



**ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

Kaupapataka Agenda

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 5 February 2025

Time: 9:30 am

Venue: Council Chamber

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

Cr Barker

Members

Mayor Tapsell
Cr Kai Fong
Cr O'Brien
Cr Lee
Cr Waru

Cr Wang (Deputy Chair)
Cr Brown
Cr Paterson
Cr Maxwell
Cr Kereopa

Quorum

6

**Andrew Moraes
Chief Executive**

**NGĀ TUKUNGA HAEPAPA A TE KAUNIHERA
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT DELEGATIONS**

Type of Committee	Whole of Council Committee
Subordinate to	N/A
Subordinate Committees	N/A
Legislative Basis	Schedule 7, clause 30 (1) (a), Local Government Act 2002.
Purpose	To develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with Infrastructure and environment activities.
Membership	Mayor Deputy Mayor All councillors
Quorum	6
Meeting frequency	Monthly
Delegations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the management of council’s infrastructure assets, utility services and public facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Three waters • Land drainage • Laboratory services • Waste collection, landfill, recycling • Sports, Reserves and Recreation • Cemetery • Civil Defence Emergency Management • Accountable for the development and implementation of the Infrastructure Strategy, Asset Management Plan and inputs on infrastructure related projects associated with Development Contributions Policy • Oversight of progress of design and build projects such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste water treatment plant ○ Sewerage schemes (Rotoiti/Rotoma/Rotoehu, Tarawera) ○ Development of major facilities for example Museum, Aquatic Centre, Libraries ○ Water storage and drainage for growth ○ Infrastructure provision for growth ○ Major transport projects, cycleways ○ Reticulation of water supplies • Undertake master planning of strategic facilities and spaces • Encourage engagement with organisations within the sector to consider environmental matters including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate change response, both mitigation and adaptation ○ Biodiversity ○ Waste Minimisation ○ Environmentally sustainable practices ○ Environmental aspects of energy, transport and water ○ Monitoring and reporting against action within the Climate Action Plan ○ Monitor Council’s contribution to the Te Arawa Vision (specifically in relation to Infrastructure and Environment outcomes) ○ The provision and maintenance of facilities and space for the general use of the public for recreation of all kinds including sporting activities, passive enjoyment, open spaces, play areas, toilets and changing sheds, flower beds, trees and shrubs, and display areas ○ The production of Management Plans and the general management of reserves in compliance with the Reserves Act 1977 and the general administration of the Reserves Act 1977 with the exception of the Hearings of Objections to the Classification of Reserves and Management Plans ○ The leasing of recreational land for commercial recreational purposes ○ The beautification of public gardens and parks ○ Street trees ● Council controlled organisations (CCO’s) - advising on the content of the annual Statement of Expectations, agreement on Statement of Intent, monitoring against the Statement of Intent the financial and non-financial performance of CCO’s ● Make appointments and authority to remove appointments to Council-Controlled Organisations (CCO’s).
Relevant Statutes	All the duties and responsibilities listed above must be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Order of Business

1	Karakia Whakapuaki – Opening Karakia	5
2	Ngā Whakapāha – Apologies	5
3	Whakapuakitanga Whaipānga – Declarations of Interest	5
4	Ngā Take Whawhati Tata Kāore I Te Rārangi Take - Urgent Items not on the Agenda	5
5	Te Whakaū I Ngā Meneti - Confirmation of Minutes	6
5.1	Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024	6
6	Ngā Whakamōhiotanga Mōtini – Notices of Motion	13
6.1	Notice of Motion - Received from Cr O'Brien	13
7	Ngā Tāpaetanga - Presentations	15
8	Pūrongo Kaimahi – Staff Reports	16
8.1	Proposed Land Disposal - Ranginui Street Reserve.....	16
8.2	Major Capital Projects Progress Report - December 2024 to January 2025	23
8.3	Progress Report - Infrastructure and Assets	29
9	He Whakataunga Kia Hoki Atu Te Aronga O Te Hui Hai Hui Tūmatawhānui – Resolution to Move into Public Excluded (to Consider and Adopt Confidential Items)	54
9.1	Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024.....	54
9.2	Admission Fee Increase 2025 - Waikite Valley Thermal Pools.....	54
9.3	Variation Approval for Contract 24-006 Geothermal Bores 2024	54
10	Te Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing Karakia	55

