rates, fees and charges at a reasonable level;

Development Contribution Policy

- Continue working with Property Council to develop the Development Contribution Policy to ensure fairness and equity of charges for all.

KPMG Resene RLB

2. Introduction

2.1. Property Council's purpose is; "Together, shaping cities where communities thrive". We believe in the creation and retention of well-designed, functional and sustainable built environments which contribute to New Zealand's overall prosperity. We support policies that provide a framework to enhance economic growth, development, liveability and growing communities.

2.2. Property Council's Bay of Plenty Branch has 104 members. The property sector contributes $1.6b or 14 per cent of GDP of the Bay of Plenty area and employs 8,600 people. That makes it the region's largest economic sector.

2.3. This submission responds to Rotorua Lakes District Council's Long-term Plan Consultation Document and other supporting documents. In preparing our submission we sought and received feedback from a selection of our Bay of Plenty-based members. Comments and recommendations are provided on those issues that are relevant to Property Council and its members.

3. Fees and Charges

3.1. The Council is proposing to increase fees and charges in a number of services to move the burden away from the general rate payer towards the individual directly receiving the service. We strongly support the beneficiary-pays approach the Council has taken as beneficiary-pays funding mechanisms are transparent and provide a better understanding and opportunity to engage on where rates are spent. Rotorua has an abundance of civic and tourist amenities which make it a viable candidate for a beneficiary-pays model, as the end users can see what the benefits of living and working in the city are and so prepared to pay targeted rates. Therefore, **we recommend the Council adopt Option 2** (adjust/increase fees and charges) in the Consultation Document.

4. Rates

Rates increase

4.1. The Council is considering a 9.2% average rates increase next year with an average annual rates increase of 3.8% for the following nine years. We understand that the rates increase is mainly driven by new or increased service levels, inflation and changes to interest expenses and depreciation resulting from the investment into capital expenditure over the next 10 years. However, ratepayers are under significant financial pressure due to the ongoing impacts and uncertainties of COVID-19. Therefore, we recommend the Council consider alternative options for the stated rates increase:

- a delayed rates increase in 2022/23;
- split the increase over 4 years and then return post this.

4.2. These alternative options will ease the funding burden on ratepayers in the post-COVID-19 recovery we now find ourselves in. In particular the increase in cost at a time that businesses are struggling from the lockdowns would be less impactful if this were spread to future years. We also believe that further refinement of the CAPEX programme should be made to avoid unnecessary pressure on ratepayers (see section 5 below).

4.3. The Council is proposing to reduce the UAGC by $55 (Option 1 in the Consultation Document). We **do not support** the proposal as it would only reshuffle ratepayer contributions onto the commercial and industrial sector. As per our previous submission, we strongly oppose the shift of the rating burden onto the commercial property sector given that this funds general Council services that predominately benefit residential ratepayers. Therefore, the commercial sector would be cross-subsidising residential ratepayers. We recommend the Council maintain status quo (Option 3 in the Consultation Document) to ensure fairer distribution of rates across all groups of ratepayers.

5. CAPEX Programme

5.1. The Council is proposing to invest $424 million into core infrastructure (e. g. sewerage, stormwater, roading, water) to renew and upgrade the assets to meet current demand and future growth expectations. We welcome the investment as it will support the community's prosperity, health, safety and environment.

5.2. We also support investment in major infrastructure projects, such as: enhancements and renewals of Rotorua Museum, Lakefront revitalisation that will bring tourism back to Rotorua which in turn grow, strengthen and diversify the local economy. However, as per our previous submission, we believe that projects, such as Aquatic Centre renewals are nice to have, rather than essential at this point in time, given the adverse impact of COVID-19 on ratepayers. Therefore, we recommend the Council adopt Option 1 (the bare minimum to repair the Aquatic Centre) in the Consultation Document. This will allow the Council to borrow $9 million less when compared with Option 2 (Upgrade) or Option 3 (Full master plan) in the Consultation Document.

Alternative funding tools

5.3. Over the course of the budget's 10 years a total of $39.14 million needs to be secured and received from external sources for the Aquatic Centre ($10.43 million), Museum ($16.04 million) and Westbrook ($12.67 million). If this funding cannot be secured the Council will need to consider and make decisions to either scale back the project, delay the project or commit to increasing its funding commitments. If this happens, it will have an instant impact on rates increases in the near future.

5.4. If the funding is not secured, we recommend the Council explore alternative funding tools, including targeted rates, PPPs and SPVs to ensure there is no burden on ratepayers to cover the costs. In particular, SPVs involve debt sitting off the council's balance sheet and is helpful for those council that are approaching their debt limits. It has been successfully implemented internationally and was adopted for greenfield development in Milldale. This tool also became a foundation for the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020, which the Property Council strongly supports. Further use of SPVs would help support much needed investment in growth and infrastructure from new developments.

5.5. We also recommend the Council consider asset recycling as another funding option. As per the Productivity Commission report on local government funding and financing, it is sensible for councils to regularly review their asset portfolio to assess whether their present return from assets is better than alternative approaches.[1] For example, Auckland Council is proposing to sell or lease surplus properties

[1] https://www.productivity.govt.nz/assets/Documents/a40d80048d/Final-report_Local-government-funding-and-financing.pdf

and reinvest the proceeds to meet Auckland's critical infrastructure needs. We support Auckland Council's proposal as it provides an opportunity to create funding capacity. We believe the Rotorua Lakes District Council should follow suit.

6. Debt levels

6.1 We are disappointed with the Council's proposal to maintain debt below 250% of revenue, given that the Government has increased the debt to revenue ratio limit beyond the 250 percent cap to support councils across the country.[2] As per our previous submission, we recommend the Council taking on more debt (i.e. up to 300%) to help deliver the CAPEX programme, while keeping rates, fees and charges at the reasonable level.

6.2 The Council's proposal to maintain maximum borrowing at the self-imposed limit of 250% is inconsistent with other proposed Long-term Plans around the country. For example, Auckland Council is increase borrowing to a temporarily higher debt-to-revenue ratio of up to 290 per cent for the first three years, gradually returning to 270 per cent thereafter. Hamilton City Council is considering resetting Council's net debt-to-revenue limit to 300% for 2021/22 , and then decreasing by 5% each year until 2025/26 where it will remain at 280% from 2026/27 to 2031/32. We believe the Rotorua Lakes District Council should follow suit.

7. Development Contribution Policy

7.1 Development Contribution fees and policies can either enable or stifle growth. In this time of economic recovery, we need policies that encourage development (e.g. CBD remission to encourage CBD development; deferral of DCs to when developer can afford to pay).

7.2 The DC policy is of significant importance to our members in the Bay of Plenty region. It is absolutely critical to have a robust DC policy that would allow the industry to make informed long-term investment decisions and ensure fair distribution of fees amongst all ratepayers. We are keen to work with the Council to help develop the DC policy to ensure fairness and equity of charges for all.

8. Conclusion

8.1 We support Council's proposals around use of beneficiary-pays funding mechanisms and investment in core infrastructure. To ensure better and fairer outcomes for all, we have made recommendations around use of alternative options for rates increases, reprioritisation of some infrastructure projects, better use of alternative funding tools and increasing debt levels. We also keen to work with the Council to help develop a robust DC Policy.

8.2 Our members invest, own and develop property across Bay of Plenty. We wish to thank the Council for the opportunity to submit on the LTP as this gives our members a chance to have their say in how Rotorua is shaped, today and into the future. **We also wish to be heard in support of our submission.**

[2] Move to alter LGFA debt covenants to provide more choices for councils welcomed (6 May 2020) https://www.lgnz.co.nz/news-and-media/2020-media-releases/move-to-alter-lgfa-debt-covenants-to-provide-more-choices-for-councils-welcomed/

Property Council New Zealand

8.3 For any further queries contact Natalia Tropotova, Senior Advocacy Advisor, via email: natalia@propertynz.co.nz or cell: 021863015.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Adams
Bay of Plenty Branch President
Property Council New Zealand

Phillip Cross….My Submission in the Council Long Term Plan is on the ….

Rotorua Climate Action Plan

Council Key Priority number 4 is the Climate Action Plan and part of this is to investigate organic waste collection and propose the following goal.

1. ***Reduce waste to landfill from organic and non-organic sources.***

The Goal is to reduce landfill related emissions by up to 17,000 + Co2e by 2030 and by up to 12,000 Co2e by 2050 (I guess this is yearly figures!)

The proposal does NOT outline the nett figure goal of taking this action.

Part A

I made submissions on Waste in 2015 in conjunction with the Long-Term Plan and in particular the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and consider any changes to Waste must be considered through the Waste Minimisation Act and not through any other Act.

Councils have a Statutory role in managing waste and are required to promote effective and efficient waste and minimisation within their territorial area.

A key part of doing this is to adopt a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and have it publicly consulted. This is normally done in conjunction with the Plan and long-term planning process. A review should occur at a maximum interval of 6 years the last occurred in 2015.

Before making any decisions around waste and completion of a Waste Management and Minimisation plan is completed, a District waste assessment must be carried out.

The key requirements for any assessment are.

A Use best endeavours to make a full and balanced assessment and

B Consult the Medical Officer of Health

C Consideration must be given to the hierarchy of waste.

Information gathered from the waste assessment helps determine the content of the Waste Management Minimisation Plan and the areas of focus for action over the life of the plan.

As outlined earlier the Waste Assessment and subsequent plan should have been available this year and included in the 2021 Long Term Plan (six years from previous review in 2015)

There is a Waste Assessment 2021 available on the Councils website but not included in the Long-term plan.!

The Medical Officer of Health has supplied letter dated 7 April 2021 outlining that the Council intended to consult through the 2021 Long-term plan.

WHY DID THIS NOT HAPPEN?

Before commenting on the Waste Assessment 2021 I will comment on the numbers

The assessment 2021 described the changes that have been made as transformational from the Waste Management ad Minimisation Plan 2015 assessment and therefore concluded only recorded figures from 2017 are necessary.

Have made up a schedule of figures including detail from previous assessments.

Waste to Landfill	***2014/15***	***2017/18***	***2018/19***	***2019/20***
Waste to Landfill before Recycling	332	532	459	532
Kerbside Total to landfill	8,400			15,000
Target	336	330	315	300
Recycling	4,000	4,700	4,900	5,100
Customer Satisfaction		93%	91%	84%

Waste Assessment	***2015***	***2021***
Green waste % in Bags	11%	
Green waste % in bins		39%

Content sourced from Waste Assessment 2015

	Paper Bag	***Wheelie Bins***
Average Set out weight	8.9 kg	22.6kg
Green waste	11%	19%
	0.979 kg	4.294 kg

Before the transformational changes, the Kg weight per household had been steadily decreasing to an actual of 332kg now it is 532 kg, ***an increase of 60% over the six years.***

The targets that were set from 2015 used the 2014/15 figure as a baseline and reducing by approximately 10% over 6 years. The targets set did not allow for recycling to be excluded from general waste.

Per household waste is increasing while customer satisfaction is decreasing.

NOTE As part of 2015 Waste Assessment a survey was used with sample data of 200 rubbish bags and 87 waste bins and drew the above conclusions!

<u>Closure of the Atiamuri Landfill</u>

Was one action areas completed over the last plan and it only received four lines off comment in this assessment and Waste is now transported to Tirohia.

As part of the Climate Action Plan adopted February 2021 there was a commitment to climate risk and opportunity into its Councils decision making process. When the decision was made around closure there was little consideration to the environmental impact of shifting Waste 120 km away. Capacity at this location is nearing capacity and the Resource Consent to increase capacity was being undertaken 18-23 April 2021.

What happens if it is not successful?

On my rough calculation there are

- 35 return trips weekly to Tirohia
- - 240 k round trip (entrance to entrance)

Using a per CO2/k from the New Zealand Transport knowledge conference 2019 have calculated between 45-50 tonne CO2 per year are involved in the transportation to Tirohia

We have not identified either risk in the recent Waste Assessment or Climate Action Plan.

Under 5.6 of the Waste Assessment, it says "since Tirohia is located about 115 km away from Rotorua there would also be increased Transport emissions associated with solid waste" ***BUT NO OTHER COMMENT!***

Kerbside Collection

The SWAP audit of Wheelie bins was carried out in December 2020. It does not have an average set out weight as the audits carried out in the previous Waste Assessment and how many bins were surveyed.

December 2020 was a strong plant growth period, and the moisture content was abnormally high, also households would have been preparing their properties for Christmas New Year period. ***The weight of plant materials would have been 50% higher than at any other time of the year.***

The SWAP Audit included cellulosic fibres (flax) as part of the green waste total (page32)

Even though flax is one of the country's most distinctive native plants it is not regarded as green waste by the Council***.***

There are 2 types of pickups of general waste…. and the plastic bag system used by parts of the District should have been analysed as well to provide balance.

The composition audit is now being used to draw the conclusion that 55-60% of waste to tip could be composted. While flax is regarded as general waste the composition profile is flawed and lacks balance because the plastic bag system was not used for a comparison.

From the schedule of figures and detailed in the 2015 Waste Assessment earlier the Council would have also known that bins would hold 72% more green waste than the previous system, but still made that decision to change.

In 2015 Council made the kerbside bins compulsory (cannot opt out) and increased the green waste tonnage rate by 170%

In this scenario residents will always top up if they have spare capacity, whether that be green or anything else. I expect this would have happened when the composition audit was carried out in December 2020.

Perhaps we should just exclude green waste being placed in the Red Top Bins

Health and Safety

As outlined earlier the Waste assessment requires 2 key components and one of these is the Medical Officer of Health comments.

The letter dated 7 April 2021 is largely supportive based on the information supplied.

Some important points are raised and if the Council had been working with him then some comments should have formed part of a full and balanced report.

"Organic waste is a significant part of Rotorua waste stream and provided the diversion process chosen by Council does not increase the risk to health or create a nuisance I am very much supportive".

My submission to the 2015 Waste Plan raised concerns around Health and Safety of the residents. The worker aspect was well covered but the risks to the residents was not.

Residents must shift the bins from storage to kerbside, any safety risks here, slips etc and then placement on the kerbside. Over time I have observed that a big percentage of footpaths are adjacent to the roadway and when a bin is placed on them it creates an obstruction.

There are at least 7 schools in Rotorua where the school is on a street with this type of design as well as the feeder streets. Three of these schools are Western Heights High School, John Paul College and Rotorua Girls High School.

There are also sections of shared paths which will have bins on them.

- Southern end of Springfield Road
- Gordon Road
- And the top end of Clayton Road

Attached are a selection of photos from the Springfield/Hillcrest area, every collection day there is the same situation arising in our district where our Waste collection is slowing the flow of traffic along these pathways.

A mobility scooter driver advises she had made many complaints about bins blocking her access on paths, without any changes being made. She wanted to supply photos from scooter camera, but these had not arrived at time of submission. She now drives down the roadway on collection days.

We are considering placing more receptacles on the pathways (green waste/food) but at what time do we consider it a "nuisance" Now or later.?

As part of the Climate Action Plan, we have defined active transport as key component.

By clogging our pathways with bins are we shifting people away from our pathways to roads?

The Council is committed to climate risk and opportunity but when it comes to footpaths and active transport, they are not redesigning them with a buffer zone between pathway and road to allow for pathway flow and safe placement of bins. Recent surface upgrades in McDowell Street and Martin street show this is not a priority.

The Medical Officer of Health has been consistent in the approach about nuisance over number of assessments and his support in changes is conditional upon this happening.

In Waste Management 2015 and 2021 there has been no comment on this aspect

<u>Recycling</u>

The Waste Minimisation Act describes recycling as …..

"the reprocessing of waste or diverted material to produce new materials".

In our recycling bins we can place plastics from 1-7 but changes due to overseas factors only items 1-2 can be recycled, the rest now go to the landfill.

When the change to recycling bins was made as a resident, I did not fully understand implications of transferring our recycling overseas.

In the Waste assessment process, it should be quite clear that our recycling should clearly meet the definition of the Waste Minimisation Act.

SUMMARY

1. The Waste Minimisation Act requires a Waste Minimisation Plan to be reviewed at an interval not more than 6 years after the last review. The last review was 2015 and is now due.

The changes from the last Waste Minimisation Plan 2015 resulted in:

A An additional 45-50+ Co2 tonne per year enter the environment from transportation of waste to Tirohia

B Waste to landfill from residential collection has risen from 332 in 2015 to 532 2020 (excluding recyclables)

C Total kerbside collection tonnage rising from 8,400 tonne in 2015 to 15,000 in 2020.

D Nuisance from bins clogging pathways.

E Not all recycling in bins meeting the requirements of Waste Minimisation Act.

F Did not touch on street litter bins. From this source approximately 1500 tonne per year of recyclable materials is transferred to the landfill.

Waste Assessments have not bee drawing out the full extent of our waste situation.

CONCLUSION

The Climate Action Plan to reduce green waste to landfill does not consider or take into account…..

A. Additional truck movements (Transfer station from Rotorua to Kawerau)
……. What is the impact to the environment?

B. Additional multiple truck movements around the city….
…….. What impact will this have on our aging roading system?

C. Additional bins placed on a footpath system that in many cases are not designed to accommodate them.

RECOMMENDATION

1. ***It would be more efficient just to ban green waste from the general waste bins and have the residents decide the best options for their own properties, composting etc.***
2. ***Ensure flax is now classified as green waste.***

Submission from Phillip Cross Resident of Rotorua



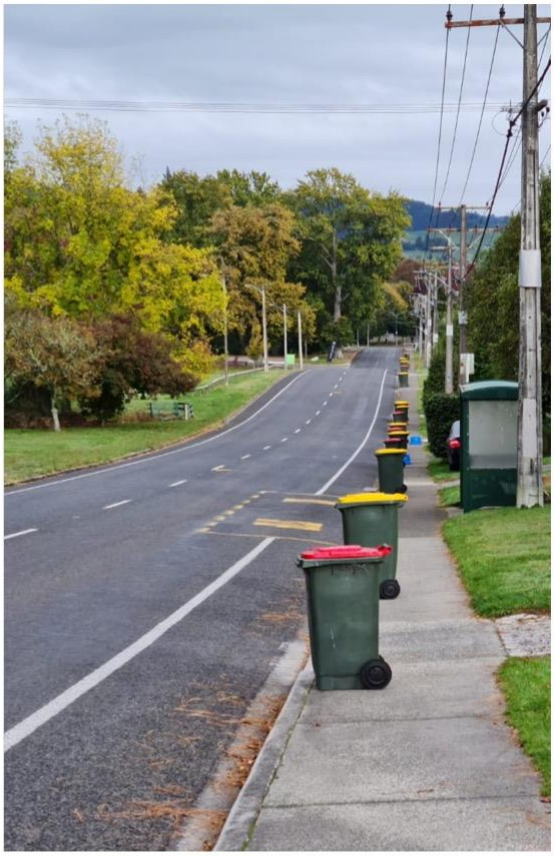


















FEEDBACK REGARDING ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL'S DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN 2021-2031

Submitted by Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers Inc.

Contact: Faye Jensen, Secretary,

Final Draft, submitted 30 April 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers (RDRR) independently consulted its 700+ members, associates, and friends about the Rotorua Lakes Council's (Council's) draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031[1] and its associated Financial Strategy.[2]

Members found these two documents to be somewhat incoherent, fragmented, relying on vague aspirational policies for justification and as lacking implementation details that should have explained and justified spending forecasts. This feedback is necessarily lengthy to cover the implications of both documents.

Overall, RDRR members urge Council to face reality. The sudden contraction in tourism, the surge in homelessness, deepening poverty, climate change, growing crime and drug abuse, and the coming loss of up to 30 percent of Council's responsibilities, assets, debt, and income (due to the Three Waters reforms) means that *Vision 2030* is obsolete. Te Tatau o Te Arawa's *Vision 2050* is seen as retrospective inclusion because its aspirations were embedded into Council's LTP 2018-2028 prior to its symbolic adoption into the draft LTP 2021-2031.

In sharp contrast, RDRR's members have a vision of healthy interculturalism, greater equity and growing prosperity in an inclusive democracy.

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[1] Rotorua Lakes Council (25 March 2021) Mahi: 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan Consultation, Author.
[2] Thomas Colle (15 March 2021) Financial Strategy, presentation to the Rotorua Lakes Council, available at https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Council%202021/LTP%202021%20-%20Section%20%20%20%20Financial%20strategy%20DRAFT%20-%20220321.pdf
[2] https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018787692/centralisation-of-water-services-nanaia-mahuta
[2] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Council%202021/Ten-year%20CAPEX%20programme%20-%2016%20March%202021.pdf
[2] https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-council/10-year-plan/Pages/default.aspx

Goal Statements

The first 'Goal Statement' in the Financial Strategy, 'community resilience,' is worthy but is being undermined by poverty, job loss, reputational damage, and many interest groups being marginalized by Council's partnership with Te Arawa.

The second goal, 'homes that match needs,' is impractical, implausible, and inappropriate because, except for pensioner flats, housing is not a Council responsibility and housing needs vastly exceed Council's capacity to meet them.

The third, 'outstanding places to play,' is extravagant because the maintenance of current facilities and opportunities would be adequate in the current financial context and must not threaten the socio-cultural value and future of clubs as proposed by the Westbrook proposal.

The fourth goal, 'a vibrant city heart,' is appropriate providing it respects our multicultural heritage, successful interculturalism and implements the Greg Brown Report.

The fifth goal, 'business innovation and prosperity,' requires Council to recognize its limited expertise and engage only in 'light and temporary partnering' to 'front load' infrastructure. It does not justify establishing a Developer Council Controlled Organization (CCO) which would compete with the private sector and create conflicts of interests with Council's regulatory and compliance responsibilities.

There is ambivalence in RDRR about the sixth goal, 'employment choices,' because of the muddled central and local responsibilities involved. The seventh goal, 'a balanced environment,' is significantly underdeveloped given the urgency of the climate change crisis.

Key Strategies

It is not clear which of the five key strategies in the Financial Strategy are intended to achieve which goals. Most strategies appear have their own intrinsic goals and lack the details to justify their proposed budgets.

The first key strategy, 'community safety,' appears unlikely to be achieved unless the intervention and support models used by the Police, Ministry of Social Development (MSD), other central government agencies and Council are reviewed, and functions better integrated.

The second and related key strategy, 'housing and thriving communities,' is limited in scope to housing. However, since it remains a central government responsibility but plagued by policy incoherence, it is implausible as a key strategy for Rotorua Council.

The third key strategy, 'economic development,' needs to be fundamentally revised – it comprises a failed tourism 'recovery' approach when business reconstruction in the sector is

warranted, piggy backing on national initiatives in forestry and wood processing, and a stalled central housing development policy.

This muddle over key strategies is compounded by six additional 'priorities' being presented in the draft LTP 2021-2031 that are intrinsic to Rotorua's economic development: climate change mitigation and adaptation, infrastructure investment, all-of-government action, Three Waters reforms, and roads and footpaths.

The mitigation and adaptation methods proposed in the Climate Change Action Plan 2021 to meet central government targets (that are intended to ensure sustainability) make good sense to RDRR members.

The 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy appears to be a coherent response to the multiple challenges of asset maintenance, future demands, rising standards, respecting cultural values, climate change and the environment, and system and personnel resilience. The catch is that the Infrastructure Strategy is likely to be rendered redundant by the Three Waters Reforms and offer significant opportunities for organisational rationalization and debt reduction in Council.

The Council's All-of-Government Action Plan describes the need for much more effective intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, but without agreed implementation plans, is unlikely to achieve serious improvement. RDRR members believe that Council should lead economic reconstruction by example, especially by rebuilding essential service delivery at grassroots levels, such as sealing and maintaining local roads and providing and refurbishing footpaths.

Focus Areas

The Financial Strategy proposes that 'Focus Areas' be funded for the coming three years. It is not clear how a 'focus area' differs from a 'priority' or how they relate to key strategies and will give effect to goal statements. It implies that priorities, key strategies and goal statements will not be funded in the coming three years and are political rhetoric. The internal coherence between the draft LTP 2021-2031 and the proposed Financial Strategy is modest.

Regarding its general approach, RDRR urges Council to renew its commitment to the provision of basic infrastructure. Legislation requiring attention to the four well beings, albeit worthy in intention, was subsequently unfunded by central government. This led to a diffusion of attention hitherto given to Council's basic responsibilities that now must be rectified.

The first 'focus area' is the Whakarewarewa Forest Project. Council is investing public money in the Redwoods Information Centre redevelopment and the Hub 2 project to build tourism assets on Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao land, including maintenance in perpetuity. RDRR members ask Council to review these 'investments' in the light of potential duplication of Scion's café services, no returns to ratepayers, the sharp contraction in tourism, the poverty in the District and because the joint project is an example of crony capitalism.

The second ‘focus area’ is the redevelopment of the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre (SHMPAC). Given the Covid Depression, growing poverty and the rates affordability crisis, this redevelopment project is regarded as wasteful. RDRR members would have preferred restoration with earthquake proofing to a business operating standard, to restart cash flows. The so-called redevelopment is also regarded as architectural vandalism and cultural elitism in a multicultural and democratic community because it signals racial superiority.

The third ‘focus area’ is the redevelopment of the Museum. RDRR members would have preferred restoration with earthquake proofing to a business operating standard. The project is also regarded by RDRR members as exemplifying reverse cultural imperialism. The museum’s purpose has been changed from being a community museum, that houses the valued artefacts of our multicultural community, to being just Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa (the treasure house of Te Arawa).

The fourth ‘focus area’ is Council’s joint Lakefront redevelopment project with Pukeroa Lakefront Holdings (PLH) Ltd., using $41M of public money. There will be no returns to taxpayers and ratepayers from the investments into tourism assets that will be managed by PLH. There has also been a major loss of amenity values, especially viewing by the elderly and handicapped who are often vehicle bound, in favour of improving the sight lines of the Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa and Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. Specialist wood scientists and providers contest the claim that a New Zealand alternative was not available to building the boardwalk with tonka timber from Peru (that cost $250,000 excl GST, along with creating a huge carbon footprint).

The fifth ‘focus area’ is the Aquatic Centre. RDRR members advise that the new 50m pool and a $8M repair bill is what our community can barely afford right now. The $17.4M upgrades should wait for better times, they argue, and help take the pressure off stressed ratepayers. The $24.8M redevelopment option is considered outrageous when families are struggling to stay together and feed their children, and when businesses are battling to survive.

The sixth ‘focus area,’ the ‘Out of the Forest Spray Irrigation Consent and Options,’ otherwise known at the Kawaneta Proposal, is provisionally supported by RDRR members. Their proviso is that Council seriously considers additional biological methods of further and measurably reducing remnants of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) in the discharged treated wastewater prior to it entering streams, using treated wastewater in commercial activities to save fresh water for domestic use, and reduce the volume of wastewater to be treated and discharged.

The seventh ‘focus area’ is the ‘Rotorua Wastewater Upgrade’. RDRR members continue to support the planned upgrades to Rotorua’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) although it opposed outsourcing the management of the wastewater system to Trility. The aged pipes and misconnections allowing undue amounts of stormwater to enter the wastewater system must be replaced far more urgently than the Trility contract provides for. RDRR members living in Rotoma point out that the sewerage connection cost of $14K, with an annual $500 for

maintenance, means that the proposed 17.8 per cent rates increase has become unaffordable for many.

The eighth and final 'focus area' is the 'Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.' RDRR members living in the Tarawera catchment are concerned that the planning process has been underway for decades without resolution. The roadside pumping route to connect Tarawera with the Rotorua WWTP via Okareka is supported.

Residents were, however, offered an estimated full-cost connection for $33,000 on the understanding that the project would go ahead if 75 per cent accepted the offer. Given the 65 per cent acceptance rate, RRDR's members living in Tarawera now support the proposed reticulation scheme on health and environmental grounds providing Council offers a range of additional financing options and for the design phase to be moved up into Year 1 of the Long-Term Plan, which starts 1 July 2021.

Transformative Initiatives

Seven 'transformational initiatives' were presented in the draft LTP 2021-2031 although it is not clear how they differ from a 'focus area' or a 'key strategy'. They appeared, to RDRR members, to be part project and part spin. Again, this suggests the importance of corporate leadership that coordinates and improves the development of draft strategic plans.

The first 'transformational initiative' is '1,000 New Homes' although 2,000 homes were promised elsewhere in the draft LTP 2021-2031 with budget allocations of $5M and $20M. These arbitrary estimates are wildly at variance with Infometrics' population projections and could prompt cynicism, especially in a context of confused and confusing central government housing policy announcements. There appears little chance of 'transformative' housing outcomes in Rotorua, apart from a much needed and additional provision of pensioner flats.

The second 'transformational initiative' is '25 ha of New Industrial Parks.' RDRR members indicated provisional support in principle and yet doubts because the Airport CCO has been given a series of grants to advance its annual but unfulfilled promises of land commercialization and is yet to reconstruct the Airport's business case since Covid.

The third 'transformational initiative' is 'Two Inner City Apartment Buildings.' While supportive of this objective, RDRR members are wary of the proposal[3] that Council "leads development of investment proposals and seeks to partner with investors to bring more residential land and inner city living to market." RDRR's members are opposed to the establishment of a Developer CCO because it would compete in the private sector, operate on loans at great risk to ratepayers, generate few returns, and offer low public accountability to ratepayers, its base clients. They believe that two apartment buildings can best be achieved by Council reforming its

[3] Rotorua Lakes Council (25 March 2021) Mahi: 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan Consultation, p. 9.

consenting practices and encouraging the private sector, as exemplified by Rotoma No. 1's plans for a hotel and apartment block in Arawa Street.

The fourth 'transformational initiative' is 'Community Service Hubs (Eastside, Westside, Ngongotaha).' RDRR members advise that service hubs will not be needed if Council coordinates service delivery properly from the Civic Centre or via its CCOs. The shortage of appointments in planning and consenting is seen as a major impediment.

Community Service Hubs could become bureaucratic outreach, waste money on distributed offices that would better spent on improving services and install another bureaucratic layer resistant to public accountability.

RDRR members are also sceptical of the so-called 'Wellness Plans' because they have been based on consultations with selected groups that are not representative of groups of suburbs. The outcomes to date appear to be symbolic legitimation of an implementation plan that does not have the informed and expressed support of most residents in the Eastside, Westside or Ngongotaha.

The fifth 'transformational initiative' proposed is a 'Neighbourhood Co-creation and Investment Programme (Eastside, Westside, Ngongotaha).' RDRR members are wary of this proposal because it appears to be driven by single interest groups that usually do not recognize the need to hold culturally sensitive consultations of all stakeholders and who not appreciate the socio-economic and cultural diversity of their neighbourhoods.

They are also wary because it could waste precious resources by duplicating services best coordinated from the Civic Centre or delivered by a CCO. RDRR's members endorse instead targeted support for community development projects in our villages, such as Ngongotaha, Mamaku and Reporoa, and on marae.

It is crucial that neighbourhood demand is both well understood and represented by elected members and transformed into practical development plans by Council providing process facilitators for community planning. RDRR would prefer to see the reintroduction of wards to improve the communication of needs from neighbourhoods and more direct accountabilities back to them.

The sixth 'transformational initiative' is a 'Neighbourhood Safety Programme.' It appears to duplicate the proposed Community Safety Programme above and could waste rates. RDRR members feel that their neighbourhoods have become far less inclusive, safe and liveable because people have become more withdrawn. This means that the base preconditions for such a programme to be successful are not in place. RDRR members would prefer that its recommendations about the Community Safety Programme be considered.

The seventh 'transformational initiative' is a 'Leadership Centre (Government, Iwi and Council – Civic Centre).' RDRR members can see the potential is having a one-stop-intergovernmental-shop that delivers integrated services, excluding Three Waters.

One potential danger is that it could consolidate the power of central govt agencies, iwi and Council officials, further disempower elected members, and fail to improve the level of service while significantly increasing costs. Council has no competitors and no discipline behind closed doors. RDRR members are most unhappy about the pervasive secrecy and the lack of democratic debate on Council that should be refreshed by public hearings, and by having ideas debated and blended in the public interest.

Capital Expenditure Programme

The Ten-Year Capital Expenditure Programme document classifies projects within each 'LTP Activity' group as either 'Growth', 'LOS' (Level of Service), or 'Renewal'. Presumably 'Growth' justifies the budget proposed for each project as being due to population growth, although it is not clear which of Infometrics' three scenarios were used.[4]

It is also not clear what 'LOS' refers to – either restoring or developing levels of service. Renewal appears to imply replacement or restoration, which overlaps with the LOS classification.

In the absence of integrated project plans that clarify aims, objectives, phases, reporting, budgets and evaluation, it is not possible for RDRR members to provide sophisticated feedback on the quality of projects and the appropriateness of the proposed capex.

Nevertheless, the imminence of the Three Waters reforms suggests that a most urgent issue is for Council to develop contingency plans regarding opex and capex. The advice of many RDRR members is that it is time for Council to 'get real' and cut a new 10-year plan with downsized budgets and a debt reduction strategy.

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges have been declining as a proportion of income since 2015, imposing increasingly on ratepayers to pay operating costs to avoid additional debt funding.

Regarding this as a prudent approach mistakenly assumes the affordability of rates rises to ratepayers in perpetuity. It is not clear how limiting rates revenue to not more than 85 per cent of all income will affect the 'user pays' policy when the Three Waters project will remove up to 30 per cent of Council's income.

[4] Infometrics (March, 2020) Rotorua District Employment, Population, Household and Visitor Projections for Rotorua Lakes Council, p. 19.

RDRR members familiar with the need for frugality in hard times therefore agree with the Council's continuing 'user pays' policy regarding fees and charges.

The exception widely supported is for free parking to be provided in the central business district (CBD) in addition to implementing the Greg Brown Report.

Rates

The affordability of proposed rates increases to ratepayers was by far the most concerning issue to RDRR respondents. This concern straddled the issues of sustainability, front loading and false promises of levelling, the impact on the poor and elderly, the absence of cost compression, under investment in core infrastructure, and over investment in iwi partnerships and tourism.

A major theme in the advice from RDRR members concerned the morally offensive injustice evident in comparative rates rises. Some high value rural properties have been given significant rates reductions, elite suburbs have been given a 2 per cent increase and the poorest suburbs have been given a 14-15 per cent increase.[5] Justification for these allocations must be provided in a context of previous years' allocations because, as they stand, they constitute continuous and regressive wealth distribution.

Others reflected on the false financial equivalence of some proposed rates rises. For example, rural residence owners complained at rates rises when they get neither services nor rates relief for land lost while complying with PC10.

The few RDRR members that responded to the proposed reduction of the UAGC by $50 argued that it was relatively trivial and should stay at $475 per annum to maintain equity to all ratepayers for uniform services.

Most RDRR members attributed the rates rises directly to the Mayor and most elected members being 'out of touch' and advised them to 'face the facts' of the Covid Depression, climate change, homeless and rates affordability crisis.

They blamed the Council for putting vanity and legacy projects and iwi partnerships ahead of service renewal and replacements that have resulted in the deterioration of infrastructure.

When all feedback from RDRR members on rates was categorised, seven major themes emerged; unsustainable impositions, untrustworthy promises of levelling in Years 2-10, the impact of rates rises on ratepayers, the absence of cost compression, under investment in core infrastructure, over investment in iwi partnerships, and Council's fixation on 'push marketing' tourism.

[5] Rotorua Lakes Council (25 March 2021) Mahi: 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan Consultation, p. 39.

External Funding

Council has proved effective at obtaining substantial external funding and those involved are to be congratulated.

On the other hand, RDRR members warn Council that such windfall grants in future will be vulnerable to erratic political and economic winds in central government as New Zealand comes out of the Covid Depression.

Capital Investment

The Financial Strategy for 2021-2031 proposes that $732M be invested in capital works, specifically in the Museum, Lakefront, Performing Arts Centre, Whakarewarewa Forest, Rotoiti/Rotoma WWTP, Tarawera sewerage, Aquatic Centre, stormwater and roading projects.

RDRR members advised that these proposals should be revised in the light of,

- The Three Waters decisions,
- Asking iwi partners to take a greater role in financing capex and maintenance and all responsibility for opex,
- Withdrawing the $61M Westbrook proposal in favour of designing a Community and Sports Centre in Fordlands,
- Switching the Crankworx subsidy into the development of an International Golfing Destination Strategy,
- contractCost compression and effective project management in all projects,
- Moving Tarawera's reticulation design phase up into Year 1 of the draft LTP, and
- Adding the design phase of a CBD rescue strategy based on the Greg Brown Report to Year 1 of the LTP.

Debt

RDRR members recognized that the Financial Strategy proposed for 2021-2031 is planned to hold debt below the permissible ceiling of 250 per cent of revenue. They asked that the recommended cuts to capex above be used to lower the proposed increase to borrowings of $180M.

RDRR members strongly advise Council to develop a debt retirement strategy, including methods used in other public service organizations to challenge project and programme budgets, such as cost compression and formative evaluation.

BACKGROUND

Elected members of Council approved a draft Long-Term Plan (LTP) for 2021-2031 for consultation on 25 March 2021. Its consultation programme from 30 March to 30 April comprised two structured feedback sessions in the Council Chamber, three in villages and three at marae.

RDRR conducted an independent consultation process. Initial feedback was collected by phone and email and at a drop-in workshop at the Springfield Golf Club on 8 April. The structure of the Council's draft LTP and the policy development overview in the Financial Strategy (p.4) presented on 25 March[6] were used to collect and present feedback from RDRR's members, associates, and friends.

RDRR's respondents reported incoherence within and between these two documents as well as an unreasonable expectation that they become familiar with (a) the 10-Year Capital Expenditure Programme[7] only available as a meeting attachment, and (b) with a range of separate, complex and associated policies, often only at aspirational level. Further, many spending proposals lacked project or programme plans to explain and justify capex and/ or opex forecasts.

In contrast, Hamilton City Council's draft LTP 2021-2031[8] exhibits clear priorities, high internal and external coherence, and the rationales and costs of projects and programmes in tightly interconnected documents. RDRR members recommend that Council overhaul its strategic planning services to its elected members and community.

The first and second drafts of RDRR's submission were emailed to over 700 members, associates, and friends to invite more ideas and gain agreement. The third and final draft was signed off by Committee members. RDRR does not have the capacity to translate its feedback into te reo Māori.

The RDRR is an interest group that speaks for residents and ratepayers in the district. It was launched on 25th September 2015, replacing its predecessor, the Rotorua Pro-Democracy Society, with a wider mandate. The RDRR has campaigned since for the restoration of democracy, the rule of law, financial responsibility and policy making power to elected representatives. It focuses on the quality of democratic and effective decision making, which is required by the Local Government Act, and the financial management of Council. It currently has about 740 members of multiple ethnicities that reside in Rotorua City and in rural and lakes areas.

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[6] Thomas Colle (15 March 2021) Financial Strategy, presentation to the Rotorua Lakes Council, available at https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Council%202021/LTP%202021%20-%20Section%20%20%20%20Financial%20strategy%20DRAFT%20-%20220321.pdf

[6] https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018787692/centralisation-of-water-services-nanaia-mahuta

[7] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Council%202021/Ten-year%20CAPEX%20programme%20-%2016%20March%202021.pdf

[8] https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/our-council/10-year-plan/Pages/default.aspx

VISION

Council's *Vision 2030*

The proposed Financial Strategy began by describing *Vision 2030* as 'The Rotorua Way: A Partnership with Te Arawa and all of Government.' *Vision 2030* is legitimated using two main slogans; 'Tatau Tatau – We Together' and 'Build back Better.'

RDRR rejects Council limiting governance to partnerships with mana whenua (Te Arawa) elites and central government agencies. It contradicts the Council's obligation in the Local Government Act to deliver on a democratic contract with all district residents and ratepayers.

The outcome unacceptable to RDRR is that most residents and ratepayers, farmers and mātawaka (non-Te Arawa Maori) have been marginalized since 2013. Hence, for many, the 'Tatau Tatau' slogan is regarded as cynical, coercive and shrouding a political reality of divisive racism and elitism.

The 'Build Back Better' slogan is also rejected. It is not original. It has been co-opted by the Council to justify an aim of 'recovery' from the Covid-19 crisis; to recover our community's sense of wellbeing and resiliency in an effective and efficient way. The RDRR regards 'recovery' as an impractical and reactionary political promise.

It proposes instead innovative economic reconstruction from the new base towards achieving social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing by providing core infrastructure.

The fundamental justification given for the LTP 2021-2031 is to implement Council's *Vision 2030*, without significant change. Presentations to elected members stressed repeatedly that "the kaupapa has not changed."

Most elected members have accepted this predetermined position uncritically, despite fundamental changes to our community and its economy:

1. Covid-19 ended Rotorua's international tourist annual income of $300M per annum, further limited employment options in a low wage economy with high unemployment rates and exposed a lack of developed land with appropriate infrastructure that is needed for commercial and industrial development.
2. There is a widening acceptance across our community that the global climate crisis will require significant and urgent changes in local and central government priorities.
3. Housing about 2,200 homeless in most of Rotorua's 85+ motels has all but ended Rotorua's $500M per annum domestic tourism revenue, saved the motels from bankruptcy but destabilized local perceptions of community safety and undermined our brand value as a safe destination.
4. Despite these challenges, the forestry and wood processing and agribusiness sectors have thrived and helped limit Rotorua's drop in GDP and employment, and yet remain marginalized

in the Council's economic development strategy which remains focused on 'recovering' tourism.

Instead of facing the economic reality that much of *Vision 2030* is now obsolete, Council endorsed the draft LTP 2021-2031 for consultation.

RDRR members have concluded that most elected members and senior officials refuse to adapt in the face of dramatically changed circumstances.

They also believe that Council's symbolic adoption of Te Tatau o Te Arawa's *Vision 2050* is not evolutionary but retrospective inclusion because Te Arawa's priorities were embedded into the LTP 2018-2028 and reappear in the draft LTP 2021-2031.