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Tūtawa Mai

Tūtawa mai i runga

Tūtawa mai i raro

Tūtawa mai i roto

Tūtawa mai i waho

Kia tau ai te mauri tū

Te mauri ora, ki te katoa

Hāumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

Tūtawa Mai

I summon from above

I summon from below

I summon from within

I summon the surrounding environment

The universal vitality and energy to infuse and enrich all present

Enriched, unified and blessed

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

The Chair invites notice from members of:

1. Leave of absence for future meetings of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee; or
2. Apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

4 NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE - URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Items of business not on the agenda which cannot be delayed

The Chair will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows:

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of Rotorua Lakes Council

The Chair shall state to the meeting.

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Rotorua Lakes Council.

s.46A (7), LGOIMA

Discussion of minor matters not on the agenda.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Rotorua Lakes Council.

The Chair shall state to the meeting that the item will be discussed, but no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Rotorua Lakes Council for further discussion

s.46A (7), LGOIMA

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held 4 December 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Minutes (Draft)

Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting
held Wednesday 4 December 2024 at 11.30 am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cr Barker (Chair)
Cr Wang (Deputy Chair), Mayor Tapsell, Cr Kai Fong, Cr O'Brien,
Cr Brown, Cr Paterson, Cr Maxwell, Cr Kereopa, Cr Lee, Cr Waru.

STAFF PRESENT: A Moraes, Chief Executive;
J-P Gaston, Group Manager, Destination Development;
S Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets;
T Collé, Group Manager, Organisational Performance and Innovation;
P Warbrick, Manahautū Te Arawa Hourua;
E McCarthy, Manager, Capital Delivery;
W Bamford, Programme Manager, Rotorua Museum;
G Kieck, Manager - Governance, Strategy & Compliance;
N Michael, Executive of Communications, Mayor's Office;
D Cossar, Governance & Democracy Team Lead;
V Cawte, Senior Communications Advisor;
R Griffith, Governance and Democracy Advisor.

The meeting opened at 11.32am.

The Chairperson welcomed elected members, media, staff and members of the public.

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Cr O'Brien opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

Nil.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Cr Waru acknowledged the passing of InfraCore Board Director, Vivienne Scott.

4 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE – URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Tapsell tabled a letter to the Prime Minister, the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Infrastructure, and the Minister of Finance regarding the Waste Minimisation Act – as a minor matter to be discussed alongside item 8.3 'Infrastructure & Environment Progress Report' (attachment 1).

6 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**6.1 MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2024****RESOLVED IE 24/12-056**

Moved: Cr Kai Fong

Seconded: Cr Wang

1. That the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held 6 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

7 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA – PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

8 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS**8.1 ROTORUA MUSEUM TE WHARE TAONGA SEISMIC STRENGTHENING AND RESTORATION UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2024****RESOLVED IE 24/12-057**

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Maxwell

1. That the report 'Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga Seismic Strengthening and Restoration Update - November 2024' be received.

CARRIED

Will Bamford & Elrond McCarthy overviewed the report and spoke to a presentation 'Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga Seismic Strengthening and Restoration – I&E Committee Update November 2024' (DOC ID: 21066456).

8.2 CRITICAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLVED IE 24/12-058

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Kereopa

1. That the report 'Critical Projects Progress Report October to November 2024' be received.

CARRIED

Elrond McCarthy and Stavros Michael overviewed the report.