Te Arawa's *Vision 2050*

Te Arawa's *Vision 2050* was a new long-term strategy developed by the Te Arawa iwi (federation), for the iwi, hapū (tribes) and whānau (families).[9] The Council uncritically adopted *Vision 2050* without reviewing its own *Vision 2030*, claiming that its partnership with Te Arawa resembles a waka hourua (twin-hulled canoe). This imagery does not qualify as a sophisticated justification for Council's policy of co-governance which violates the 'votes have equal value' principal of democracy.

RDRR consulted its members about Te Arawa's *Vision 2050.* It requested feedback by email to two draft responses and then provided written and direct feedback to Te Tatau.[10] RDRR was very respectful of *Vision 2050* and appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback. It identified the extensive common ground between the two interest groups and accepted the high-level aspirational goals as being the legitimate expressions of Te Arawa's interests in local government, and indeed, supported most of them in principle because they apply to everyone.

On the other hand, RDRR also pointed out that Te Arawa's use of alliances with central politicians and non-democratic community decision-making to achieve the goals of *Vision 2050* may result in a political culture of entitlement in Te Arawa. Further, this could generate a counter political narrative stressing political equity and interculturalism.

RDRR warned that Council's management of public investment into iwi private development projects was creating political divisions in our community. It was boosting a perception of separatism and creating friction between interest groups. It also noted that Council's current partnerships are perceived to favour the interests of the 40 per cent Māori minority over those of the 60 per cent non-Māori majority, especially so when it is acknowledged that the 40 per

[9] Jenny Rini and Anaha Hiini (July 2020). *Te Arawa 2050: Te Arawa Vision, Mauri Tū, Maui Ora, Te Arawa E*!, Rotorua: Red Spot.

[10] RDRR (29 August, 2020) Response to Te Tatau o Te Arawa by Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers re Te Arawa's *Vision 2050,* third draft.

cent minority includes a substantial number of largely apolitical mātawaka (non-Te Arawa Māori) who have not been given the places promised on Te Tatau o Te Arawa.

Finally, it was noted with regret that Council's investments of ratepayer's funds into iwi projects, by way of capital contributions and guaranteeing maintenance in perpetuity, probably qualifies as a misappropriation of public funds.

RDRR's draft *Vision 2024-2034*

It is RDRR's view that Council's vision needs to be refreshed with all stakeholders in the Rotorua District community. The next opportunity to do this is following the local authority elections due in October 2022. A new mandate is needed to set fresh priorities and to develop a new financial strategy for the next LTP 2024-2034.

A fresh vision for 2024-2034 is also needed to counter the effects of the Covid Depression, most especially the downward mobility experienced by Rotorua's working- and middle-class Kiwis. RDRR's proactive vision identifies economic reconstruction as a major means toward achieving long-term and equitable social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing.

The current and predictable problems in Rotorua's economy include a continued contraction in tourism, immigration of homeless people, persistent poverty, climate change, crime and addictions, and the coming loss of up to 30 percent of Council's responsibilities, assets, debt, and income due to the Three Waters reforms.

RDRR members therefore call for a return to democratic processes, especially so that Council's conversations with the public are not biased through exclusions, agenda control and by processes being manipulated. They want public hearings and debates to be reintroduced to encourage the hearing, sharing and public testing of diverse ideas. Elected members must be discouraged from using personal attacks and the Code of Conduct for Elected Members to suppress critical feedback and freedom of speech in social media.

Instead of virtue-signaling rhetoric and seeing all problems as race-based, RDRR want pragmatic public discourse that aims to restore prosperity and all other forms of well-being. It wants leadership that maintains the difference between governance and management, gives all elected representatives a fair hearing, recognizes experience and qualifications, and enables debate that generates consensus.

RDRR would not be averse to the reintroduction of wards to boost the quality of public representation and accountability. It has a vision of healthy interculturalism, greater equity and growing prosperity in an inclusive democracy.

GOAL STATEMENTS

The seven Goal Statements in the Financial Strategy (p.4) are reproduced *verbatim,* as subheadings, prior to general feedback from RDRR members.

1. **A Resilient Community – Inclusive, liveable and safe neighbourhoods give us a sense of place, and confidence to be involved and connected.**

The goal of resilience is defined as the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. It is supported by all members of RDRR in a Covid context. Given the context of multiple crises, and the challenges being endured by people and businesses, it is regarded as a primary criterion for evaluating Council's performance.

'Build back Better' is regarded by RDRR as an empty promise. Recovery of the past is implausible. Reconstruction, however, provides pragmatic pathways towards survival, prosperity, and well-being.

Sadly, community resilience is being undermined by poverty, job loss, reputational damage, and many interest groups being marginalized by Council's partnership with Te Arawa. Many RDRR members report feeling like powerless outsiders in our community, by being repeatedly targeted by accumulating rates rises and by not being heard by Council.

The residents of Glenholme recently made it clear that they have lost their sense of neighbourhood security. Residents from Ngapuna, Fordlands and Ngongotaha have since confirmed that this has been their experience for some time. RDRR members share this view, almost irrespective of suburb, and confirm that their sense of belonging, their willingness to be connected and involved in community affairs has been badly eroded in recent years.

They regard the Council, especially most elected members and senior officials, as being in concerted denial about this widespread perception. They despair at not being heard, or, when very few attend 'consultation' opportunities, they report encountering processes that deflect, suppress, control or otherwise manipulate their feedback. Trust is low.

2. **Homes That Match Needs – Quality, affordable homes are safe and warm, and available to meet everyone's needs.**

This goal of 'homes matching needs' is defined as a new equilibrium in the housing market that supplies safe, warm and affordable homes. RDRR regards this goal as implausible because it is not a Council responsibility, and the policy levers are with central government. It is therefore not an appropriate criterion for evaluating the Council's performance.

Despite this, Council continues to give this goal top priority, and consistently overreaches its authority and capacity. To illustrate, the 2017 Housing Accord,[11] the Special Housing Areas initiative,[12] and the Council's Strategy for Homes and Thriving Communities[13] each lacked a coherent and funded implementation plan. Similarly, the Council's current Housing Programme[14] is not a programme because it lacks aims, objectives, delivery phases, outcome indicators, a budget and staffing. It is time for Council to take a reality check.

The collapse of confidence in the central government's recent housing policy announcement[15] suggests that there will be no significant improvement to housing supply or prices any time soon. Cancelling interest deductibility and introducing a capital gains tax on sales under 10 years will not discourage land banking, accelerate building after consents, or boost the building of affordable homes on Māori land for the homeless.

In this muddled policy context, Council has repeatedly confirmed that the district is short of about 1700 homes and that the shortage has been developing for many years. Expecting Council to match the supply of homes to need in this context is impractical, implausible, and inappropriate.

One exception is that Council successfully maintains 152 pensioner flats,[16] plans to refurbish 11 in 2021/22 and to add another 11 during 2021/22. This provision is believed to be significantly less than the numbers on the waiting list but is unmentioned in the draft LTP 2021-2031. Urgent attention is called for.

3. **Outstanding Places to Play – Recreation opportunities are part of our lifestyle; connecting us, transporting us, and surrounding us.**

RDRR regards this proposed goal as extravagant. In the post Covid era Rotorua does not need to build new facilities or offer outstanding opportunities. Maintaining current facilities and opportunities will be adequate. Once amended, this goal is regarded as a primary criterion for evaluating the Council's performance.

Council is advised by RDRR to continue to coordinate the development and maintenance of recreation facilities in each of our city suburbs and wider communities. They must enable suburban engagement and local ownership, by code. Suburban and village sports clubs must be respected and enabled as dearly beloved local cultural centres.

[11] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/news/Pages/default.aspx?newsItem=7634
[12] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/specialhousingareas/Pages/default.aspx
[13] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/news/Pages/default.aspx?newsItem=8638
[14] https://visiontoaction.nz/rotorua-housing-programme/ 20 February 2021
[15] https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/politics/political-roundup-housing-announcement-a-blow-for-those-at-the-bottom/6LWN2MRSOGXTAV32QRJ6F5NH6I/
[16] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/news/Pages/default.aspx?newsItem=8637

Accordingly, RDRR is opposed to the Westbrook Sports and Recreation Precinct proposal which would see the back nine holes of the Springfield Golf Course sold for high-density (presumably affordable), medium-density and low-density homes, with the front nine converted to car parks and sports fields. The urge to centralize codes on Westbrook is ill advised because it disrespects long standing cultural values related to local parks, such as Hunt Park, Puketewhero Park, etc., and to local sports clubs that are central to social affiliation and resilience.

Instead of proposing to spend $61M on creating a 'dream recreational project' around the International Stadium, RDRR members would emphasise the need to maintain and upgrade current facilities, and to develop fresh business plans for each, with host clubs.

For example, the Springfield Golf Club on Council land is one of the few sports or recreation clubs that has members organized to deliver voluntary services that result in the club paying substantial annual rates. This example is to be emulated not scrapped. Further, the subsidies paid by ratepayers to build Crankworx into an international mountain biking destination have done their work and should now be switched into creating an international golfing destination.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) and Council's joint control of public buses must be driven by demand, not by projected population growth, to end the ongoing wasteful level of service provision.

4. **Vibrant City heart – Our inviting and thriving inner city reflects our unique heritage and lakeside location.**

This goal is warmly supported by RDRR providing our 'unique heritage' is interpreted to mean our multicultural heritage and successful wellbeing over many decades being attributed to cooperative interculturalism.

This goal is regarded by RDRR members as indicating a major and continuing failure of policy making and implementation by Council. They are puzzled as to why the Greg Brown Report, which recommended the systematic redevelopment of the CBD, has not been adopted and costed as a major project in the draft LTP 2021-2031.

Among the many recommendations of the Greg Brown Report favoured by RDRR members are the private sector development of high-rise flats, consenting to achieve repopulation, pedestrianizing Tutanekai Street, encouraging themed precincts, encouraging the redecorating or recycling of buildings, and converting the CBD cycleway back into parking and diverting East-West cyclists along the lakefront.

The strength of public feeling about rescuing the CBD should not be underestimated. RDRR members who have returned to Rotorua to retire after many years away have observed how badly the CBD has deteriorated. Some have concluded that the CBD is in a 'death spiral' that must be reversed. A retired couple who gave up hope and moved to Taupo explained that:

> We are quite pleased that we no longer reside in an area that appears to be in a real shambolic state. Taupo's Mayor is all for making the CBD area very vibrant – which it is already – but the changes that they are about to implement will make it even more so. By the way, Parking is free here and there are 2 large free car parks that are easily within two blocks of the main CBD.

CBD business owners are frustrated with the Council to the point where some have despaired and sold up. Their repeated attempts to have free parking seriously considered by Council, including a petition signed by thousands, have been ignored. The current price of parking established by the Rotorua Mall, and replicated at the Trade Central and other suburban convenience shopping centres, is $0. This means the parking charges in the CBD, and the annoyances of using the parking machines, combine to redirect customers elsewhere.

The key impediments to the reconstruction of the CBD appear to be some elected members and senior officials being impervious to market signals and advice from retailers, the iPark outsourcing contract which does not expire until 2026, and feather bedding – where the pink parking zone around the Civic Centre provides subsidized parking to Council employees. It might have been more public spirited and commercially smart to improve parking for the growing number of elderly drivers.

Repeated complaints about the state of public toilets in the CBD are ineffective and constitute another reason for customers to migrate from the CBD to the 'big box' stores.

5. **Business Innovation and Prosperity – We boast a diverse and sustainable economy energised by our natural resources and innovative people.**

This goal is strongly supported by RDRR for evaluating the performance of Council but more for its facilitation of business innovation and economic growth rather than for its interventions in the fragile retail market. RDRR commends Council's supportive but hands-off relationship with Scion, a national research institute with an international reputation for high quality knowledge production and commercialization.

On the other hand, this goal is where the Council is believed by RDRR to have failed most consistently and the area where it is in deepest denial about its own performance. It has a string of business disasters to its credit including Terax, Mudtopia, the Airport, and Destination Rotorua. Not one of these ventures have created the profits, rates relief or strategic advantages on the scale promised, and those that have not collapsed are dependent on ongoing subsidies.

RDRR members were therefore alarmed to read that the draft LTP 2021-2031 proposes (p. 9) that Council add more 'light partnering' (in what appear to be public-private partnerships (PPPs)) to its long-standing and controversial role, and uneven performance, in regulation and compliance. Council still has much to do to incentivize development and discourage land banking while avoiding any duplication of central government responsibilities and accountabilities.

It is the RDRR's view that it is only in recent times that significant progress has started to be made on the pace of consenting, infill rules, fast tracking social housing with Kainga Ora, their relationship with developers, incentives for developments, supporting private plan changes and completing Council plan changes. It is far too early for Council to assume that these preliminary reforms have matured into successful organizational routines and development.

To be clear, the 'light partnering' proposed would authorise Council to 'front load' construction of infrastructure both inside and outside each development area, allegedly to accelerate development. The example given is the Wharenui Project in collaboration with Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTL) Ltd whereby PGF grants are being managed by the Council to provide the three waters infrastructure as well as roading and footpaths. There is no evidence of acceleration having been provided.

However, there is evidence of how 'light partnering' is distracting Council from core service delivery, such as rural road maintenance, and from related public accountability. To illustrate, one RDRR member reported that recent complaints about (a) the poor quality "rushed" mowing and weed spraying that was done on the Paradise Valley Road late last year and (b) how the recent 46 ml rainstorm had flooded the road gutters due to no maintenance being done for years, had no discernable effect.

Hence, adding Council's uneven project and programme supervisory expertise above or beside NWTL's project management will potentially add costs and delays, and retard organisational learning in NWTL - which has many generations of independent housing development ahead of it. Furthermore, an active role for Council in 'front loading' the construction of infrastructure through contract management, creates a conflict of interest with its own regulatory and compliance functions.

RDRR members were shocked to read that the draft LTP 2021-2031 proposes that Council increasingly move into joint venture partnerships to invest in residential, industrial and inner-city apartments, and further, to establish a Developer CCO so that it could become a fully-fledged developer in the private sector.

These additional joint venture and developer roles for Council are unacceptable to RDRR. There would be a steep increase in costs and risks to ratepayers. The conflicts of interest between private sector values and public sector principles would escalate at each step. RDRR has little confidence in Council's business expertise that would guarantee successful outcomes in a competitive business economy. Further, its presence in the market would distort market signals and retard capacity building across the local economy as businesses looked to profit from their relationship with Council – the greatest danger of crony capitalism – instead of innovation to improve their competitive productivity.

RDRR also suggests that Council stop repetitive and cost-plus spending on its programmes and upgrading projects, and either contribute capacity building to the private sector or sell any

going concerns they create, in each case to help retire debt. Council is a public service organisation and should restrict itself to 'light and temporary partnering' with businesses in the private sector.

6. **Employment Choices – We are a prosperous connected community; growing our education, training and employment opportunities.**

There is ambivalence in RDRR about this being a Council goal, even though creating job opportunities through education and training would be helpful although they are not local government responsibilities.

To clarify, employment policy and related implementation programmes are with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Social Development. Education and training policy and implementation programmes are with the Ministry of Education, schools, tertiary sector institutions, private training establishments and industry training organisations.

On the other, there are district and regional challenges and priorities that can be effectively and efficiently attended to by encouraging local links and temporary delivery systems built in collaboration with sector partners. It is also the case that central government agencies find it functionally effective to develop joint delivery programmes with district and regional authorities.

One example is Infracore's 'make work' employment scheme in collaboration with MSD. It offers relatively short-term bridging and morale-boosting employment to those keen to re-enter the workforce. While RDRR is strongly supportive of this and like temporary schemes to assist with post-Covid reconstruction and unemployment, it is felt crucial that Council and its CCOs refocus sharply on the needs of its primary clients, residents and ratepayers, in the longer term.

7. **Balanced environment – We are known globally for our clean, natural environment, air quality and healthy lakes.**

This aim is only provisionally supported by the RDRR because it needs to be significantly and urgently developed to respond effectively to climate change.

The report card on Council's performance in this area is impressive although uneven, in RDRR's opinion. Lakes water quality and air quality have been significantly improved over decades by a range of trusts and societies, and through plan changes and joint programmes with the BOPRC, and yet there is much more to be done. BOPRC's Plan Change 10 on nutrient management is impacting steadily.

Council's Wood First policy, however, lacks an effective implementation plan and real national support. RDRR hopes that local implementation will start with a real Christmas tree in the City

Focus/ Manawa to replace the Village Green Christmas Tree recently bulldozed on the Lakefront.

Geo-thermal energy policy development continues to be significantly under-developed, currently languishes at regional level and should be moved to a national authority that is tasked to create innovative applications locally.

In general, however, the concern expressed about climate change does not reach to the self-evident conclusion that it constitutes an emergency. Had that happened, none of the projects that assume and encourage international tourists to visit would be still on the table.

KEY STRATEGIES

The five key strategies proposed are each summarised using *verbatim* descriptors from the Financial Strategy (p.4) before RDRR's feedback is provided and investment is recommended.

An immediate problem for RDRR members is the loose connections between the goals above and the key strategies that follow. It is not clear which strategies are intended to achieve which goals, and most strategies appear to have their own intrinsic goals. As indicated above, this suggests the need for better policy development coordination at corporate level in Council.

1. Community Safety Strategy

RDRR members believe that the safety of citizens is the first responsibility of governments. Rotorua's citizens have a right to safety. Safety is a pre-condition of order and democratic decision making in a decent society that the Police must guarantee.

Council is right to be concerned about an increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour that is affecting residents' and visitors' experiences in Rotorua. The draft LTP 2021-2031 accurately described issues contributing to the increased concern about community safety: anti-social behaviour, relatively high crime statistics, a culture of drinking and violence, clusters of motels used as emergency and transitional housing, and gang culture attracting young people with associated fighting, intimidation, and drug abuse.

The solutions proposed in the draft LTP include enhanced CCTV/ electronic tools and community patrols, 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) assessment and treatment of 'hot-spot' places, Community Centre Hubs that deliver social and other services, supporting community group initiatives and programmes that connect people through positive activities, and supporting community resilience and safety programmes (that ensure our children and young people have the social and life skills that enable positive participation in school, work and social life).

RDRR members are troubled that there has not been a sophisticated evaluation of these intervention models, alone or in combination. For example, the proposed extension of CCTV

will be limited in effect by how well the data collected is used. The supposed effectiveness of the CPTED methodology is sharply at odds with Rotorua having achieved notoriety as the crime capital of New Zealand. The proposed social development functions of Community Centre Hubs might be better delivered by school-based integrated wellbeing centres. Recall, Rotorua's high schools pioneered the international development of school-based integrated health centres. Converting 'health' to 'wellbeing' would be a natural role extension and build on pre-existing curriculum and intervention structures.

Hence, RDRR takes the view that before there is any transferring of responsibility to Community Centre Hubs (to presumably expand community policing, or grant scarce resources to support community group initiatives that promise to improve community safety), there needs to be an evidence-based plan developed that is understood and supported by all responsible agencies.

Another key problem is that the agencies involved appear to have struggled with using a whole-of-government approach. For example, the current and independent Police policy of 'arrest by exception' appears to RDRR to enable a gradual deterioration in what is regarded as acceptable behaviour, rather than 'arrest to achieve law and order' to re-affirm acceptable standards. Another example is that MSD branches elsewhere enable the homeless to nominate Rotorua as a preferred destination, worsening our public safety crisis, actual and perceived. The widely rumoured upshot is that only about 200 of the 2,200 allegedly being accommodated in motels are affiliated to Te Arawa.

In sum, until the intervention and support models used by the Police, MSD, other central government agencies and Council are critically reviewed and integrated in a sophisticated way there is little prospect of community safety being significantly improved in Rotorua and being seen to have been improved. There is no evidence that spending an additional $500K or $1M will make a significant difference to community safety. They appear to be numbers snatched out of the sky. Hence, none of the three options is acceptable to the RDRR as they are presented.

2. Housing and Thriving Communities Strategy

The draft LTP 2021-2031 was correct to acknowledge that Rotorua has a serious shortage of houses, many barriers to land development and that "our houses do not meet the needs of our people." On the other hand, as in the past, it then over promised on delivery (p. 6);

- Accelerate 2,000 new home builds
- Enable 3,000 sections coming to market
- Develop the inner city, including two inner city apartment buildings
- Establish community service hubs at Eastside, Westside and Ngongotahā, with neighbourhood cocreation and investment programmes at each of these locations.
- Facilitate neighbourhood safety projects, and

- Partner with iwi, developers and central Government to help enable and deliver infrastructure and community projects that support the development of thriving communities.

The Council's proposed Housing and Thriving Communities Strategy[17] is limited in scope to housing, that is, it has relatively little to say on related job creation and on economic development that enables communities to thrive. The Strategy also appears to assume that social deprivation is caused by race, because of high association, whereas RDRR members believe that other factors, such as family breakdowns, educational failure and intergenerational welfare dependency generate and recreate social deprivation across generations.

The other major limitation to Council's housing strategy is that housing remains a central government responsibility but whose housing policy has little credibility. Council has also had a string of failed strategies. The scale of the challenge has long been well beyond the Council's capacity to remediate within its debt ceiling.

It was noted above that RDRR members are adamantly opposed to Council establishing a Developer CCO. The primary reason given was "to alleviate market failure created by the lack of land sections for housing options" (p. 9). This proposed CCO solution, however, will not address the supposed market failure.

Much of the potential land for major housing developments around Rotorua is owned by Māori trusts who intend to retain ownership in perpetuity and, in many cases, to develop housing on their own terms. They will be indifferent to the presence of a Developer CCO, unless it becomes a route for public investment at significantly better terms although at cost and risk to ratepayers. If so, this would replicate the Council's investment of ratepayers' wealth into the Lakefront and Whaka Forest Hub 2 projects that primarily benefit their iwi partners.

The development of the remaining potential land has not been retarded so much by the unwillingness of owners to develop their land but by Council's own regulatory and compliance regimes. It was therefore helpful that the draft LTP recognized that there must be significant improvement in the pace of consenting, streamlining infill rules, fast tracking social housing (with Kainga ora), improving relationships with developers, incentivizing development (presumably while disincentivizing land banking), accelerating private plan changes and completing Council plan changes.

Finally, RDRR is also concerned that the draft LTP 2021-2031 does not reveal the latest thinking in Council regarding their Housing and Thriving Communities Strategy. The most recent briefing of elected members about housing strategy development was held with the public excluded. This both prevents the public getting access to the latest options, and the private sector weighing up their competing rationales, and precludes elected members sharing what are

[17] https://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/a-strategy-for-homes-and-thriving-communities

defined as confidential matters. This approach must end because it runs counter to the public interest.

3. Economic Development Strategy Framework

The draft LTP 2021-2031 reproduces the three 'agreed priorities' of the Council's Draft Economic Development Strategy; [18] Rotorua as a place of choice, as the future of forestry, and as ready for business. It is notable that implementing each of these three priorities requires collaboration with and funding from central government agencies, and that implementation plans that are yet to be developed.

For example, the first priority cites Rotorua's economic success in tourism in the past to indicate that a Destination Management Plan will soon set out opportunities for transformation. This 'push marketing' of tourism products is shown below to be ill conceived.

As argued above, the RDRR also considers this approach obsolete because it fails to accept the impact of Covid-19, the resultant depression and the growth of homelessness. It is also morally offensive to RDRR members that the continued investment in iwi partnership projects (that will primarily benefit tribal elites) is to be funded by disproportionately raising the rates of the poor - who are mostly Māori and the elderly on CPI-indexed pensions.

The second priority recalls Rotorua's dominant position in New Zealand's forestry, wood processing, research and forest carbon management, and reports that central Government is focusing resources on timber industry transformation and zero carbon initiatives, along with a Forestry Futures Action Plan of transformative initiatives. RDRR concludes that the Council proposes to rely solely on central government to generate economic development in this sector.

The third priority (Rotorua, ready for business) is a response to the deficit of 1500-1750 homes, that 85 per cent of households in emergency housing in Rotorua identify as Māori and that about 390 children and 180 parants are currently housed in motels alongside 501s (persons convicted in Australia with New Zealand citizenship being expatriated). The actions proposed include "unlocking housing, accelerating land development and investment," and an Inner-City Plan that will "set out opportunities for transformation." It is not clear what this rhetoric means in practical terms.

In sum, to this point, Rotorua's economic development strategy comprises a failed tourism recovery approach, piggy backing on national initiatives in forestry and wood processing, and a stalled central housing development policy.

[18] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2020/Council/Attach%201%20-%20Draft%20Economic%20Development%20Strategy%20Framework.pdf

The draft LTP 2021-2031 then muddled matters further by adding additional priorities that will inevitably impact Rotorua's economic development: climate change mitigation and adaptation, infrastructure investment, all-of-government actions, Three Waters reforms, sewerage, stormwater, and roads and footpaths. Brief advice on each of these priorities has been provided from RDRR members.

Climate Change Plan

The Climate Change Action Plan 2021[19] is provisionally supported by RDRR members. However, in their view, the 'modal shift' campaign (getting people out of carbon-emitting vehicles onto bikes, walking more and into electric vehicles) has become far too coercive in style and needs to use more subtle, normative and re-educative approaches.

Using population growth projections to develop the public bus system should be replaced by rigorous demand indicators to avoid waste. The low-carbon urban design criteria, converting to LED lighting and organic waste collection are all supported. The adaptation methods proposed in the LTP to ensure sustainability make good sense to residents and ratepayers.

Infrastructure Investment and Three Waters reforms

The 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy[20] appears to be a coherent response to the multiple challenges of asset maintenance, future demands, rising standards, respecting cultural values, climate change and the environment, and system and personnel resilience.

What is not clear is the organisational impact on Council when the Three Waters reforms transfer between 25-30 per cent of related income, expenditure, debt and contracts (like Trility) to supra-regional entities. RDRR notes the imperatives and opportunities for organisational rationalization and cost compression that the transfer will enable.

Roading and Footpaths

Overall, RDRR members believe that Council should lead economic reconstruction by example, especially by rebuilding essential service delivery at grassroots levels, such as sealing local roads and providing and refurbishing footpaths.

Regarding the currently dominant issue of housing provisions, members advise Council to develop productive relationships with developers and landlords to avoid undermining private investment, development expertise and the affordability of rents. It needs to abandon or downscale overly ambitious partnerships on private property to end wasteful expenditure that could encourage crony capitalism.

[19] https://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/mahere-tauhohe-huarere-rotorua-climate-action-plan

[20] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Strategy,%20Policy%20and%20Finance%20Committee/Rotorua%20Lakes%20Council%2030%20Year%20Infrastructure%20Strategy%202021-2051%20-%20Final%20Draft.pdf

RDRR members believe that an economic reconstruction strategy should start with the forestry and wood processing industry, food production and the use of geo-thermal energy.

The Wood First policy should be revised and relaunched in a context of climate change to boost demand in construction, including laminates, and showcase local products instead of importing exotic wood at huge cost plus carbon footprint to the centre of New Zealand's forestry and wood processing industry.

Many RDRR members have taken the view that farmers have the most compelling reasons to be environmentally responsible and that they should be encouraged and respected as leaders in climate mitigation. They regard the antagonism between Council and the agribusiness sector as inappropriate because it is not in the public interest.

All-of-Government Action Plan

The Council's All-of-Government Action Plan appears to be meta-organisational rhetoric that describes the need for much more effective intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.

RDRR advises that, without implementation plans that specify interdependent responsibilities, leadership roles, and public accountabilities for each project or programme, there is unlikely to be serious improvement.

FOCUS AREAS

It is not clear how a 'focus area' differs from a 'priority'. It appears, in the Financial Strategy,[21] that 'Focus Areas' are actually the projects that will be funded or continue to be funded in the coming three years. How they relate to key strategies and given effect to goal statements is not clear. This implies that other priorities, key strategies and goal statement are merely virtue signalling and will not be funded. It also suggests that the policy making model being used by Council to integrate the draft LTP with the proposed Financial Strategy needs review to improve internal coherence.

Regarding approach, RDRR urges Council to review its commitment to the provision of basic infrastructure. The legislation enabling attention to the four well beings (social, cultural, economic and environmental), albeit worthy in intention, was subsequently unfunded by central government.

This led to a diffusion of attention hitherto given to Council's basic responsibilities for rubbish collection, potable water, stormwater, wastewater, reserves, recreation facilities, civic leadership and non-arterial roads and footpaths. More is proposed to be spent on Arts and Culture than on Water Supply or Stormwater in the Financial Strategy.

[21] Thomas Colle (15 March 2021) Financial Strategy, *loc cit.,* p. 4.

Brief feedback from RDRR follows on the Focus Areas listed in the Financial Strategy (p.4).

1. **Whakarewarewa Forest Project**

SCION has just built the $18M Te Whare nui o Tuteata building, including purpose-built spaces for a café (privately fitted out by Eastwood), using public money, on Titokorangi Drive (ex-Long Mile Road). Council should review funding another café about 400m away within the proposed $7M Information Centre being redeveloped at the Redwoods.

A 400-car carpark, toilets and reception facilities has just been built at the Whaka Forest Hub 2 including three-phase power for future commercial uses, at cost to ratepayers. It has been proposed that Council spend many millions to build more facilities at Hub 2.

Both the Redwoods development and the Waka Forest Hub 2 project are on Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao land and is a joint iwi/ Council project that includes maintenance in perpetuity.

Council is asked by RDRR members to review the wisdom of these two proposed 'investments' in the light of the contraction in tourism, the growing perception that both projects are examples of crony capitalism, and the growing poverty in the District. There is considerable scope for savings.

2. **Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre**

The redevelopment of SHMPAC, instead of restoration with earthquake proofing to a business operating standard, is regarded by RDRR as unaffordable given the rates affordability crisis. It is regarded as ill-advised given Rotorua's more pressing priority to alleviate poverty. At the very least the project should now be subjected to rigorous cost compression.

The redevelopment of SHMPAC is also regarded by RDRR members as architectural vandalism because currently dominant cultural tastes are being imposed on a building considered graceful in another era with the design modelled on a grand piano. This cultural elitism is particularly offensive in a multicultural and democratic community because it signals racial superiority.

3. **Museum**

The redevelopment of the Museum, instead of restoration with earthquake proofing to a business operating standard, is regarded by RDRR members as unaffordable - given the rates affordability crisis and that it will now not be reopened until 2025.

It is also regarded as ill-advised given Rotorua's more pressing challenge of alleviating poverty. The project should now be subjected to rigorous cost compression with savings going into rates reductions. The appointment of a Director five years before the Museum is now due to be reopened is widely regarded as wasteful.

The redevelopment of the Museum is increasingly regarded by RDRR members as exemplifying reverse cultural imperialism. Its purpose has been changed from being a community museum that houses the valued artefacts of our multicultural community to being Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa – The Treasure House of Te Arawa.

4. Lakefront

It is confirmed on p. 17 of the draft LTP 2021-2031 that $2M was allocated in the 2020/21 Annual Plan to plan a Rotorua Lakefront commercial and hospitality building. Elsewhere it is described as a café and communication center.

Presumably, in the absence of further detail in the LTP, Pukeroa Lakefront Holdings (PLH) Ltd will plan to offer leases for a café and retail outlets, in addition to service outlets offered to the four current tourism operators.

From the outset of the Lakefront Redevelopment Project the Council has partnered with PLH, a subsidiary of Pukaroa Oruawhata Trust (POT) that manages Ngāti Whakaue's assets. Council and PLH co-planned the spending of $41M granted via the Council and the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) from ratepayers and taxpayers.

However, no returns to taxpayers and ratepayers are envisaged and maintenance has been guaranteed in perpetuity by the Council. These investment structures qualify the project as crony capitalism because PLH's profits will rely not on commercial risk in an open market but on a favourable relationship with the Council and on closed access.

RDRR advises against crony capitalism because it uses state power to establish monopolistic conditions that can encourage profiteering through rent seeking, stifling competition and innovation that would add value to transactions over time, and potentially corrupting public-serving economic, political, and social ideals.

The most common complaint about the Lakefront Redevelopment Project is the loss of public parking to view Lake Rotorua and Mokoia Island. This sharp reduction in public amenity values is bitterly resented, especially by the elderly and handicapped who are often vehicle bound.

A related complaint is the loss of vehicle access from the Lake Road/ Rangiuru Street roundabout along the lakefront to the Memorial Drive roundabout and along Oruawhata Drive to the Government Gardens. These road closures are intensely disliked. They are commonly attributed to the preferences of the PHL and Council co-planners and to POT that now controls the redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as well as the building of a luxury spa and wellness centre, Wai Ariki Hot Springs and Spa.

With Oruawhata Drive closed, both developments enjoy exclusive and unimpeded views of Lake Rotorua and Mokoia Island that were once a warmly valued public amenity. RDRR suggests

that Council actively explore alternative free car park/ viewing platforms further along the lakefront to ameliorate public anger and their reasonable expectations.

Another public concern is the design and cost of the lakefront walkway, as well as health and safety issues. LGOIMA questions from RDRR confirmed that it is being constructed using concrete with a boardwalk made of tonka wood from Peru that cost $250,000 (excl GST). A New Zealand solution (including a laminate solution) that met strength, quality and availability could not allegedly be found. Specialist wood scientists and providers contest this claim.

Other RDRR members argued that local laminated wood, and eucalyptus harvested to measure, are strong enough to build bridges that take tractors and trucks, and are therefore well able to take foot traffic. The costs of maintenance were undisclosed. Finally, importing wood from Peru must have added tons of carbon emissions while local specialty timber growers would have relished the opportunity to showcase their products.

Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre has just been given a new 50m pool, a major improvement to its 'level of service' to the community. This reflected the commitment in the LTP 2018-2028 which proposed a three-stage redevelopment for the Aquatic Centre. This was, however, prior to the impact of Covid and the Depression in our local economy which seriously undermined the prosperity of our people and their capacity to fund the latter stages of this project at this time.

The draft LTP 2021-2031 identifies three options.

- Option 1 ($8M) includes replacing the pool hall roof, replacing the ventilation and upgrading safety systems and painting the changing rooms.
- Option 2 ($17.4M) includes the replacement of the annex roof, building controls, concourse, glazing and landscaping; as well as refurbishing the changing rooms and poolside showers; and, renovating the foyer and vapor control, with no addition to services.
- Option 3 ($28.3M and Council's recommended option) includes new services including a new learn-to-swim pool; new play lido; new bombing pool; a new café; upgrading of the spas; and seeking partner-funding to co-fund assets such as a new hydro-slide, splash pad and, new fitness centre.

The RDRR's view is that $8M repairs is what our community can barely afford right now. The $17.4M upgrades can wait for better times. Council must cut its cloth, they argue, and take the pressure off stressed ratepayers.

Further, the $24.8M redevelopment option is considered 'way over the top' when families are struggling to stay together and feed their children, and where businesses are battling to survive - with some closing every week.

5. Out of the Forest Spray Irrigation Consent and Options

RDRR has supported all parts of the recommended wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade and system overhaul since 2013 except the direct discharge of treated wastewater into Lake Rotorua. Along with over 60 other community organisations, RDRR gained s274 status in the Environment Court to contest the direct discharge of treated wastewater into the Lake on cultural, commercial, and scientific grounds.

RDRR provisionally supported the Council's decision to withdraw its application from the Environment Court and consulted its members early in 2021[22] on the alternative known as the Kawaneta Proposal. It included;

1. Increasing the capacity and provision for stormwater flow storage
2. Removing additional phosphorus (P)
3. Ultra-filtration using Membrane BioReactor (MBR) technology to remove Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorous (P)
4. The sludge going to Kawerau to be composted
5. Ultraviolet disinfection technology to neutralize pathogens, and
6. Discharging the treated wastewater to the environment over a land contact bed in the Whakarewarewa Forest by the water storage ponds.

RDRR's members, associates and friends remain strongly of the view that;

1. The planned upgrades to the WWTP, especially the installation of ultraviolet technology, are critical to restoring the wellbeing of the water, prior to switching over to the relocated land contact bed.
2. The rigorous measurement of N, P and E-coli at WWTP discharge and stream entry points remain crucial to the achievement of water wellbeing targets - to ensure that Lake Rotorua is swimmable and clear in the future, has a low bacterial content, and is both odour free and life-bearing.
3. The excessive amount of stormwater entering the wastewater system through aged pipes and misconnections is a major challenge that needs to be addressed with urgency.
4. Additional biological methods of further reducing N and P in discharged treated wastewater should be explored urgently to provide commercial opportunities and to sustain preferred wellbeing outcomes.

In scientific terms, land contact beds do not significantly improve the quality of the treated wastewater, other than add a little to the level of oxygenation. Moving the contact bed further away from Lake Rotorua may help resolve Māori cultural objections and help rectify unfortunate optics in a tourist city. However, RDRR would urge Council to consider additional

[22] Reynold Macpherson and Lachlan McKenzie (5 February 2021) The Kawenata Proposal about Discharging Treated Wastewater, Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers policy paper. Available at https://rdrr.nz/archive/

biological methods of further and measurably reducing remnants of N and P in the discharged treated wastewater prior to it entering streams.

Additional commercial opportunities using biological methods, such as algae farming, water cress and market gardening, and hemp cropping, will help extract the remnants of N and P from treated wastewater. These and other options do not appear to have been explored. Recycling options also need serious investigation to reduce treatment volumes.

Treated wastewater (that will remain at less than drinking standard) could also be used in commercial activities, such as industrial cleaning (e.g. forestry truck washdowns) and irrigation (e.g.s sports fields, market gardens), and thereby save fresh water for domestic use and reduce the volume of wastewater to be treated and discharged.

6. Rotorua Wastewater Upgrade Underway

The RDRR, along with most other submitters at the Council's public hearings, unsuccessfully opposed outsourcing the management of the wastewater system. It preferred the retention of profits in the local economy during the Covid Depression, internal capacity building, minimising risk to ratepayers of budget blowouts, high levels of public accountability, and avoiding any association (through Chinese ownership of Trility) with a regime that has a repugnant human rights record.

As noted above, the RDRR continues to strongly support the planned upgrades to the WWTP on specific conditions. To restate those conditions, the ultraviolet upgrade is critical to removing pathogens before release over the relocated land contact bed. The measurement of N, P and E-coli at discharge and stream entry points remains crucial to maintaining the 'swimmability,' clarity, low bacterial content, odour free and life-bearing status of Lake Rotorua.

The aged pipes and misconnections allowing undue amounts of stormwater to enter the wastewater system must be replaced more urgently than the Trility contract provides for. Council must explore additional biological methods of further reducing N and P in discharged treated wastewater urgently to provide commercial opportunities and to sustain preferred wellbeing outcomes.

With the proposed transfer of potable, storm and wastewater responsibilities from Council (including income, debts and assets) to a supra-regional entity by the central government's Three Waters Reforms, RDRR asks that its conditions for policy support are made known to the new supra-regional entities.

Finally, RDRR members living in Rotoma point out that sewerage connection and upgrade costs are rising. A connection costs $14K, and with an annual $500 for maintenance, the proposed 17.8 per cent rates increase has become unaffordable for many.

7. Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Underway

It is an exaggeration to claim that this proposed sewerage reticulation scheme is underway. It would be more accurate to claim that the planning process has been underway for decades and that it has identified a preferred roadside pumping route to connect Tarawera to the Rotorua WWTP via Okareka.

Residents were, however, offered an estimated full-cost connection for $33,000 on the understanding that the project would go ahead if 75 per cent accept the offer. Given the reported 65 per cent acceptance rate, RRDR's members living in Tarawera now support the proposed reticulation scheme on health and environmental grounds **providing** Council offers a range of additional financing options and for the design phase to be moved up into Year 1 of the Long-Term Plan, which starts 1 July 2021, to revise estimates.

TRANSFORMATIONAL INITIATIVES

It is not clear what qualifies as a 'transformational initiative' or how it differs from a 'focus area' or a 'priority'. It would have been more helpful to RDRR members if the draft LTP 2021-2031 had used less hyperbole. Again, this suggests the importance of corporate leadership closely coordinating the development and presentattion of draft strategic plans in the Rotorua Lakes District.

1. 1,000 New Homes

2,000 homes are promised elsewhere in the draft LTP 2021-2031 with budget allocations stated as both $5M and $20M. They appear to be arbitrary estimates.

RDRR has been sceptical of such promises since the Twyford era, scepticism that has intensified with the latest central Government's housing policy announcements that have illogically doubled the Bright Line test, cancelled the deductibility of loan interest payments, and alienated investors and developers.[23]

As noted above, the reality is that Council does not build homes, apart from owning 152 pensioner flats which are being professionally managed on a non-profit basis. Council is generally reliant on iwi to redeploy lands (without sales) to enable major housing developments, and on the private sector to recycle the current housing stock and to manage housing developments on private land.

The provision of housing is a central government responsibility. Council's role is largely limited to planning and consenting using RMA rules which may well be revised. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the pace of consenting. RDRR members stress that Council needs to reduce disincentives to 'opening up' untenanted properties as rentals or for refurbishment.

[23] Troy Bowker (3 April 2021) Govt playing Capital Games on Housing, Rotorua Daily Post, p. 9.

In sum, there is a greater chance of confused and confusing actions continuing than 'transformative' initiatives about housing occurring in Rotorua. RDRR would urge steadily increasing the provision of pensioner flats from the current 11 planned for 2021/2022.

2. 25 ha of New Industrial Parks

RDRR is broadly but only provisionally supportive of the vague description on p.16 of the draft LTP 2021-2031 document which indicates "The Partnering with iwi/landowners to unlock 25ha of greenfield industrial and business park land to support business relocation and expansion." Infrastructure grants are dependent on central government handouts. A RDRR members has asked, "Why is there a cost to unlocking land for development?"

Members are increasingly concerned about the uneven performance of the Airport CCO before Covid, the absence of a fresh business case for the reconstruction of the CCO since Covid, the continuing provision of additional planning grants, the annual but unfulfilled promises of land commercialization and the campaign for additional investment, when the industrial park across the road is nowhere near capacity.

3. Two Inner City Apartment Buildings

RDRR is broadly but barely and provisionally supportive of the vague description on p.16 of the draft LTP 2021-2031 document to "Create an Inner City Plan to build investor and development confidence in our CBD [and] Develop incentives policy to support inner city residential development."

Members consider that boosting footfall is long overdue in the CBD so that businesses might flourish. They are also aware of many business owners in the CBD that are unwilling to invest any more time in Council's planning processes that lead nowhere. RDRR members were appalled when the Greg Brown Report, for example, was not proposed for implementation in the draft LTP 2021-2031. Confidence in Council's CBD planning processes has evaporated.

RDRR is therefore extremely wary of the proposal (*ibid,* p. 9) that Council "leads development of investment proposals and seeks to partner with investors to bring more residential land and inner city living to market." There are widespread doubts about the competence of officials and risks to ratepayers should Council become a developer by establishing another CCO. RDRR is opposed to a Developer CCO because it would operate at great risk, generate low rewards, and provide low public accountability to ratepayers, its base clients.

The proposal that Council will 'develop incentives policy' is equally alarming to ratepayers who have noted the proposed redistribution of rates on p. 39 that will dramatically favour medium and upper capital value farms, upper urban CV residences and all businesses at direct cost to the owners of rural residences and lower and medium urban residences. Will these proposed gross inequities be further extended to offer 'incentives?

Worse, RDRR's members recall it was the Council's Inner City Revitalisation Programme, originally funded at $10M over 10 years, that destroyed the City Focus and accelerated the deterioration of CBD businesses already threatened by the advent of 'big box' stores and online retailing. Council has since rejected attempts by businesses and the public to boost the footfall in the CBD by trialling free parking.

It is also RDRR's view that the desirable outcomes - of having many newer or converted apartment buildings in the CBD - can best be achieved by Council reforming its consenting practices and encouraging the private sector. For example, the Rotoma No. 1 Inc.'s plans for a hotel and apartment block in Arawa Street are on hold out of an abundance of caution due to Covid but might be encouraged to restart their project.

4. Community Service Hubs (Eastside, Westside, Ngongotaha)

The blunt advice from RDRR members is that service hubs are not needed if Council coordinates services properly from the Civic Centre in Rotorua. The proposal could also lead to simply being bureaucratic outreach and waste money better spent on improving services.

Council's adoption of the Eastside Wellness Plan was premature. The RDRR is sceptical of this proposal because of the planning methodology used to date and the bureaucratic expansionism potentially involved.

Council developed the Te Oranga Nui – Rāwhiti Mai: Eastside Community Wellness Plan[24] in consultation with the Tatau Pounamu Collective, a group that is not representative of the Eastside. The two outcomes are symbolic legitimation and a detailed implementation plan that does not have the expressed support of the residents of Lynmore and Ngapuna.

It is therefore of concern that the planning methodology is to be replicated with the "co-creation of Westside Wellness and regeneration plan." [25] RDRR members living on the Westside and in Ngongotaha have explained that they prefer open and public invitations to participate in consultations, and that confidential engagement with chosen partners is offensive.

They respect the fact that some communities prefer marae-style consultations on issues of importance to them, but that in our multi-cultural community, there are many different preferences regarding appropriate consultations that should be respected and catered for.

[24] https://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/eastside-structure-wellness-plan
[25] Rotorua Lakes Council (25 March) LTP 2021-2031 Mahi Consultation document, p. 7.

5. **Neighbourhood Co-creation and Investment Programme (Eastside, Westside, Ngongotaha)**

This proposal is ill considered, possibly driven by interest groups that do not recognize the need to hold culturally sensitive consultations of all stakeholders and who not appreciate the diversity of most neighbourhoods.

RDRR members are also wary that it could waste precious resources by duplicating services best coordinated from the Civic Centre or those potentially delivered by a CCO (e.g Infracore).

A possibly wiser solution to the challenge of how to nurture and target neighbourhood regeneration, through Council investment, is to ensure that neighbourhood demand is well understood and represented by elected members. RDRR would prefer to see the reintroduction of wards to improve the communication of needs from neighbourhoods and more direct accountabilities to them.

6. **Neighbourhood Safety Programme**

This proposal appears to duplicate the Community Safety Programme and could be a waste of rates.

The other factor is that RDRR members feel that their neighbourhoods are far less inclusive, safe and liveable because people have become withdrawn. This means that the base preconditions for such a programme to be successful are not in place.

RDRR members would prefer that the recommendations above about the Community Safety Programme be considered.

7. **Leadership Centre (Government, Iwi and Council – Civic Centre)**

RDRR can see the potential is having a one-stop-intergovernmental-shop that delivers integrated all-of-government services, excluding Three Waters. A potential danger is that it could consolidate the power of central govt agencies, iwi and Council without improving the level of service and significantly increase costs.

The problem here seen by RDRR members is that Council has no competitors and appears to have no discipline behind closed doors. Members are most unhappy about the pervasive secrecy and the lack of democratic debate on Council among elected members that should be freshened with public hearings.

CAPITAL WORKS

1. Sewerage and Sewage $172M

The problems in this area and RDRR's views on them have been rehearsed above. The Three Waters reforms could also render any advice given in this area redundant.

2. Sports, Recreation and Recreation $159M

The Westbrook Precinct at $61M is not needed and this amount should be saved and used to retire debt or partly used to design a Community and Sports Centre in Fordlands.

RDRR members stress that we do need green spaces, trees, high value golfing tourists and ratepayers to enjoy their environment. The current sports fields are adequate. Springfield Golf Club pays its way, with members providing much voluntary labour, and should have its lease renewed at least three years before the expiry date in 2027.

The Aquatic Centre restoration should be left at maintenance and repairs until financial hardship and the affordability of rates rises in Rotorua have been restored. Option 3 is 'over the top' when folks are struggling to hold their families together, businesses are closing, and tourism has contracted. Adopt the repairs option only to save ratepayers money.

The Aquatic Centre has new 50m pool, RDRR members advise, so "please complete the roof, ventilation, safety improvements and paint the changing rooms for $8m. It will have to do because it all we can afford." "Upgradings costing $17.4M can wait for better times. Recut our cloth and take pressure off ratepayers."

3. Roads and Footpaths

There were too many complaints from RDRR members about the state of local roads and footpaths to record here. It is a generic priority challenge that bespeaks the need for Council to get back to providing basic or core infrastructure.

Two respondents spoke for many. One noted that there is "No footpath on my side of the road. Wheelchairs have to cross over to be safe." Another noted that "The mowing and weed spraying up Paradise Valley Road is rushed. Blackberries flourish."

4. Arts and Culture

Several RDRR members suggested that this area should be a low priority until economic reconstruction becomes self-evident. They also want infrastructure for future affordable housing to take priority over arts and culture spending.

5. **Stormwater $75M**

The view of some RDRR members is that it is taking too long to fix faults. They also believe that ageing pipes are being given low priority for replacement. Contractors seem to be slow and create problems for others.

A widespread view is that legacy and vanity projects should be curtailed, and the Lakefront and Hub 2 projects should be subjected to cost compression, in order to transfer resources back into the stormwater pipe replacement programme. On the other hand, this programme could be redundant if responsibility is transferred to a supra-regional entity under the Three Waters reforms.

6. **Community Leadership $65M**

In a context where elected members are responsible for providing community leadership, this proposed budget allocation makes little sense to RDRR members. The proposed spending should contribute towards debt reduction.

The structural remediation of poor community leadership, they suggest, is to reintroduce wards for all elected members on Council.

7. **Water Supplies $51M**

Two issues of concern were raised. Can two springs supply 7351 homes by 2051? What impact will climate change have on water demand and springs safety?

This budget allocation could be redundant with the Three Waters reforms and should contribute towards debt reduction.

8. **District development $1.9M**

The basic problem here identified by many RDRR members is that consenting is slow and discourages district development, compared to other districts.

Whole-of-district development is already provided for by the annual planning, three-year district planning, the ten-year or long-term planning and spatial planning cycles and the governance budget.

9. **Planning and Regulatory $1.2M**

Again, RDRR members consider that the development of subdividable land is possible but regulatory conditions are too costly and RMA requirements cause major delays and confusion.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Introduction

The Financial Strategy in the draft LTP 2021-2031 has the following objectives: [26]

- Achieving Vision 2030 in a financially prudent and sustainable way
- Maintaining existing infrastructure so it is fit-for-purpose now and into the future
- Providing infrastructure to accommodate a growing district
- Investing in the future of the district, and
- Keeping rates affordable and managing debt.

A presentation at the 25 March meeting of Council[27] reiterated that the Financial Strategy presumes that all projects started under the banner of *Vision 2030* will be completed and that there will be additional investment in community and housing development. This ten-year financial strategy will require an average rise in rates of 9.2 per cent in Year 1 with debt rising from $261M at year end 2021 to $440M at year end 2031.

This is a financial strategy of sustained expansionism. It is justified by a projected population growth into 4,000 properties over the next ten years, the continuing suppression of financing costs, and sustained investment from other government agencies (such as MBIE and MFE) and private funders, over and above Council revenues. Each of these assumptions is problematic.

Infometrics has forecasted[28] a baseline scenario where Rotorua's population will grow at an average rate of 0.6 per cent pa from 76,200 in 2020 to 90,800 in 2055, that is, increasing by an annual average of 457 people. However, if the main current and predictable problems in Rotorua's economy as listed above (p.4) persist as disincentives to population growth, then Infometrics' low growth scenario will become much more likely. It projects the population to grow by 3,900 people to 80,000 in 2051, that is average about 111 more people per annum that will require about 100 new properties in each of the next ten years.

The other three key factors causing uncertainty is the collapse in confidence in the central government's housing strategy, coupled with the reality of Council's largely symbolic housing programme (apart from the pensioner flats programme), and the arrival of many more homeless people. The vaccination programmes internationally can be expected to end the Covid Depression in time and cause the central government agencies to end windfall grants and low interest rates on debt. In part or together they are highly likely to render the proposed financial strategy redundant.

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[26] Rotorua Lakes Council (25 March 2021) Mahi: 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan Consultation, Author, p. 27.
[27] Thomas Colle (15 March 2021) Financial Strategy, presentation to the Rotorua Lakes Council, 25 March 2021, available at https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2021/Council%202021/LTP%202021%20-%20Section%20%20%20%20Financial%20strategy%20DRAFT%20-%20220321.pdf
[28] Infometrics (March, 2020) Rotorua District Employment, Population, Household and Visitor Projections for Rotorua Lakes Council, p. 19.

Further, as noted above, absent from the proposed Financial Strategy is the impact of losing up to 30 per cent of Council's functions to a new Three Waters entity. The Minister of Local Government made it clear[29] some time ago that the assets, debt, governance, management, and rates related to the Three Waters are to leave Councils.

The proposed Financial Strategy therefore should have anticipated the loss of all water related assets, revenue, and debt from the Council's balance sheet, and explored commensurate organizational rescaling to match the estimated 25-30 per cent reduction in Council's functions. They should also have discussed the consequent lowering of the debt ceiling well as programme right sizing and cost compression strategies.

The most urgent issue now is for Council to develop preliminary plans to cope with this combination of imminent changes. The advice of many RDRR members is that it is time for Council to 'get real' and cut a new 10-year plan and downsized capex budget with a debt reduction strategy.

Fees and Charges

The draft Financial Strategy noted that revenue from fees and charges has been declining as a proportion of income since 2015. This has imposed a growing burden on ratepayers "to pay operating costs and this reliance on rates is high compared to some other Councils." (p. 2)

While accurate, this leads on to a false assumption being made that this approach is prudent because it establishes "a stable revenue base with which to maintain essential services without requiring debt funding," (*loc cit*.). The so-called prudence involved wrongly assumes the affordability of rates rises to ratepayers in perpetuity.

Limiting rates revenue to not more than 85 per cent of all income over the term of the LTP, and requiring fees and charges to cover the balance, could perversely affect the 'user pays' policy when the Three Waters Programme removes up to 30 per cent of Council's income.

RDRR is deeply concerned with Council's management of fees and charges after the Kaikoura earthquake on 14 November 2016 damaged and closed the Museum and the Performing Arts Centre. Instead of adopting a restoration and earthquake-proofing strategy - to restore revenue raising capacity in both of these buildings - Council decided to invest heavily into two iwi partnership projects; the Lakefront Redevelopment with Ngāti Whakaue and the Whakarewarewa project with Tūhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao.

[29] https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018787692/centralisation-of-water-services-nanaia-mahuta

Neither of these latter projects will contribute fees and charges to the Council budget and are regarded by RDRR as examples of crony capitalism. The upshot is that fees and charges have had to be raised elsewhere to sustain the planned increases to the rates take.

RDRR members are familiar with the need for frugality in hard times and therefore agree with the 'user pays' sentiment that lies behind the policy that

> Any increase to fees and charges is to ensure that those who directly generate a need for, and gain the highest benefit from a service, will pay for that service and associated benefit.

Rates

The affordability of proposed rates increases to ratepayers are the primary concern to RDRR respondents. 82 submissions were received on rates rises alone. This concern straddled the issues of sustainability, front loading and false promises, the impact on the poor and elderly, the absence of cost compression, under investment in core infrastructure, and over investment in iwi partnerships and tourism.

The general advice on rates from RDRR members stressed the urgent need for prudence: "Limit spending to income, compress costs of programs, get a new social contract to set priorities and develop a new financial strategy." "Rates rises reflect spending on the Lakefront, Museum, Theatre, bike hubs, the statue, road works, Crankworx, Aquatic Centre and the skatepark." "Demonstrate belt tightening and make major savings. The rates rises = sickening greed, so hold Council accountable." "Cut costs to CPI. The 14-15 per cent increase in urban rates do not compare to the cost of living, acknowledge job losses, or low interest on savings."

A second major theme in the advice from RDRR members concerned the morally offensive injustice of comparative rates rises. "The injustice of the poor cross subsidizing the rich sickens me." "Most of the poor have no means of increasing their income so they slip into poverty." "Why does Council ignore financial distress?" "I want infrastructure for my rates, no frills, no vanity or legacy projects, just infrastructure." "The higher rates go the more Council can borrow to pay for their crazy projects." "Rates rises will force poor people out of their homes faster that rich people." "A 15 per cent hit on the poor is disgusting – they need a break. It will create more hardship and poverty."

Others reflected on the equivalence of rates rises. "Rates increases are not equivalent to families' incomes or minimum living standards. Minimal increases on high value homes is immoral." "The minimum wage going up to $20 and benefits up by CPI don't match rates rises so the poor get poorer." "Promises of rates rises levelling out after Year 1 last LTP were not honoured." "Please, no more Mudtopias, HEMOs, cut the waste. Stop the subsidies to Crankworx and to tourism killed by Covid."

Rural residence owners pointed out that their rates will rise by 15.5 per cent but they get no services or rates relief for land lost while complying with PC10. They pointed out their limited access to education, training and other services. Some farmers are paying $20-$100K in rates but getting few services. Their rates rises hugely exceed any improved levels of service – their roads and kerbing are poor or non-existent with some roads going back to dirt. Since 2013, their rates have gone up by 39 per cent compared to CPI rises totalling 5.7 per cent. One RDRR member reported that his property valuation had gone up 58 per cent without any improvements.

The few RDRR members that responded to the proposed changes to the UAGC argued that it should stay at $475 per annum to uphold uniformity and equity to all ratepayers for uniform services.

The Auditor's Report (pp. 11, 29) noted important long-term risks and conditions of uncertainty around the external funding of capital projects. Decisions to raise rates, he confirmed, wrongly attributed them to revaluations and engendered a sense of false prosperity. Rates rises, he emphasized, were driven by spending priorities and cost-plus budgeting of continuing projects and programmes. Revaluations were exploited, he said, to justify rates rises.

RDRR members almost universally attributed the rates rises to the Mayor and elected members being 'out of touch'. They were deeply offended by reports that the Mayor and her followers cheered the decision to consult on the LTP with its proposed rates rises. It was concluded by one RDRR member that "they believe their own spin."

Most members advised elected members to 'face the facts' of the Covid Depression, climate change and the implications of homelessness. They blamed the Council for putting vanity and legacy projects and iwi partnerships ahead of service renewal and replacements that resulted in the deterioration of infrastructure.

Finally, when the feedback from RDRR members on rates was categorised, seven major themes emerged; unsustainable proposals, front loading and false promises, the impact of rates rises on ratepayers, the absence of cost compression, under investment in core infrastructure, over investment in iwi partnerships, and Council's fixation on marketing tourism. They are now each briefly discussed.

Unsustainable Proposals

As the Auditor noted, it is commonly but mistakenly believed that rates rises are caused by increased valuations. It is a myth. Rates rises are associated with but are not actually caused by revaluations. The draft LTP Financial Strategy accurately clarified the actual drivers of rates rises (p. 2):

> Rate increases will be at a rate that matches the increase to our cost base. Changes to Council's cost base are mainly driven by new or increased service levels, inflation and

changes to interest expenses and depreciation resulting from the investment into capital expenditure (capex) over the 10 year plan.

Put simply, rates rises are caused by Council increasing its spending. The proposed percentage increases in rates have been projected in Table 1 overleaf over the term of the LTP (*loc cit.)* considering the Tarawera reticulated sewerage decision.

Table 1: Rates Rises projected in the draft LTP Financial Strategy, 2021-2031[30]

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Proposed Rates increases (per cent)*	9.15	5.23	4.21	4.85	3.47	1.85	2.95	4.56	4.80	2.48	43.55
Quantified Limit on Rates increases (per cent)*	9.15	5.50	4.40	5.10	3.80	2.00	3.20	5.20	5.50	2.80	
*Excluding Tarawera											
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	
Proposed Rates increases (per cent)**	9.15	5.23	5.98	8.94	2.71	-2.90	2.95	4.56	4.80	2.48	43.90
Quantified Limit on Rates increases (per cent)**	9.15	5.46	6.30	9.35	2.97	-2.90	3.20	5.20	5.50	2.80	
**Including Tarawera											

The general justification given for the proposed 9.15 per cent increase in rates in Year 1 is that it needs to "cover locality and district planning to drive housing, digital transformation, compliance requirements, go live of new assets, depreciation and financing." [31]

RDRR challenges this justification as probably inflated because it incorporates unspecified budgets, especially for locality and district planning - even though the provision of housing is not a Council responsibility - and has not factored in the Three Waters reforms.

Front Loading and False Promises

The most alarming aspect of Table 1 is that rates were proposed to rise by over 43 per cent by 2031, whatever the Tarawera decision. It was also proposed that the average rates increase across Years 2-10 would be 3.8 per cent.

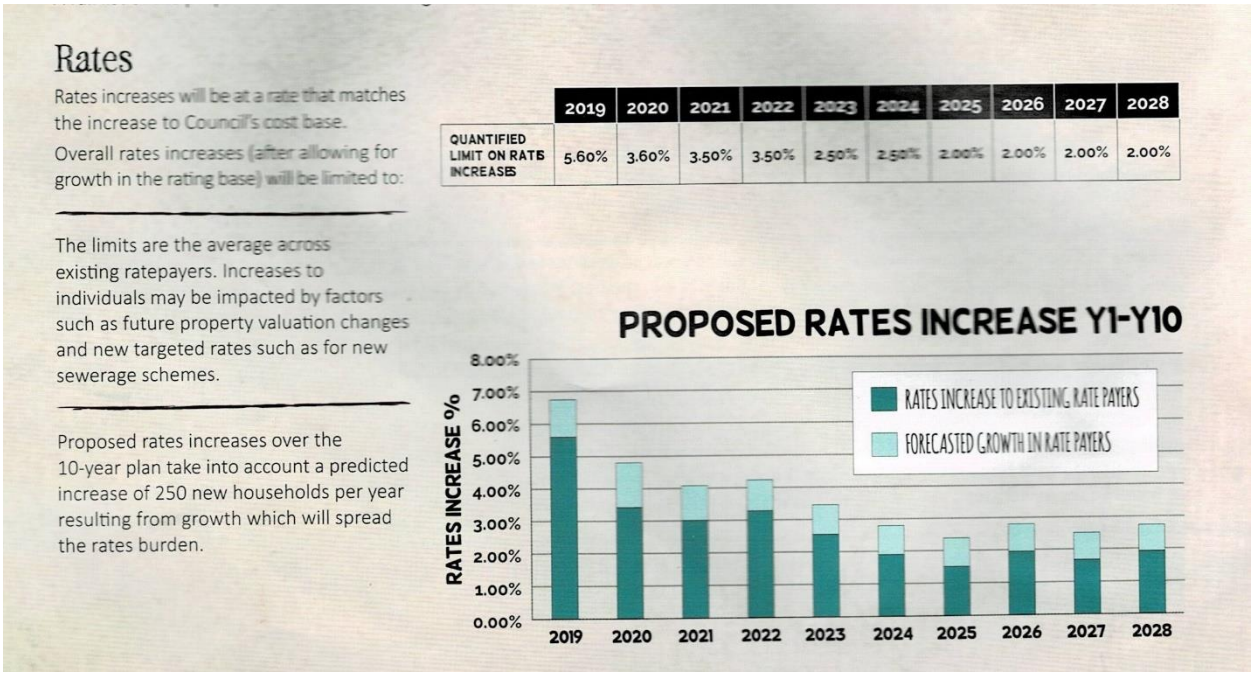
RDRR challenges both proposals because they vastly exceed likely projections of CPI increases that define actual affordability to ratepayers and seek to ingratiate the 9.15 percent increase by falsely promising subsequent relief. Council must accept that both the 9.15 rise in Year 1 and the average rise of 3.8 per cent in Years 2-10 exceeds the financial capacity of increasing numbers of ratepayers. RDRR also challenges the peak loading in 2022 because it suggests an unwillingness in Council to defer capex to 'level out' the impact on ratepayers over ten years.

It was claimed that the disproportionate rise in Year 1, referred to as 'front loading', would be offset by significantly less increases in Years 2-10. RDRR notes with regret that this promised

[30] Thomas Colle (25 March 2021) Financial Strategy 2021-2031, presentation to Council, available at https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Pages/default.aspx

[31] *Loc cit.*

offset promise should not be trusted. The excerpt from the Council's magazine *Tatau Tatau* overleaf[32] provides a matching promise given in March 2018 for the the LTP 2018-2028, a promise that was not subsequently honoured.



Rates

Rates increases will be at a rate that matches the increase to Council's cost base.

Overall rates increases (after allowing for growth in the rating base) will be limited to:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
QUANTIFIED LIMIT ON RATES INCREASES	5.60%	3.60%	3.50%	3.50%	2.50%	2.50%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

The limits are the average across existing ratepayers. Increases to individuals may be impacted by factors such as future property valuation changes and new targeted rates such as for new sewerage schemes.

Proposed rates increases over the 10-year plan take into account a predicted increase of 250 new households per year resulting from growth which will spread the rates burden.

This excerpt shows that the 2021 rates increase in 2021 in the LTP 2018-2028 was projected to be marginally over 4 per cent and that the 2022 rates increase was projected to be slightly more, but both well less than half the 9.12 per cent average rates rise that has been proposed for 2021/ 2022. RDRR members' conclusion is that such promised projections are not to be trusted.

The Impact of Rates Rises on Ratepayers

The draft LTP Financial Strategy fails to evaluate the impact of proposed rates rises on ratepayers. There are many approaches available. None were used despite repeated requests from elected members since October 2019 - that they take real account of financial distress that rates rises actually cause.

It is now widely assumed among RDRR members that most elected members and senior officials are indifferent to the financial predicament that many residents and ratepayers find themselves in.

A socio-economic evaluation would have confirmed that the proposed 9.15 per cent increase in rates is extremely ill timed for residents and ratepayers. They have been tightening their belts and struggling to preserve their jobs and businesses due to Covid-19. There was a widespread

[32] Tatau Tatau (March, 2018) Rotorua Long-Term Plan, Rotorua Lakes Council magazine, p. 15.

expectation that Council would take similarly prudent action to reduce debt and to eliminate wasteful spending. The draft LTP 2021-2031 is extremely disappointing to them in this regard.

Instead, Table 2 overleaf shows that Council's total rates take has been accelerating at nearly seven times the increases in the disposable and CPI-indexed incomes of beneficiaries since 2014.

Table 2: Actual Annual Increases in Rotorua District's Rates Take compared to Annual Increases in New Zealand's Consumer Price Index (CPI), for years ending June 2014-2020, 000s

	2014[33]	2015[34]	2016[35]	2017[36]	2018[37]	2019[38]	2020[39]
Total Rates Take incl water $	71,387	73,363	80,159	82,136	85,885	91,722	96,826
Total Revenue $	105,909	104,778	112,821	118,048	125,193	144,001	142,534
Total Rates per cent of Total Revenue	67.3	70.0	71.0	69.6	68.6	63.7	69.3
Total Rates Take Increase $	148	1,976	6,796	5,227	7,145	5,837	5,104
Annual Rates Take per cent Increase	2.08	2.77	9.26	6.52	6.05	6.80	5.56
Compounding Rates Take per cent	2.08	4.85	14.11	20.63	26.68	33.48	39.04
Annual CPI Increase per cent	0.340	0.441	0.442	0.043	1.544	1.745	1.446
Compounding CPI Increase per cent	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.1	2.6	4.3	5.7

[33] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual-Report-2013-14.pdf
[34] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual%20Report%202014-2015.pdf
[35] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual_Report_2016.pdf
[36] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual_Plan_2017/RLC_AR_2017_SML_SZ.pdf
[37] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual-Report-2018.pdf
[38] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/council-publications/Annualreports/Documents/Annual-Report-2019.pdf
[39] https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/our-council/agendas-and-minutes/livestream/Documents/2020/Council/RLC_Annual_Report_2020%20Attachment%201.pdf
[40] http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/CPI_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex_HOTPJun14qtr.aspx
[41] http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/CPI_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex_HOTPJun15qtr.aspx
[42] http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/CPI_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex_MRJun16qtr.aspx
[43] http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/economic_indicators/CPI_inflation/ConsumersPriceIndex_HOTPJun17qtr.aspx
[44] https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/consumers-price-index-cpi?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIp-DGw6qR5gIVwYqPCh0Xpgf1EAAYASAAEgK0K_D_BwE
[45] https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators/consumers-price-index-cpi?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIp-DGw6qR5gIVwYqPCh0Xpgf1EAAYASAAEgK0K_D_BwE
[46] https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/cpi_01132021.pdf

The differences between the accumulating rates take and the incomes of those on CPI-indexed pensions have had to come out of pensioners' standard of living. If they have no other income, accumulating rates takes are pressing recipients further towards poverty. This is a regressive policy that RDRR members believe Council should be deeply ashamed of.

The impact of the proposed 9.15 per cent increase in rates on ratepayers can also be seen from an individual's perspective.

Grant Chapman's analysis in Table 3 overleaf relates to his property at 10 Wharenui Road, Owhata.

Table 3: Rates increases at 10 Wharenui Road compared to Capital Values, Inflation, the Adult Minimum Wage and Superannuation

Year	Capital Value	Capital Value per cent Incr on Previous Year	Capital Value per cent Incr from 2014/15	Council Rates Demand, not incl BOPRC	Council Annual Rates per cent Incr on Previous Year	Council Annual Rates Running Total per cent Incr from 2014/15	Ann Infl Rate per cent Per Year[47]	Ann Infl Rate Accum per cent each Year from 2014/15	Min Adult wage by Year[48]	Ann Min Wage per cent Incr Per Year	Min Wage per cent Incr YOY from 2014/15	National Super Single Live Alone Weekly Nett Tax Code M.[49]	Super per cent Incr by Year	Super per cent Incr Year on Year from 2014/15
2014/15	$272,000			$2,090.34			1.22		$14.25			$366.94		
2015/16	$275,000	1.10	1.10	$2,291.67	9.6314	9.6314	0.29	1.51	$14.75	3.50	3.50	$374.53	2.15	2.15
2016/17	$275,000	0.00	0.00	$2,338.20	2.0304	11.6618	0.65	2.16	$15.25	3.40	6.90	$384.76	2.75	4.90
2017/18	$275,000	0.00	0.00	$2,440.29	4.3662	16.0280	1.85	4.01	$15.75	3.30	10.20	$390.20	1.40	6.30
2018/19	$407,000	48.00	49.65	$2,659.04	8.9641	24.9921	1.60	5.61	$16.50	4.75	14.95	$400.87	2.75	9.05 per cent
2019/20	$407,000	0.00	0.00	$2,789.91	4.9217	29.9138	1.62	7.23	$17.70	7.25	22.20	$411.15	2.60	11.65
2020/21	$407,000	0.00	0.00	$2,919.80	4.6557	34.5695	1.71	8.94	$18.90	6.80	29.00	$423.83	3.10	14.75
2021/22	$635,000	56.02	133.50											

A key implication of Table 3 is that, while inflation has accumulated between 2014/15 and 2019/2020 by 8.94 per cent, the rates payable on 10 Wharenui Road have increased fourfold, by 34.56 per cent.

Another implication is that whether the affordability of rates rises to ratepayers is seen in a context of the Covid Depression, compared to national inflation rates and CPI-indexed benefits, or when related to the adult minimum wage and superannuation for an individual, that the affordability of rates rises to ratepayers has become a major crisis.

Unless a fresh approach is developed that seriously considers the affordability of rates to ratepayers, the patterns established since 2013 will be repeated in coming years and intensify what is already unacceptable to ratepayers and morally offensive to RDRR members.

The Absence of Cost Compression

Many objections to the proposed 9.15 per cent increase in rates stressed that there is no evidence of cost compression in the LTP related to Council's projects and programmes. There is, instead, regular evidence of vanity and legacy projects being funded, and profligate solutions

[47] https://www.rateinflation.com/inflation-rate/new-zealand-historical-inflation-rate and https://www.statista.com/statistics/375265/inflation-rate-in-new-zealand

[48] https://www.employment.govt.nz/hours-and-wages/pay/minimum-wage/previous-rates

[49] https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/index.html

being adopted, irrespective of the dramatically changed financial context and intensifying pressure on ratepayers.

The most extreme examples are the Museum and the Performing Arts Centre being significantly redeveloped at great cost, instead of merely being earthquake proofed and opened for operations to produce cash flows and then progressively improved.

The Lakefront Redevelopment is often cited by RDRR's members as a project that attracts supplementary funding from ratepayers via Council for decorations and co-planning at the whim of the co-planners; Council officials and PLH Ltd.

The Whaka Forest Hub 2 project has installed a 400-car carpark with 24-hour lighting that highlights how little use it has, a few miles from the Blue Lake where weekend water sports attract hundreds of participants that must park on the grass.

Under Investment in Core Infrastructure, Over Investment in Iwi Partnerships

Council proposes to sustain heavy investment into the Lakefront Redevelopment and the Whaka Forest Hub 2 project when there is a reciprocal history of under investment in the core infrastructure (the rationale for the Three Waters intervention). These investments of rates and taxes are justified by reference to partnerships with iwi corporations.

RDRR members regard these investments as inappropriate examples of crony capitalism; defined as an economic system in which businesses thrive not because of innovation and risk taking, but rather as a return on money amassed through an advantageous nexus between a business class and a political class.[50]

A crony capitalist economy becomes increasingly fragile due to the loss of market signals and increasingly vulnerable to capture by elites and then to severe disruptions when the political context changes dramatically - instead of incremental improvements through systematic and cyclical evaluations boosting business productivity.

Other Rotorua business owners have also pointed out that this type of investment adds to the unfair advantage created by the iwi corporate income tax rate of 17.5 per cent compared to the standard 28 per cent tax rate charged to other New Zealand companies.

They are also concerned about Council investments in startups via subsidies tend to create dependencies that, as in the case of Crankworx, became an annual grant of $250,000 over five years. RDRR strongly urges Council to purge subsidies from its financial strategy well within the ten-year term, or better still, transfer them into constructing a high value golfing destination strategy.

[50] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crony_capitalism

Council's Fixation on Marketing Tourism

The Chair of the Board of Rotorua Economic Development (RED) has accepted that homelessness and crime have impacted Rotorua's brand value - both as a domestic as well as international destination.[51] He has tacitly admitted that high volume and low-priced tourism products are obsolete while housing remains "constipated" and yet that our "primary sector" is "doing pretty well." RDRRs' members agree.

Most also agree that 'recovery' will be retarded by tourism accommodation having switched to emergency housing in a context of "homelessness, social disorder and crime." [52] But where does this leave RED? Why is RED holding on to the operational name of 'Destination Rotorua'?

The answer was evident in RED's recent 'destination planning' workshops primarily for local providers and stakeholders. They identified the major limitations to tourist business development as social deprivation, environmental stewardship, the run-down CBD, an ambiguous destination image, and MSD booking most motel accommodation.

A separate planning team of providers, all men, and a senior Council official have also been working in secret to refine a new 'destination plan' for Rotorua which will refine and 'push market' tourism products.

The approach both groups have been using is at odds with modern marketing which aims to satisfy customer needs, wants, and demands. Authentic relationship building with customers enables the construction of valued products, goods and services. Business transactions help develop market sectors around perceived value and inform productivity development.

Investment in 'pull marketing' then aims to convert perceived value into profitable brand values.

Four potential examples of this approach to marketing would aim to

- Satisfy international customer demands for high-value golfing tourism.
- Connect with growing national pressure for rugby league training and development.
- Meet global demand for intellectual property, technological expertise and skills development related to forestry and wood processing.
- Respond to the world-wide need for improved protein production in a hungry world, perhaps using geo-thermal energy.

The key point is that Rotorua needs a new 'pull marketing mix' centered on wood and food, sports, and 'price, place, and promotion'. Not 'push marketing' stakeholders' preferences and providers' tourism products.

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[51] https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/ldr/438676/homelessness-impacting-rotorua-s-tourism-brand-development-agency?fbclid=IwAR1DTom2q4tR1TbBcCYEm6leJq3XMD1ybonV25pmk33pDLQHO4HGvqaZtU4

[52] *Loc cit.*

External Funding

Council has proved effective at obtaining substantial external funding and those involved are to be congratulated. The estimated $180M in subsidies in 2021-2031 from external sources currently appears reasonable. They comprise:

- $60M from NZTA to support roading investments
- $20M for CIP projects (stormwater and roading)
- $9M supporting Three Waters reform
- With the remainder ($91M) covering completion of the Museum, SHMPAC, Lakefront, Rotoiti/Rotoma, or
- Requiring additional sources if need be (e.g. Aquatic Centre, option 3).

RDRR members remind Council of the risks involved because all these subsidies are windfall grants that in future will continue to be vulnerable to political winds in central government.

Capital Investment

The Financial Strategy for 2021-2031 proposes that $732M be invested in capital works, specifically in the Museum, Lakefront, Performing Arts Centre, Whakarewarewa Forest, Rotoiti/Rotoma WWTP, Tarawera sewerage, Aquatic Centre, stormwater and roading projects.

These proposals will have to be revised in the light of Three Waters decisions.

Debt

The Financial Strategy proposed for 2021-2031 is planned to hold debt below the permissible ceiling of 250 per cent of revenue. It proposes an increase to borrowings of $180M to fund capital investments, not including operational expenditure which will continue to be funded solely from revenue. It proposes that the debt/income ratio to increase from 2021 estimate of 174 per cent to 224 per cent in 2031 and to peak at 238 per cent in years 2027-2028.

It is alarming to RDRR members that absent from the draft LTP 201-031 is any plan to retire debt or constrain expenditure. There is no reference to the standard methods used in other organizations to challenge project and program budgets, such as cost compression techniques and formative evaluation.

One RDRR member spoke for many when she advised that

> We need to get debt down to give our mokos choices. We do not have the right to spend their money and blow their future. The interest bill will accelerate in a few years. If Three Waters reduces Council's income by 30 per cent how will debt be reduced to the permitted ceiling? We must get back to basics. Clean the tourists' toilets. We live in

a paradise ruined by a selfish Council that will not stop spending. Future debt interest will impoverish us even more.

Summary

This independent submission is on behalf of over 700 members, associates and friends of Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers.

They were unconvinced by the Council's draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 and associated Financial Strategy due to incoherence, fragmentation, reliance on many aspirational policies and few implementation details that explained and justified spending forecasts.

This submission urges Council to face the realities that have rendered much of *Vision 2030* and Te Tatau o Te Arawa's *Vision 2050* obsolete. RDRR's members have an alternative vision of healthy interculturalism, greater equity and growing prosperity in an inclusive democracy.

Peter and Judi Rice
Lake Tarawera

29 April 2021

RLC Long Term Plan Submission
Relating to the Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme

This is with reference to the RLC letter from Stavros Michael dated 3 February (Doc No: RDC 1094476) confirming Rotorua Lakes Council's (RLC) agreement to the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme comprising of the installation of Low Pressure Grinder Pumps (LPGP) onto each Tarawera property and a mains pipeline connecting the new Tarawera network to the main city treatment plant via the Okareka wastewater pump station.

The majority of Lake Tarawera property owners believe the LPGP system is an acceptable environmentally sustainable option to remotely dispose of our wastewater. We acknowledge that minimising the possibility of our wastewater entering the lake is morally the right thing to do and in principle we support this objective. However, if we are legally compelled to connect and financially contribute to this scheme, we do not expect to be treated any differently to those in other Rotorua Lake District communities, that have been required by RLC, to install the same system.

The amount of **$33,000 (and probably more) lump sum payment** expected of us, as outlined in Stavros's letter, and acknowledgement form is discriminatory. It is more than double that required of those connected to the Lake Okareka and Rotoiti schemes. Moreover, longer-term payment options incorporated into annual rates payments are not being offered as they were to all other district scheme participants. The proposal is both unreasonable and unfair and could cause possible hardship to many of us in the Lake Tarawera community.

Stavros stated in his letter that Lake Tarawera is a valued taonga for Iwi and the whole community and that it is important to maintain the bathing water quality of the lake. So, given that the lake is enjoyed by the entire district and in fact the greater country, and is one of New Zealand's jewels for tourism, shouldn't the financial burden to improve the water quality be shared by the entire district's rate payers and central Government ministries.

I would also like to raise my serious concerns relating to the extremely unfair lump sum payment calculations and apportionment of costs as per the table below.

Total Estimated Scheme Costs		**$22,500,000**	Based on 550 HUEs
LESS the following funding:			
- Ministry for the Environment funding	6,500,000		Obtained by LTRA
- Regional Council Subsidy	750,000		
- Rotorua Lakes Council funding	825,000		÷ 550 HUEs = $1,500 per HUE
		$8,975,000	
Balance Outstanding		**$14,425,000**	÷ 446 HUEs = $32,343 per HUE* (**$33,000** round figures per RLC lump sum payment expectation)
Compared to a lower figure if divided by 550 HUEs		*$14,425,000*	*÷ 550 = **$26,227** per HUE*

Point 1:
If the total scheme costs are based on 550 HUEs and Rotorua Lakes Council is providing funding for 550 HUEs, why is the balance outstanding being divided by 446 HUEs (making the cost to us much higher) and not 550 HUEs (spreading the costs more fairly and reducing the cost to all).

Point 2:
We 446 existing HUEs Tarawera residents are effectively expected to pay for the Rotorua Lakes Council's 104 "future developments" they have planned for Lake Tarawera. Rotorua Lakes Council should at the very least be footing the bill for these 104 HUEs by contributing a further $2,727,608 ($26,227 x 104 HUES) and recouping costs when these "additional" residents come on board! WE SHOULD NOT BE PAYING FOR THEM!!

Point 3:
The amount of $26,227 is still a ridiculous amount to expect existing residents to contribute when the Regional Council made this scheme a requirement back in 2008 and the Lake Tarawera community have been pushing to have this scheme installed since then. We are affectively paying for costs creeps due to the Rotorua Lakes Council's ongoing delays with this project. Rotorua Lakes Council should be held accountable for further funding to bring this figure down to a more comparable figure to that of other Lake Communities.

22 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
1061 Haupapa Street,
Rotorua 3010

To whom it may concern,

Re: Submission to Rotorua Lakes Council 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan (LTP)

We would like to inform Rotorua Lakes Council on the background to, and priority work streams of the Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy. We believe that Rotorua Lakes Council should continue to recognise preventable drowning in the Bay of Plenty as a critical community issue, which requires a collective response to reduce. In addition, we believe that access to safe water-based activities is essential to personal wellbeing and community wellbeing and particularly relevant as we help the community recover post COVID-19.

The following information set out in this document highlights the updated statistics for preventable drownings in the Bay of Plenty region, specifically Rotorua, and ultimately highlights the importance of having a water safety strategy in place. We are seeking long-term investment in the Strategy Manger role and associated programme costs for further progress of the Bay of Plenty water safety strategy priorities as well as ongoing collaborative support.

Please also refer to the letter of support provided by Water Safety New Zealand in **Appendix B**.

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Background

The Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy ("The Strategy") was developed over an 18 month period by Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ), with consultation from the local community and providers. In 2019 the Regional Water Safety Strategy Manager ("The Strategy Manager") was employed and the The Strategy was finalised and released in November 2019.

The Strategy Manager position sits under the Sport Bay of Plenty umbrella who house the role in-kind, and reports to a governance group who identify as Water Safety Bay of Plenty. The governance group members as at April 2021 are;

Shirley Baker (Chair) – Independent
Chris Emmett – Surf Lifesaving NZ
Kevin Winters – Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Antoni Lowe – Water Safety New Zealand
Lee Colquhoun – Te Puna Ora o Mataatua
Catherine McCulloch – Sport Bay of Plenty

The role of the governance is to collectively identify priority areas and to plan an approach to water safety education within the Bay of Plenty based on the information provided by The Strategy Manager.