RESOLVED IE 24/12-059

Moved: Mayor Tapsell

Seconded: Cr Kai Fong

2. That the Committee:
 - (a) Notes the ongoing transition to the Major Capital Projects Team;
 - (b) Notes the implementation of the new reporting framework.

CARRIED

8.3 INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENT PROGRESS REPORT

RESOLVED IE 24/12-060

Moved: Cr O'Brien

Seconded: Cr Paterson

1. That the report 'Infrastructure & Environment Progress Report' be received.

CARRIED

Stavros Michael and Rob Pitkethley overviewed the report.

9 HE WHAKATAUNGA KIA HOKI ATU TE ARONGA O TE HUI HAI HUI TŪMATAWHĀNUI – RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED (TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

<p>RESOLVED IE 24/12-061</p> <p>Moved: Cr Kai Fong Seconded: Cr Wang</p> <p>1. That Infrastructure and Environment Committee resolves to exclude the public on the grounds contained in Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:</p>		
General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
<p>9.1 – Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2024</p>	<p>Please refer to the relevant clause/s in the open meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a).</p>
<p>9.2 – Tender Approval for Contract 23-053 Tarawera Lower Reservoir 2</p>	<p>s7(2)(b)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(i) – the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>Plain English</p>	<p>Commercial Privacy</p>	
<p>Consideration has been given to public interest in these matters and officers’ advice is that the above reasons for confidentiality outweigh the public interest in the matters. CARRIED</p>		

10 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr O’Brien closed the meeting with a karakia.

The Meeting closed at 12.47pm.

To be confirmed at the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on 5th February 2025.

Note:-Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council



THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

3 December 2024

Doc No: 21064420

To the Honourable Ministers:

- Rt. Hon. Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister
- Hon. Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment
- Hon. Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure
- Hon. Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance

CC:

- Hon. Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government & Minister for Auckland
- Hon. Simon Watts, Minister of Climate Change
- Hon. Todd McClay, Minister of Trade

Re: A call for transparent, accountable process on changes to the Waste Minimisation Act

To our Honourable Ministers,

You need to be aware that recent changes to the Waste Minimisation Act, pushed through under Budget urgency, will compromise local councils' ability to fulfil our responsibilities.

Earlier this year the Prime Minister expressed that councils should stick to their core business. For some time now, Rotorua Lakes Council has been doing just that and we're working hard to ensure we're delivering excellent core services. This includes waste management.

Local councils play a critical role in waste management. We're on the front lines—collecting, disposing of, managing and recovering waste in ways that protect public health and support environmental outcomes. The Waste Disposal Levy is one of the few tools we have. Any reduction in support through the levy is a serious threat to our operations, so please don't make changes without a review and consultation so you understand fully the consequences.

My peers and I are deeply troubled by Treasury's push to "de-hypothecate" the levy—essentially, turning it into a tax that could be spent on anything. Such an action would rob the levy of its intended purpose. The levy cannot be seen as another revenue stream for the Government as it plays a crucial role as a dedicated fund meant to support waste minimisation. Dismantling that purpose would be a serious blow to local councils and, ultimately, to the communities and environment we serve and protect.

The decision to amend the Act under Budget urgency, without public consultation or input from those of us who deal with waste management and minimisation every day, is not a good precedent. And we respectfully urge an open and accountable decision-making process moving forward.



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Rotorua Lakes Council and other councils rely on a share of the levy to help fund essential waste minimisation services such as recycling, and resource recovery of difficult to manage materials. We also provide essential sanitary services that keep communities safe. During cyclone and flood events, when homes and belongings are destroyed, and our communities are buried in waste, we step in to manage and pay for collection and disposal. We make sure materials that could be recovered or recycled avoided landfill. In Rotorua our landfill is capped and all waste that accumulates now, and in the foreseeable future, needs to be transported out of the district. To be blunt, cuts to levy funding will ultimately land on ratepayers or result in cuts to the services like these that they rely on.