The post-COVID-19 environment

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the water safety sector. With summer 2020/21 cut short due to the level 4 lockdown, the community endured a difficult and unique winter. With international boarders, New Zealanders were also unable to spend their money overseas. As a result, the water safety sector forecasted an increase in water-based recreational activity and incidents leading into summer 2021/22. As expected, there was an increase in NZers in the water as early as October 2020 and New Zealand unfortunately got off to a terrible start to the new year with seven preventable drownings in the first six days of 2021.

Aligning with Rotorua Lakes Council's Priorities

The Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy directly correlates with the proposed Community Safety Plan. Every year members of our community are drowning in our waters and The Strategy aims at lowering our preventable drowning rate, even with an increasing population.

The Rotorua region is surrounded by fresh water lakes and rivers and thus poses a serious threat to our hapori. Water Safety Bay of Plenty encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to consider this with the Bay of Plenty water Safety Strategy and its progress thus far as part of the Community Safety Plan.

Preventable Drownings in the Bay of Plenty

In the past 10 years (2011-2020), the Bay of Plenty has seen 75 preventable drownings, averaging 7-8 drownings per year.

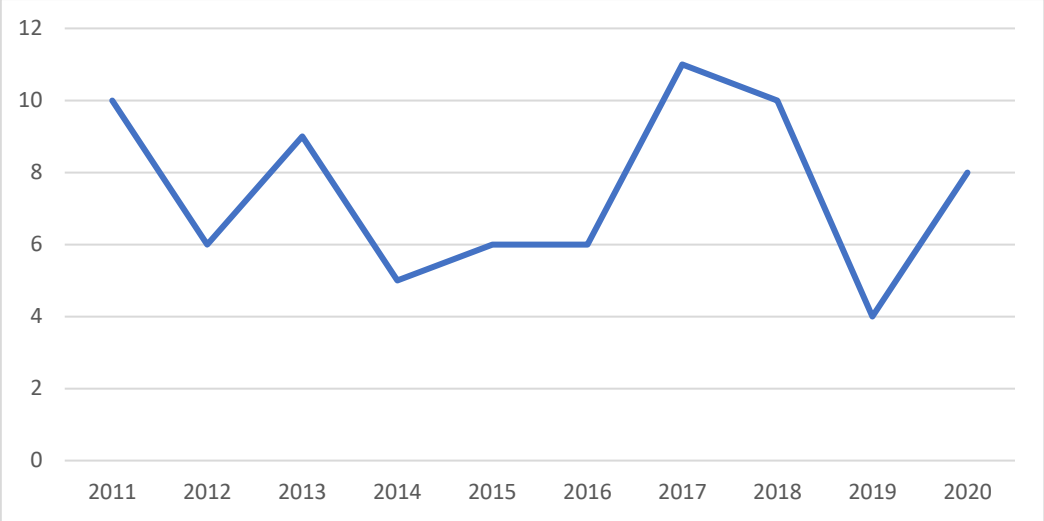


Chart 1: Bay of Plenty Preventable Drownings; 2011-2020

During 2020, New Zealand had 74 fatalities, with eight of these drownings being in the Bay of Plenty region – on par with the yearly average. This is a disappointing result given then that the COVID-19 lockdown restricted water-based recreational activity for the ending months of summer 2020.

Preventable Drownings in Rotorua

In the past 10 years (2011-2020), Rotorua has seen 17 preventable drownings, accounting for ~22% of overall Bay of Plenty drownings for the same period.

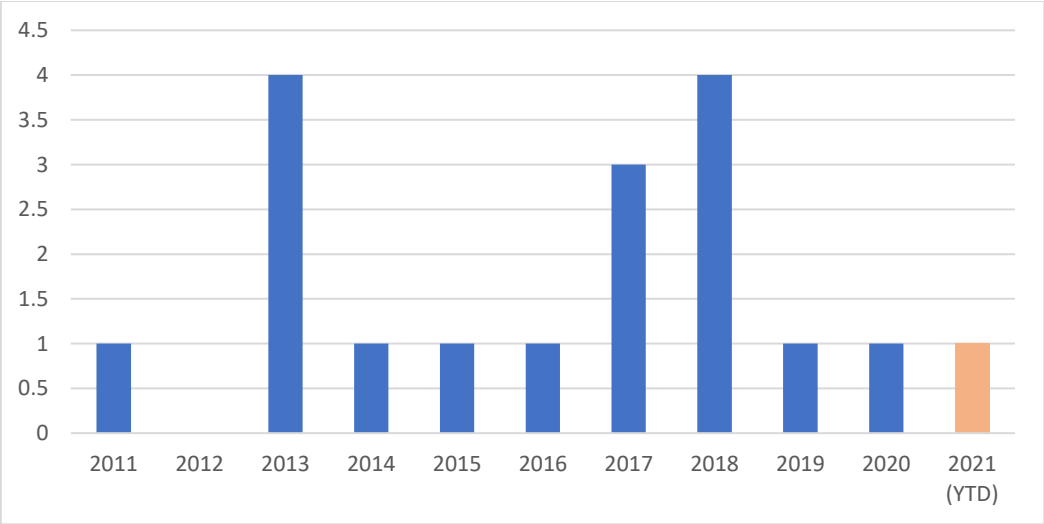


Chart 2: Rotorua Preventable Drownings; 2011-2020

Although the Rotorua preventable drowning numbers are low compared to its Tauranga counterpart, the consistency year by year is becoming of a concern as Water Safety Bay of Plenty and other sector stakeholders are conscious of the

increasing population in the region. The Rotorua population is projected to grow from 76,200 in 2020 to 90,800 in 2051, a rise of 14,600 people[1].

With this in mind, Water Safety Bay of Plenty are pushing for a proactive approach to water safety in Rotorua, rather than a reactive one. We strongly believe that providing education now will be what saves the lives of the Rotorua community, and its visitors, in the future.

Updates to the Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy

The Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy was designed to be flexible to ensure it is relevant to current and emerging trends with the aim of reviewing the strategy's progress and priorities on an annual basis. In January 2021, the Water Safety Bay of Plenty Governance group held the first collaborative workshop to review the strategy. As a result, the following changes were made:

• Rather than seven key priorities, it was decided that the workload could be condensed into four key priorities, whilst still covering the priority areas.

• It was decided that Māori water safety is relevant to every priority of the strategy so was removed from being a stand-alone priority action, and instead included as an aspect of each priority action in the strategy.

• Boating education and Coastguard memberships were moved to priority #4, from priority #3, this was as a result of feedback gained from the Regional Council Maritime team and Coastguard reporting that although there has been a spike in boat and watercraft sales and usage, there conversely has been a drop in Coastguard call-outs and boating-related incidents on our waters.

• Water safety messaging was better defined and moved to priority #2 as it was decided that the current messaging is no longer resonating with the community and needs improvement. Signage was also included as part of this priority.

The updated priority actions can be seen in **Table 1** below.

	Priority 1 *Water Skills For Life*	Priority 2 *Messaging & Signage*	Priority 3 *Stakeholder Collaboration*	Priority 4 *Boating & Watercraft Education*
Description	The WSFL programme is the new national standard for aquatic education in primary schools. It was developed by WSNZ as a way for kids to have fun while they learn water safety. It moves away from a 'learn to swim' approach and seeks to provide children in school years 1-8 with 27 core skills, like getting in and out of water, personal buoyancy and what to do in an emergency.	Water safety messaging will be tailored specifically toward each demographic in order to effectively deliver water safety education. Messaging will be delivered through as many mediums as possible – digital, print, social media, radio, and events. Various coronial reports identify a need for increased and/or improved signage at locations of previous preventable drownings. A working group will be	Collaboration between sector stakeholders is pivotal to lowering the Bay of Plenty's increasing drowning rate. Having a regular forum for those involved in aquatic recreational activity to meet, share, and collaborate is a way of strengthening the collective ability of the Bay of Plenty community to address water safety issues, analyse campaign performance and make improvements to	Coastguard Boating Education (CBE) is the leading provider of boating education in New Zealand and they offer a range of courses for all levels of ability. Their flagship course is the Day Skipper course that provides participants with an introduction to boating and covers boat handling, safety equipment, navigation, tides, weather, rules and regulations, emergencies, and knots. Uptake of CBE

[1] Population projections source: Infometrics (2021).

		established whose responsibility will be to develop a risk assessment profile, budget and deployment strategy. Signage deployed will meet international signage standards and offer the opportunity for community input.	delivering vital water safety messages.	courses in Bay of Plenty is low compared to the level of boat ownership, meaning there are many unqualified boat skippers on the water. Coastguard NZ is a charity that provides a national maritime search and rescue service, including operating a shipto-shore radio service, providing real-time weather reporting and trip reporting. Becoming a member of Coastguard gives free assistance 24/7 in popular boating areas around the country, like the Bay of Plenty.
Strategy Manager Involvement	• Establish relationships with schools. • Monitor progress against baseline data of the WSFL pilot programme and relay feedback to WSNZ & Swim NZ. • Assist in developing a more fluid plan for delivery encompassing a greater network of providers with priority for low decile schools.	• Deliver regular targeted water safety messaging. • Continuously, and consistently, develop new water safety messaging approaches using different mediums. • Analyse campaign performance and make amendments where necessary. • Coordinate the establishment of a signage working group. • Work with council teams to assess any synergies present between projects. • Create a risk assessment profile and delivery plan for signage. • Engage local community, iwi/hapū for input.	• Maintain regular communication with key industry stakeholders. • Hold regular hui's as a forum for stakeholders to discuss and collaborate. • Maintain relationships with councils to ensure they're kept up to date with the Bay of Plenty Water Safety initiative's progress.	• Continue engagement with Coastguard, Coastguard Boating Education and Maritime NZ to develop campaigns, events and initiatives aimed at educating boat and watercraft users in the Bay of Plenty. • Engage local retailers to assess any scope for collaboration.
Māori Water Safety	• Work with lower-socio economic and TKKM schools. • Promote the benefits of the WSFL programme to the Māori community.	• Liaise with local iwi and hapū to receive input into signage design and approval for deployment. • Tailor messaging to Māori through understanding of tikanga.	• Regularly engage Māori community to receive input into more effective ways to reduce the Māori drowning rate. • Collaborate with WSNZ contracted Māori expertise to better address the problem of an increasing preventable drowning rate with Māori.	• Establish Māori trained resource to deliver safer boating and watercraft education in Te Reo Māori. • Ensure boating education is tailored toward the Māori community by understand of mātauranga and tikanga.

Outcomes to FY 2021/22	• Develop relationships with schools in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty. • Assess and monitor pilot progress based on school feedback. • Work with local swim providers to assess a relative cost to delivery. • Maintain a focus on funding for the proposed enhanced collaborative approach to WSFL delivery in Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty. • Provide reports and feedback to WSNZ and Swimming NZ. • Increase number of children going through the WSFL programme.	• Broadening reach of water safety messages. • Measure engagement of digital campaigns to assess campaign performance. • Track attendance numbers at water safety month events. • Increase social media following. • Establish a signage working group. • Develop a draft plan for delivery of signage proposal to councils. • Engage local councils to determine if there is synergies between signage projects. • Engage with the local community to assess thoughts on design and deployment of signage at each location. • Coordinate Water Safety Month events by engaging local providers and the wider sector.	• Act as a connection between different sector groups and organisations. • Hold regular stakeholder hui's and improve attendance numbers. • Regular hui's held with Council members, Coastguard, CBE, SLSNZ, WSNZ, Maritime NZ, local swim providers, and other stakeholders.	• Work with TPOOM to get trained Māori resource for the Eastern Bay of Plenty region. • Work with Coastguard to help boost membership numbers and deliver their messaging to the community. • Assist CBE in running workshops and delivering messaging aimed at increasing the number of skippers completing educational courses. • Increase number of sign-ups to boating education workshops and online courses. • Engage with local retailers and groups to encourage safe watercraft behaviour on our waters.

Rotorua Preventable Drownings in Detail

The charts below compare the Rotorua preventable drownings to the wider Bay of Plenty.

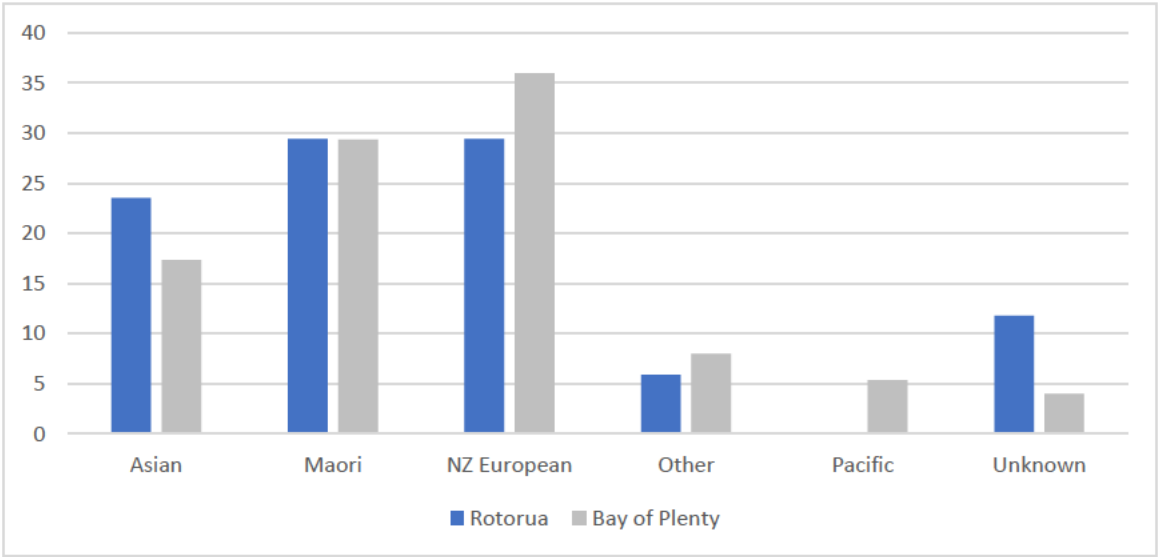


Chart 3: Percentage Rotorua Preventable Drowning by Ethnicity compared to Bay of Plenty; 2011-2020

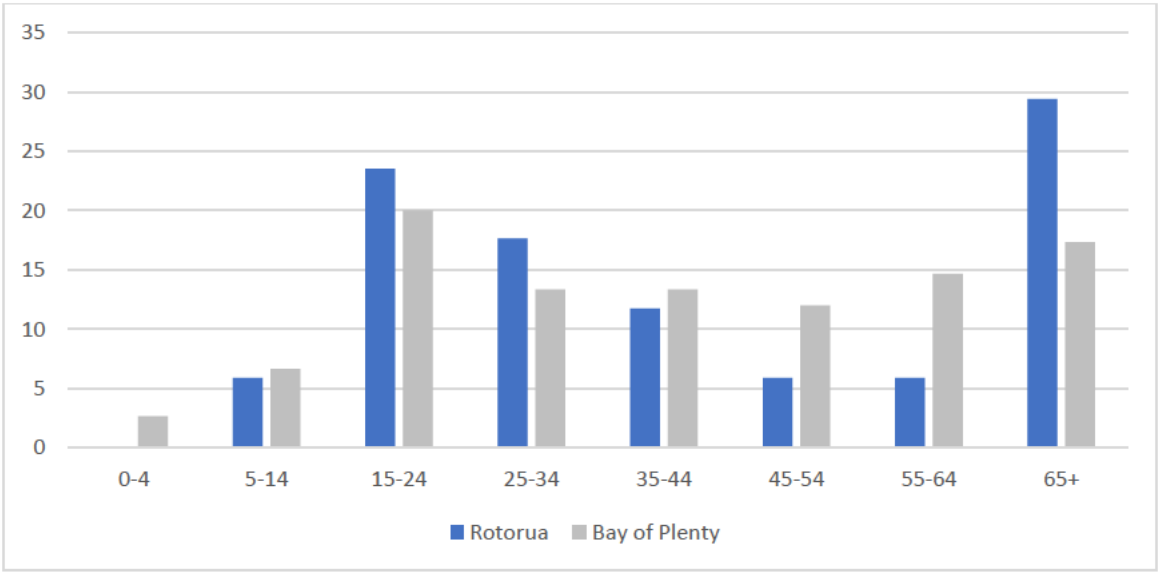


Chart 4: Percentage Rotorua Preventable Drownings by Age Group compared to Bay of Plenty; 2011-2020

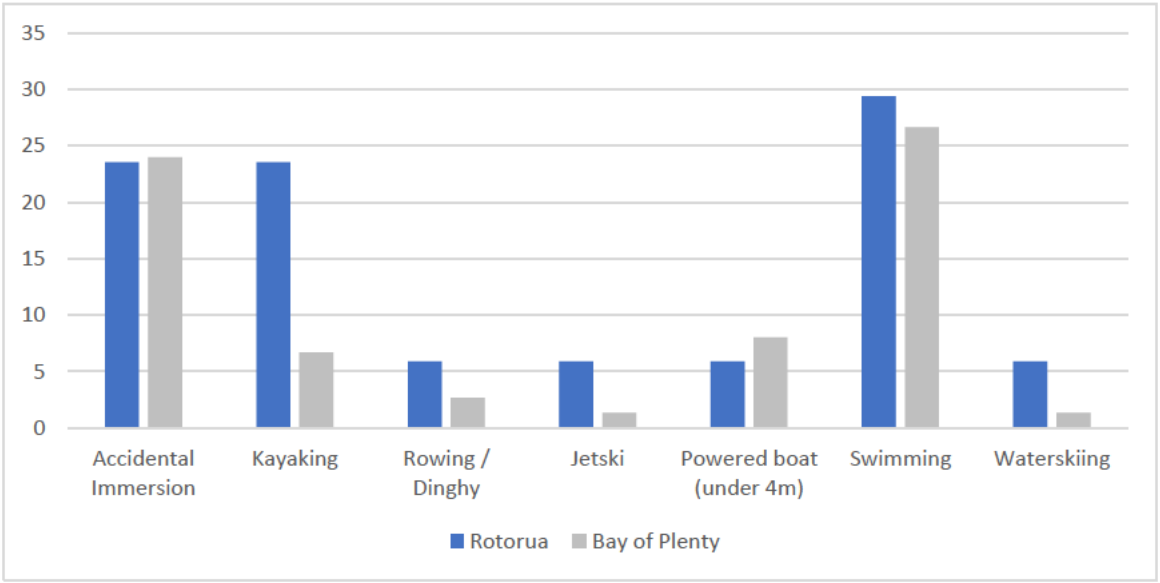


Chart 5: Percentage Rotorua Preventable Drownings by Activity compared to Bay of Plenty; 2011-2020

As demonstrated in Charts 3, 4 and 5 above, there are clear synergies between the Rotorua preventable drownings and the wider Bay of Plenty. The 15-34 and 65+ age groups are overrepresented in these statistics and will be the priority for the Bay of Plenty initiative until the trend changes. Another concern highlighted in **Chart 5** is that primary activities of drownings are swimming and accidental immersions[2].

Major Projects in the Pipeline

[2] An accidental immersion is a preventable drowning where the victim did not intend on being involved in water-based recreational activity. For example, rock fishing, fell in while walking on a path etc.

Open Water Safety Programme

The Strategy Manager will be assisting local providers Swim-able and Peak Safety to design and deliver an open water safety programme, designed to raise awareness to open water safety and the processes and techniques for rescuing a patient in open water, with emphasis on lakes and rivers.
The programme will be designed over the winter months for implementation mid-late November 2021. Whilst Peak Safety and Swim-able will take the lead on delivery, the Strategy Manager will be assisting with planning, promotion and analysing quality assurance – once the programme is proved to be successful, a second will be designed for late summer, then a further roll-out to Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty and Eastern Bay of Plenty.

This initiative directly aligns with the Bay of Plenty Water Safety Strategy's updated priority actions of targeting swimming and fresh-water recreational activities.

Water Safety Messaging

With reference to **Chart 5**, it is clear that members of the community are not taking into account the dangers associated with swimming in, or being around, fresh water. Water Safety Bay of Plenty endeavours to deliver targeted educational messages to the community via mainstream media (NZME – The Bay of Plenty Times, Rotorua Daily Post, The Weekender), social media, and through collaborative relations and various water safety initiatives. It is vital that water safety messaging is resonating with the community. The Strategy Manager is in collaboration with other sector stakeholders to share information pertaining to each organisations campaigns in an attempt to assist each other in delivering the most engaging campaigns to the community.

Water Safety Month 2021

Water Safety Month is a national initiative first developed by Water Safety New Zealand in 2019 in alliance with the Safer Boating Forums' Safer Boating Week. The purpose of the month is to highlight the importance of water safety and encourage local communities to get active and get wet, whether it be in an aquatic or natural environment.

The Strategy Manager works hard to encourage participation from local providers and organisations who share a common interest in water safety and keeping our communities safe. The Strategy Manager coordinated the month in 2020 and we had 18 providers hold 24 events around the region, including Rotorua. Some example promotion and events can be seen in **Appendix A**.

For Water Safety Month 2021, Water Safety Bay of Plenty will be adopting a similar method to delivering the month with the goal of participation from even more providers and, with additional funding, will be running a longer and more in-depth promotional campaign.

Key messaging will be specific to the target demographics and, with the support of local providers, we hope to achieve a greater level of engagement.

Boating Education

In-line with Water Safety Bay of Plenty's proactive approach for the next 12 months, the Strategy Manager will be working closely with Coastguard Boating Education (CBE) and Maritime NZ. Over the past 2 years we've seen a spike in new boat and jetski sales around the region and this was heightened by the boarders being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Surprisingly, boating-related incidents have declined but the sector is projecting an increase in these incidents in the coming years.

CBE run a Day Skipper course aimed at educating new and experienced skippers on the rules, regulations and safety tips with the goal of improving the knowledge of skippers on our waters. The Strategy Manager has been working with CBE to deliver more in-person boating education courses to Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty, with emphasis on doing the same for Rotorua in 2021.

Investment Sought from Rotorua Lakes Council

Due to the nature of water safety initiatives being ongoing without the option of a 'quick fix', we are seeking a long-term commitment from Rotorua Lakes Council in order to improve the impact our initiatives are making on the community.

We are seeking an investment of **$15,000 per annum from Rotorua Lakes Council** to partially cover;

- The Strategy Manager's role and operational costs for work done in Rotorua.
- Development of water safety campaigns and initiatives.
- Promotion of events, workshops and communications.

Water Safety Bay of Plenty are also seeking investment from other funders throughout the region, some of whom have invested over the past 2 years (including local councils).

Thank you for your time in considering our submission and request for ongoing funding. We are happy to provide further information or answer any queries you may have regarding this application.

Yours sincerely,

WATER SAFETY BAY OF PLENTY



Shirley Baker

Chair

Water Safety Bay of Plenty

SPORT BAY OF PLENTY



Heidi Lichtwark

Chief Executive

Sport Bay of Plenty (on behalf of Water Safety Bay of Plenty)

Appendix A – Water Safety Month 2020










POPPING SOME
MAD MANU'S
THIS SUMMER?
CHECK THE DEPTH
DON'T GO ALONE
NEW ZEALAND
WATER
SAFETY
MONTH
Te Puna Ora o
Mataatua
WHAKATĀNE
Aquatic &
Fitness
CENTRE
Water Safety
Bay of Plenty

Appendix B – Water Safety New Zealand Letter of Support

30 April 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
1061 Haupapa Street
Rotorua 3010

Tēnā koe

Re: Water Safety Bay of Plenty Submission to Rotorua Lakes Council 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan (LTP)

Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) supports the submission made by Water Safety Bay of Plenty on Rotorua Lakes Council's 2021-31 LTP.

WSNZ recommends that Rotorua Lakes Council:

- continues to recognise preventable drowning in the Bay of Plenty as a critical community issue, which requires a collective response to reduce;
- recognises that access to safe water-based activities is essential to personal wellbeing as we help the community recover post COVID-19;
- acknowledges the importance of having a regional water safety strategy in place for the Bay of Plenty and the priority areas for action identified in the Bay of Plenty water safety strategy; and
- considers a long-term contribution for the role of Strategy Manager for the Bay of Plenty water safety strategy and into the drowning prevention priorities identified in the strategy.

Wai Ora Aotearoa – Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025

WSNZ recently launched Wai Ora Aotearoa which is the result of a year's collaborative work by water safety sector leaders. The strategy represents a consensual view of the best way forward for drowning prevention in New Zealand. Moreover, the strategy reflects the need for a step change in the way the sector operates. This change will enable the sector to meet the major challenges it is facing over the next few years.

Key actions for the sector to implement over the term of the strategy include:

> *Develop a water safety sector local government engagement strategy that focuses on relationship building and engaging with local government planning.*
>
> *Complete the Implementation of the Regional Strategy pilots and develop a Freshwater Strategy for the sector.*

Both these actions are relevant to Water Safety Bay of Plenty's submission to Rotorua Lakes Council.

Community well-being

The Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 restored the promotion of social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being to the purpose of local government.

The amendments to the Act are intended to enable local authorities, and ensure local authorities are responsible for, playing a broad role in promoting and improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities-the four aspects of well-being. 3

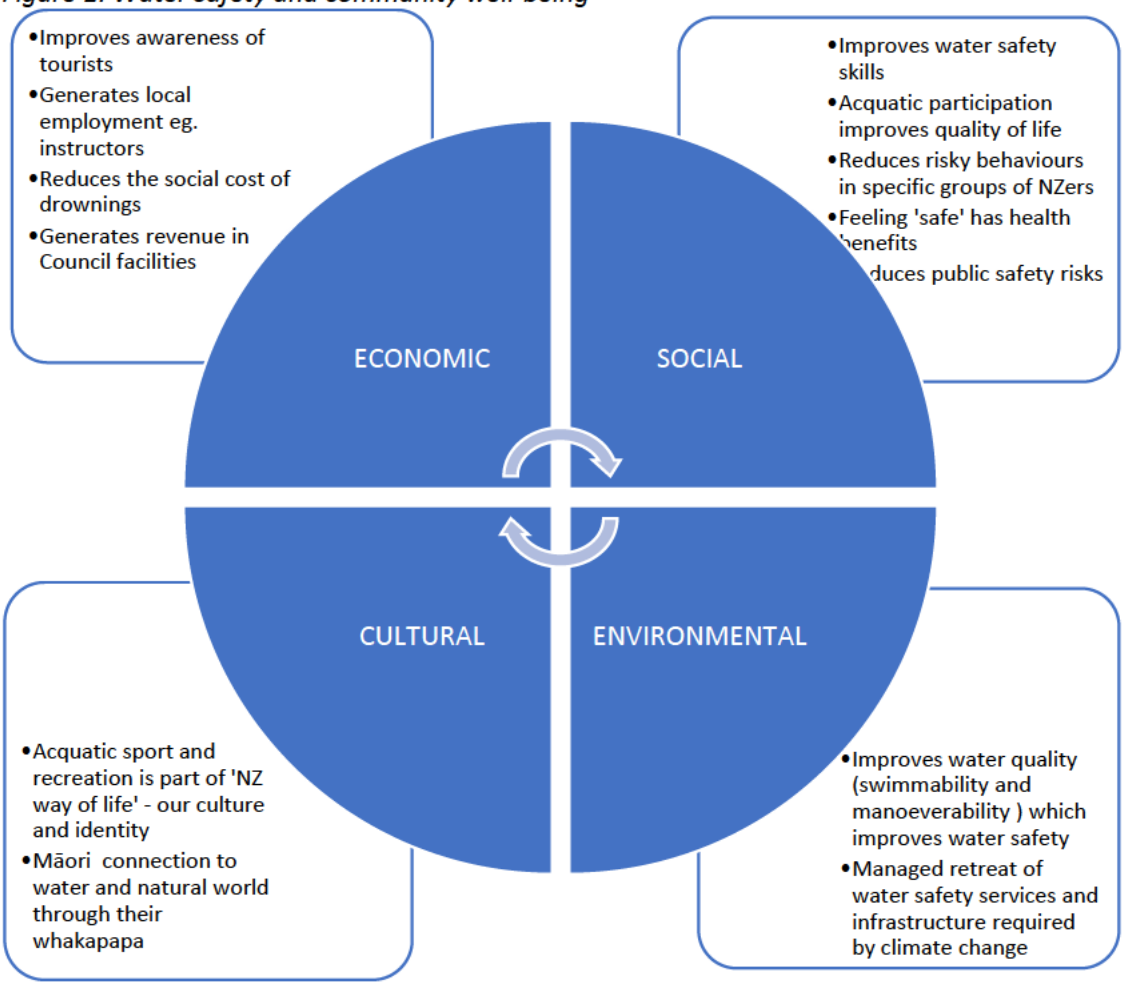
The Minister for local Government, Nanaia Mahuta, stated that this emphasis on well-being will engage councils and communities in an intergenerational approach to improving quality of life outcomes in towns and cities.

As shown in figure 1 below, water safety and drowning prevention connects with all four components of community well-being – economic, social, cultural and environment.

A fuller discussion of the connections between well-being and water safety, that is consistent with the SOLGM Community Well-being indicator framework, is included in attachment 1.

What this means is to fully contribute to the well-being of their community, local authorities must place greater importance on, and dedicate resources to, a wider range of initiatives relating to water safety and drowning prevention in all aquatic environments (pools, beaches, rivers, lakes, and the sea).

Figure 1: Water safety and community well-being



WSNZ wants to work with the Rotorua Lakes Council (and its partners and stakeholders) to help broaden their approach and reduce drowning fatalities and improve water safety awareness in the Rotorua district.

[3] SOLGM, 2020

Water Safety Bay of Plenty is our key drowning prevention partner in the Bay of Plenty and we commend them and their work to the Council, and recommend you support their submission.

Ngā Mihi



Paul Veric
Interim Chief Executive

Attachment 1

Community well-being and water safety and drowning prevention

WSNZ community well-being statement

WSNZ has, at the heart of its operations, a commitment to enabling the community well-being of all New Zealanders participating in aquatic sport and recreation or living near bodies of water. Our leadership, advocacy, policies, initiatives, and funding of programmes work to reduce the incidence of preventable drowning and injury in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Our work strives to contribute to a thriving society for individuals, families, and communities. A society where local communities inter-connecting economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being needs are all met.

The Four Well-beings in the Local Government Act

Most definitions of well-being focus on the quality of life, a healthy human condition as well as happiness and prosperity. Social science research suggests that well integrated individuals with shared community goals have better health and well-being outcomes. Research also indicates the four domains of well-being are all interconnected, and all connect in some way with water safety.



The following outlines how water safety and drowning prevention infrastructure, services and activities provide local government with several opportunities to improve the community well-being of their community.

Cultural Well-being and Water Safety

Cultural well-being is defined by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage as:

'*The vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:*

- *Participation in recreation, creative and cultural activities; and*
- *The freedom to retain, interpret and express their arts, history, heritage, and traditions'*[4].

Water is at the heart of our culture and identity as New Zealanders. New Zealander's have important connections to water through their history, experiences and practices that are important to them. Whether it is a connection to places that people swim, or swam as children, regular camping spots or mountain streams

[4] Te Manatu Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage (date unknown)

that people have encountered on tramps or hikes, many people have particular bodies of water that are important to them. These bodies of water can be important to a person's sense of identity, and from a Māori perspective, people are connected to water and to the natural world though their whakapapa. Aquatic recreation is a large part of the kiwi culture with many families and individuals enjoying spending time at their local beach, river, or lake and being able to safely enjoy taking part in aquatic activities such as, swimming, fishing, jet skiing, or boating is hugely important to New Zealanders.[5]

Water safety knowledge and skills, gained from WSNZ's aquatic education programs, promote New Zealanders cultural well-being by allowing individuals to participate in aquatic recreation in a safe, enjoyable, and culturally sensitive way. This sense of feeling 'safe' is also relevant to New Zealanders social well-being in that it benefits our physical and mental health.

Environmental Well-being and Water safety

Environmental well-being promotes interactions with nature; for New Zealander's to be able to enjoy and maintain their connections with water throughout New Zealand it is important that the quality of the water is maintained. The benefits of improving water quality of lakes and rivers throughout New Zealand benefit many activities from swimming to kayaking to mahinga kai. Environmental wellness can inspire individuals to live a lifestyle that is respectful of their surroundings and this in turn results in them assisting in maintaining and caring for waterway.[6]

Protection of mauri (life force or essence) is a principal issue for freshwater management, Māori throughout New Zealand are increasingly concerned with the integrity of waterways. A healthy body of water that has healthy mauri sustains healthy eco systems and supports a range of cultural environmental activities (mahinga kai or waka ama for example) and reinforces the cultural identity of the people.[7]

Aquatic water, free from hazards such as bacteria, weeds, and floating objects, benefits New Zealanders well-being as it allows them to safely swim, dive, boat and gather food. Environmental well-being and water safety are interrelated, one does not exist in isolation of the other. Environmental well-being also re-enforces New Zealanders cultural identity.

Economic Well-being and Water Safety

Over the past ten years preventable drownings and injuries have incurred social and economic costs of over $5 Billion. However, this financial figure does not illustrate the real cost in pain and suffering and disruption to families and work.

Social costs of fatal preventable drownings and water related injuries can be difficult to isolate and measure. The individual victim is usually the person most directly affected; however, accidents can potentially impact on family members, coworkers, medical care providers and a host of other individuals. Socio demographic differences potentially modify the type and extent of a fatal preventable drowning or injury's social costs. An individual's age, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, education, and their socioeconomic status all can influence the responses of the individual as well as others in their social circle. Multifarious impacts are possible and may include vocational, psychological, behavioral, social, economic, and functional effects. These costs and their impacts are varied, wide reaching and include both direct and indirect costs, costs at the micro and macro levels.[8]

[5] Ministry for the Environment, Manatu Mo Te Taiao, 2020
[6] U C Davis, 2020
[7] Tipa and Tierney, 2006
[8] Dembe, 2001

Water safety and drowning prevention services, activities and infrastructure reduce the social cost of drowning. Preventable drownings save the economy costs in terms of reduced hospitalisations, on-going medical attention, and the attendance of police, ambulance etc. at events. Preventable drownings also reduce family and whanau economic, social, and cultural costs resulting from loss of household income, a primary care giver, and that person's broader contribution to their community. Reduced social costs benefit the economic well-being of local communities.

WSNZ's awareness and behavioral change programs also provide economic well-being benefits to international visitors, who unaware of the risks in some of our popular aquatic environments, are often included in New Zealand's drowning statistics.

Water safety and drowning prevention services, activities and infrastructure also benefit the economic well-being of local communities. These benefits can be seen in the revenue generated through fees and local employment (which has an economic multiplier effect).

Social Well-being and Water Safety

Social connections play an important role across many aspects of people's lives, from employment opportunities and advice on important life decisions, to receiving support during hard times and having someone to enjoy life and relax with. There is a growing body of evidence supporting the notion that healthy social networks are important for health and well-being. [9]

Aquatic activities are often undertaken as social activities and allow for social connections to be formed and maintained. Aquatic recreation is both a means to an end (contributes to health and fitness) and an end in itself (enjoyment and satisfaction). Recreation is a useful tool for social connection and social well-being.[10]

WSNZ's awareness and behavioral change programs allow individuals (and their families) to be able to safely partake in aquatic recreation activities. These programs equip them with water safety skills to ensure they can keep themselves and their families safe in, on, and around the water. Community education, and the use of safety/warning signage, also promotes awareness of the risks and dangers inherent at popular aquatic recreation spots.

Social well-being can also be enabled through the concept of safe communities. Safe communities are a World Health Organisation (WHO) concept that recognises safety as a universal concern and a responsibility for all. A safe community is a livable community where people can go about their activities in an environment that is without fear, risk of harm, or injury. Twenty-two communities in New Zealand are accredited as Safe Communities by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ). A further five are currently working towards accreditation which is based on the WHO endorsed Safe Communities model. The safe community's website states:

Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing injury and violence. It is about well-being, building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities. Homes, the roads, public spaces and the workplace are safe for everyone to enjoy. This is exactly what the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) does for community development, through leadership and collaboration, to create safer communities to work, play and live. The majority of community-based injuries and accidents are preventable and predictable – it is this premise that forms the basis for everyone's safety. Each community or local area is different - each safety approach meets the unique needs of the people, their goals, and the community values, working together for better outcomes. SCFNZ specifically supports communities to adopt the Safe

[9] Frieling, Krassoi, & Cording, 2018
[10] Recreation Aotearoa, 2019

Community model to increase well-being and become effective advocates and enablers of injury and violence prevention[11].

This approach to community safety encourages greater co-operation and collaboration between non-government organisations, the business sector, and local and central government agencies. It increases community well-being by creating an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building local partnerships and collaborative relationships. Currently, some Councils in New Zealand incorporate water safety and injury prevention into ensuring the well-being of the community. WSNZ encourages all councils to consider the benefits to the well-being of their communities of becoming an accredited safe community. WSNZ also encourages all existing accredited communities to place greater emphasis on water safety in their regions.

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[11] Safe Communities Foundation NZ, 2020

UC Davis. (2020, July 08). *Environmental Wellsness*. Retrieved from University of California Davis: https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/wellness/environmental

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There are many reasons not to proceed with the proposed Westbrook Sports and Recreation Precinct. When people are asked what they like about Rotorua it is "all the green space" - that is the most common response according to previous long term plan responses.

Rotorua is a renowned golfing destination in New Zealand and can only be an area of great potential growth for visitor numbers to our city.

The proposed outcome offers very little extra in the way of facilities for a very large, unaffordable financial outlay. It ignores the consultation carried out with the Lakes City Athletics Club and doesn't even provide them with a facility. Junior athletics in Rotorua is a major breeding ground for the motor skills which transfer to many other sporting disciplines. Rotorua hockey experiences huge demand during their winter season and yet there is no more playing surface for their sport.

Where in New Zealand do we have examples of various sporting codes successfully sharing facilities?

The argument that existing sports fields are not fit for purpose is counteracted by the report of the NZ Soil Institute which stated that Neil Hunt Park and Puarenga Park would be greatly improved by better maintenance and fertilization. The other argument that families would only have to travel to one destination is weak in the extreme. It assumes that all the children of a family play only the few sports allocated to the proposal. Besides if you drive anywhere in Rotorua for more than 10 minutes then you've reached the boundary of the city. It is a very small city and nothing is very far from anywhere else. Walking from the netball courts to the proposed soccer fields on the existing 17th fairway would take far more than 10 minutes with young children.

Environment: The very idea of destroying the golf course is to fly in the face of the Government's Zero Carbon Act. It must also be completely contrary to any carbon neutral/sustainability policy belonging to the Rotorua Lakes Council. It is to ignore any modern thinking about climate change and saving our planet. It shows disregard for our youth who are fighting to protect air and sea quality, save animals and birds i.e. the planet.

The Springfield Golf Club's commissioned analysis of potential environmental impact demonstrates that the area suggested for housing is fraught with flooding occurrences. It also references the importance of the flat land on the western boundary of the course bordering the Utuhina Stream as being the holding mechanism for excess water entering the stream in times of high rainfall. This stream is home to koura, inanga and an important breeding ground for trout. The impact of potential artificial surface runoff and elimination of vegetation is inestimable.

The loss of nearly 500 mature trees to the city's air quality is not in any way planning for the future.

The Springfield neighbourhood is built around the green space that is the golf course. Please remember that this is the heart of our community. My family and I moved to Otonga Road when my daughter was six weeks old. My three now adult children enjoyed the rich environment of the Westbrook sporting fields playing cricket, netball, rugby and doing athletics in this area. We have enjoyed the Springfield course not only as golfers but in active recreation

The 4000 residents of Springfield deserve the utmost most consideration in this proposal. They are the major stakeholders. Why treat those who have a reputation of paying their rates and contributing generously to the well- being of Rotorua with such disregard and disrespect? There is no financial remuneration which would compensate for the loss of the golf course to the residents whose lives and homes would be most affected.

What if there was a geothermal eruption on the Arikikapakapa Golf Course and the RLC had already destroyed the Springfield Golf Course? That would be disastrous for the attraction of golfers to Rotorua, let alone the sportswomen and men who love the game.

Let me explain to you how the past year of knowing that my world is under threat has impacted on me. It began with a very impersonal, generic letter just months into my retirement. The home bordering the Springfield Golf Course that I had looked forward to enjoying in the autumn of my life had suddenly lost value, and not just financial value. The beautiful vista of my back yard was under threat and so was the quality of my life. Night after sleepless night I have tossed and turned, trying to work out my best plan of action. I feel never ending anxiety thinking about plans that I never wanted to make. I have seriously considered leaving Rotorua but the start of this conversation has already devalued our family home. The sense of injustice is very strong.

For 40 years my late husband and I have paid rates in this city and contributed generously of our time to our kindergarten, schools and sports clubs and voluntary organisations. Indeed Jerry was a generous sponsor of this golf club. Our 3 adult children and their families love coming home to Rotorua but right now they share my pain and concern about our turangawaewae.

I'm interested in knowing what experience in NZ do the designers of this plan have? Where can we see examples of their work?

These plans are now two years old, or as I now know even older than that. I've looked at the Living Standards Framework which represents the Treasury's perspective on what matters for New Zealanders wellbeing, now and in the future. This framework is a central government action designed to guide local governments such as ours, and I'm interested in how the four capitals that support our wellbeing might have been incorporated into the proposal. I'd like to know if they have been considered in the proposal.

Last year the Sport NZ Futures report on the Sport, Active Recreation and Play sector published a proposed new look, forecasting to 2035 and beyond after widespread consultation. I'd like to highlight for you some important findings –

Firstly: Locally led design and delivery will depend on local community involvement and the need to reflect the lived experiences and aspirations of the identities, cultures and ethnicities in those communities.

Secondly: Climate change impacts – these will be important when deciding on the location and maintenance of facilities and may affect access to places and spaces used for physical activities. The Club's environmental impact report highlights the negative effects on climate change that the proposal would bring about

It is disappointing that the younger cohort of Councillors Yates and Tapsell weren't present on April 19th to hear how much our community values this green space. I had expected that their generation would be the Greta Thunbourgs and represent the voice of our youth who so recently went on strike to urge us to do more to prevent global warming. Council have an obligation to heed Helen Clark's message 'Time for action' – the need for urgent climate change response.

Magnificent green space/ golf course versus more sports fields - that is the argument. This magnificent green space is so much more than a golf course. It is the largest, most densely planted green space in residential Rotorua comprising some 90 acres. It is used every day of the year by golfers, walkers, runners, dog walkers, children at play and even cyclists. It is a drawcard to Rotorua. It is also the focus of the Springfield community, not to mention our neighbours in Hillcrest, Glenholme and Westbrook.

If you think that I'm not in favour of sports development in this city let me assure that my family is all about sports men and women - basketball, athletics, Rugby union and touch, soccer, league, martial arts, hockey, netball and golf – you name it. Therefore to deliberately destroy the Springfield golf course would be to destroy an environment of great importance to Rotorua for many reasons.

As elected councillors of Rotorua I respectfully ask you to listen to what the people are telling you.

Nga mihi

Robyn Cowley

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Te Poari o Te Papa Atawhai o te rohe o te Waiariki

Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046

27th April 2021

SUBMISSION TO THE ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL DRAFT 2021- 2031 LONG TERM PLAN

Tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Rotorua Lakes Council 2021-2031 Draft Long Term Plan. The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board (BoPCB) is an independent body established under the Conservation Act 1987. Our role as a board is to provide a link between the public and the Department of Conservation at the regional/district level and advise the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) on policy issues, strategic direction and planning (through the Conservation Management Strategy). We have an advisory role to both the Department and the NZCA on conservation matters across our rohe.

We acknowledge the vital role Rotorua Lakes Council has in supporting Conservation Outcomes for our rohe and advocate that this continue to be a strong focus of Council.

The BoPCB would like Council to consider the following areas when making decisions on the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan-

1. Continue support and implementation of He Mahere Taiao mō ngā Wai o Te Arawa - Te Arawa Lakes Environmental Plan.

2. Implementation of proactive strategies to build relationships and engagement models with tangata whenua, including methods to strengthen Māori representation in Council decision making.

3. Ensure council's Long Term Plan incorporates the relevant aspects of the "Proposed national policy statement for indigenous biodiversity" & "Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy 2020, Te mana o te Taiao".

4. Ensure the Department of Conservation remains a partner through the design and implementation phases of the Rotorua Destination Management Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this written submission.

Nāku noa, nā



Zane Jensen, Board Member
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Serviced By:
Department of Conservation, Taupo Office, 37 Motutaiko Street, Taupo
E. bayofplentyconservationboard@doc.govt.nz | www.doc.govt.nz

Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-Term Plan

Submission from Waiariki Park Region – April 2021

Waiariki Park Region is pleased to support the Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-Term Plan.

And, like Council, we are committed to supporting the positive changes that need to occur over the coming years to enable the community to mitigate and adapt to the changing environment around us, as the impacts of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, etc. become more of the norm in our daily lives.

We recognise that Council, Iwi, and the community need to find many ways in which to share, engage and collaborative together. Therefore, in order to enable that, objectively, creatively, and credibly, new partnerships and relationships need to come together for more sustainable ways of living to emerge.

Waiariki Park Region would like the opportunity to support and advocate for Council's strategic goals and the Te Arawa Vision and be one of the multiple points of contact for community engagement and feedback. We know it will take all of us, together, to enable thriving communities.

We have chosen not to answer any of the submission questions directly, as we would support any final decisions the Council will take but look to gain funding so we may directly support Council's ability to achieve its future plan.

Therefore, Waiariki Park Region wishes to be considered for contribution funding from within the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan 2021.

Below, is a detailed breakdown of who we are, what we are going to do, how we will support Council and what support we are looking for.

Waiariki Park Region – Who we are

Name of Initiative:	Waiariki Park Region
Legal entity status:	Envirohub, Bay of Plenty
Postal Address:	C/O Envirohub BOP, Environment Centre, Historic Village on 17th, Seventeenth Avenue West, Tauranga South, Tauranga 3112
Website/Social Media:	**Landing page -** www.waiarikiparkregion.org.nz Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/waiarikiparkregion/ Instagram - https://instagram.com/waiariki_park_region?igshid=ow45iskm753z
Primary Contact	
Name of contact person:	Joy Moir
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Waiariki Park Region Initiative Information

initiative Summary			
Initiative title:	Waiariki Park Region		
Primary focus area:	**Greener, healthier, wilder, more resilient region, covering the Waiariki region (BOP + Taupo district)**		
Initiative Summary:	Waiariki Park Region is a bi-cultural movement to accelerate environmental action by reconnecting the people of Waiariki back to each other and nature. We will do this by creating a region-wide toolkit consisting of an intergenerational, interactive digital platform and a team to support Waiariki to become a greener, healthier, wilder, and more resilient and vibrant region. Being a land and water-based movement, biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, plus freshwater for life will be integral.		
How many years we are seeking funding for	1 year ☐	2 years ☐	3 years ✓
	Year One	Year Two	Year Three

How much funding we are requesting from Rotorua Lakes Council	$30k (excluding GST)	$30k (excluding GST)	$30k (excluding GST)
The total cost of the initiative per annum	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
	$576,792	$576,792	$576,792

Initiative Narrative

Our vision is to make the Bay of Plenty greener, healthier, wilder, and more resilient.

This initiative will enable a movement. A movement that seeks to radically increase the percentage of the population that engage in activities that will enhance the environment in which we all live and need to support our lifestyles. We are not creating a shovel-ready environmental initiative. Rather a movement that creates mechanisms to assist citizens, communities, Iwi, businesses, and authorities to participate in restoration, regeneration, and aiding nature and biodiversity. A movement that will increase personal health and wellbeing for all citizens through connection to the environment.

It will be a movement to inspire the people of Bay of Plenty to embrace biophilia - the scientific belief that nature can fix us, thus improving the region for every living thing.

We all know that when we spend time in nature, our health and wellbeing feel's better. Therefore, to achieve the ultimate status of regenerative health and wellbeing, it is our belief that we – the people of the Bay of Plenty - must connect and protect our environment.

The Waiariki Park Region project has been co-designed with key players in the environmental space, including with Iwi. The project boundaries are around Katikati in the west, to Ōpōtiki, and beyond in the East, and down to Turangi in the South. It takes in Rotorua, Tauranga, Whakatāne, Taupō and all the areas in between on land and in water.

This initiative was inspired by the Universal Charter for National Park Cities / Regions framework and follows this approach and was birthed between World Parks, Salzburg Seminar Global and London National Park Foundation. London National Park City was the first City to launch in July 2019. Waiariki Park Region is part of a growing network of cities and regions across the world who are looking to follow their lead. This group is a growing, global network committed to reconnecting more people back to nature where they live, work and play.
Here is the President of Ireland talking about Galway National Park City…

We will achieve our vision by:

- **Acting as a regional movement for all, but with a first focus on individual change, particularly in urban areas**
- **Working with Tangata Whenua so we are supported and informed by their commitment to Kaitiakitanga (guardianship and protection)**
- **Using as an integral resource the organisations that already exist**
- **Connecting organisations and the community together**
- **Making it easier for the community to find education and opportunities to connect with nature**
- **Increasing regional environmental knowledge and action**
- **Providing a springboard for success stories and inspiration**
- **Inspiring and meeting the needs for individuals wanting to do more and move more**
- **Aligning with the Department of Conservation biodiversity strategy 'TE KOIROA O TE KOIORA – our shared vision for living with nature'**

Key Indicators of success:

- Increased green cover across the Bay of Plenty
- Improved Health and Wellbeing of people and environment in the Bay of Plenty
- Increased environmental action and connection in the Bay of Plenty
- The Bay of Plenty continues towards becoming carbon zero by 2050

Why we are doing this

More than 85 percent of us in Aotearoa live in an urban setting, and as our towns and cities grow, we continue to surround ourselves with more and more man-made structures. With our modern way of life, these blends of concrete, metal, plastic, and other man-made materials have become almost necessities and have almost completely taken over our urban spaces. How do we maintain our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing in this modern world?

Add in Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, pandemics etc., it is becoming more obvious that today's usual approach will simply not do, therefore:

- Nature needs human support to help it restore itself
- Individuals are wanting to do more, but do not know where to go, so need easy engaging pathways to action
- There is a knowledge gap in the community in regard, to environmental action
- Individuals need and want to reconnect to nature in order to improve their health and wellbeing
- Existing environmental organisations need more participants and support

We want to enable connections to nature that are pleasurable and fun as a way of engaging individuals, family or communities in activities that improve nature in the Bay of Plenty.

It could be planting, cleaning up waste, walking, cycling, growing food in residential gardens, improving biodiversity in neighbourhoods and so much more. But the feel-good factor of doing your bit and connecting with others while you do it will lead to other actions that, combined, will help build resilience, mitigating the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss while expanding the support, resilience and reach a community can have with itself. And the change grows.

Currently, it is estimated that less than 20 percent of the population actively engages with environmental action, which equates to around 61,000 people within the region. This movement is aimed at connecting the remaining 250,000 to become more involved and supporting those who are taking part in environmental action. We wish to create an army of gentle disrupters to inspire, lead, support, advocate, empower and encourage environmental activity

Ultimately, we want to support and accelerate environmental action that can help our children's futures.

The Pathway

The following values, goals, and statements provide our movement's structure. They are broad to allow for inclusivity, collaboration, and co-design from all sectors of the community and encourage people to follow their own pathways, whether as individuals, families, Iwi, neighbourhoods, organisations, or others.

Values

- Kaitiakitanga – To guide good environmental practice as guardians
- Wairuatanga – To ensure our intent is good
- Whakamana i te Tangata Whakapapa – To always act in a mana enhancing way
- Rangatiratanga - To act like chiefs for future generations
- Kanohi ki te kanohi – To meet face to face when we can
- Mahi tahi – To join-together, collaborate and unite as a movement

Goals

- Enhance and Cultivate Nature and Biodiversity
- Allow Nature to Fix us
- Educate and Change Ourselves
- Support and Connect the Region
- Champion Regenerative, Resilient and Sustainable Communities

We recognise that human-induced climate change is a critical issue which is impacting Aotearoa New Zealand and that these impacts fall disproportionately on those already facing inequality. We recognise the role of mana whenua and support Māori to protect their taonga by realising their role as kaitiaki. We support work towards adaptation methods which increase community resilience to climate change and decrease carbon emissions.

We take a leadership role in conversations about systemic change to help protect the taonga of Aotearoa.

Proposal

To achieve the aspirations above and the eventual system change that is required, Waiariki Park Region is proposing to develop a region-wide tool kit to accelerate environmental action across the rohe.

We will also use the Design Principles which helped London National Park City Launch.

Plan

To achieve its overall mission, Waiariki Park Region must be seen as an enactment of the intention of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in that it proposes to bring the belief systems of the two parties – Tangata Whenua and Tauiwi – together to provide for a better future for the next generations.

The initiative will work to ensure all articles, particularly Article Two guaranteeing tangata whenua tino rangatiratanga over their taonga, and we will ensure this by accelerating good environmental action through the application of biophilia and Māori principals.

To do this, we are developing a toolkit for all iwi, hapū, environmental, community and social groups. The toolkit will also be available to central and local government bodies.

The toolkit will consist of an eight-person team to support and drive good environmental action within the Waiariki rohe, and a fully interactive digital platform to enable connection and collaboration.

When applying this approach within the Te Arawa rohe, we are cognisant of the Te Arawa Vision and believe our toolkit will support the mahi that is being undertaken to achieve the goals outlined in this document.

More specifically, if we focus on some of the key points in the Te Arawa Vision, we can show how we would support this mahi.

- Te Arawa Tangata – Waiariki Park Region is about making our rohe a better place to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Te Waiariki. Therefore, our eight-person team would be available to support the development of the Te Arawa health, tamariki ora, taiohi and housing strategies and their implementation. We would also be available to help to ensure that the appropriate resources are available to Te Arawa to develop and achieve these strategies.
- Te Arawa Takiwa – Waiariki Park Region is essentially an environmental initiative to make the rohe greener, healthier, wilder, more resilient. Therefore, we are very keen to help Te Arawa to achieve the aspirations outlined in the Takiwa section of their vision document. Within the Te Arawa rohe, we would support tangata whenua to ensure the well being of taiao, or environment, is healthy and intrinsically connected to the people. Our co-design approach means that we will recognise and promote the hapū of Te Arawa are recognised as the mana whenua and mana wai of the rohe. We will also support the development and implementation of sustainable taiao plans and that hapū are well resourced and supported to ensure their environmental goals are achieved.
- Te Arawa Urutau – A key part of the toolkit is the development of a innovative, inter-generational digital platform. This tool will help Te Arawa to better collaborate and share electronic information to keep their hapū and iwi better connected and informed, and to preserve and protect historic and cultural information.

The aim of the toolkit, therefore, will be to generate a region wide shared agenda for accelerating environmental action. It will provide support for the region from an environmental perspective with the ability to sit objectively in the environmental space and provide unbiased support wherever it is needed.

The 8-person team will include a central support team focusing on building the movement, environmental data, māori engagement and communications, with four sub-regionally based Regional Connectors, whose primary focus will to be support and drive good environmental action across the rohe.

We are therefore, applying to the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan to support the operational requirements for Waiariki Park Region and believe this aligns with Council's strategic goals.

We propose to establish the team and develop the digital platform during 2021 as funding becomes available.

Human Resource:
The central team will be the support between the Regional Connectors, the community at large and digital platform with specialised skill sets.

The central team's roles and responsibilities include:

Team Lead – Working regionally, provide ongoing strategic direction, stakeholder engagement and operational, management and administrative support to ensure the movement continues to grow in accordance with the values and aspirations of the region.

Māori Engagement Specialist – Working regionally, connect with and work alongside Iwi to enable strong inclusion of Mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori principles, and support all members of the team to grow their understanding and partnerships with Māori.

Communications Specialist – Working regionally, deliver all communications requirements. This includes, design and implementation of communication strategies, digital platform management, press releases, on-line and off-line campaigns, literature, all social media management, monitoring and responses. They will also work closely with the Regional Connectors to ensure collection of stories, data, and best practice for multiple channel sharing.

Environmental Data Specialist – Working regionally, collect, collate, analysis all available environmental data. Be the catalysis for long term trend direction of where environmental action is required, preferred and possible. They will also work closely with the Regional Connectors to capture data. We see exciting opportunities with the environmental data as little exists around the region and there is definitely a space for campaigns and activities that drive local and regional engagement with key flora and fauna, with health outcomes automatically built in as the activities will be nature based.

Everything the central team achieve will be focused on growing the movement, including supporting and advocating Council programmes and people.

Four Regional Connectors – Be the local link between people, organisations, data, knowledge, and opportunity to support the creation of, acceleration of, and knowledge transfer of environmental and sustainable action based in:

- Mataatua (Whakatāne/Ōpōtiki/Coast)
- Te Arawa (Rotorua)
- Tauranga Moana (Tauranga)
- Taupō (Taupō/Turangi)

The Regional Connectors will be responsible for creating meaningful and useful 'interventions' to help get activities 'over the line' and collect the stories and data from each activity they are involved with.
This will demonstrate how we have supported, advocated, accelerated, and helped the completion of environmental or sustainable actions that may not have had happened without our support. Funding of the Regional Connectors has been applied for, through DOC's Jobs for Nature fund.

Below is a table detailing just a few examples of the application of the toolkit and how it will be used to achieve the Waiariki Park Region goals.

Waiariki Park Region Goals	Example of roles and responsibilities
Enhance & Cultivate Nature & Biodiversity	Support the development and implementation of sustainable taiao plans and that hapū are well resourced and supported to ensure their environmental goals are achieved
	Act as schools, iwi, businesses, and community liaison to connect people to environmental action e.g conservation activities for wildlife, coastal restoration, tree planting, including volunteer lead generator for Landcare/Coastcare, Greening Taupo, Halo/Bay Conservation Alliance etc.
	Supporting home based or neighbourhood based greening and sustainable activities
Allow Nature to Fix Us	Support initiatives that focus on getting the right plants in the right place for traditional use in Rongoa practice to champion Iwi medicinal knowledge
	Working with Sport BOP, promote where to go and what to do around the region to feel better when active in nature e.g hiking and biking in beautiful places
Educate and Change Ourselves	Universities, colleges, and environmental experts want to share their work and research to increase understanding of impacts, opportunities and what good practice could look like. We will showcase this on the digital platform
	Act as a regional hub to advertise environmental learning workshops and events, including supersizing Sustainable Back Yards that currently happens March every year
	Collect and showcase environmental data from different organisations and individuals to show how individual action when added together equals a greater impact overall
Support and Connect the Region	Connect funders to environmental groups as funders wish to support more environmental projects, but have no knowledge of who, where, what, or why
	Creation of 'environmental regionwide bucket list' of activities and actions to enjoy, including youth and family focused educational opportunities
	Facilitation of information from local environmental groups through to the local Tourism centre for them to 'upsell' environmental volunteer opportunities to visitors and residents
Champion Regenerative, Resilient and Sustainable Communities	Promote non-greening sustainable activities of what solutions already exist that residents and visitors can adopt e.g public transport, buying local, electric vehicles, bikes, home energy efficiency, water use conservation etc.

Digital Platform

In addition to the human resource, a fully integrated digital platform will be developed with a range of tools and services to help inspire environmental action as well support on-going partnership, connection, and collaboration. It will be used by groups, organisations, and individuals across Te Waiariki at a no cost basis.

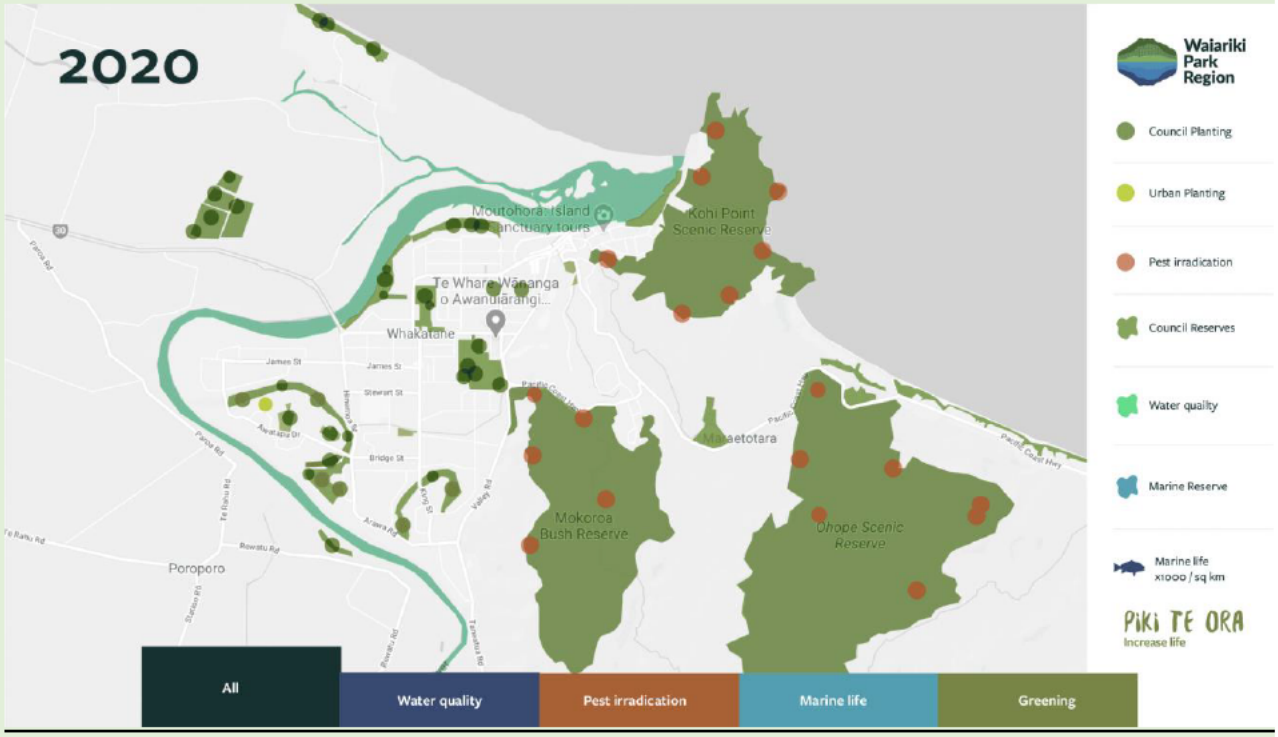
With so many websites and information available through many different sources the digital platform will be a smart place to hold all of this information in one place, using public links, and through partnerships with the content/website owners. It will provide easy access for the many, who are time poor and who want easy and quick pathways. Being time poor is the biggest barrier to environmental action.

We will share available environmental data on the digital platform to showcase increases of greening and sustainable action (via pins, graphics, and storytelling) so we are able to see over time how our actions are collectively making a difference.

Stakeholders will have access to information and resources collected by the digital platform. They will also be able to migrate and use tools and features designed for the digital platform.

We will ensure the digital platform is future proofed and youth focused with the ability to add tictok, and other platforms as they become available.

Below is an example of the regional interactive map we are currently building. This will be one function of the digital platform as we create different resources to make it easy for the community to engage with environmental practice.



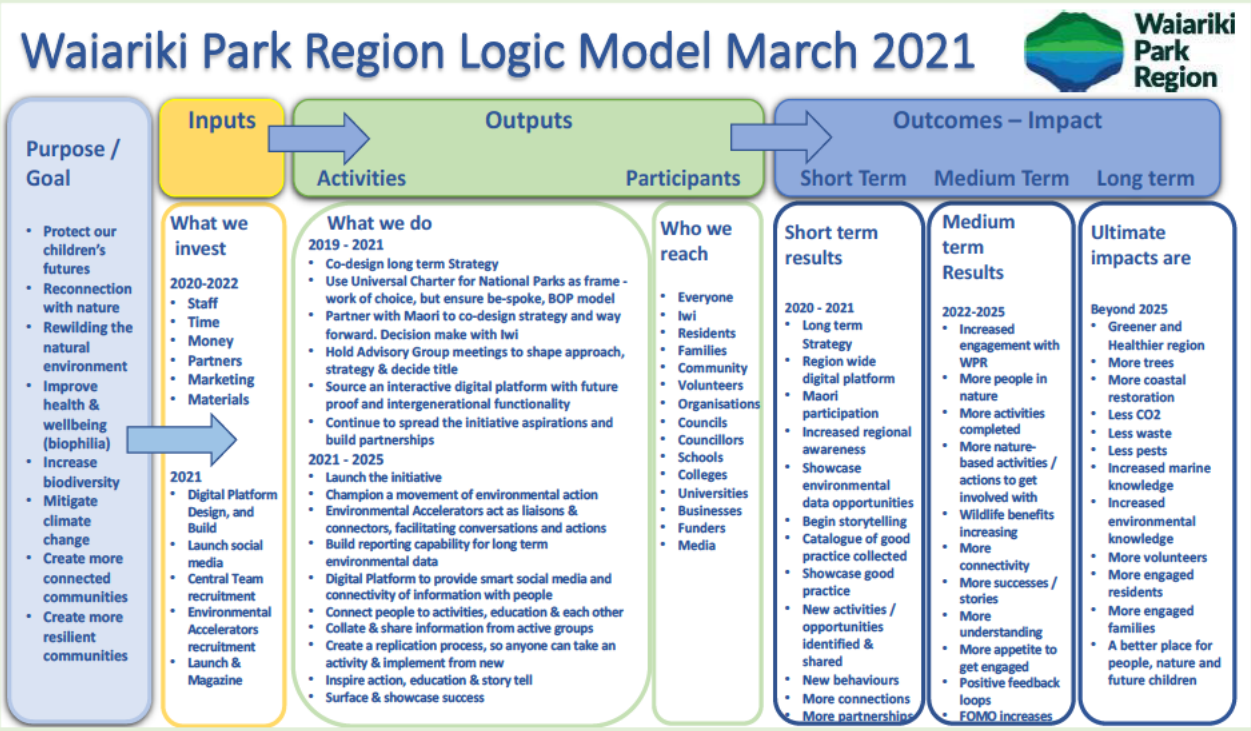
*The data used for the above map is for illustration purposes only – the finalised map will cover all of Waiariki.

The opportunities and possibilities for the region are limitless and will grow steadily over time, but the explicit aim is to reconnect more people back to nature, especially where they live and work with a focus on urban environments and neighbourhoods.

We also recognise this initiative is the first of its kind to combine interactive technology, the environment, be bi-cultural and intergenerational in its intention.

We acknowledge this movement will take time to build and that it will be a success due to the number of people positively engaged over time.

How it connects together



Benefits for the People and Biodiversity of Waiariki

The impacts from engaging with the Waiariki Park Region Toolkit will include:

What / Who	Bio-diversity	Community	Iwi	Councils	Schools/ Colleges	Org's & Businesses	Environmental Groups	Government
More connection with nature		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fast & easy access to environmental resources		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greener	X							
Healthier	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Alignment that we are part of, not separate to nature	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Engaging and appealing information		X	X		X	X		
Family friendly activities to engage with & visit		X	X		X	X		
Access to local Environmental Connector		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to share own individual action / stories		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raising profile		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Increase understanding and respect of Matauranga Maori		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Access to Environmental Data		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Opportunity to co-develop 'big-data' around Waiariki Environmental Data		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to inspire next generations & build capability		X			X			
Build internal environmental Programmes & Research					X			
Native environmental knowledge upskilling		X	X		X	X		

Build capabilities at home and in neighborhoods		X	X		X	X		
Help to make back gardens and neighbourhoods greener		X	X		X	X		
Healthier family and community		X	X		X	X		
Access to Waiariki experts		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Building trust in the Community				X		X		X
Safe space for Councils, Community and Tangata Whenua to engage and grow partnerships		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Access to innovation (technical & environmental)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lead generator for volunteers				X		X	X	
Scalability of projects & activities through cross connections		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Build employee capabilities and action at work				X		X		X
Ability to engage customers & clients with environmental practices				X		X		X
Demonstrate stronger values				X		X		X
Route to Community for Policy & Regulation changes				X				X
Model for replication				X				X

Long-term Impacts

By enabling the above, we, as the wider Waiariki Park Region, will be able to enjoy the long-term outcomes, and, whether individuals have been directly involved or not, everyone benefits. These long-term outcomes include the following:

- **Greener Region**: The amount of greenery around the region increases
- **A healthier region** for all people and nature that do and move more, with increased well-being for all
- **More Planting**: Planting activity trends on land and coastal, continuously increases
- **Less CO2**: The number of CO2 reduction activities continuously increases
- **Less Waste:** Waste activities increase
- **Increased Knowledge:** The knowledge base has grown with a requirement for 'more' diverse and ambitious schemes
- **Understanding Matauranga Māori** continues to increase as the understanding grows and positive outcomes can be seen throughout the region
- **More volunteers and engaged Community**: Increased volunteer involvement showing environmental activities as a positive force for good
- **A more connected and resilient region** with the ability to self-support each other through the potentially challenging times ahead
- **Sustainable Tourism**: The amount of national and international environmentally conscious visitors increases

How the Waiariki Park Region might look in 2030		
Where	**What**	**Why**
Streets and Neighbourhoods	**Trees** are on many roads and verges throughout the region	**The Waiariki Park Region will act as a movement to enable more individuals and families, easier access to environmental information and action** **It will collate all the activities that are happening around the region and make them accessible for all** **Residents will save hours of searching time as they will be able to find information and get involved from one central point** **Organisations will have a bigger reach for potential participants**
	Trees and native planting is in abundance, adding an aesthetic that sells the region	
	A multitude of bird species in gardens, neighborhoods and beyond	
Town and City Centre's	**Farmers markets** are more popular, with people and local produce	
	Walking and cycling routes are being used more frequently	
	Buildings have external seed walls and roofs	
Parks and Reserves	**Local parks and reserves** are pest free, full of native plants, clear waterways	
	Trees and planting eco corridors connect the green spaces allowing for bugs and birds to migrate	
	Being an environmental volunteer is the activity of choice for many young families	
Coastal and Marine parks	**Beaches are clear of plastic** and other rubbish	
	Visitor numbers to coastal areas have increased - they are attracted to the sustainable tourism attitudes	
	More of the community involved with how to protect and enjoy the coastal areas	
Family Homes	**Families are fully embracing self-sufficiency**, by having vegetable patches supplying their basic needs	
	Fruit trees are bountiful with families, communities and birds sharing the crops	
	Native planting in the region has increased exponentially as the drive to increase bugs and birds have taken a firm grip on maximising a gardens potential	

Annual Budget required

The below table details the required funding for 2021. Beyond 2021, the annual costs remain the same, bar materials. These will vary year on year depending on programmes and opportunities that present themselves. The environmental support possibilities are limitless if the infrastructure is in place.

Function	Maximum	Description	Comments
Central Resources	$164,736	Fixed Resource costs - 4 x Part Time Roles – Project Manager, Māori Engagement, Communications & Environmental Data	Need to secure these resources as core multi-year funding
Regional Connectors	$287,056	Full Time Roles (Eastern Bay, Western Bay, Rotorua & Taupo)	These roles can be part time to start, but need to move to full time quickly
Materials	$125,000	Phase 1 Interactive Digital Platform ($80k), Estimate Launch ($10k), Data collation, analysis & campaigns ($30k), Marketing ($5k)	This will vary year on year depending on program opportunities and development
Total	$576,792		

2020/2021 Funding

BayTrust	Digital Platform ($80k) + Operating Costs ($55k)	$135,000 (Received)
Working Together More Fund	Iwi Engagement & Collaboration	$15,000 (Received)
DOC – Jobs for Nature (x3 years)	4 x Regional Connectors	$218,333 (Pending)
BOPRC (x3 years)	Central Team Resources	$96,000 (Pending)
	Total	$464,333

We are engaging with all Councils across the Bay of Plenty to become part of this initiative and the information in this LTP is being included in all the upcoming 2021 LTP plans. The aim is to create a region wide collaborative funding model where all Councils and other organisations contribute to Waiariki Park Region as all will benefit directly or indirectly due to the work carried out. We are looking for untagged operational funding from Rotorua Lakes Council.

Rotorua Lakes Council Key Priorities	Waiariki Park Region initial contributions - Expansion and further opportunities to develop over time
Homes & Thriving Communities	• We will champion, advocate for, and promote initiatives, projects, people, and programmes that support thriving communities (human and non-human) for Rotorua through our various communication channels including social media, digital platform and via the Rotorua Regional Connector to aid understanding, support and promote action. • Through our Rotorua Regional Connector, we will bring together the community, organisations, and experts, to support, drive, influence, and increase environmental action. This will provide access to changing the conversation, creating new safe spaces, environmental / sustainable living events, workshops, etc. while providing different mechanisms to connect and act locally. Increasing the shared common vision of sustainable living increases community connectivity, understanding and celebration of what we can do together.
	• We will support Council through advocacy and communications to enhance the health and wellbeing of communities and developments around the district by supporting, driving, and accelerating the greening of urban areas. • We will share stories of positive partnerships and what they have achieved through our smart social media, including the digital platform and via the Regional Connectors to aid understanding and promote new partnerships and collaborations.
Community Safety	• Greener towns and cities are safer towns and cities as global research demonstrates. Therefore, we will advocate for and support the Council, organisations, and neighbourhoods that look to implement greening and wilding projects in deprived urban areas to increase local pride and be a positive factor in the pathway to enabling safer communities.
	• Greener towns and cities are healthier towns and cities as global research demonstrates. Therefore, we will advocate for and support the Council, organisations, and neighbourhoods, that look to implement greening and wilding projects in deprived urban areas to increase local health and wellbeing as another positive factor in the pathway to enabling safer communities.
Climate Action Plan	• We will share smart Climate Change best practice to inform and be educational for Rotorua through our social media, digital platform and via our Regional Connectors to aid understanding and support action around all aspects of mitigation and adaptation. • We will share water conservation educational information, local champions, best practice, and stories through our various range of communication channels including social media, digital platform and via the Regional Connectors to aid understanding and support behavioural change habits over time. • We will increase all aspects of environmental and sustainable learning and action via education, events, workshops etc. Topics include: Greening, conservation, waste minimisation, emissions reductions including energy, transport, food practices etc.
	• We will also act as a lead generator for environmental groups to help encourage the community to become more engaged with local environmental activities. • We will also collect, collate, and champion useful environmental data (existing and new) so it can be shared back to the community to aid further action, understanding and champion success.
	• Through our communication channels including social media and digital platform, we will showcase and highlight all the nature based and outdoor related activities and places that tourists may wish to visit to help them reconnect with nature and have experiences in the Rotorua district. • We will enhance the health of the environment and biodiversity around the region by advocating, supporting, and accelerating the greening of gardens, neighbourhoods, towns, and rural spaces and use this to share how mitigation and adaption can help to reduce the effects of river flooding when applied locally.
	• The community will have direct access to the Regional Connector to answer questions and queries. The Regional Connector will be a physical problem solver and support to whomever needs help to further environmental action or education. • We will support Council through advocacy, communications, and our Regional Connectors to help increase walking, cycling and public transport.

Waiariki Park Region Specific Goals		
Area	**Measure**	**Goal**
Community Participation		
New environmentally / sustainability focused projects completed per annum	No of activities region wide accelerated, scaled, completed due to WPR intervention. Demonstratable evidence required	48 successful interventions per year
No. of plants and trees planted increases year on year	Additional plants & trees planted across the region through WPR interventions (with quarterly results)	Baseline + 5% (WPR attributed)
Engagement with Digital Platform	Number of clicks recorded 12 months after going live	In excess of 1000 hits per month
Other		
WPR endorsement/engagement increases year on year	Letters, emails, social media positive engagement showing buy in for WPR, including from Iwi. Baseline set at 20 letters of support March 2021	25% increase year on year
Engagement with shared activities increases year on year	Number of attendees attending activities, workshops, events, volunteer lead generator etc. increasing year on year, (with quarterly results)	25% increase year on year
Iwi collaboration and partnerships continue to deepen and broaden	No of iwi hui and conversations held + number of stories shared with Environmental Connector's & digital platform	Increase year on year, Iwi involvement dependant
Increased health and wellbeing benefits recorded through environmental action	Via annual online engagement survey, acknowledgement of self-health and wellbeing benefits when engaged with environmental action via standard questions	90% acknowledgement by year 5

Evidence to support our movement

Must see video that explains exactly what we wish to emulate with Waiariki Park Region

Biophilia – What is it and why is it important?

The world's top 10 greenest cities (2020)

Greening cities, Auckland London National Park City

Waiariki Park Region Action Plan	Start date	Completion Date
Phase 1 – **Region wide Stakeholder Engagement** – 60 conversations	December 2018	March 2019
Phase 2 – **Strategic Co-design**, Iwi Engagement, Advisory Group Establishment, Fund Raising etc.	May 2019	December 2020
Phase 3 – **Year 1, Moving to Operational Status** **Current Situation** As at March 2021, we have two members of staff consisting of Project Manager, and Māori Engagement Specialist. Both are part time roles. The past 20 months have been spent designing the concept and building relationships with key stakeholders including tangata whenua, local government, central government, environmental groups, and the community. Environmental action within Waiariki is currently being sustained by a range of groups, bodies, iwi and hapu throughout the rohe. However, we want to be able to lift that action up, highlight and support it to increase, enhance and grow it. We have established that this action would be further supported and accelerated with the establishment of a regionalised tool kit.	January 2021	January 2022

- **Landing Page & Social Media Launch - January 2021**

  www.waiarikiparkregion.org.nz

- **Phase 1 Digital Platform build and go live. February – Mid Year 2021**
  - Build Platform and Interactive Map – connecting the environment with emerging smart technology
  - A key need identified relates to the fact that the community is time poor, but wants to learn and do more. This digital platform will be designed to meet that need. The digital platform will be used to collate, hold, and share all the good practice, sucesses stories and information to help the community become informed. It will ensure easy access to environmental information, as well as being engaging, two-way, with maximum automation efficiency to enable maximum impact. Social media will be smart and push messaging out as well as allowing for the community to inform and share together.
  - We are working with two Bay of Plenty IT companies (Salt n Tonic and ShiftCX) to create the platform design that will meet the needs for today and also have the ability to include new technologies for future generations. This includes:
    - A digital platform that allows many integrations, straightforward auto-updating, potential for ongoing additions and beautiful viewing on any device - rather than just a standard website. It will contain an interactive map as the cornerstone of all content, while allowing more traditional web pages to act as connection pieces to a dynamic and fluid platform that can continually change, adapt, and evolve over time
    - A web app that looks and feels like a website, but in fact has a lot of more grunt and firepower than a standard website.
  - It will be designed with the younger generation front of mind. Therefore, it will connect the environment and technology with younger people to ensure it is future-proofed and can be further expanded as the initiative expands.
  - The technical design has commenced in March 2021
  - We will be hosting a series of focus groups to ensure the digital platform will meet the required end users needs.
  - Other National Park Cities websites that we will take inspiration from include: Galway National Park City; Glasgow National Park City; and Green Adelaide though we do expect Waiariki Park Region to be much more interactive, bicultural, and engaging especially with our region wide map.

- **Continue Iwi Engagement. Ongoing**

  Development of Iwi Engagement Plan
  - We are co-designing projects and initiatives through a Te Ao Maori lens that recognises mana whenua matauranga.
  - We have recruited a Māori Engagement Specialist whose key role is to enable the connections, the co-design and partnerships.
  - We are continuing to have conversations with Iwi around the region and are developing connections and deeper partnerships.
  - Feedback and engagement to date has been largely positive. We recognise this will take time and is the key speed indicator for the initiative. An Iwi Engagement Plan has been developed to outline next steps.
  - The iwi engagement plan was developed following initial conversations with iwi because it became obvious that there is a preference for tangata whenua to contribute in a collective way and for this to be done with other neighbouring tribes or with those where there are natural ties or whakapapa connections. It was also noted that iwi would prefer if a process

for collaboration was identified so that their opportunity for contribution and the expectations are clear.

- The iwi engagement plan identifies four sub-regions within the Waiariki area – Eastern, Western, Central and Taupo. A series of hui will continuly be held in each of these four sub-regions. Iwi in each of these area will be invited to attend and contribute, thereby allowing the natural groupings of iwi to work together to provide feedback and collaboration. The regional hui will encourage natural allies to join together and consider this project as collective groupings. This allows iwi to express their own individual mana whenua and consider opinions from neighbouring or connected iwi. It also allows iwi representative to feel as though their contribution will be considered in the right context with their neighbouring iwi etc. This approach will provide more well-rounded outcomes.
- The first of this series will initially include a hui focussed on the following points in each of the sub-regions: an introduction aimed at increasing understanding and whanaungatanga, User Experience for the digital platform, future projects and event planning for the launch.
- A report will be prepared after each hui and distributed among participants. The findings will then be included in any material developed for Waiariki Park Region.

- **Regional Connectors Recruitment. June – July 2021 (Pending Jobs for Nature funding)**
  - 4 x FTE recurited from across the region (Eastern Bay, Western Bay, Rotorua, Taupo)
  - Be a credible source of information and first point of contact for local environmental knowledge.
  - Be a trusted partner. Organisations keen to share information, action and look to develop environmental plans with the Environmental Accelerator and locality.
  - Be a trusted partner. Iwi and Regional Connectors co-design and collaborate to showcase environmental action within Iwi, hapu and locality.
  - Innovative local connector – connects people to activities and activities to people. Increasing knowledge and expanding activity involvement. Help more individuals, families and neighbourhoods do more environmental greening where they live and work
  - Every activity in progress is captured with details and data extrapolated out, to be used as future information to share across channels.
  - Accelerate and potentially scale up local involvement. Enable leading by example culture to develop.
  - These activities must show how the Environmental Accelerator's intervention has enabled one or more of the following - increased the scale, reach, accelerated the completion date or improved the biodiversity outcome in some way.
  - The Regional Connectors must demonstrate value added from their involvement.

- **Region wide Profile Raising and Communications: Ongoing**
  - Envirohub BOP is the parent organisation and provides board governance for Waiariki Park Region.
  - An Advisory Group, which meets every quarter, has been established (Feb 2020) to support the direction and implementation of the Waiariki Park Region initiative. Members include Iwi, Department of Conservation, Sport Bop, Tourism BOP, Bay of Plenty District Health Board, Scion, Kai Rotorua, Bay Conservation Alliance, BayTrust, SociaLink, Waikato University, Te Puke High School, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Whakatāne District Council,

Tauranga City Council, Western Bay District Council, Rotorua Lakes Council and Taupō District Council. • Partnerships are also well established with Kai Western Bay, Rongoā Project, Halo Project, Greening Taupo, Forest & Bird, Landcare, Carbon Reduction Group & Predator Free to name but a few of the more environmentally based organisations. • Envirohub BOP (WPR's parent organisation) and Bay Conservation Alliance (BCA) are well established and respected organisations, delivering great value and impactful conservation and sustainability outcomes within the Bay of Plenty region. Envirohub and BCA share similar environmental aspirations, albeit with very different spheres of operation, which draw on each organisation's respective strengths. Envirohub BOP has a strong focus on the urban environment and plays a significant role in educating and engaging the network and whole community and holds responsibilities across environment and sustainability. BCA is at large rural/conservation focused. A primary focus is supporting the back-end administration of groups with a view to enabling volunteers to achieve more on the ground, ultimately working collectively towards larger landscape project. • The initiative is further developed through in-kind support from various members of the Advisory Group. This network has provided access to more relationships and further collaboration. Environmental data gathering and mapping may be areas we look to collaborate on further with partners to enable opportunities. • We continue to engage with organisations and stakeholders around the region. • Since launching the landing page and social media, we have started to post new stories of action and activity from around the region. This will continue to build over the coming months and will be used in collaboration with the digital platform to raise the profile of the initiative. We will use these communication channels to education and inspire communities across Waiariki about good practice and its benefits. • We will look to profile all the exemplary and best practice from communities across Waiariki to showcase good environmental action to inspire and celebrate what is being done, where it is being done and how people can try it for themselves. • We will also share places to go and visit to reconnect with nature. We will share people's experiences with nature and how it helps their health and wellbeing. • We will share the available science, especially from our Waiariki experts who are looking for better ways to communicate their research and findings with the wider community. • We will actively encourage the community to also share their own stories through the platform and social media so this becomes a very active and multi-input communications platform. • Essentially, we will share and showcase anything that can have a positive impact on the health of the environment and of the community to make it easier for those wishing to learn more about the natural world around them and how they can play their part to. • Therefore, in 10 years-time there will be a history of content, stories, data, and examples of what the Waiariki region has been doing in the environmental and sustainability space from 2021 to 2030. This will become the story to show future generations what the Waiariki region did to help mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss, as well as hold an extensive catalogue of examples of how to create a greener, healthier, wilder, and more resilient community.		