We've been waiting years for a proper review of the Waste Minimisation Act and to see progress on key policies, such as product stewardship and the long-awaited container return scheme. These initiatives are supposed to shift some of the responsibility for waste management and minimisation from councils to producers and consumers, who directly contribute to the waste stream. But until those policies are in place, councils will continue to do the heavy lifting—particularly with respect to recycling and managing priority products.

Please do not rush an approach to changes that deserve careful consideration.

Here's what we're asking for:

1. **Commit to a full, open review of the Waste Minimisation Act**, including the levy settings, with proper consultation and a select committee process.
2. **Assure us that no further changes will be made to the Act** outside of this review. Rotorua Lakes Council and other councils deserve a say in any future decisions that affect our ability to deliver waste services.

We need a solid commitment from the Government to handle these changes with the transparency and integrity that New Zealanders expect and deserve. Anything less would be a disservice to all of us. I look forward to your reply and am happy to provide any additional information you may need.

Ngā mihi nui,



Tania Tapsell
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua

6 NGĀ WHAKAMŌHIOTANGA MŌTINI – NOTICES OF MOTION

6.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - RECEIVED FROM CR O'BRIEN

Doc ID: 21131996

Attachments: 1. Notice of Motion

I, Councillor Conan O'Brien, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Infrastructure and Environment Committee to be held on 5 February 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION

That the Committee directs the Chief Executive and in conjunction with the Chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, to prepare a letter, no later than Friday 14th February 2025, to the new Minister of Health, Hon. Simeon Brown MP, requesting the following:

- 1. The Minister directs the Director General of Health to pause or withdraw the instruction to District Councils to compulsorily introduce Fluoridation of drinking water until an independent public inquiry is held into the Health and Environmental impacts and risks, is completed and its findings reported to Parliament.**
- 2. The Minister directs the Director General of Health to pause any actions to pursue any legal actions or prosecutions (against either private individuals or as part of a body), Fine or Censure any District Councils or Individuals employed by those Councils, for NOT complying with the direction to introduce Fluoride, until an independent public inquiry is held into the Health and Environmental impacts and risks, is completed and its findings reported to Parliament.**

NOTICE OF MOTION

29th January 2025

To the Chief Executive of the Rotorua District Council

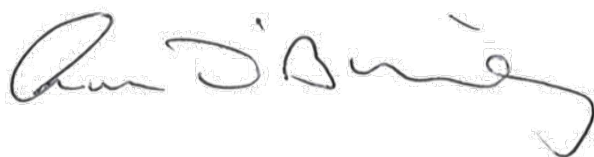
In accordance with Standing Order 27.1, I wish to advise that I intend to move the following motion at the ordinary meeting of the Rotorua District Council Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 5th February 2025, commencing at 9.30am, and request it to be added as an agenda item for that day's meeting:

That the Committee directs the Chief Executive and in conjunction with the Chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, to prepare a letter, no later than Friday 14th February 2025, to the new Minister of Health, Hon. Simeon Brown MP, requesting the following:

1. The Minister directs the Director General of Health to pause or withdraw the instruction to District Councils to compulsorily introduce Fluoridation of drinking water until an independent public inquiry is held into the Health and Environmental impacts and risks, is completed and its findings reported to Parliament.
2. The Minister directs the Director General of Health to pause any actions to pursue any legal actions or prosecutions (against either private individuals or as part of a body), Fine or Censure any District Councils or Individuals employed by those Councils, for **NOT** complying with the direction to introduce Fluoride, until an independent public inquiry is held into the Health and Environmental impacts and risks, is completed and its findings reported to Parliament.

Thank you and regards

Cr. Conan O'Brien



7 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

8.1 PROPOSED LAND DISPOSAL - RANGINUI STREET RESERVE

Doc ID: 20965999

Prepared by: Rob Pitkethley, Manager - Active and Engaged Communities

Approved by: Stavros Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets

Attachments:

1. Map showing Ranginui Street Reserve & Ranginui Utility Reserve, Ngongotahā
2. Street view of Ranginui Street Reserve, Ngongotahā

1. TE PŪTAKE PURPOSE

The Council owns the property between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, Ngongotahā, known as Ranginui Street Reserve. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval to declare the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, Ngongotahā as surplus to requirements and to seek the Council's approval to commence public consultation on the potential disposal of the land.

HE TŪTOHUNGA RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report 'Proposed Land Disposal - Ranginui Street Reserve' be received.
2. That the Committee declares the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, Ngongotahā as surplus to Council's requirements.
3. That the Committee notes that the land is not subject to the Reserves Act 1977, but is subject to Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2002.
4. That the Committee approves staff to undertake public consultation on the proposed disposal of Ranginui Street Reserve, as is required by Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2002.
5. That the Committee notes that a final decision of the proposed disposal of the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, will be made by full Council following the conclusion of the public consultation process which will include a hearing for submitters wishing to speak to their submissions.

2. TE TĀHUHU BACKGROUND

The Council owns the property between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, Ngongotahā, known as Ranginui Street Reserve (as shown on the plan included as Attachment 1). The land is held as fee simple and is not subject to the Reserves Act 1977.

Ranginui Street Reserve is included in the Rotorua Urban Reserves Management Plan 2006 (RMP) as a Neighbourhood Reserve. For the Ranginui Street Reserve the RMP states “that an investigation be undertaken in order to determine whether this reserve is necessary for the Council’s reserves needs or whether it is surplus to requirement and that if it is then it is to be considered for disposal.”

Assessment of open space and recreation value

Council’s Open Spaces Level of Service Policy determines the open space requirements for new development areas and provides the framework for assessing the suitability of the existing open space network against the standards outlined in the Policy. An assessment of the land against the provisions of the Policy has determined it is not a critical asset and it does not meet the standards of the Policy.

The land is only 810m² (approx.) in size, significantly smaller than the average 3,000 m² required for a neighbourhood reserve and resembles more or less a vacant residential section. In effect this is a maintenance liability for Council without providing a significant contribution to the Council’s open spaces objectives.

The land does not provide viable recreation or open space functionality with the default primary function being utilised as neighbourhood parking.

It should be noted that the Council also owns the larger reserve directly across the road between 20 and 22 Ranginui Street, Ngongotahā, known as Ranginui Street Utility Reserve. This reserve borders Lake Rotorua, providing direct access to the lake for the local community and it is larger, being approximately 1851m² in size, and subsequently having greater open space and recreation value. It is not proposed to dispose of this reserve.

The land in this report does not contain any Council services and it is not required for an alternative Council purpose.

Land status and acquisition history

Both Ranginui Street Reserve and Ranginui Utility Reserve are held as one land title (Waiteti 2A1A2A5 23 Block and Waiteti 2A1A2A5 33 Block) being 2,661m². A disposal of Ranginui Street Reserve (810 m²) would require a subdivision process to be completed to create separate land titles.

In considering this proposal, the Council obtained a land status report to gain clarification around the history of the previous ownership of the land and how Council acquired the land.

The parent block, Waiteti 2A12A5 was originally vested in Ranginui Whakaue Hikairo on 11 May 1955. The land was subsequently subdivided into 46 sections for whānau members. Section 33 (Ranginui Street Reserve) and Section 23 (Ranginui Utility Reserve) were vested in Pakeke Heketoro Leonard in

order to on-vest to Council dated 29 November 1955. Section 23 and Section 33 were transferred from Pakeke Heketoro Leonard to the Rotorua County Council on 17 August 1962. No monetary consideration was stipulated in the transfer documentation at that time.

Notwithstanding the current title noting the land purpose as “Recreation Reserve”, no evidence has been found following acquisition to confirm the land was formally set aside as a reserve.