• **Environmental Data Collection – February 2021 – Ongoing (Pending funding for resources)** • Understand the current landscape of Environmental Data for the Bay of Plenty • Providing key metrics from this project will be critical for engagement purposes, to build trust, credibility, interest and action. • It is widely accepted that environmental data throughout New Zealand is poor. We believe this initiative has identified a unique opportunity to add value to the environmental success that the region could achieve. • We have recently commissioned a piece of work to research what environmental data is already available, where it is hosted, what value it might add to Waiariki Park Region and what are the gaps it identifies and will be used as our baseline from which to work from. • Over time as our understanding of the data unfolds it will create long term trend data to demonstrate which activities create the best outcomes and should be duplicated and developed to create further long term positive impacts, where interest exists. We also want to share percentage of green cover, percentage of tree canopy cover, percentage of marine species in the region etc. to showcase what is really going on in the region in due course. • We would also capture more ground level activity base line data, such as, number of activities underway at launch, new activities underway, including high level activity information, aims and objectives. Demographics and numbers of volunteers as well as number of plants planted, habitats restored, hours of physical exercise, volunteers, outputs expected, long term care process, etc with stories collected for sharing successes. • We will also carry out an annual survey. It will be an engagement survey focused around the four well beings, online to all participants. It will record health and well-being benefits of working on activities, skills gained, other benefits attained etc. • We will also receive analytics from the digital platform activity, ongoing. This will enable us to understand what engages and increases activity to further develop platform and action around the region. • We believe there are many opportunites for the education sector to engage here with student projects at all levels to research and showcase regional environmental data, from a greening, marine or biodiversity perspective. We will look to enable any opportunites in this space. • With every biodiversity enhancing activity we have any form of involvement with, or notification of, we will: • Record the increased number, species, location of, • Capture the expected abated CO2, and/or, biodiversity improvements with notable timelines and expectations, so they can be tracked, observed, photographed etc • Capture and share the success story and we will revisit projects and encourage the activity owner to capture ongoing footage of how the environment is responding • Share how the biodiversity focused actions are developing and enhancing the locality, as well as what the benefits the individuals, families, schools, and organisations are experiencing through their efforts and actions • Our Waiariki Park Regional Connectors will be responsible for collecting the data from each known activity that we are involved with. • This will demonstrate how we have supported, advocated, accelerated, and helped the completion of environmental or sustainable actions that may not have had happened without our support.		

- Activities where we have not had a direct involvement with, we will still record the data to show what else is going on in addition, to capture as much environmental data as possible.
- The Environmental Data Specialist will then collate all the data and be able to share short term and long-term trends.
- We will use this information to improve our service and ensure that greening our region continues to stay our top focus.
- It will help us understand how easy or difficult it is for the community to maintain their biodiversity enhancing action and what skills and support they require as the time passes e.g., access to pruning and other gardening workshops etc.
- This will build more awareness of what can be done, how it can be done, and what the benefits and challenges are. We expect over time this will create positive feedback loops around Waiariki as more success stories get shared.

- **Achieve National Park Region (National Park City) status – Mid-year 2021**
  - We will look to follow the London National Park City (NCP) 'How to be a National Park City process' once the guidance is launched in April. We have already completed many of the steppingstones and are in continued conversation of what this process looks like especially when including indigenous cultures. The process is bespoke for each city/country, but with shared visions for the long-term outcomes of creating greener, healthier, wilder cities. Therefore becoming a NPC is not about completing a series of tic boxes but working towards the requirements to set ourselves up for long term success.

- **Soft launch – Q3/4 2021**
  - Depending on funding we would like to have a soft launch across the region by holding several small launch events showcasing the long-term intention of the Waiariki Park Region movement. We are proposing to have an event in each sub-region with a series of short talks by environmental experts and already successful environmental programmes to showcase what is already happening to generate interest and buy in for more, as we build the movement.

Develop the internal organisational operational manual

- Develop and maintain the WPR organisational operational manual. This manual will contain the day-to-day roles and responsibility requirements for the team, both as individuals and as a collective. It will also include the high-level job descriptions, objectives, and values of Waiariki Park Region.
- It will also contain WPR policies and procedures especially where new roles have been created, including a feedback and coaching programme.
- We will ensure all policies and procedures are adhered too, including Health and Safety. Special attention around remote and isolated working as some of the roles will be home and lone working.
- We will ensure all new employees are informed and trained as required to uphold their required roles and responsibilities.
- We will continue to host the Waiariki Park Advisory Group quarterly
- We will maintain stakeholder engagement ensuring understanding and endorsement continues to increase.

Phase 4 - Year 2 Objectives • Review of Year 1 • We will continue to establish relationships & partnerships region wide (including Iwi) • Continue to identify the environmental activity landscape (particularly in the urban areas) • Continue to share and showcase existing good practice across all communications channels • Celebrate, share, and showcase all practices and people who are undertaking new environmental action • Continue to drive stories and data through to the interactive digital platform, which will show an increase of regional environmental activity as it builds on the environmental spaces, places, and activities for the community to find easily • Continue to signpost the champions, experts, workshops, events, the 'how to do's' etc. to build a credible, trustworthy educational space for the community to keep returning too • Build the movement • Continue to accelerate region wide environmental action through the WPR Toolkit • Start to accelerate environmental action around the region, through the new partnerships and connections made, and start to see the impacts of our interventions • Phase 2 Digital Platform build (API's - Funding dependant) • Year 2 Celebration event – showcasing the successes we and the wider region has made towards creating a greener, healthier, wilder, and more resilient. • Continue to evolve our processes to enable environmental acceleration as we understand each sub-region's needs, resources, opportunities, and relationship build • Investigate corporate sponsorship funding models of opportunity as well as crowdfunding and other avenues to start moving towards self-funding where possible.	January 2022	December 2022
Phase 5 – **Year 3 Consolidation** • Review of Year 2 • Continue region wide support through the WPR Toolkit • Continue to accelerate region wide environmental action through the WPR Toolkit • Continue to story tell, share success, data, learnings and build region wide connectivity • Phase 3 Digital Platform build (Gamification & E-Commerce – Funding dependant) • Year 3 Celebration event - showcasing the successes we and the wider region has made towards creating a greener, healthier, wilder, and more resilient. • Continue to refine processes to enable environmental acceleration as opportunities and relationships continue to build	January 2023	December 2023
Phase 6 – **Ongoing Business as usual,** evolving as funding and success is achieved	January 2024	December 2030

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA REPORT – SUMMARY

The purpose of this report was to firstly ascertain what environmental data is available, in the open-access space, for the area covered by Waiariki Park Region. Secondarily it aimed to determine the usefulness of this data for the positive environmental acceleration needed by WPR, important gaps in the data, and pathways for dealing with environmental data and reporting of such data going forward.

There is a mass of information from several different agencies plus community groups that is available. Data has been compiled by Regional councils, The Department of Conservation, Universities and research institutes and is very thorough with robust, repeatable methods. Therefore, the data can and is used for long-term monitoring. However, in general the data is patchy, with some areas covered for certain metrics more than others. For example, air quality is predominantly measured in urban areas, whereas biodiversity has been predominantly measured in reserves. Water quality data is probably the most widely spread geographically, covering waterways in rural, forested, and urban areas, and available on the Land Air Water Aotearoa (LAWA) website.

One issue that this report identifies is that due the boundaries of WPR being different to those of the geographic Bay of Plenty, and the boundaries in the area around Taupo not fitting with district boundaries, some of the overarching metrics such as overall land-use mapping, will be more difficult, although not impossible to calculate.

Many surveys, for example for bats, are often short-lived, geographically limited or not regular, limiting the long-term use (no trend data). In addition, for the purposes of WPR, limiting these biodiversity surveys to remote areas may not invoke the “protecting and improving my area” response that is necessary for the sought after positive environmental acceleration. For this

example, a bat monitoring program would be relatively simple and inexpensive to set up using automatic bat detectors, and could potentially discover new areas of habitat, this could be a great project for community groups, schools or businesses to be involved in.

Very little could be found on insect biodiversity, including abundance and habitats of native bees or weta. Similarly, very little could be found on reptile or amphibians in the region, with the exceptions being Tuatara on offshore islands, and a genetically distinct population of native Hochstetters frog residing near Te Puke.

The Bay of Plenty region has a historically poor uptake of the NZ Garden Bird Survey, with only 160 surveyed gardens in 2019. In addition, results of this survey could potentially be excellent for the use of WPR, with trends of how native and introduced birds are faring. However, again the area of WPR outside of the Bay of Plenty boundaries is covered in the Waikato data. It would be worth contacting Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research to determine if analysis of the data for WPR boundaries could be calculated, whether raw data was available for our own analyses. Many community groups focus on birds, either single species or families such as waders, but again these are geographically patchy and mostly limited to areas of native forest.

To conclude this summary, the WPR is blessed with a very strong backbone of high-quality monitoring data, but due to patchiness there are definitely gaps that would be useful to link the region together. In addition, there are great stories from the region, with iconic species that can be used to catalyse positive environmental acceleration.

Recommendations:

- Public surveys - WRP needs to know what is <u>important</u> to people – this will be interesting to repeat semi-regularly to see if things change as WPR is launched and access to

environmental education through the website and social media etc. in the region is improved.

- Priorities for information to track as key metrics for WPR – “State of the environment” reports are typically 100+ pages and vary in depth, and are fairly unreadable for the general public. WPR needs to decide on (perhaps using the surveys mentioned above?) key metrics that are indicators of environmental health to show progress, accountability and promote further positive acceleration. If these key metrics are not currently monitored, then WPR with its partners can look into how to do this (Urban tree cover may be one of these for example…)

SPORT
NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA



Rotorua Lakes District Council

Long Term Plan submission

29 April 2021

New Zealand Government

About Sport NZ

Sport New Zealand (Sport NZ) is the crown agency responsible for contributing to the wellbeing of everybody in Aotearoa New Zealand by leading an enriching and inspiring play, active recreation, and sport system. Sport NZ's vision is simple - to get **Every Body Active in Aotearoa New Zealand**.

Our role as kaitiaki of the system focusses on lifting the physical activity levels of all those living within Aotearoa and having the greatest possible impact on wellbeing. We achieve our outcomes by aligning our investment through partnerships, funds and programmes to our strategic priorities set out in our four-year strategic plan.

The Rotorua Lakes District Council is critical to the work of Sport NZ and its partner Sport Bay of Plenty who Sport NZ invests in significantly and who we consider the regional champions of our strategic vision.

The importance of Council

The Rotorua Lakes District Council is one of the key providers of sport and recreation facilities in the region. We greatly appreciate this support and investment – without it much of what happens in our sector would not be possible. Council investment has provided positive outcomes for a wide range of sports codes and community members from diverse cultures, ages, and abilities. We also acknowledge the commitment of council staff in supporting the sector.

Play, active recreation and sport make an enormous contribution to the health and wellbeing of all those in your District. Physical activity, its wide-ranging benefits and its importance to our communities are fundamental to meeting the wellbeing outcomes we all aspire.

We also acknowledge the challenges Council faces with balancing the various competing demands such as the projected population growth, transport, climate change and water quality within a context of falling revenue. The impact of Covid-19 will be with us for some time to come, so too the decisions made in this 10-year Budget. Despite the challenges ahead, we commend the Council for stating that you will keep investing in your community projects and facilities, so the Rotorua Lakes District remains vibrant and a fantastic place for people to live and visit.

The impact of COVID-19 on the play, active recreation and sport sector

COVID-19 has placed significant pressure on Aotearoa New Zealand's play, active recreation and sport system.

- Through our insights, we know the COVID-19 lockdowns has exacerbated inequalities, putting some population groups at even more risk regarding their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Analysis of media commentary also identified concerns about returning to previous activities in shared public spaces due to safety.
- Sector organisations which play a key role in allowing New Zealanders to be active were also impacted by COVID-19. These impacts include lost revenue, cash flow difficulties, reduced capacity and change of membership.

All these things have hit the sector hard and Sport NZ is working with regional sports trusts, councils, and other local stakeholders to find solutions to help address these.

Target audiences and activity areas

Sport NZ remains committed to making progress towards our primary goal of ensuring more tamariki and rangatahi (aged 5 – 18) have access to quality physical activity options. We aspire to reduce the drop off in activity levels of rangatahi from ages 12 to 18 and increase the levels of activity for those tamariki and rangatahi who are less active.

The Rotorua Lakes District has a high representation of communities we know are most at risk of missing out, including:

- Maori and pacific communities
- People with disability
- Women and girls
- Low income communities where participation is declining
- Growth of new ethnic communities where physical activity preferences differ

Rotorua Lakes District Council investment in play, active recreation and sport

The Council has been a partner and important contributor in the development of Regions Spaces and Places Strategy, a regional strategy for active recreation and sport facilities provision. The Strategy is an important reference, importantly it identifies priority needs for the region district by district providing a blueprint for the future needs rather than wants.

Sport NZ acknowledges the challenges faced by Council in providing community services through its sport and recreation assets and that Council has a large network of facilities, many of which are ageing and require significant renewal investment.

Sport NZ and Sport Bay of Plenty have been working with the active recreation and sports sector to develop a co-ordinated and collaborative approach for future sport and recreation facility provision that provides Council with a high-level strategic view of infrastructure needs for the region and the evaluation criteria to prioritise investment and ultimately make better decisions.

Additionally, Sport NZ thanks Council for its continued support of the work of Sport Bay of Plenty and maintaining a strong partnership that focusses on the delivery of quality opportunities for the communities of the Rotorua Lakes District. We acknowledge and urge Council to continue its positive partnership with Sport Bay of Plenty and support as a key partner and investor in the Bay of Plenty Spaces & Places Strategy and the strategic partnership you maintain around key sport and recreation outcomes.

Our Feedback on your Long Term Plan

Westbrook Sport and Recreation Precinct

Sport NZ urge Council to continue the investigations into the Westbrook Sport and Recreation Precinct. The Precinct Project can be a positive solution to many of the issues identified by Rotorua Lakes Council linked to a supply shortfall, poor field quality and negative impact to investment in existing reserves and parks. This project provides the opportunity for Rotorua to develop a truly special environment that could support sport and active recreation opportunities for more than 8500 people and ultimately improving the wellbeing of many.

Sport NZ applaud Rotorua Lakes Council for signalling investment towards the investigations through the 2021-2031 LTP and with our regional partner Sport Bay of Plenty, Sport NZ look forward to working alongside Council staff and the Community on this project over the coming years.

Aquatic Centre

Sport NZ supports Council's preferred Option 3 Undertake implementation of proposed full master plan.

The Aquatic Centre is highly valued by residents and visitor. Renewals and improvements have been delayed for a number of years while Council have investigated options for future development.

Sport NZ agrees with Council that is time to undertake the necessary investment and action those commitments made in its previous Long-term Plan to avoid significant further asset deterioration.

Your district is surrounded by lakes and rivers; therefore, it is important that tamariki and rangatahi have the skills and confidence to be safe on, in and under the water.

Sport NZ acknowledges Council's commitment to resolving the issues in the 50m outdoor pool and now urges Council to continue with the remaining planned Aquatic Centre refurbishment and maintenance to address all outstanding asset issues and provide a facility that will meet the demands of your community for the next 30 years.

Through our partner Sport Bay of Plenty, Sport NZ is only too happy to assist with independent advice and support if required.

Sport NZ Contacts

Should the Council seek information or clarification further to this submission, please contact:

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29th March 2021

Rotorua Lakes Council
BY EMAIL ONLY

Tēnā koe

RE: Rotorua Lakes Council 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan Consultation.

Rotorua Regional Airport Limited (RRAL) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan (LTP). We recognise the importance of this kaupapa in shaping the long term future of our place and our community.

Economic Development Strategy

RRAL supports the Council's Economic Development Strategy, and we look forward to that strategy being finalised and clear action plans outlined for the three key priorities identified. RRAL embraces its role as a key enabler in helping to make Rotorua a **place of choice** and to show Rotorua is **ready for business**. Within the LTP we also tautoko Council's commitment to supporting economic recovery, completing master planning for key infrastructure, and partnering with landowners to unlock land for business relocation and expansion. Delivery of the strategic projects outlined in RRAL's masterplan will be a significant contribution towards achieving the district's economic goals.

Te Oranga Nui - Rawhiti Mai: Eastside Community Wellness Plan

We are eager to engage where appropriate with any and all stakeholders in Te Oranga Nui - Rawhiti Mai: Eastside Community Wellness Plan. As a crucial piece of regional infrastructure, the airport's primary goal and concern will always be to maintain operational effectiveness and safety, so early engagement on any issues arising from proposed LTP actions in the Eastside area will enable us to provide a balanced view and support the development of a thriving community

Land Development

Council's role in land development is clearly laid out in the LTP, and RRAL acknowledges the financial support for the Airport's business plans as part of a wider suite of local and central government investment in the Wharenui area. We continue to work on refining comprehensive business cases for these projects, ensuring the use of Council funding is based on robust forecasts and realistic implementation plans. While economic returns remain a critical hurdle for all projects, use of Council funding will also help to catalyse positive social, environmental, and cultural outcomes.

Financial Strategy

That the ambitious goals of the LTP come with significant financial ramifications is not a surprise. A natural tension exists between endeavouring to encourage cost-effective development and appropriately funding the related costs to the district, and we appreciate the role development contributions can play in meeting those costs. As a key part of the wider business park development in our locality, RRAL is committed to engaging with Council on this proposal to fully understand potential consequences and to ensure that critical enabling infrastructure is suitably funded.

As outlined above, the Council's LTP touches on numerous areas that affect the airport, its surroundings, and its operating environment. RRAL affirms its broad support for the proposed LTP actions in these areas. We furthermore assert our commitment, alongside Council and the community, to the mahi of confronting our district's challenges and contributing to a place we can all be proud of.

If possible RRAL would welcome the opportunity to be heard in support of this submission.

Ngā mihi



Blair Simm
Commercial Manager



Mark Gibb
Chief Executive
Rotorua Regional Airport Limited

Rotorua Trails Trust – Submission on RLC 2021 LTP

In Short

Rotorua Trails Trust supports the RLC 20210 LTP, especially with regards to;

- achieving the Rotorua Vision 2030 in a financially prudent way
- progressing with the Economic Development Strategy
- tackling climate change

and we ask that provision is made in the Parks and Recreation annual budget for Whakarewarewa Forest; $330k trail maintenance and $150k for ongoing forest development to support this.

The Reasoning

Why maintain the trail network in Whakarewarewa Forest?

Whakarewarewa Forest has proved itself to be a key factor in the wellbeing of Rotorua residents. The forest provides a free network of attractive trails that encourage physical exercise (from beginners through to seasoned athletes). It also provides stress relief and mental health advantages.

The forest trails attract domestic and international tourists. Independent experts have estimated the value of this to the Rotorua economy to be about $30m to $50m per year. The lure of the forest and its trails proved invaluable after the Covid lockdown, when the influx of weekend tourists from Auckland returned and kept many local businesses afloat. The same will apply when international tourism resumes.

The growth in mountain-biking encourages people back on to bikes, and this will play an important role in enabling future mode shift from vehicle commute to cycling.

The forest provides direct economic activity and employment opportunities to locals and this also provides some return back to the forest landowners.

These results are highly consistent with many of the Rotorua Vision 2030 goals;

- Papa whakatipu – outstanding places to play
- Whakawhanake pakihi – business innovation and prosperity
- He huarahi hou -employment choices
- He hapori pumanawa – a resilient community
- Taikina to taiao – enhanced environment

Rotorua Trails Trust also encourages RLC to support other bike related projects that are consistent with these objectives. For example, the pump track proposed by the RMBC for Wiapa, lake edge shared paths for Holden's/Hannah's Bay, and a 'learn to ride' park.



ROTORUA TRAILS TRUST

Why continue to develop the forest?

The forest includes harvesting operations that continually remove key trails. Visitor experience will decline if these trails are not replaced with trails that offer a similar or improved user experience.

For many years Rotorua has enjoyed an un-matched visitor experience in NZ trail riding, but other destinations have been catching up. Nelson, like Rotorua, has IMBA gold level ride center status. Queenstown has been developing and promoting a highly attractive mountain biking experience, and is one of the few destinations in NZ that has seen an increase in domestic visitor numbers over the last year. Wellington Regional Council is party to a plan to increase Wellingtons Makara Peak trails by over 50% (24 new trails). Tasmania West Coast has over 130km of new mountain bike trails, and this is easily accessed now via direct flights from Auckland. Bike Glendhu in Wanaka has over 30km of new trails in a fantastic scenic setting.

Mountain bikers are attracted to new trails. If Rotorua fails to develop new trails and riding experiences, then we will see increasing loss of potential visitors to Rotorua, as they chose to go somewhere else.

The Rotorua Economic Development Strategy notes that Rotorua must "strengthen our tourism offerings and position Rotorua as the destination of choice". It recognises that "Mountain biking has driven significant visitor growth to [Rotorua] and supports a growing business ecosystem" and recommends that Rotorua "Builds on the significant strategic advantages we have as New Zealand's premier and internationally endorsed mountain biking capital". Finally, it warns that already "Comparative domestic visitor spend is declining due to increased competition".

Rotorua trails trust is working successfully with the landowners to maintain the value of the current offering and is also identifying opportunities to add value to the network (currently focussing on the opportunities around Te Putaki o Tawa).

Is this efficient use of rate payer funds?

RLC Councilors can rest assured that this must be one of the most efficient uses of rate payer funds possible.

- As noted above, the proposed spend on Whakarewarewa forest achieves multiple goals outlined in the LTP and in Vision 2030.
- Access to Whakarewarewa forest is free to all Rotorua residents and visitors.
- Whakarewarewa forest is enjoyed and loved by a wide cross section of the community.
- The funding levels suggested are very highly leveraged. The planning and execution of the trail development and maintenance is managed by the Rotorua Trails Trust (RTT). As a registered non-profit charitable organisation RTT is able to obtain significant proportions of the trail maintenance and development costs through third party funding and sponsorship. Costs are also reduced by the active community involvement of volunteers and trail adopters coordinated by RTT. Any savings made go back into expanding the local trails and into improving the level of user experience provided. We estimate a commercial operation would require almost double this level of funding to provide a similar level of service.







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Rotorua/Taupo Federated Farmers

Submission on the Rotorua Lakes Council draft Long-term Plan 2021-2031 consultation document.

30 April 2021

Colin Guyton

Provincial President

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1. Introduction

We appreciate this opportunity to submit on the draft Long-term Plan 2021-31 of Rotorua Lakes Council.

As is emphasised in the consultation document these are challenging times for our communities. The economic path ahead for tourism and retail is uncertain, and the importance of our productive and export sectors in terms of recovery is paramount.

We agree that council has a role in assisting the district to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Council's role can vary across the different economic sectors; for the food producing farming sector a focus on successful essential council service provision with minimal rate increases is the best role.

Council can achieve this through rating policy, such as retaining the uniform annual general charge at its existing level, and through efforts to reduce council's reliance on general rates such as this year's initiative to increase revenue from fees and charges.

Federated Farmers has been a long-standing submitter to Council annual plans and long-term plans. Our position over the years has been for the Council to:

- Keep its spending and rates increases in check; and
- Maintain a rating system that results in a rates allocation that reflects the use of, and benefit derived from council activities.

This submission addresses the key issues in the LTP Consultation Document.

2. Covid 19 recovery (pp.16/17)

The contribution of farming to the district economy throughout our experience with the pandemic should not be underestimated. Without the district's food producers continuing in business Rotorua's economic contraction may have been worse than New Zealand's third largest GDP contraction.

Council's best contribution to the farming economy is lower costs, which council can assist with through rating policy, and a fit for purpose road network. This year's overall rates reduction on farmland is beneficial in an economic sense for the Rotorua district, and in terms of rating equity.

3. Economic development (pp. 16-17)

The discussion on economic development emphasises tourism and marketing, forestry, and residential development. Agriculture, despite its ongoing economic contribution to the district, is not among the aspirations and activities of council in terms of district development. This is a suitable situation given that our industries are strong and provide their own development and marketing funding and initiatives.

It is disappointing that farmland continues to contribute to the Business and Economic Development targeted rate when there is clearly no benefit to farming businesses. Farmers pay levies to promote their export earning industry and it is unreasonable to expect them to pay for economic development initiatives that benefit other industries.

Council's Revenue and Financing Policy states on page 4 that "Council may establish targeted rates to fund operating costs where benefits can be measured and beneficiaries identified." Clearly this has not been the case with the Business and Economic Development targeted rate.

The amount collected for 2020/21 on this targeted rate was $6,233,000, to which farming contributed 10%.

Farmland should not contribute to the targeted rate for business and economic development.

4. Climate action plan (p.18)

Climate change is an international problem. We agree that council should get its own house in order on emissions, as the farming sector is doing through participation in initiatives such as He Waka Eke Noa – the Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership.

As the key infrastructure provider in the district the focus of expenditure of ratepayer funds on climate change should be on adaptation and preparedness for its impacts.

5. Three waters reform (p.22)

Federated Farmers has been watching three waters reform closely. The cost pressure of maintaining the three waters networks has an impact on farm rates is some jurisdictions, certainly in Rotorua with the cost of stormwater funded by general rates.

It is good to see that Rotorua Lakes Council was allocated a little more than $4.7m for three waters from central government as part of signing the MOU to work together on the challenges facing communities.

Within the three waters reforms farming has its own unique challenges. Federated Farmers has been working hard on behalf of very small rural water suppliers to gain exemption for them from potentially extensive regulatory obligations under the Water Services Bill. We have a good relationship with Taumata Arowai, and we are working with them on "acceptable solutions" for small suppliers.

These reforms may well mean a big change in the structure of service delivery of water supplies and we, like council, are watching developments.

6. Development contributions (p.30)

As stated in previous submissions, Federated Farmers supports the concept of development contributions to fund growth impacts through charges on those that directly benefit.

It is good to see revenue from development contributions included in the forecast financial statements for the 2022/23 year, and it is hoped that this well ease the pressure on general ratepayers as the district experiences growth.

7. Fees and Charges (p.31)

We agree that it should be an aspiration of council together more revenue by way of fees and charges on those that directly benefit from or cause the need for a service.

User pays is the most sustainable and affordable approach to funding council services.

We support <u>Option 2</u> on page 32 of the consultation document – to adjust/increase revenue from fees and charges, reducing the pressure on general rates.

8. Change to the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) (pp. 36-37)

We are opposed to the continuing efforts of council to lower the Uniform Annual General Charge. It has been steadily reducing since 2017 when it was set at a cash amount of $570 per rateable property in the district.

Council offers no rationale for supporting a shift of more general rates cost to rural ratepayers. This is certainly not in line with the rationale that those benefitting from services should pay for them.

It does not mention the central government's rates rebate scheme for low-income ratepayers as an existing measure to assist affordability that is appropriately means tested.

There is no analysis offered of the rural areas' share of rates relative to other sectors or of the rates contribution of properties to predominantly urban services such as stormwater. These issues need to be transparently reported to the community such that the level of the UAGC can be discussed on its merits.

There is also no calculation to show the extent of council's use of the uniform annual general charge relative to 30% cap in rating legislation. In the financial statements income from the general rate and UAGC are combined, so the proportion of revenue form the UAGC cannot be calculated. Previous years reporting however suggest that uniform charges under the 30% cap are only at approximately 15% of total rate revenue.

There is no general trend in local government away from the UAGC as was stated in last year's annual plan. We contend that proposals such as these should be better presented and quantified.

We support <u>Option 3</u> status quo on the UAGC – that it should remain at $475.00.

9. Revenue and Financing Policy

It would be helpful if a funding impact statement were provided in the consultation document or were to accompany the revenue and financing policy. The consultation information offers little detail on how different activities are funded, whether by the capital value general rate, UAGC, or targeted rates, making constructive comment difficult.

THANK YOU

RLC Funding of Lake Tarawera Sewerage Reticulation

Council Responsibilities

- Council's **key responsibilities** are to provide, to it's ratepayers, key infrastructure and services such as:
  - Three waters reticulation (potable water, sewerage, stormwater)
  - District roading
  - Rubbish removal
- You state in your LTP consultation document that RLC are '**responsible**' for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater from Rotorua city, Ngongataha and Eastern Suburbs as well as some rural lakeside communities
  - The lack of a system has forced owners/ratepayers of new builds at Lake Tarawera to spend thousands of dollars on OSET systems to comply with Council's current resource requirements only to be made redundant should a LPGP reticulation system be installed
  - Why have the Lake Tarawera ratepayers had to wait so long for a sewerage scheme to be prioritised?

Council's Choice of Projects

- Council **chooses** to invest ratepayers money in projects that do not meet the above criteria and in doing so neglect the basic needs of its rate paying community as demonstrated in the Capital Spend allocated to Key Projects below:
  - WWTP $60M
  - Museum $55M
  - Aquatic Centre $29M
  - Tarawera $23M
  - Lake Front $18M
  - SHMPAC $11M
- Some $113M proposed to be spent on non-essential projects. Of course we would like some of these nice to have projects completed but not ahead of or at the expense of core infrastructure.
- You also state that RLC only borrow money fore new facilities and infrastructure. Council does not borrow to renew existing facilities and infrastructure.
  - Lake Tarawera wastewater treatment is exactly what RLC should be borrowing funds for as this is key Capital infrastructure for which Council is responsible.

Lake Tarawera Ratepayers

- LTR are ratepayers too and we pay premium rates which contribute to the greater Rotorua Community
  - Yet we have no potable water, no sewerage reticulation and no rubbish or recycling collection
- In Feb 2020, RLC proposed a reticulated sewerage scheme to the LTR, at an estimated gross capital cost of $22.5M.
  - Based on 550 Households (currently only 446) at a cost of approximately $33K per household
  - RLC asked LTR to sign an acknowledgment form agreeing to the proposal and agreeing to pay the lump sum payment of $33K on completion of the project (Interestingly this figure is quoted on your website as $19K??)
- As quoted on the RLC website (Vision to Action Projects), Council has said that it cannot afford to borrow the balance of the costs needed to construct this sewerage scheme and then collect the contributions over 25 years as has been done for other sewerage schemes.
  - LTR want to know why not and why should we be treated any differently?
- Council is choosing what it wants to borrow money for when a compelling priority should be the reticulation of Lake Tarawera sewerage
  - What effort has RLC made to obtain additional funding for this scheme?

Proposed Rate Increases for 2021/22

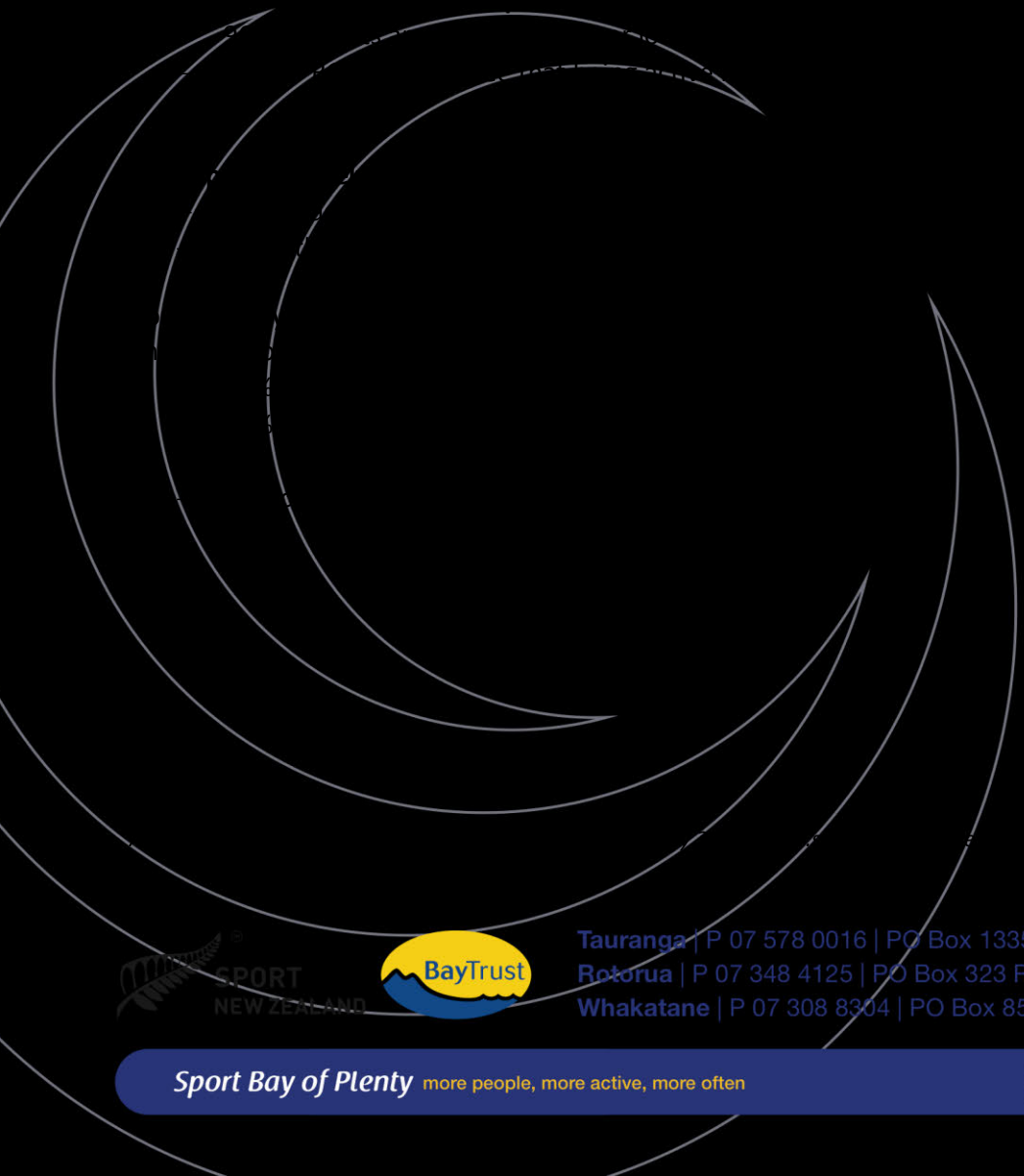
- In addition to the expectation that LTR should pay in full for a sewerage reticulation scheme, the consultation document proposes huge rate increases for ‘rural residential’ ratepayers
  - An average of 15.26% for Rural residential vs 10% for Urban residential
- On top of having no basic infrastructure, LTR stand to be charged an additional 12.1 -17.8%
- This is the highest rate increase in the Rotorua district!!
- Again why are we treated so unfairly?

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www.scionresearch.com

SCION
FORESTS ▪ PRODUCTS ▪ INNOVATION

30 April 2021

To: Rotorua Lakes Council

From: Scion (the NZ Forest Research Institute LTD, trading as Scion)

Contact: Emily.Telfer@scionresearch.com

Re: 2021-2031 Long-term Plan Consultation

1. Key Points

Scion is very supportive of the plan and would like to provide feedback on three specific aspects

1.1 Economic Development

Scion is excited to see "the future of forestry" as one of three agreed priority areas within the Economic Development Strategy. We are keen to remain involved in the ongoing actions. In particular, we are eager to work on the incentivisation of the Rotorua Wood First policy, which we believe could be a platform to launch a National policy that increases both the use of wood in construction and the accompanying storage of sequestered carbon.

Under priority area 3: As a regionally located Crown Research Institutes, Scion benefits from the Rotorua Lakes and Forest environment as an exceptional lifestyle choice for recruitment of national and international talent to our organisation. Rotorua is a special and unique place to live. From the original Fenton Agreement, our status as New Zealand's only Bilingual city and the tantalising opportunity that a City with a "Wood First" policy presents for a local Forestry based research organisation; these are the narratives that we would like to see celebrated and we can use to attract talented innovation specialists to our region.

1.2 Climate Plan

We note that review and incentivisation of the "Wood First" policy sits under the Economic Development section of the long-term plan. However, there is a missed opportunity to mention that the same "Wood First" policy also has a climate mitigation impact locking up sequestered carbon in timber buildings. It's an important initiative that is critically important to multiple components of the plan. In addition to the support we have for "Wood First" with the Economic Development kaupapa, we would love to see this highlighted in the long-term plan as a blueprint for a national initiative.

1.3 Infrastructure

We very recently celebrated the opening of Te Whare Nui o Tuteata with our community, including members of the Rotorua Lakes Council. The theme was loud and clear "We are open". The Te Papa Tipu Innovation campus, sitting on the Titokorangi site, has only just begun to capitalise on the opportunity that co-location of Research organisations, Government entities and Industry stakeholders represents. Rotorua is already a world-renown Tourism destination for cultural and outdoor adventure, what if there was an opportunity to add Research and Innovation destination to that lineage. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with Rotorua Lakes Council and Mana Whenua how to remove any barriers in the form of land designation policies, to enable the Te Papa Tipu site to reach its full potential.

2. Introduction – Who is Scion.

- Scion's research to 2030 – is transitioning Aotearoa to a circular bioeconomy. Scion is a Crown Research Institute with a core purpose to "enhance New Zealand's prosperity, well-being and environment through trees – "kia piki te ora, te taiao me te whai rawa o Aotearoa mā to ngāhere".

- Scion's head office in Rotorua is one or the largest employers in the region. Staff contribute directly and indirectly to the economy. Collocated in the heart of Forestry, we support the research and innovation aspirations of many industry partners, who in turn employ 1000s of Rotorua and Bay of Plenty residents. Our strategic relationship with Rotorua Lakes Council is extremely important to us and we welcome the opportunity to continue the work together.

Signed by



……

Dr Julian Elder, Chief Executive

Veena Kameta

Tena Koe Rob the Team and Council,

I am writing this submission in various platforms.

I have been raised in Rotorua for 35 years, our first decade we spent in the Fordland area, where we would walk and be safe, we knew everyone, nearly all our homes had more than one fruit tree, later on in our teens we relocated to Western Heights with our parents, and on-going connectedness with our communities continued.

As a family we spent our childhood and education in these same communities, including sports and activities were us, our parents and many other whanau who would gather and enjoy our time with each other.

Our family home of 20 years is based in the Mangakakahi suburb, we also send our children to schools in the local area, alongside where we have our employment parameters are within 5km radius. We were raised with a large size whanau, therefore we are well connected to our community,hapu, iwi, suburbs, schools and neighbours.

As we have ventured out in to adulthood, responsibilities become a chosen task or you are expected to know what role you will serve in the community. Children and family life arrives, we become moulded and grow wings or a voice that raises concerns, issues, support or connectedness in the way you are raised.

Spending at least 16 years now on School BOTs, Sports Boards, Coaching/Volunteering on School/Clubs has created an awareness that we need to contribute back to our community in a massive scale. Which we have, working for our communities is a bonus, however there are challenges.

Employment Opportunities have arisen, placing myself here at Linton Park Community Centre as the Facility Manager. I have been here for three years this year, with on-going tasks to keep our community safe, vibrant, active, and lively. Ensuring as Ngati Whakaue, we instil mana whenua and cultural identity.

Cultural Identity in the mahi we do in our area is maintained, WHY?

Ngongotaha te Maunga
Utuhina, Mangakakahi te Awa
Te Arawa te Waka
Kaitao Rotohokahoka te Whenua
Ngati Whakaue te Hapu
Te Arawa te Iwi
Ko Ihenga te Tangata

Our tupuna rested on our maunga, the veins that run through us are our awa, we are connect to our whakapapa who are our whanau, hapu, iwi. Please allow me to address on-going issues, information to contribute to developments that I am prepared to lead and advocate for, and with my community.

Mountain Rd – this area requires more sustainable maintenance, and regulations around dumping, car-parking, access, the stairways, lighting and forestation.

Turner Drive Reserve – an abandoned ablution block that either needs instant removal or severe upgrades. Park upgrades, with a new fruit tree orchard to support the need for free, fresh and healthy fruit, due to the location and transient suburb.

Park Road Reserve – has a skate park that is often unmonitored, providing unwanted activities. Burnt ablution building, destined to be replaced with a permaloo? This area requires an upgrade with functional access, walk-ways,

terrace style seating for large families, increased lighting, meaningful landscaping for all abilities. At present its not appealing and has access that is an eye-sore and not safe for a park and reserve.

Fairview Park Reserve – another disjointed reserve that has run-off creeks, with access to a park but contains unique waterways creating a place not many go to, unless you are going to Kindergarten or to play on the park. The local Kindergarten rallied to place a second orchard in our community, this was welcomed as the need to have access to free, fresh fruit, due to the location and transient suburb.

The storm water streams are an issue that need addressing or wetland solutions to clean, purify the water, or banks, this suburb has great qualities, but underdevelopment has made this another eyesore with potential to reinstate plants, shrubs, growth that a relative to the area.