From the record, the land appears to have been vested into Council as reserve contribution. No reserve contribution obligation existed for Māori Freehold Land at the time of transfer of the property when the subdivision was undertaken.

The land status report states that, “despite no statutory obligation to offer the land back, Council may wish to consider this as there is no evidence to support that it was acquired for monetary consideration or in lieu of a reserve contribution”.

The land status report outlines the former owner of the property at the time of acquisition to be Ranginui Whakaue Hikairo (also known as Ranginui Leonard), even with the land being vested to Pakeke Heketoro Leonard to on-vest to Council.

If Council’s final decision after public consultation is to dispose of the land known as Ranginui Street Reserve, Council could consider returning the land to descendants of the former owner.

3. TE MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Ranginui Street Reserve does not meet the criteria of Council’s Open Space Level of Service Policy and it is not required for any other Council functions purpose. It is located opposite a much larger utility reserve which provides access to the lake and passive recreation opportunities which Council will retain.

Rotorua Urban Reserves Management Plan notes that an investigation should be undertaken in order to determine whether this reserve is surplus to Council’s services requirement and that if it is then it is to be considered for disposal.

Ranginui Street Reserve is not held as reserve subject to the Reserves Act 1977 and therefore the process outlined in the Reserves Act for the revocation and disposal of a reserve is not applicable. However, a decision to consider disposing of the reserve would trigger section 138 of the Local Government Act 2002 which requires a local authority to consult on any proposal to dispose of a park or part of a park (including granting a lease for more than six months). A park is defined in this instance as land acquired or used principally for community, recreational, environmental, cultural, or spiritual purposes but does not include land held under the Reserves Act.

Council is invited to consider the following options:

Option 1: No action taken.

Council does not declare the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, known as Ranginui Street Reserve, as surplus to Council requirements. The Council retains the land and continues undertaking maintenance mowing of the area as it does currently. On going maintenance liability.

Next steps: No further steps would be taken.

Option 2: Declare the land as surplus, undertake public consultation. Council declares the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street, known as Ranginui Street Reserve, as surplus to Council requirements. Council approves that staff undertake public consultation, pursuant to section 138 of the Local Government Act, on the proposed disposal of Ranginui Street Reserve. Next steps: Public consultation would commence. A further paper would return to Council for a final decision.

Option 2 is the preferred option.

If Option 2 is progressed, a further paper would be bought back to the Council for a final decision on the disposal of the land between 21 and 23 Ranginui Street including recommendations on the method of disposal, after the conclusion of public consultation. As per the Council's Property Disposal Policy, only full Council has authority to approve the disposal of Council owned land.

4. TE TINO AROMATAWAI ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The decisions or matters in this report are considered to be of low significance in accordance with the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

5. NGĀ KŌRERA O TE HAPORI ME TE WHAKATAIRANGA COMMUNITY INPUT/ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLICITY

Public consultation on the proposed disposal of this property is required under the Local Government Act 2002, s. 138, Restriction on disposal of parks (by sale or otherwise). The public consultation process for this property will include:

- Directly notifying surrounding properties and key stakeholders e.g. mana whenua
- Undertaking wider public consultation through Council's online engagement portal
- Providing a one month period for submissions to be received
- Holding a hearing for submitters wishing to speak to their submissions

6. HE WHAIWHAKAARO CONSIDERATIONS

6.1. Mahere Pūtea Financial/Budget Considerations

The Council incurs ongoing costs from grass mowing and general maintenance of approximately \$8150 per year. The Council, as land owner has also inherent land use liabilities.

The costs to date for the Land Status Report is \$12,570.25. Staff are seeking clarification on the additional costs required to dispose of the land. This would be funded from current operational budgets but if the land is disposed of there will be an off-setting of maintenance costs.

The rateable land value of the two neighbouring properties at 21 and 23 Ranginui Street is \$255,000 for land parcels of 890m² and 865m² respectively. The land value for Ranginui Street Reserve at 810m² would be expected to be of a similar value.