Steeles Lane Reserve – once a thriving area for 40 years with a wooden tower, flying fox, to now cut trees and a big open and exposed land. The awa is tragically requiring some wetland and landscaping, to bring this back as a feature and place of importance. Linked to the main high school, named after our community, with access that looks quite neglected. Residents would like to see a third orchard placed here to ensure we are purpose building free, fresh fruit and sustainable practices. A place for all abled people to enjoy their walk, stroll or time out with whanau.

Rowi Street Reserve – has the only suitable toilet block in the Western Heights area of all the reserves. Newly upgraded park, with the desire to have fruit trees, bike tracks, safer walk way access. A good base for a new project or upgraded building that would be fitting for the community and residents to utilise.

Selwyn Heights Shops – residents would like to upgrade and improve the reserve at the back, and the left side of Kea Street green space to have free, fresh fruit trees, seating, and more of a community focus which is well supported by the shop owners. Adding a fourth fruit tree concept due to the low socio, transient data, this a a very beneficial initiative.

Edmund Road Linton Park Reserve – once a vibrant reserve, with the option to play sports and any games, activities. Ensuring this area has increased lighting for sports teams, night trainings, games, events is an absolute need here. Access via three points, good carparking, has approx field space for four fields another gem that is underused and has the making of a great place to control and direct overflow.

Kamahi Place Linton Park Reserve – another great location, well placed in the veins of our maunga. Many would know a bowling centre once existed, a decade later a community centre arises and here we are today. Developing the greenspaces, gardens, walk ways, bike tracks, gives another indication, this place could be vastly improved. At present the lighting in to the reserve is so dak, trees creating a damp, dark atmosphere, hiding unwanted activities.

The Linton Park Community Centre leases the land from RLC, has on-going growth, developments, and strategic plans for activity in place. Here is where I ask, for the opportunity to consider and support to redevelop and upgrade our iconic venue. The car-parking is needing an expansion away from the Centre, the public often dump items, drugs and alcohol, rubbish, belongings and hide away. The rubbish and activity here is appalling.

We would like to see expansions of the carparking, away from the access to Linton Park Community Centre, our staff are often taking care of issues, moving us away from our core mahi. Currently we fund and finance our own parking lines, judder bars, posts with reflectors, signage, cleaning and maintenance weekly. These costs cannot continue to come from our facility income, we need a more sustainable and viable budget or planning to eliminate our area.

As you can see, I am well connected and have the ability to represent our community in areas that we have not heard on any submission or long term planning. Once the council project towards completing the larger million dollar infrastructure projects, we would like to see the next tier of infrastructure projects in place.

Please allow us to awhi and help look after Kaitao Rotohokahoka.

Veena

HUGH GOODMAN AND KATIE MAYES

Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046
NEW ZEALAND

29 April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

LONG TERM PLAN SUBMISSION - RETICULATED WASTEWATER SCHEME FOR LAKE TARAWERA

We own a property on Spencer Road, Lake Tarawera. We would like to fully support the submission by the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association regarding the reticulated wastewater treatment plant for Lake Tarawera.

Whilst we support the reticulation scheme, we believe the cost being imposed on property owners is enormous, open-ended and getting bigger by the day. In addition, requiring property owners to pay costs as a lump sum is unreasonable and inequitable, relative to schemes installed elsewhere in the district.

We do not wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Yours faithfully,
Katie Mayes and Hugh Goodman

GHA Building, Ground Floor, 1108 Fenton Street, Rotorua 3010, Ph: 07 3463915

Submission on the Rotorua Lakes Council Long Term Plan Review 2021-31

Introduction:

Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT) has its genesis in the Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010. The Trust represent the three Te Arawa River Iwi; Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuarā and Tuhourangi-Ngāti Wāhiao, who assert Mana Whenua, Kaitiakitanga, Ahi Kā, Mana Whakahaere and Mana o te Wai over the Waikato River and its tributaries that run through our rohe.

TARIT is committed to environmental sustainability and strategic goals:

1. Mana Tangata: Enabling our people to participate in the restoration and protection of the Waikato River, tributaries and environments.
2. Mana Taiao: Implementing measures to restore and protect the Waikato tributaries and environments.
3. Mana Mātauranga: Upholding tikanga, preserving wāhi tupuna and enhancing mātauranga of Te Arawa River Iwi.

TARIT takes this opportunity to thank Rotorua Lakes Council for the opportunity to submit on the Long Term Plan Review. Based on the consultation document for the Long Term Plan 2021-2031, TARIT provides comment on the following.

Councils Key Priorities:

Priority 3 - Economic Development

TARIT agrees and supports the overall direction of the economic development section. More specifically TARIT agree with the Council completing the master planning for stormwater and key infrastructure for new residential and industrial developments. However, focus should not be specifically for new residential and industrial developments. Master planning should also focus on identifying and understanding the state of all current infrastructure.

Priority 4 - Climate Change

Climate Change is of great concern to TARIT and is likely to affect all of the Waikato District ratepayers in one way or another in the very near future.

TARIT supports climate change as being Council Key Priority. In particular, TARIT supports the Council's goal and stance of achieving a low carbon economy that ensures that we are all working towards establishing a resilient community. More specifically, TARIT supports the Climate Action Plan that Council adopted in February of 2021.

Building resilience within the Rotorua community, iwi, hapu and whanau will assist the Council in how they manage a civil defence emergency due to the effects of climate change when one arises. It is also positive to see that the Council has considered climate change as a priority in light of the government raising the profile of climate change to a national importance.

Opportunities could and should be captured to educate everyone on how collective small changes can make a difference and preparedness should be the new normal.

Priority 5 - Infrastructure Strategy

TARIT supports Councils priority to provide safe, reliable and stable infrastructure in order to meet current and future demand. Understanding growth demand and areas of growth will assist in Council planning for infrastructure.

TARIT supports the seven strategic district infrastructure challenges that need to be addressed for infrastructure planning. However, TARIT passes comment that this section only focuses on providing new infrastructure capacity to provide for growth. In order to provide for growth, it should be important to understand the current state of our infrastructure and provide funding to upgrade these existing infrastructure. As stipulated below it is understood that the Three Waters Reform will provide funding to assist in Council upgrading the three waters infrastructure.

Future Conversation Section

Proposed Three waters reform:

TARIT recently supported the intent of the Water Services Bill in ensuring that all New Zealanders have access to safe drinking water and upgrades to wastewater and stormwater. Although, TARIT supports the need for reform, TARIT has concerns with the potential implications that the Bill will have for Iwi and Hapū in particular, papa kainga, marae and springs operated by our affiliates within the TARIT rohe.

TARIT had further concerns regarding the risk of this Bill not addressing Iwi rights and interest in freshwater and the consideration of the new RMA reform.

It is expected that the Three Waters Reform Programme will provide suitable funding to assist in infrastructure upgrades which will assist in Council allocating these funds to support new infrastructure and infrastructure upgrades.

Further Input:

Through our River Settlement, TARIT hold Ministerial Accords with the Crown as well as 7 Ministry Agency. Through these Accords TARIT has been in direct contact with the relevant agencies relating the RMA reforms, freshwater reforms, 3 waters reforms, and rights and interest in freshwater including allocation. TARIT acknowledges the changes that are taking place in these spaces.

Therefore, as a Joint Management Partner with Council, TARIT expects to be a part of the process when Council works through these changes.

Nga mihi nui,

Eugene Berryman-Kamp

Submission to Rotorua Lakes District Council

on the Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031

Date: 30 April 2021

Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 for Rotorua Lakes District Council (RLDC). This submission comprises two parts. Part One provides a general perspective on tourism at a regional level. Part Two provides specific feedback on the draft Long-Term Plan.

INTRODUCTION

1. TIA is the peak body for the tourism industry in New Zealand. With over 1,300 members, TIA represents a range of tourism-related activities including accommodation, adventure & other activities, attractions, hospitality, retail, airports & airlines, transport, as well as related tourism services.

2. The primary role of TIA is to be the voice of the tourism industry. This includes working for members on advocacy, policy, communication, events, membership, and business capability. The team is based in Wellington and is led by Chief Executive, Chris Roberts.

3. Any enquiries relating to this paper should in the first instance be referred to Matt Ammunson-Fyall, TIA Advocacy Co-ordinator at Matt.Ammunson-Fyall@tia.org.nz or by phone on 04 499 0104.

PART ONE - TOURISM AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4. Tourism takes place in local communities and offers jobs, regional economic opportunities, and vibrancy. We want tourism to provide real benefits to the communities where it operates, and local government has a key role to play in managing and enhancing local tourism experiences.

5. Tourism was the first industry to be hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and will be one of the last to recover. While the immediate outlook is uncertain, the industry's longer-term ambitions remain unchanged. TIA's Tourism 2025 & Beyond, A Sustainable Growth Framework – Kaupapa Whakapakari Tāpoi, sets a vision of 'Growing a sustainable tourism industry that benefits New Zealanders'.

6. Our view is that central and local government must deploy their resources and work alongside the private sector to revive and then revitalise the tourism industry for the benefit of local communities and Aotearoa. This is a shared opportunity to make bold changes to fix longstanding systemic issues that have compromised our desire to build a truly sustainable tourism future.

7. In August 2020 TIA wrote to all councils in New Zealand outlining three priority areas for consideration as they developed their draft Long-Term Plans (LTP). A summary of what we asked for follows:

Support for Destination Management Plans

8. For your region to get maximum benefit from tourism, your tourism proposition must be community driven, align with national sustainable tourism goals, and present a high-quality offering that appeals to both international and domestic visitors. Destinations are a collection of interests (including local government, iwi, communities, and business), meaning that coordination and destination planning is needed to deliver the best outcomes both for host communities and visitors.

9. This is the most important thing councils can do - look after and invest in the quality of their region as a destination. Councils must reflect the desires of their community, and this includes the voice of tourism operators, which must be strongly represented in these Plans. We support RLDC's focus regional tourism development and iwi engagement in this LTP.

Keep costs down

10. Businesses are key to the economic health and vibrancy of a city, town, and region. Tourism businesses typically bring significant cashflow and investment to a region through attracting both international and domestic visitors. Many of these businesses are now struggling to keep their lights on and trading conditions will be tough for the foreseeable future.

11. We acknowledge that councils themselves are facing reduced income because of COVID19. This comes at a time when ongoing investment to maintain and enhance local mixed-use infrastructure (used by residents and visitors) including roads, amenities, and attractions is required. Councils should be willing to consider funding streams other than rates to maintain and develop infrastructure, such as increased debt and central government funding.

Environmental management

12. New Zealand's environment is our unique selling point. It underpins our 100% Pure New Zealand tourism proposition and supports many of our iconic adventure and outdoor activities. The top factor influencing international visitors to choose New Zealand is our natural landscape and scenery and getting outdoors is a key driver of domestic tourism. However, New Zealand's natural environmental assets are under constant threat, including many of our native species, our freshwater rivers and lakes, and our unique landscapes.

13. We ask that Council, through the Long-Term Plan, recognise that the environmental assets of your region are critical to tourism success and to make a commitment to maintaining, enhancing, and restoring these assets.

PART TWO - SPECIFIC FEEDBACK ON YOUR LTP

14. In the following section, we provide feedback on the tourism components within your Consultation Document for the draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031. Our comments focus on rate increases, community safety, regional development and tourism funding.

Rate Increases

15. We acknowledge that Rotorua Lakes District Council has proposed a staggered rate increase over 3 years. The proposed 9.2% average increase for 2021/22 is among the higher rate increases currently out for consultation. The average overall rates increase of 3.8% p.a. for the subsequent 9 years is more palatable, supported by increases of 5.5% and 4.5% in 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively. Last year we asked Council to adopt a conservative approach to rates increases due to reduced profitability in the tourism sector.

16. There remains significant uncertainty in the tourism industry. A reopening of the border and the reliable return of international markets out of Asia, America, and Europe is required for confidence to return. A re-opening to only Australia may have limited medium-term impact on New Zealand due to a significant segment of VFR - Visiting Friends and Relatives. It is becoming quite clear that reopening to destinations beyond Australia will not occur for some time yet. And it will be a gradual return as airlines build capacity and reschedule flights to New Zealand. A recovery for tourism in New Zealand could take five years or longer.

Community Safety Plan

17. It was encouraging to see that community safety is one of the priority areas for RLDC in the draft LTP. We share Council's concerns about the increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour, affecting residents and visitors' experiences in Rotorua. Our members regularly raise their concerns about reducing safety and the subsequent impact on the destination brand.

18. We acknowledge it's a complex issue and requires the support of other agencies and community stakeholders to address effectively. Such is the importance of the issue to destination management in Rotorua that we support Option 2, to create a Community Safety Plan and commence delivery to initiatives with total funding of $1.380m p.a. While this differs from the Council's preferred Option 1 of $1.13m funding p.a. we believe the greater investment is required now to control the issues and reduce the negative impacts on Rotorua's attractiveness as a destination.

Regional Enhancement & Development Projects

19. TIA supports the future-focussed development of Rotorua Lakefront, Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa - Rotorua Museum, Titokorangi - Long Mile Road and Forest project, and completing work on the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre. Regions with events centres, art and heritage infrastructure, as well as strong cultural

offerings are well placed to meet domestic and international visitor demand into the future. Not only do these facilities attract visitation to the region, but they also create jobs and other opportunities for local business development.

20. Having a community vision guides council planning. TIA supports the agreed key priorities in the Draft Economic Development Strategy. Future-proofing our communities and enabling a higher skilled and higher paid workforce strengthens the region's resilience as well as its ability to attract and retain skilled staff.

Tourism Funding

21. The challenges faced by local councils in funding decisions is nationwide. To support investment in local tourism TIA in our submission to the Tourism Futures Taskforce outlined a proposal for Central Government to create a Regional Tourism Fund of $300m p.a. These funds would be distributed to local government to address local tourism-related needs.

22. Local authorities' investment in tourism infrastructure would be informed by regional spatial plans (where they exist), local authority Long-Term Plans, and RTO/EDA Destination Management Plans. If these Plans are doing their job well, they should clearly articulate the aspirations of tourism in the region and funding required. While infrastructure would be included as an area for investment of funds, we support a wider scope for fund allocation as determined by regional destination management priorities.

23. The allocation model is determined by the measured level of visitor impact on each territorial authority. The premise behind this calculation is to create a transparent and sustainable model for annual funding rather than councils having to apply and hope. For example, it may be based on guest nights in a region. The Rotorua Lakes District received 3.6% of total guest nights[1] in NZ in February 2021. If this were attained on an annual basis it would provide an additional $10.8m p.a. to the Council for tourism investment based on our model.

24. The proposal aligns with Infrastructure NZ's proposal for a Regional Development Fund, expanding the former $1 billion p.a. Provincial Growth Fund into a $2 billion Regional Development Fund (RDF) covering all New Zealand. Our proposal of $300m is 15% of that $2b fund.

25. We would work with Rotorua Lakes District Council and other local authorities to seek the introduction of this fund as soon as possible.

CLOSING

26. Tourism is a highly resilient industry. With targeted support, system fixes and a shared vision, the industry will once again make an essential contribution to New Zealand's

[1] Accommodation Data Programme (ADP), February 2021

success. We acknowledge the Council efforts being made to improve infrastructure and increase safety and recreational amenities for the benefit of residents and visitors.

TATAU POUNAMU

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Rotorua, 3010
021 246 5779
pouawhi.tataupounamu@gmail.com

30th April 2021

Submission on RLC 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan

The Tatau Pounamu Collective (TPC) is a community collective of stakeholders using environmental and health & wellbeing initiatives to engage with the Rotorua Eastside community. Tatau Pounamu has a vision for Eastside Rotorua to be a safe place where every tamaiti (child) reaches their potential.

The whakaaro (plan) behind the Tatau Pounamu Collective mahi (work) comes from a community led approach that supports many people and organisations to work together towards a shared vision. The Tatau Pounamu Collective has made a commitment to using community-led principles, working alongside our residents to identify and meet their needs. These principles include working collaboratively and using a strengths-based, capacity building approach.

Tatau Pounamu covers an area from the Waiohewa Stream to the Puarenga Stream on the East side of Rotorua city. The Tatau Pounamu Collective comes together regularly to discuss current mahi (work) and to set the strategic direction for Tatau Pounamu. These hui are an open and inclusive forum for all those who wish to be part of Tatau Pounamu's journey.

Tatau Pounamu is also supported by champions – the organisations who are part of our journey to achieve the Tatau Pounamu vision – who support Tatau Pounamu in different ways and at different levels. Our champions currently around the table include: Te Roro o te Rangi, Uenukukōpako, Tuteniu, Hurungaterangi, Hinemihi, Mokoia Community Association (MCA), Plunket, Department of Conservation (DOC), Owhata Primary School, Eastern Rotorua Kāhui Ako, Horizon Education Consultancy, Hannahs Bay Ratepayers Association, Owhata Medical Centre, Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), Eastside Public Health Nurse, Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC), Rotorua East Lions Club, Our Mokopuna, Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC).

Please find below the whakaaro from the Tatau Pounamu Collective in response to RLC's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan

Community Centre Hubs

Reference is made in the Mahi discussion document in Council Key Priority 2, to support the development of Community Centre Hubs that enable community-led delivery of social and other services. Tatau Pounamu is ideally placed within the fabric of Eastside communities to

lead and assist development of such a community centre hub and invites RLC to open discussions with our organisation on how TPC can assist with delivery of social and other services across the Eastside rohe.

TPC has actively sought the establishment of a community centre hub over the last 8 years. TPC sees the importance of having services delivered at place and in a way that is relevant and welcoming to those within our rohe. TPC looks forward to the co-design and establishment of a hub in the Eastside, acknowledging this needs to be done WITH the community (not TO the community). If the intention of a hub is to have the community engage and the community to be involved and genuinely partnered with in a collaborative manner….fantastic!! This is exactly what we are after and have signaled in the 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan'. Also, TPC already has a number of contracts and quality relationships with Central Government agencies that could be pivotal and support the success in engaging with the community and ultimately delivering this community-led approach. Please do not be shy in approaching us on this mahi!!

Community Safety

Eastside (as in other areas of Rotorua) have suburbs that are characterised by high socioeconomic deprivation. Feeling unsafe is an experience many of our community experience on a daily basis. TPC identifies the need for community safety to be improved within the CBD, but also within the neighbourhoods.

TPC acknowledges RLC's role in community safety from using CPTED principles in playground design, to food licensing to reducing the harm caused by roaming dogs. We advocate that RLC strengthens its relationships with its communities to ensure that it has a good understanding of what safety means for each community. The locality planning process currently underway Eastside is a primary mechanism for ensuring this.

With regards to CCTV we would encourage Council to be again working alongside community and agencies to see if this will actually achieve outcomes. They may have a role in crime prevention around key community assets.

Homes and Thriving Communities and the Eastside Locality

Eastside hapū and the Tatau Pounamu Collective have been working in partnership with RLC on the 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan (ECWP)' and the wider Eastside Locality Planning Process. This ECWP is almost finalised and it is a blueprint to deliver on the Homes and Thriving Communities Strategy for the Eastside. A wide range of 'key contributors' (e.g. Waka Kotahi, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Rotorua Airport, Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands Inc, Ministry of Education) have also inputted their actions that support the Plan. The Plan has also had significant community engagement. TPC welcomes the ongoing partnership as the Eastside Community Wellness Implementation Plan is developed and employed to ensure that actions and expected outcomes of the ECWP are actualised.

In terms of land development we note that Council is looking to increase its role in partnering with land owners & developers. TPC welcomes this move as long as it aligns and delivers on the 'Key moves' described in the Eastside Community Wellness Plan'.

It needs to be acknowledged that there are a number of lands/owners (often multiple owned Māori land) that would welcome a form of partnering to help unlock papakainga/development for housing for future generations. Please consider all opportunities to partner no matter what the scale, many of these smaller blocks have owners who also hold significant

ownership in Ngati Whakaue Tribal Lands Inc where Council seems to be focussing most of their attention currently.

While this partnering is signalled in the LTP to support the development of the required infrastructure to remove barriers etc, it should be noted also that other forms of partnering can be achieved. A number of our owners and hapū groups would also appreciate partnering in the form of a navigator type person to help awhi owners through the planning, RMA, consenting and building processes. This type of support would assist in expediting the process and ensure that our valuable resources can best be used to deliver homes for our people and community.

Rotorua Aquatic Centre

TPC supports the upgrade (Option three) of the Aquatic Centre via a Full Master Plan. We note that the only real difference between option 2 & 3 in terms of debt is approx $500k as the extra funding required of $10.4mil will be sourced from external funding for option 3. However, it is important that no extra burden be placed on debt and the ratepayers if external funding level is not achieved. Council needs to stay true to this commitment.
The opportunity for our tamariki to have a dedicated learn to swim facility is important for our whanau.
Also, the current charging philosophy needs to be maintained to ensure that the facility is accessible. For Eastside whanau the centre is already a reasonable distance from the community. This distance is already enough of a barrier with the entry fee being increased and becoming another barrier.

Economic Development Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan

The 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan' outlines a number of actions (e.g. Master planning for Stormwater and Infrastructure) that align with these 3 strategies. It appears that we are all talking the same thing and wanting similar outcomes in terms of homes for our people, protections from flooding and the effects of climate change along with improved environmental outcomes. However, what we in the Eastside/TPC believe is important, is that the achievement of the actions will require relationships, coordination and contribution from Eastside Hapū, Tatau Pounamu Collective, Key Contributors and the Eastside Community to be truly authentic and effective. This commitment is the partnership that underpins the 'Eastside Community Wellness Plan' and wider Eastside Locality Planning Process - our hope is that all partners in the uphold, stay true and are committed to that 'way of working together'.

We also note that much mention is made throughout the Mahi document of development of Stormwater infrastructure…but only lightly references Wastewater infrastructure within the communities. And those references relate to new infrastructure to assist opening up land for development, new infrastructure that joins old dilapidated infrastructure to traverse to our treatment plant. Tatau Pounamu wants serious conversation around renewal of existing wastewater infrastructure to stop the continuing systemic failures of our aging infrastructure which has led to massive spills of raw sewage entering Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe recently.

Tatau Pounamu contend that if our aging infrastructure cannot cope with our current population why are we then pushing forward with new development to increase our population and putting further pressure on old dilapidated sewage infrastructure that with recent examples, has proved it can't cope with our current population size without catastrophic failures occurring?

Rates Affordability and Equity

The ever-increasing effect of rates, their affordability and inequity is a concern for TPC and our communities where many whānau live in circumstances of high deprivation and poverty. We note in the LTP that the proposed average rates increase is 9.2% across the district. However, of high concern is that while this is an average for the district, the actual average for residential properties in Rotorua is 11.44%. The 'Proposed Rates for 2021/22' table on page 39 of the LTP Consultation Document clearly demonstrates that lower valued properties will be picking up a much higher increase that is likely to be between 11%-15%.

These increases are likely to adversely affect most Eastside communities - certainly the more deprived Eastside neighbourhoods and also the better off one (Lynmore) that has a range of 'working poor' many of whom have young families heavily mortgaged with little disposable income. Large spikes in rates increase (11%-15%) signalled in the first year of the LTP and the effect it will likely have across all the Eastside communities appears to be counter intuitive to a number of the core strategies in the LTP (e.g. Economic Development & Homes and Thriving Communities).

We are aware that the Uniformed Annual General Charge (UAGC) portion of the General rate has been proposed to be reduced by $50 to help lessen the burden on lower valued properties as the preferred option. TPC would like to challenge Council to be bolder in trying to reduce the inequity in the rating system and the resulting burden on lower valued properties by reducing this further.

The raising of the Fees and Charges to lessen the burden on the general rate appears sensible. However, in looking at the schedule of proposed fees and charges on the web site it appears that some of the individual charges need to be challenged by Elected Members as to whether the raising of some individual charges is actually worthwhile. For example. Increased fees at the library appear to disadvantage those that can least afford it. Also, TPC has worked with its community to advocate for registering dogs at our events and safety for our community - raising the fee will likely be a further barrier to achieving these outcomes.

Climate Change

The Mahi document states *"Our infrastructure is particularly vulnerable to the anticipated effects of climate change, such as increased rainfall, drought and rising temperature."*

We are already seeing the effects of climate change and how our aged infrastructure is failing to cope with those changes. The Mahi document talks about "*establishing ourselves as a resilient community that can adapt to the changes in climate"* rather than asking how we can change the way we do business to lessen the effect of climate change on Papatuanuku.

Tatau Pounamu contend we need to revisit the Council's Climate Action Plan to position Rotorua as the leader within Aotearoa on sustainable ways Council can go about their core business to lessen climate change and to then actively promote these to fellow councils across New Zealand….only then can we hold our heads up and say to our mokopuna "we are doing constructive Mahi to help sustain Papatuanuku".

If there is the opportunity, TPC would like to speak to its submission. Of course, we welcome requests for further information and look forward to working with RLC on the mahi identified in this submission, e.g. the establishment of an Eastside Community Centre Hub

Long Term Plan Submission – Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme (LTSS)

by Warren & Judy Lloyd

29 April 2021

We support the LTSS.

First and foremost, we fully support the Rotorua Lakes Council decision to proceed with the proposed Tarawera wastewater reticulation scheme.

Why we support the LTSS.

We are aware the water quality is declining, particularly at the residential end of the lake and we know from the implementation of other sewerage schemes, that reticulating the sewerage will go a long way to addressing the decline.

Our concern is primarily for the health of the lake, because if this declines further, the lake, wildlife and surrounding bush will lose more and more of the natural beauty, vibrancy, and uniqueness.

Timing is key.

We encourage the Council to commit to the July 2021 date for the commencement of the design of the sewerage scheme. It is well documented that any delay at the planning stage can have significant cost increases at the construction phase.

Uncertainty around 170 unsuitable properties.

The Councils letter of 16 April 2021 mentions that some 170 properties are not suitable to accommodate an OSET. This creates a real concern for property owners if the sewerage scheme does not proceed and they are unable to comply with Council's sanitation requirements.

- *Can the Council advise if there are viable sanitation options for these 170 property owners?*
- *Did Council make this clear to the affected property owners as part of the consultation process?*

The costs are not known or capped and require payment quickly.

Another concern is that the costs are not known or capped, and there appears to be little consideration for those who cannot meet the initial payment and or ongoing contributions within the short time frame given.

The Councils funding model of having a loan (of undetermined size) repaid by ratepayers within three years appears unique to us. We agree that other capital improvement projects should not be compromised, but the management of Council's capital expenditure should not be borne by a small group of rate payers.

This financial burden and short time frame for repayment is unreasonable and inequitable compared to other local sewerage schemes. Further we urge the Council to consider alternate funding options and models in parallel with commissioning the design work.

Have we paid already?

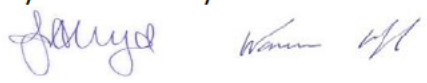
It is my understanding that Tarawera rate payers have been paying Council for sewerage for a long time. The portion of rates paid for sewerage would amount to a considerable sum of money over time. I suggest this amount could be considered a local contribution towards the project.

- *Can Council confirm if my understanding is correct and if yes, could Council calculate the proportion of rates paid for a sewerage reticulation over the time Council has received our rates?*

If you have any questions about our submission, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Judy & Warren Lloyd



Kōrero anō mo te Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Further feedback on the Long-Term Plan

The Long-Term Plan Consultation document includes information on Council's approach/actions to deliver on a number of different strategies/plans:

If you have further feedback on any of the previously proposed options or on Council's approach/actions to deliver on a number of different strategies/plans please use the box below and/ or attach further feedback to this form:

* Too many overgrown trees in suburban areas.
These need regular attention.
Maybe immediate.
People plant scenic trees but over the years they have grown to excessive mature size.

* Community attention to maintaining infrastructure.

* Aghast that Council contemplating dividing up Springfield Golf Course
Breathing spaces like this need to be preserved & kept for our city.
Other developments should be outside of city boundaries & built around or extended perimeters. A definite NO, NO losing our enhanced areas. Keep Rotorua beautiful & attractive. City parks like this should be kept intact. And enhancing facilities.

Lets not let developments choke our lovely city.

2021 - 2031 Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Long Term Plan Consultation
Let's talk | Kōrero mai

Whakahoki Korero - Feedback form paper

Thank you for taking the time to provide our Elected Members with feedback to guide their decision making on the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan.

You can complete as much or as little of this feedback form as you like.

Additional pages can be attached if required.

Thank you!

Received
09 APR 2021 4B 1:57pm
Rotorua Lakes Council
Customer Centre

To Ingoa - Name

(Required)

W.A. Lord

To Imera/Nama Waea ranei - Phone or Email Address

(Required)

To Rangai Hapori - Governance Representation

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- ☐ Te Rangai Ko Roto Moana - Lakes Community Board
- ☐ Te Rangai Taiwhenua - Rural Community Board
- ☑ E noho taone ahau - I live in the urban area
- ☐ E aua - Not sure

Answer this question only if you have chosen E aua - Not sure for To Rangai Hapori - Governance Representation Kei hea koe e noho ana? - Where you live? (Suburb/area)

(Required)

Te Arawa Iwi Affiliated

(Choose any 1 options) (Required)

- ☐ Ae - Yes
- ☑ Kao - No

possibly.
65 years living Rotorua vacinity.
Ancestory mother descendant arrived on big Arawa canoe - waka.!!

Te Whare Kauhoe - Aquatic Centre

Ē pātai ana te kaunihera ki te hapori he aha o rātau whakaaro mo te utu i te Whare Kauhoe

Council is asking what the community thinks about spending on the Aquatic Centre

The community has told Council that it values the Aquatic Centre as a facility for locals to use and enjoy. Council is asking the community how much they want to spend on upgrading the Aquatic Centre to ensure it is a fit-for-purpose, shared public facility.

The Aquatic Centre still needs significant refurbishment and maintenance to address other areas:

- the leaking and deteriorating roof and structure
- aged ventilation system
- poor state of changing rooms and accessibility facilities
- inadequate reception area and wind tunnelling issues

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose 1 option)

☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakatika, te utu = $8 Million - Option 1, Repair, cost = $8 Million

☐ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Whakapai, te utu = $17.4 Million - Option 2, Upgrade, cost = $17.4 Million

☑ Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Whakapai nui, te utu = $28.3 Million - Option 3, Full Master Plan, cost = $28.3 Million

☐ E aua - Not sure

Whakahaumaru Hapori - Community Safety

Council is concerned about an increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour, affecting residents' and visitors' experiences in Rotorua. To

show a dedicated commitment to improving community safety and crime prevention a collaborative partnership between Rotorua Lakes

Council, Te Arawa, the Police and key safety stakeholders will be formed.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose 1 option)

☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Hanga he mahere whakahaumaru hapori hei whakatinana - Option 1, Create a community safety plan for implementation, cost = $500,000

☑ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Hanga he mahere whakahaumaru hapori ā ka timata te whakatinana i ngā kaupapa o te mahere - Option 2, Create a community safety plan and commence delivery of initiatives, cost = $750,000

☐ Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Me whakatinana i tētahi mahere whakahaumaru hapori, kāore anō he pūtea e tāpae ana - Option 3, Adopt a community safety plan with no further financial contribution, cost = $0

☐ E aua - Not sure

2021 - 2031 Mahere Pae Tawhiti - Long Term Plan Consultation
Let's talk | Kōrero mai

Utu me ngā Hāmene - Fees and Charges

Revenue from fees and charges comes from things such as admission to and hiring rates for venues and facilities, liquor licences, dog registration, building and resource consents and parking management etc.

We are proposing to increase fees and charges in a number of council services to move the burden away from the general rate payer towards the individual directly receiving the service. If this revenue can't be collected for any reason (e.g pandemic lockdown) Council will need to consider cost savings to offset lost revenue.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose 1 option)

☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakapiki ngā reiti kia ea ngā utu - Option 1, Recover costs by increasing rates

☑ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Panoni/whakapiki rānei ngā utu me ngā hāmene - Option 2, Adjust/increase fees and charges

☐ E aua - Not sure

Ō Reiti - Your Rates

The uniform annual general charge (UAGC) is the fixed portion of rates that every ratepayer pays regardless of property value. A fixed charge ensures every ratepayer pays the same minimum contribution for Council services.

The level at which the UAGC is set can affect the distribution of rates collected. A high UAGC has the effect of shifting more general rates towards low to middle value properties in comparison to the value of these properties. On the other hand, a lower UAGC would see general rates being higher across those properties with higher capital values.

What is being proposed?

The 2020 property revaluation has created a distortion in the overall proportion of capital value across the rating categories resulting in the general rate being skewed towards residential and rural residential and away from farming.

Council is considering reducing the UAGC from $475 to $425. This is to assist with the affordability of rates and to ensure ratepayers are paying a fair share of the general rates. A UAGC of $425 has been included in the budget modelling. This change would see a greater proportion of general rates charged on capital value instead of as a fixed charge.

He aha o whakaaro? - What do you prefer?

(Choose 1 option)

☐ Kōwhiri Tuatahi, Whakaheke i te UAGC mai te $475.00 ki te $425.00 ($50.00 te rahi o te hekenga) - Option 1, Reduce the UAGC from $475.00

☐ to $425.00 (decrease of $50.00)

☐ Kōwhiri Tuarua, Whakaheke ki te $400 ($75.00 te rahi o te hekenga) - Option 2, Reduce to $400.00 (decrease of $75.00)

☑ Kōwhiri Tuatoru, Kāore he panoni - Option 3, Status Quo

☐ E aua - Not sure

Submission to Rotorua Lakes District Council

Executive Summary

1. Preventable drowning fatalities costs the NZ economy around $320 million per year. WSNZ wants to reduce the number of preventable drownings in the Rotorua Lakes District and believes this can be achieved by ensuring more drowning prevention activity is undertaken, and there is better coordination and direction of the water safety effort. Ultimately, WSNZ wants residents of the Rotorua Lakes District to be safe in, on and around water.
2. The focus of the first part of this submission is to draw to the Rotorua Lakes District Council's attention the need for drowning prevention and water safety and highlight the relevant legislation and strategy.
3. This submission then comments on some of the key issues relevant to the 10-year Consultation Document 'Mahere Pae Tawhiti' including the:
    - relevance of water safety and drowning prevention to the Rotorua Lakes District Council's community well-being – social, economic, cultural, and environmental;
    - need to invest in the on-going maintenance of waste and storm water infrastructure to ensure water quality (swimmability and manoeuvrability) in the Rotorua Lakes District's aquatic environments;
    - need to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change on aquatic environments in the Rotorua Lakes District; and
    - possibility of working with the Rotorua Lakes District Council (and other stakeholders) to expand the awareness of Māori water safety issues, and potential ways to reduce the Māori drowning toll in the Rotorua Lakes District.
4. What WSNZ wants to achieve from this submission is:
    - to work with the Rotorua Lakes District Council to help broaden and deepen Council's approach for reducing drowning fatalities and improving water safety awareness – a broader and deeper approach that is focused on community well-being;
    - Rotorua Lakes District Council to consider water safety and drowning prevention a key component of maintaining the community well-being of its residents;
    - Rotorua Lakes District Council to continue to invest in water safety and drowning prevention activities;

- Rotorua Lakes District Council to continue to work with WSNZ (and the broader water safety sector) on water safety and drowning prevention issues, including expanding awareness of Māori water safety issues, and potential ways to reduce the Māori drowning toll in the Rotorua Lakes District.

Introduction

5. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rotorua Lakes District Council's (Council's) Long-Term Plan Consultation Document 2021-31 – 'Mahere Pae Tawhiti'.

6. Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) is the leadership agency for the water safety sector and wants to reduce the number of preventable drownings in the Rotorua Lakes District. We believe this can be achieved by ensuring more drowning prevention activity is undertaken, and better coordination and direction of the water safety effort by all responsible parties.

7. It is towards these objectives that the following submission is made. Further information about WSNZ can be found in *attachment 1.*

Context

8. The World Health Organisation characterises drowning as a serious and neglected public health threat and a highly preventable public health challenge.

9. Drowning is a growing public health and well-being problem with drowning being the number one cause of recreational death and the third highest cause of accidental death (behind road accidents and falls) in New Zealand. [1] From 2010 to 2019 there were 965 preventable drowning fatalities in New Zealand and injuries are increasing sharply; in 2018 alone there were over 36,000 claims for water related injuries (an average of around 100 a day).[2]

10. It has been estimated that preventable drowning costs the NZ economy around $320 million per year. (Based on an average of 80 fatalities per year at $4.0 million per fatality). In 2016 the economic cost of water related hospitalisations was $83.6 million. In addition, a drowning incident may require a response from several agencies including: Police, NZ Search and Rescue responders or ambulance and medical service. Intervening early, or preventing the need to respond to a drowning, will provide cost savings to the New Zealand economy.

11. In 2019 the Government-appointed Water Safety Working Group concluded the responsibility for water safety, drowning prevention and frontline rescue services is shared between central and local government, the community, and water safety NGOs. In essence, their message was that central government has a partial responsibility for water safety and further effort is required to ensure all responsible parties are actively involved in the prevention of drowning.

12. In response, through Budget 2020 the Government provided multi-year funding for frontline rescue services, and to grow WSNZ's capability to lead and support the wider water safety sector. The Government is now looking to other parties responsible for water safety, such as local government, to see what role they can play. To this end WSNZ recently briefed the Minister of Local Government on the state of the water safety sector, Wai Ora Aotearoa (our new Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025), and our intentions to work with local government to improve water safety and prevent drownings.

Wai Ora Aotearoa – Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025

13. WSNZ recently launched Wai Ora Aotearoa which is the result of a year's collaborative work by water safety sector leaders. The strategy represents a consensual view of the best way forward for drowning prevention in New Zealand. Moreover, the strategy reflects the need for a step

[1] WSNZ Drowning Report, 2018.
[2] ACC, 2020

change in the way the sector operates. This change will enable the sector to meet the major challenges it is facing over the next few years.

14. Key actions relevant to local government for the sector to implement over the term of the strategy include:

    Develop a water safety sector local government engagement strategy that focuses on relationship building and engaging with local government planning.

    Complete the Implementation of the Regional Strategy pilots and develop a Freshwater Strategy for the sector.

15. Both of these actions are relevant to WSNZ's relationship with the Rotorua Lakes District Council and are reflected in the content of this submission.

Community well-being

16. The Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019 restored the promotion of social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being to the purpose of local government.

17. The amendments to the Act are intended to enable local authorities, and ensure local authorities are responsible for, playing a broad role in promoting and improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities-the four aspects of well-being. [3]

18. The Minister for local Government, Nanaia Mahuta, stated that this emphasis on well-being will engage councils and communities in an intergenerational approach to improving quality of life outcomes in towns and cities. [4]

19. As shown in figure 1 below, water safety and drowning prevention connects with all four components of community well-being – economic, social, cultural and environment.

20. A fuller discussion of the connections between well-being and water safety, that is consistent with the SOLGM Community Well-being indicator framework, is included in *attachment 1*.

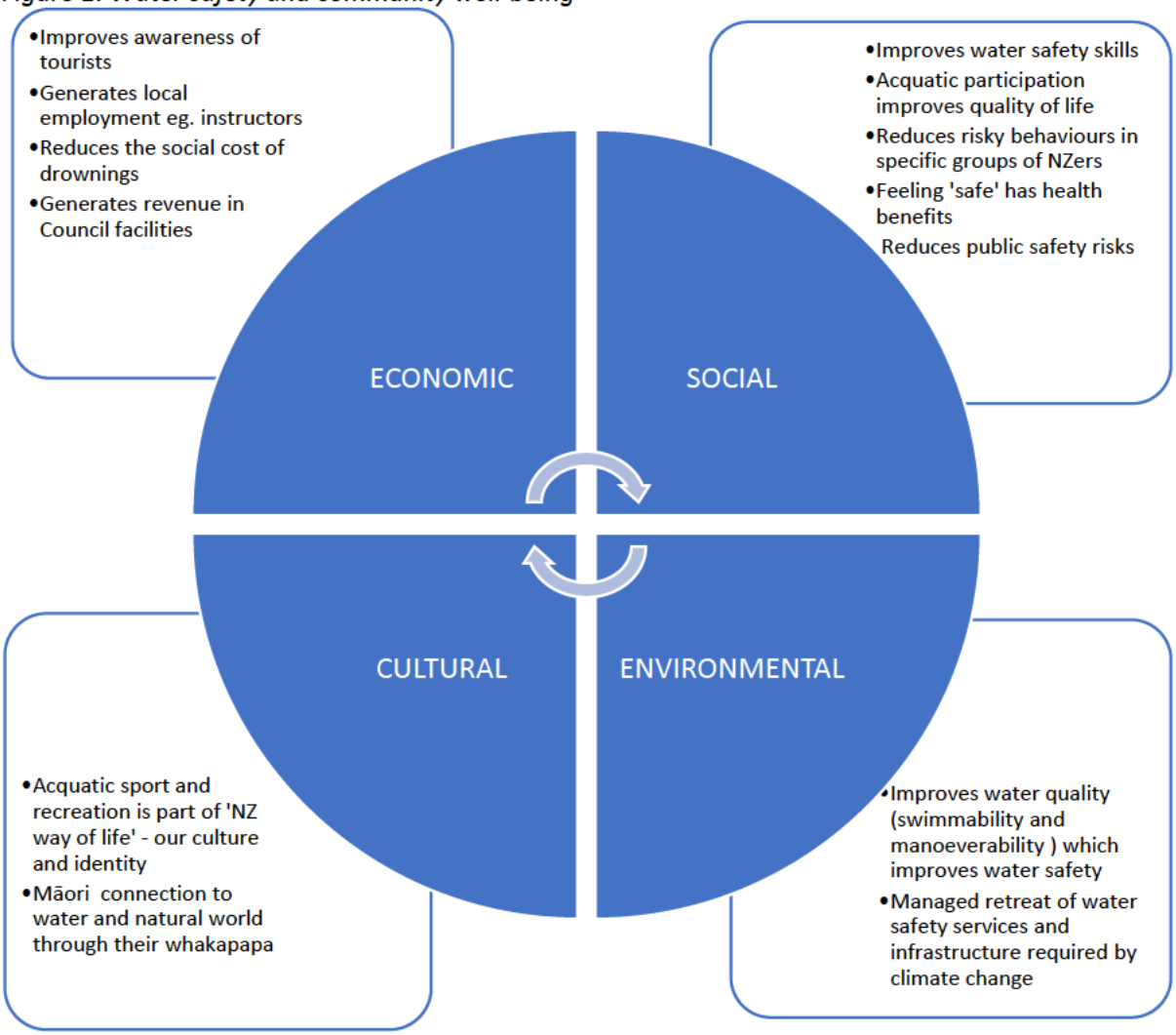
21. What this means is to fully contribute to the well-being of their community, local authorities must place greater importance on, and dedicate resources to, a wider range of initiatives relating to water safety and drowning prevention in all aquatic environments (pools, beaches, rivers, lakes, and the sea).

22. Local government needs to broaden its approach of providing community facilities and infrastructure, such as swimming pools, to a focus on community well-being. For example, focusing on providing and supporting water safety services to help reduce the social cost of drowning and allow New Zealanders to develop skills to feel safe in, on, and around the water. Other examples include a focus on managing the retreat of water safety services and infrastructure from the foreshore (required by climate change), and reducing public safety risks, particularly for high-risk groups and environments (under-fives; underwater activities; males aged 15-35 Years; Asians and male boaties aged 50+).

23. WSNZ wants to work with the Rotorua Lakes District Council (and its partners and stakeholders) to help broaden their approach and reduce drowning fatalities and improve water safety awareness in the Rotorua Lakes District.

[3] SOLGM, 2020
[4] Mahuta, 2018

Figure 1: Water safety and community well-being



Key issues and opportunities WSNZ would like Rotorua Lakes District Council to address in their 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan

24. Reducing preventable drownings, and improving water safety, will improve the well-being of Rotorua Lakes District Council's residents. WSNZ wants Council to consider the following points in the development of its long-term plan.

Water safety and drowning prevention - ensuring your communities well-being

25. The Rotorua Lakes District aquatic environment is diverse with freshwater pools, rivers and streams, and lakes for residents and visitors to enjoy for sport and recreation purposes. This means Council's water safety risk profile is also variable as users carry out activities with different risk profiles (such as swimming, kayaking, boating, fishing, diving, or surfing).

26. To ensure your communities well-being (which as shown in figure 1 includes the concept of water safety and drowning prevention) a broader and deeper approach to water safety and drowning prevention is required.

27. A broader approach is one beyond the provision of aquatic facilities such as swimming pools (e.g. Rotorua Aquatic Centre) and the enforcement of swimming pool bylaws. Council now needs to address water safety and drowning prevention in all freshwater places (pools, lakes, rivers, and streams), and in, on and around vessels (boats, yachts, surf skis, kayaks etc). A deeper

approach involves advocating and providing for more people, of many cultures, to take advantage of Council's water safety and drowning prevention activities in the above aquatic environments. This broader and deeper approach must reflect the needs of your local community and provide local solutions for local needs.

28. In addition to a broader and deeper approach, WSNZ wants Council's approach to compliment the investment we make into water safety sector partner organisations, or the funding we give to other providers through our contestable funding process.

29. WSNZ supports Council's existing investment in water safety and drowning prevention and wants Council to continue to work with WSNZ (and the broader water safety sector) on the broader and deeper approach needed to ensure the community well-being of the Rotorua District's residents.

Water safety and drowning prevention, a correlation of water quality

30. Water quality, whether it be in pools, beaches, rivers, or lakes has a direct relationship with recreation and sport activities. This is because contaminated water, or water filled with weed or floating objects impacts on both the 'swimmability' and 'manoeuvrability' of people and vessels in various aquatic environments.

31. Poor water quality may impact on water safety risks and cause drownings.

32. To maintain water quality Council must advocate for (in partnership with others) and carry out a number of activities, including maintaining and improving waste and storm water infrastructure.

33. WSNZ wants to see Council's continued investment in these types of activities as this investment is essential to help maintain the quality of water for recreation and sport users.

Adapting and mitigating climate change

34. Climate change may result in rising temperatures and sea levels, changes in wind patterns, storm tracks, and droughts and the frequent heavy rainfall events. These changes may require Council's to respond to:

    - an increasing demand on water safety services (rescues, medical support) from higher temperatures;
    - a requirement to replace, move or protect the water safety sector's physical assets located on the coastline (because of sea level rise);
    - a need for better monitoring of river conditions to identify changes in water safety risks attributable to climate change-related phenomenon; and
    - an increasing requirement for the effective communication of the risks to the public from the changing conditions.

35. Climate change impacts on water safety and drowning prevention and WSNZ believes preparing for climate change requires a collaborative effort. We (and the water safety sector) would like to be kept informed about (and participate as appropriate) in Council's relevant climate change initiatives.

Māori Water Safety strategy

36. Drowning rates for Māori are high and reducing and preventing Māori drownings is one of WSNZ's strategic priorities.

37. Working with a group of key Māori stakeholders, we recently refreshed our Kia-Maanu-Kia-Ora-*Stay Afloat Stay Alive* strategy.

38. Wai Ora Aotearoa, WSNZ's new sector strategy discussed above, also includes a focus on improving the connection to water for Māori and supports greater use of a Kaupapa Māori approach to water safety for tangata whenua.

39. WSNZ wants to work with Council, and your other stakeholders to expand the awareness of Māori water safety issues, and potential ways to reduce the Māori drowning toll in the Rotorua Lakes District.

Long-term plan 2021-2031 consultation process

40. WSNZ does want to be heard at Council's long-term planning hearing. Please contact neil@watersafety.org.nz

Paul Verić



Interim Chief Executive
Water Safety New Zealand

Attachment 1: About Water Safety New Zealand

Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) is the water safety sector leadership organisation for Aotearoa, New Zealand. We work with water safety sector organisations, individuals, and the public to reduce the incidence of drowning and injury. Our work contributes to the reduction in drownings by ensuring evidence-based water safety policies, investment funding, initiatives and aquatic education are delivered throughout the country.

WSNZ is an incorporated society with charitable status that was established in 1949. Our membership structure comprises 37 general members, 3 core members (Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Coastguard New Zealand, and Swimming New Zealand), and a partially elected board. The WSNZ Board includes delegates from each of our core members.

The WSNZ annual operating budget is funded by Sport New Zealand and ACC. We provide both agencies with accountability reports half-yearly. Thus, while we are an incorporated society, Sport New Zealand is the 'government home' for water safety policy and our reporting agency. Sport New Zealand oversees our governance appointments.

The New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board, via Sport New Zealand, provides WSNZ with funds to distribute to water safety providers through our annual funding round. We also provide funds received from charitable trusts and foundations, commercial sponsorship, and other funding partnerships.

In 2020/21 we distributed $2.5 million across New Zealand to water safety providers. These providers included: drowning prevention and rescue NGOs, professional and national sport and recreation organisations, child and youth support organisations, Māori organisations, swim schools, local authorities, and regional sports trusts.

This partnership funding is focused on two main areas - water survival skills training and water safety awareness raising and behaviour change. Water Skills for Life (WSFL) is WSNZ's flagship water survival skills program and it reaches over 200,000 primary school children each year. A range of water safety behaviour change initiatives are funded by WSNZ with emphasis placed on reaching demographic groups with high drowning risk (eg. males aged 15-34).

Attachment 2: Community well-being and water safety and drowning prevention

WSNZ community well-being statement

WSNZ has, at the heart of its operations, a commitment to enabling the community well-being of all New Zealanders participating in aquatic sport and recreation or living near bodies of water. Our leadership, advocacy, policies, initiatives, and funding of programmes work to reduce the incidence of preventable drowning and injury in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Our work strives to contribute to a thriving society for individuals, families, and communities. A society where local communities inter-connecting economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being needs are all met.

The Four Well-beings in the Local Government Act

Most definitions of well-being focus on the quality of life, a healthy human condition as well as happiness and prosperity. Social science research suggests that well integrated individuals with shared community goals have better health and well-being outcomes. Research also indicates the four domains of well-being are all interconnected, and all connect in some way with water safety.



The following outlines how water safety and drowning prevention infrastructure, services and activities provide local government with several opportunities to improve the community well-being of their community.

Cultural Well-being and Water Safety

Cultural well-being is defined by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage as:

'*The vitality that communities and individuals enjoy through:*

- *Participation in recreation, creative and cultural activities; and*
- *The freedom to retain, interpret and express their arts, history, heritage, and traditions'*[5].

Water is at the heart of our culture and identity as New Zealanders. New Zealander's have important connections to water through their history, experiences and practices that are important to them. Whether it is a connection to places that people swim, or swam as children, regular camping spots or mountain streams that people have encountered on tramps or hikes, many people have particular bodies of water that are important to them. These bodies of water can be important to a person's sense of identity, and from a Māori perspective, people are connected to water and to the natural world though their whakapapa. Aquatic recreation is a large part of the kiwi culture with many

[5] Te Manatu Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage (date unknown)

families and individuals enjoying spending time at their local beach, river, or lake and being able to safely enjoy taking part in aquatic activities such as, swimming, fishing, jet skiing, or boating is hugely important to New Zealanders.[6]

Water safety knowledge and skills, gained from WSNZ's aquatic education programs, promote New Zealanders cultural well-being by allowing individuals to participate in aquatic recreation in a safe, enjoyable, and culturally sensitive way. This sense of feeling 'safe' is also relevant to New Zealanders social well-being in that it benefits our physical and mental health.

Environmental Well-being and Water safety

Environmental well-being promotes interactions with nature; for New Zealander's to be able to enjoy and maintain their connections with water throughout New Zealand it is important that the quality of the water is maintained. The benefits of improving water quality of lakes and rivers throughout New Zealand benefit many activities from swimming to kayaking to mahinga kai. Environmental wellness can inspire individuals to live a lifestyle that is respectful of their surroundings and this in turn results in them assisting in maintaining and caring for waterway.[7]

Protection of mauri (life force or essence) is a principal issue for freshwater management, Māori throughout New Zealand are increasingly concerned with the integrity of waterways. A healthy body of water that has healthy mauri sustains healthy eco systems and supports a range of cultural environmental activities (mahinga kai or waka ama for example) and reinforces the cultural identity of the people.[8]

Aquatic water, free from hazards such as bacteria, weeds, and floating objects, benefits New Zealanders well-being as it allows them to safely swim, dive, boat and gather food. Environmental well-being and water safety are interrelated, one does not exist in isolation of the other. Environmental well-being also re-enforces New Zealanders cultural identity.

Economic Well-being and Water Safety

Over the past ten years preventable drownings and injuries have incurred social and economic costs of over $5 Billion. However, this financial figure does not illustrate the real cost in pain and suffering and disruption to families and work.

Social costs of fatal preventable drownings and water related injuries can be difficult to isolate and measure. The individual victim is usually the person most directly affected; however, accidents can potentially impact on family members, coworkers, medical care providers and a host of other individuals. Socio demographic differences potentially modify the type and extent of a fatal preventable drowning or injury's social costs. An individual's age, gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, education, and their socioeconomic status all can influence the responses of the individual as well as others in their social circle. Multifarious impacts are possible and may include vocational, psychological, behavioral, social, economic, and functional effects. These costs and their impacts are varied, wide reaching and include both direct and indirect costs, costs at the micro and macro levels.[9]

Water safety and drowning prevention services, activities and infrastructure reduce the social cost of drowning. Preventable drownings save the economy costs in terms of reduced hospitalisations, on-going medical attention, and the attendance of police, ambulance etc. at events. Preventable

[6] Ministry for the Environment, Manatu Mo Te Taiao, 2020
[7] U C Davis, 2020
[8] Tipa and Tierney, 2006
[9] Dembe, 2001

drownings also reduce family and whanau economic, social, and cultural costs resulting from loss of household income, a primary care giver, and that person's broader contribution to their community. Reduced social costs benefit the economic well-being of local communities.

WSNZ's awareness and behavioral change programs also provide economic well-being benefits to international visitors, who unaware of the risks in some of our popular aquatic environments, are often included in New Zealand's drowning statistics.

Water safety and drowning prevention services, activities and infrastructure also benefit the economic well-being of local communities. These benefits can be seen in the revenue generated through fees and local employment (which has an economic multiplier effect).

Social Well-being and Water Safety

Social connections play an important role across many aspects of people's lives, from employment opportunities and advice on important life decisions, to receiving support during hard times and having someone to enjoy life and relax with. There is a growing body of evidence supporting the notion that healthy social networks are important for health and well-being. [10]

Aquatic activities are often undertaken as social activities and allow for social connections to be formed and maintained. Aquatic recreation is both a means to an end (contributes to health and fitness) and an end in itself (enjoyment and satisfaction). Recreation is a useful tool for social connection and social well-being.[11]

WSNZ's awareness and behavioral change programs allow individuals (and their families) to be able to safely partake in aquatic recreation activities. These programs equip them with water safety skills to ensure they can keep themselves and their families safe in, on, and around the water. Community education, and the use of safety/warning signage, also promotes awareness of the risks and dangers inherent at popular aquatic recreation spots.

Social well-being can also be enabled through the concept of safe communities. Safe communities are a World Health Organisation (WHO) concept that recognises safety as a universal concern and a responsibility for all. A safe community is a livable community where people can go about their activities in an environment that is without fear, risk of harm, or injury. Twenty-two communities in New Zealand are accredited as Safe Communities by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ). A further five are currently working towards accreditation which is based on the WHO endorsed Safe Communities model. The safe community's website states:

Community safety is not only about reducing and preventing injury and violence. It is about well-being, building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities. Homes, the roads, public spaces and the workplace are safe for everyone to enjoy. This is exactly what the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand (SCFNZ) does for community development, through leadership and collaboration, to create safer communities to work, play and live. The majority of community-based injuries and accidents are preventable and predictable – it is this premise that forms the basis for everyone's safety. Each community or local area is different - each safety approach meets the unique needs of the people, their goals, and the community values, working together for better outcomes. SCFNZ specifically supports communities to adopt the Safe Community model to increase well-being and become effective advocates and enablers of injury and violence prevention[12].

[10] Frieling, Krassoi, & Cording, 2018

[11] Recreation Aotearoa, 2019

[12] Safe Communities Foundation NZ, 2020

This approach to community safety encourages greater co-operation and collaboration between non-government organisations, the business sector, and local and central government agencies. It increases community well-being by creating an infrastructure in local communities to increase action by building local partnerships and collaborative relationships. Currently, some Councils in New Zealand incorporate water safety and injury prevention into ensuring the well-being of the community. WSNZ encourages all councils to consider the benefits to the well-being of their communities of becoming an accredited safe community. WSNZ also encourages all existing accredited communities to place greater emphasis on water safety in their regions.

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Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031

SUBMISSION

Ryan Holmes

Glenholme

Rotorua

1. Homes and Thriving Communities

1.1. *"Accelerate 2,000 new home builds and 3,000 new sections"*. How is this going to be achieved and by when? There are no goals or milestones in place. There are significant constraints and capacity issues with potable water, sewage, and storm water. These services need to be upgraded first. Most importantly, there needs to be a complete culture change within the engineering department of Council to enable any accelerating. My question is, why does it take a LTP or 'Homes and Thriving Communities' strategic policy to enable acceleration? Council should have been embracing all new subdivisional developments and not putting up constant hurdles, roadblocks, and under-handed management decisions. There is a lot to tidy up at the Council processing level, before any acceleration can happen.

1.2. *"Develop the inner-city, including two inner city apartment buildings"*. Not enough information. Who is developing the apartment buildings? This is a confusing statement. Any apartment buildings built within the city will need be market driven. The re-development of the old Post Office building was not a great success to start with, and now the apartments are mostly rented. The CBD cannot afford to be filled with 'renters' who will potentially have a detrimental effect of the CBD and safety. Careful planning is required.

1.3. *"Establish Community Service Hubs"*. No information on how much this will cost, how they will be staffed, located, or what the on-going costs will be. More information needed.

1.4. *"Actions"*.

1.4.1. *"$5 million – Owhatiura development"*. There is no information at all in the consultation document about this expenditure. What is the $5m going to be used for? Presumably this money is going towards the Owhatiura South 5 Inc. development. Are rate payers contributing towards private development? There needs to be significantly more information and clarity in order for rate payers to make an informed submission.

1.4.2. *"Business park enablement – Airport"*. There is no information at all in the consultation document about this expenditure. Has there been a comprehensive business case completed with regards to the actual costs and viability of this proposal? In order for rate payers to consider and submit on this proposal, more information is needed. Is this proposal feasible? Has a market analysis been completed? There is approximately 10ha of undeveloped consented land at Eastgate Business Park (right opposite the Rotorua Airport). Given the availability of 'build ready' land at Eastgate, why does Council

consider it a prudent business decision of invest rate and tax payer's money into a proposal which may not have a business case to support it?

1.4.3. *"$5 million Peka block development"*. Same comments as 1.4.1 above.

1.4.4. *"Consolidating tourism accommodation into the CBD"*. The diagram in the LTP consultation document shows moving tourist accommodation from Fenton Street to the CBD. This idea needs to be completely dropped, unless a thorough case analysis has been completed to prove the viability of this idea. I would support the Council promoting any new tourist development to first consider the CBD as long as that support includes development incentives (not disincentives like development contributions). Get the development here, then figure out a way to tax it. Tax upfront will stifle development.

Councils Role in Development:

2. *"Borrow against assets it owns"*. Council is proposing to increase borrowing to near its 'celling' capacity. To then go and borrow against its assets would put the rate payers at significant financial risk should any of Councils developments fail to deliver.

2.1. *"We plan to resource ourselves in order that we can navigate easily within a development continuum and address clear market failures"*. As both a rate payer and a developer, I strongly oppose Council becoming a developer. The Council must to stick to its core functions and learn to do those right. Predominately this is delivering on core services like roads, 3-waters, safety, library's etc. The lack of sections is not a *"clear market failure"*. The failure originates from Council's lack of 3-water infrastructure capacity. The East-side potable water capacity issues have been restricting development for over 15 years and yet nothing has been done to alleviate this. The management of Council has largely failed this city and we now face a half a billion dollars' worth of infrastructure upgrades over a very short time frame. If Councils infrastructure had capacity, the current supply and demand of sections would look considerably different than it does now.

2.1.2. In the development arena, Council must stick to its core role of regulation and compliance. One element Council should be undertaking as documented under the heading *"Light Partnering"* is the *"Front load construction of infrastructure outside the development area to accelerate development"*. Council should already be building in capacity into their 3-water infrastructure. If this planning mechanism was being carried out over past decades, we would not find ourselves in this situation. Enable the development, tax it later (30 years on rates).

2.1.3. Has Council, in considering this proposal of itself entering the role as developer (to whatever extent), reviewed and considered any relevant case studies? Any private developer

consenting hold-ups would be seen as favouring their own development and outcomes – the lines would become very blurred.

Aquatic Centre

3. I fully support Option 2. The rate payers of Rotorua cannot afford the proposed rates increases (unless Council has actually done an affordability study?). For the foreseeable future, and until we recover from the economic effects of Covid-19, we need, as a city, to only spend money on what is absolutely necessary. The 'bells and whistles' can come later when the rate payers can afford it. I feel Council is using our 'tamariki' as an excuse to justify spending an additional $10.9m (option 3) when there is no anecdotal evidence that the existing [many] swim schools in Rotorua are indeed at capacity (both in numbers and swim space).

Community Safety:

4. At the moment community safety is the biggest issue facing Rotorua rate payers, their families, their visitors, and our tourists. However, unbelievably it is the area the least amount of money is proposed to be spent on. The statistics documented on page 13 are incredibly alarming, and sad, to read as to what Rotorua has become and where it is heading. Council's absolute priority is ensuring we have a safe community. The statistics on methamphetamine use is astonishingly scary, and yet there is absolutely no mention whatsoever to help combat this at a community level. The "*Community Safety*" section of the LTP consultation document is extremely weak and ambiguous. Under both option 1 and 2 there is no evidence presented to say how much money is going to be spent on each area. How can the rate payers submit if there is not any **'Cost Benefit' evidence?** I.e., for an additional $500,000 (Option 1) is Council going to install an additional 20 CCTV cameras each year and employ 5 new community patrol wardens? How many community wardens do we have? Are they affective? And, since being employed, has the CBD safety and crime statistics reduced? Should we be looking at employing a private security firm rather than Council employed? There is simply no anecdotal justification in the LTP document for a submitter to make an informed decision. At minimum I support Option 2, however I believe more money needs to be spent in the area of community safety. If we don't look after our community and make them safe, we won't have a community! I believe we need to go back to the drawing board with regard to the Community Safety Plan and really consider the cost benefit of every dollar spent.

Economic Development

5. *"Immediately after the COVID 19 lock down, Rotorua experienced the third largest economic contraction in gross domestic product in the country".* I am at a complete loss as to why the Council is planning over the next 10 years to increase everyone's rates by approximately

50% (because this is the cumulative effect of the proposed annual rates increases). Councils' priority should be focussing on 'needs', not 'wants'. Over the next three years especially, we should be looking critically at what we absolutely NEED to do to move forward. We should not be budgeting and focusing on the 'wants, or the things that are 'nice' to have. The 'want' items can come during prosperity, not during an economic recession. With the proposed increased level of borrowing (i.e. for the Aquatic Option 3 upgrade) we are not leaving much room at all if there is a significant prolonged recession, natural disaster etc. We will simply not have any room to manoeuvre other than to further increase the rates burden on the rate payers.

5.1. *'Partnering with Iwi / landowners to unlock 25ha of industrial and business park land".* I refer you to my earlier comments re Eastgate Business Park (I developed this business park however I have no financial involvement and my comments are not conflicted). **Has a business case been submitted to justify any financial involvement from Council?** Without any information submitted in the LTP at all, presumably the 25ha mentioned is the Peka block and the Owhatiura South 5 block. Councillors simply cannot approve rate payer's money going towards private developments if a detailed feasibility and market analysis has not been completed, and spending economically justified.

5.2. *'Complete master planning for stormwater and key infrastructure for new residential and industrial development".* This should not be a reaction to promote economic development. This planning of infrastructure should be an inter-generational and basic planning function of Council, and one that the managers of Council have significantly failed in.

5.3. *'Create an Inner City plan to build investor and developer confidence in our CBD".* This has been a 'catch-phrase' of Council's for the last 15 years, but little ever happens. I have personally been involved in many of the 'working groups', but the recommendation's seldom get listened to or adopted. Earthquake prone buildings / mapping / time frames will need to be completed first.

5.4. *'Implementation of ReoRua".* Signage should only be replaced and updated when existing signs are at the end of their serviceable life. This would be the prudent approach to save unnecessary expenditure in the short term

5.5. *'Wood first policy review'.* Is this policy working? Has the economy benefitted from this policy? Is this policy sustainable or should the policy be removed? A review is indeed required.

5.6. *'Committed recovery / economic development projects:*

5.6.1. *'Industrial / Business Park initiative'.* Because the funds have been 'earmarked' doesn't mean the funds need to be spent. I refer you back to my comments above (1.4.2) and I again reiterate these comments. Has there been a thorough feasibility and market analysis carried out with regards to the demand and economic viability of this project?

Climate Change

6. Generally supportive of the Climate Action Plan, however the biggest issue has not been mentioned. That is, Rotorua transports by truck and trailer all of its general waste to a facility near Thames. By its very nature, this leaves a significant environmental / carbon footprint, additionally there are significant negative effects on the environment from the generation of greenhouse gases from any landfill (be that in Rotorua or Thames). I would have fully supported investment into a feasibility to build and operate a Thermal Incineration plant here in Rotorua. We could also help contribute significantly to the Rotorua 'grid' via electricity generation from the heat generated by the plant.

10 Year Capital Infrastructure Investment

7. I fully support the investment in core infrastructure. I do however point out Council should have never backed the rate payers into this corner, and should never do this again. There has been an historic lack of forward planning and understanding with regards to the 3 water capacities. Back in 2005 we developed 60 sections at the top of Basley Road, Lynmore. At that time we could not complete the remaining 12 sections as there was not enough water pressure in the eastern water network. Water could not be delivered to Brunswick Park and we needed to install a reservoir at Eastgate Business Park. Many other parts of Rotorua have critical capacity issues relating to storm water, all of which are hindering residential development. There also seems to be a concerning disconnect and lack of collaboration between RLC and BOPRC (refer Pukehangi development plan and submissions from BOPRC – downstream impacts on the Utuhina stream).

Proposed 3 Waters Reform

8. Fully support the involvement in this area.

8.1. '*Best practice management and service procurement*' and '*Interconnection between stormwater, growth, and the environment*'. These principles of strategy should have, for many decades, already have formed part of the RLC Engineering Departments strategy, and it should not have taken the 3 Waters Reform to identify and adopt these strategies.

Funding Delivery and Strategy

9. *"Revenue continues to be under pressure to keep pace with the increased cost of maintaining assets".* This is a statement on page 29 of the LTP consultation document. Why is the Council considering, at this time, spending upwards of $61 million on a sports and recreation asset which does not attract revenue, but will add significant and on-going maintenance

costs? There are also other similar examples in the 10 yr CAPEX budget which will result in the need for increase finances to maintain. A much smarter solution to the Springfield sports centre would be to add additional sports facilities to the Energy Events Centre. I.e., relocate the Council nursery and build sports facilities in this space. The Events Centre can already accommodate multiple sporting events, changing room and toilet facilities are already in place, along with a Significant carpark. As it stands now, the Events Centre is a financial burden on the rate payers and is very underutilised. I submit that this idea be given some thought as an alternative to the Springfield Golf Club option, and I also submit adding some additional sporting facilities to the Events Centre would come at a significantly lower cost than what is proposed at Springfield Golf Course.

Development Contributions

10. Some of the summary and statements made under this section are factually incorrect and misleading. The Council already has the ability (and always does) to charge for Reserve Contributions and Financial Contributions toward upgrading 3 waters. Any further taxes will simply add to the unaffordability of houses in Rotorua. I look forward to receiving more information on this at a later stage.

Rates

11. I do not support the forecasted rates increases over the next 10 years as presented in the LTP consultation document. The reasons being:

11.1.1. We are currently is a recession and there is the potential for sustained years of local, national, and global recession. With Covid 19, all economic forecasting is very unpredictable. Council needs to take heed of the current economic climate and look at all ways to reduce unnecessary expenditure, and indeed look at efficiencies and cost saving measures. In time, we will once again be in prosperity and then the time will come when as a community, we can spend money on the 'nice to haves'.

11.1.2. I have done a desk-top calculation. My rates will increase 58% over ten years. This is because of the cumulative effect of the proposed rates increases. This is an unacceptable rates rise in just 10 years given it has taken 71 years for my house to accumulate the current rates charge (already extremely high compared to other cities).

11.1.3. I support minimal expenditure over the next five years until the full effects of Covid 19 are known to our local and national economy. We are the third most affected economy in NZ, and as a community we cannot afford such high rate increases.

11.1.4. The section on "*Our Options*' on page 32, I fully support Option 2.

11.1.5. *"Borrowing to aid future investment in our district".* Council is proposing to borrow $180m over the next 10 years which will effectively mean we will have marginal (at best) borrowing capacity above this should the need arise (say natural disaster etc). Unless the Council is forced into a position of leaning on rate payers to cover higher interest and principal payments to borrow yet more money. Has the council commissioned an Economic Impact Assessment of the Rotorua rate payers to determine household affordability? If interest rates were to double, has Council considered this effect on rate payers? Increased rates on rental houses will be passed on to tenants, thus increasing unaffordability, resulting in increased homelessness and poverty.

11.1.6. Council makes one very concerning statement to me, and that is *"Council's debt level is determined by deciding on a prudent level of borrowing that can be serviced without putting pressure on Council's finances".* These are NOT "Council's finances". These are rate payers' finances, and in this LTP document I cannot see that any economic assessment of the community has been carried out in order to justify Council's "ability" to borrow. If this work has been carried out, why has it not been included in the LTP consultation document?

Your Rates

12. Page 35 a statement is made *"On average we estimate each residential household will pay $7.61 per day, or around $2,778 per year to deliver the proposals set out in this consultation documents (RLC portion excluding GST).* GST actually needs to be factored in for residential (unless used for a business) rates invoices as it is a tax which cannot be claimed back. Although this is a central government tax, it also affects affordability of the total annual rates payments per household. Therefore, in the above example, the cost to this rate payer is actually $3,195 for the first year. Where the LTP consultation document is very misleading, is the proposed rates increases over the 10 years is COMPOUNDING and therefore the rates for this particular example will be nearly $5,000 including GST in 10 years' time.

12.1.1. Increases to the value of each rate payer's property allows the council to increase the rates take. Increases to the value of property has no correlation whatsoever to the ability of the rate payer to afford increased rates. I refer my comment above (11.1.5.) – has the Council completed an Economic Impact Assessment to determine if the proposed rates increases are affordable for the rate payers? Page 36 *"Council assesses this to ensure that overall, there is still a balance across all rating categories and that the rates per property are affordable".* In doing this assessment has Council looked into the median average household incomes to determine this? Or is Council basing "affordability" on Council's "ability" to borrow more money?

12.1.2. *"What is being proposed" – Option 1, 2 or 3.* This section is a red herring / PR stunt to draw rate payer's attention away from the fact they will actually see an increase of at least 50% on their rates over the next 10 years. In this case I support Option 3 – the Status Quo. In order to get a true reflection of support, Council should also be asking the question "Do you support the proposed compounding rates increases over the next 10 years"?

10 Year Capital Expenditure Programme.

13. We are being asked to consult on a $732m CAPEX programme. I went to the effort to download the CAPEX spreadsheet off the council website (annexed to the LTP document). The spreadsheet is very rudimentary and not fit for proper consultation. At one of the 'public consultation meetings' (RLC chamber 22.4.21) I asked Councillor Wang what the $4.5 million was being used for under the heading '*Onecouncil – solutions consolidation and Transformation Enhancements*'. With no discredit to Mr. Wang, but he was not sure and needed to 'Google it'. If Councillors who are ultimately deciding on this CAPEX (cost to the rate payer) do not know what each line item expenditure is for, do you think there is adequate information for the rate payers to consider and submit for or against? In future there needs to be a lot more clarity and information around the line items in the CAPEX programme spreadsheet.

[END]

TARGETED SEWAGE RATE REMISSION POLICY LTP 2021-2031 SUBMISSION

We (Lakeview Bible Camp located at 359A Hamurana Road) wish to make a submission for a reduced targeted sewage rate for community groups, non-profit organisations and Marae where there is a low utilisation of the sewage reticulation system but a disproportionately high number of toilet pans and therefore rate burden. We believe that this could be best achieved through a rates remission policy in a similar way that there is currently a "Remission of Targeted Rates for Sewage Disposal from Schools" or by considering Lakeview Bible Camp and any other future groups who apply under the Extraordinary Circumstances remission policy. The following information is specific to Lakeview Bible Camp however could equally apply to Marae and other non-profit organisations to allow for an equitable charge for Targeted Sewage where low utilisation of the actual reticulation network can be proven.

Lakeview Bible Camp

Lakeview Bible Camp (LBC) is a non-profit organisation that has been established to provide Biblical based teaching plus recreation and accommodation for religious, educational and community groups. The facilities are used by groups from within the Council's area and further afield.

A wide variety of groups use the camp such as church groups, music, arts and sports groups, primary and secondary schools and Oranga Tamariki. If needed; LBC is also available to support the needs arising from a Civil Defence Emergency.

The camp is supported by the Ngongotaha Christian Fellowship and a lot of the administration and some maintenance work is undertaken on a voluntary basis. The camps that are run in association with our church group are all run using non-paid volunteers. Some of the operational and most of the capital costs associated with the camp are financed through donations.

The camp consists of six separate buildings used for accommodation which can sleep up to 120 people and a central dining & meeting hall. Each of these seven buildings have their own sets of toilets and overall there are 22 toilet pans throughout the campsite.

Background

In the 2011/12 Annual Plan a targeted rate was introduced for the development of a reticulated sewerage network in Hamurana and this targeted rate was paid for in three rating years. In June 2013 LBC paid $14,500+gst for the installation of grinder pumps to connect to the reticulated network.

From the 2014/15 rating year, the rates for LBC increased from $5,000+gst to $11,000+gst because the camp was now charged $270+gst per toilet pan of which the camp has 22.

This was raised with the Council's rates team about the large cost increase and they indicated that the only way to reduce the charge is to remove some of the toilet pans. While it may be possible to make a minor reduction it is not practical to do this on a wide scale because of how the buildings are laid out.

During the consultation period for the 2015-2025 LTP, a submission was made entitled "The extreme impact of the targeted sewerage rate on certain properties". This was Submission No. 303 and is found on page 231 of the following link:

http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/AgendasAndMinutes/Strategy%20Policy%20and%20Finance%20Committee/2015/Agenda%20Strategy,%20Policy%20and%20Finance%20Committee%20-%20Long-term%20Plan%20Hearings%208,9%20and%2011%20June%202015.pdf

Doug Senior who is a local member of the Ngongotaha Christian Assembly spoke to the mayor and councillors on the submission.

However in the written response we received from the Council we do not believe that our concerns were properly addressed due to our submission being mistakenly categorised with other submitters from the rural community who were facing large general rate increases due to large increases in capital values.

In June 2017 LBC submitted an application to Council for a partial remission of non-service related rates, however this was declined because there wasn't a supporting policy to allow for this remission.

Rate Burden

As shown in the Table 1 below, rates for LBC have increased by 410% from $3,000 in 2010/11 to $15,300 in 2020/21 which is an equivalent 17.7% yearly increase every year. This is driven by the targeted sewage rate calculated on 22 pans instead of a more equitable 5-6 pans based on use. Over the seven years that this targeted rate has been paid, approximately $36-$38K of additional rates have been paid than if this had been calculated at 5-6 pans. This additional cost is having a significant impact on LBC's financial position.

The summary of LBC's Receipts and Payments is shown in Table 2 below. It can be seen that rates as a proportion of our camp hire fees has increased from 8% in 2013/14 to 16% in 2014/15 and 22% in the last financial year; despite our camp fees increasing over this time to try to cover costs. Rates also now make up 15% of our operating costs an increase from 11% in 2013/14.

Due to the increased burden of rates, the camp is becoming increasingly reliant upon funds transferred from our sister camp (Foxton Bible Camp) and private donations to fund not only capital expenditure but also some of the operational expenditure.

As can be seen from the Receipts less Payments in Table 2, if this was a commercial premises, instead of a non-profit organisation that relies on donations, there would be insufficient cash flow to fund depreciation which is estimated at $30,000 p.a. based on $1m capital value of buildings and $0.2m of building fit out.

Table 1

Rating Year	Rates (ex GST)	% Increase	Total % Increase	Sewage Rate paid based on 22 pans	Sewage Rate if based on 5 pans	Difference of 5 and 22 pans
2010/11	$ 2,998.08					
2011/12	$ 6,527.54	118%	118%	$ 700.46	n/a	
2012/13	$ 8,277.63	27%	176%	$ 700.46	n/a	
2013/14	$ 5,142.23	-38%	72%	$ 370.50	n/a	
2014/15	$ 10,911.23	112%	264%	$ 5,948.80	$1,436.50	$4,512.30
2015/16	$ 12,265.62	12%	309%	$ 6,841.12	$1,652.00	$5,189.12
2016/17	$ 12,445.90	1.5%	315%	$ 6,971.14	$1,683.35	$5,287.79
2017-18	$ 12,722.79	2.2%	324%	$ 6,971.14	$1,683.35	$5,287.79
2018-19	$ 13,112.87	3.1%	337%	$ 7,284.86	$1,759.15	$5,525.71
2019-20	$ 13,916.90	6.1%	364%	$ 7,845.64	$1,970.80	$5,874.84
2020-21	$ 15,294.40	9.9%	410%	$ 9,196.00	$2,310.00	$6,886.00

Table 2 (ex GST)

FY 1st Apr – 31st Mar	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Donations & Transfers	$10,765	$47,259	$68,725	$49,760	$25,008	$5,745	$4,777
Our Camp Fees	$16,067	$16,783	$17,461	$12,490	$16,573	$12,520	$9,974
Hire Fees	$56,860	$43,783	$40,374	$66,097	$56,874	$72,918	$51,234
Overheads	$14,093	$17,637	$17,191	$21,056	$18,140	$19,904	$18,069
Rates	$5,926	$9,469	$11,927	$12,401	$12,654	$13,015	$13,716
Maintenance	$28,305	$32,680	$52,730	$38,316	$55,248	$51,195	$48,366
Camp Expenses	$7,659	$9,721	$8,405	$5,047	$5,745	$7,175	$11,195
Sewer CAPEX	$14,545	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Other CAPEX	$1,000	$1,740	$71,924	$62,200	$0	$0	$0
Receipts – Payments	$12,164	$36,578	-$35,617	-$10,673	$6,668	-$106	-$25,361
Receipts – Payments (excluding Donations, Transfer & CAPEX)	$16,944	-$8,941	-$32,418	$1,767	-$18,340	-$5,851	-$30,138
Rates % of Camp Fees & Hires	8%	16%	21%	16%	17%	15%	22%

Rates % of Operating Costs	11%	14%	13%	16%	14%	14%	15%

Utilisation & COVID19 Impact

A question we raised in our submission on the 2015-2025 LTP was the fairness of rating based on the number of toilet pans when this might not actually represent the usage of these toilets. Since presenting our submission to the LTP we have undertaken detailed analysis to look at our utilisation based on 120 beds available for use over the last five financial years of booking data. From this analysis, which is presented in Table 3 and Table 4, the overall utilisation is 12% during the day and 11% overnight. The camp is not utilised at all (has no-one at the property) approximately 65% of the year, and a further 15% of the year <25 people are using the facilities. In the past five years there have only been 48 days where the camp has been more than 80% utilised. The calendar of bookings can be provided if needed.

During the first half of the 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021 financial year, the number of people utilising the camp has decreased by 55% due to the effect of COVID19 as the camp was not able to operate during Lv3 and Lv4. As part of the 2020/21 Annual Plan, accommodation providers were provided with a part remission of their target sewage rate and this was applied directly to their rates bill (see page 13 of the Annual Plan 2020 and page 9 of PUBLIC Agenda Council meeting 9 July 2020 web.pdf (rotorualakescouncil.nz)). However LBC was not eligible for this remission because it is rated as rural instead of business-accommodation.

Table 3 – Utilisation is based on #people onsite during the day & night / 120 beds

Utilisation	5 Year Average		5 Year %		5 Yr Avg Apr – Sep		Apr – Sep 2020 COVID	
	# Days	# Nights	% Days	% Nights	# Days	# Nights	# Days	# Nights
0%	230	237	63%	65%	123	126	162	164
0-20%	56	55	15%	15%	34	34	8	8
20-40%	28	28	8%	8%	10	9	4	4
40-60%	24	25	7%	7%	9	9	7	6
60-80%	17	14	5%	4%	5	4	2	1
80-100%	9	7	2%	2%	1	1	0	0
>100%	1	0	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
Days in Yr	**365**	**365**	**100%**	**100%**	**183**	**183**	**183**	**183**

Table 4 – Utilisation is based on #people onsite during the day & night / 120 beds

	Avg Over 5 Years		Over 5 Yrs Apr - Sep		Apr – Sep 2020 COVID	
	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
Total # of People during Year	5,439	4,778	1,748	1,534	794	667
Average # People Per Day	14.9	13.1	9.6	8.4	4.3	3.6
Utilisation	12%	11%	8%	7%	4%	3%

We believe a targeted sewer rate of $2,300-$2,800 +GST based on utilisation of 5-6 pans is appropriate. This can be confirmed in four ways:

- Based on the average number of people at the camp per day of 14.9 this is equivalent to 4-5 residential households assuming 3-4 occupants per household. The current targeted rate of $9,200 is roughly the equivalent cost for 17 standalone households.
- When the sewerage scheme was installed in 2013 Council-employed engineers calculated that our needs were equivalent to 4 household units. Only two grinder pumps were installed and have proved sufficient for our usage even during peak times. We cannot send 17 household unit equivalents down the sewerage system.
- Our water bill shows that on average the camp uses 1,800L per day and an average Rotorua household uses 300L per day. This is equivalent to six households.
- Schools within Rotorua currently have a sewage disposal targeted rate remission policy that calculates the maximum cost based on a ratio of 1 pan per 20 staff/students. This would be equivalent to 6 pans based on 120 beds, although a school would have higher occupancy than the camp throughout the year.

Possible Solutions

There are two possible solutions to address this inequality that would also be able to be applied to other non-profit organisations and Marae who might also be in similar positions.

1) Create a new Rates Remission Policy (Section 109 of LGRA 2002) for part remission of the target sewage rate. This could be targeted directly towards non-profit organisations and Marae where the utilisation of Sewage Disposal facilities is low (30-50%) and is verifiable.
2) Use the existing rates remission for Extraordinary Circumstances which can be targeted to individual properties who apply. This currently specifies that rates can be remitted because of extraordinary circumstances arising from a change to Council's Rating or Rates Remission policies have resulted in unintended consequences for a rating unit. This implies that there needs to have been a change as opposed to a historical inequity. If this was reworded slightly it could then be applied to new as well as historic situations e.g. "Council may remit rates on a rating unit where it considers it just and equitable to do so because ***of*** extraordinary circumstances ***or*** arising from a change to Council's Rating or Rates Remission policies ***that*** have resulted in unintended consequences for a rating unit".

We are happy to discuss any of these matters further or provide additional information if needed.