6.2. Kaupapa Here Me Ngā Hiraunga Whakariterite Policy and Planning Implications

The decisions in this report are consistent with the Council's Property Disposal Policy.

The Reserves Act 1977 does not apply to this land.

6.3. Te Aromatawai Whakapātanga Ki Te Tāngata Whenua Tāngata Whenua Impact Assessment

The whānau of Heketoro and Ranginui Leonard identified this parcel of land several years ago as being historically significant to their descendants and wider whānau, and have signalled their wish to have the land returned to them. This process with the associated consultation will assess the tāngata whenua views and overall impacts of the proposed land disposal.

6.4. Tūraru Risks

There are no significant risks associated with the decisions in this report.

6.5. Te Whaimana Authority

The Committee is delegated to consider the matters and recommendations in this report.

As per the Council's Property Disposal Policy, only full Council has authority to approve the disposal of Council owned land. Full Council may also resolve to delegate to the Chief Executive authority to negotiate and finalise the disposal of Council owned land.

Map showing Ranginui Street Reserve & Ranginui Utility Reserve, Ngongotaha



 Ranginui Street Reserve – proposed disposal of land

 Ranginui Utility Reserve – to be retained

Street view of Ranginui Street Reserve, Ngongotaha



8.2 MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT - DECEMBER 2024 TO JANUARY 2025

Doc ID: 21127893

Prepared by: Elrond McCarthy, Manager, Capital Delivery

Approved by: Thomas Collé, Group Manager, Organisational Performance and Innovation

Attachments:

1. Confidential Attachment - Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga - Construction Project (under separate cover)
2. Map of Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) Programme

**1. TE PŪTAKE
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Infrastructure and Environment Committee with an update on the Council's critical capital delivery projects. The report highlights progress on the organisational reset, the establishment of an integrated programme for the Rotorua Museum project, and developments within the Major Capital Delivery portfolio. It includes updates on recruitment, project transitions, and key milestones achieved, adhering to the newly approved reporting template for consistency and clarity.

**2. TE TUHINGA WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Organisational Reset: Continued progress on the stage two reset, including recruitment efforts for the Major Capital Delivery team and interim management of key projects during the transition.

Rotorua Museum Programme: Establishment of a comprehensive programme integrating construction, exhibition, and operational planning to ensure the successful reopening of the Museum.

Project Transitions: Updates on wastewater and stormwater projects currently managed by the Infrastructure and Assets Group, with transitions to the Major Capital Delivery team scheduled to begin in February 2025.

Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF): Approval of a variation order (VO2) by Kāinga Ora and Rotorua Lakes District Council, with progress reported positively and detailed programme refinements underway.

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the report 'Major Capital Projects Progress Report - December 2024 to January 2025' be received.
2. That the Committee notes the ongoing progress in the areas of:
 - a) Organisational reset;

- b) **Establishment of the integrated Rotorua Museum Programme, aligning construction, exhibition, and operational readiness for the Museum's reopening;**
- c) **Variation order (VO2) for the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund approved by Kāinga Ora.**

3. TE TĀHUHU BACKGROUND

The Council's capital delivery projects play a critical role in achieving long-term strategic objectives by maintaining and developing essential infrastructure that meets community needs. These projects include heritage restoration, environmental sustainability initiatives, and critical infrastructure upgrades.

As part of the organisational reset, the Council has restructured its approach to project oversight, creating the Major Capital Delivery team under the Capital Delivery Manager. This team will streamline project management by implementing consistent governance, reporting, and risk management practices. This transition addresses historical inconsistencies in project oversight and ensures alignment with the Council's strategic priorities.

The Rotorua Museum Programme exemplifies this integrated approach, aligning construction, exhibition, and operational readiness under a single programme to ensure a coordinated delivery. Additionally, projects currently managed by the Infrastructure and Assets Group, such as stormwater and wastewater initiatives, are set to transition to the Major Capital Delivery team, with the process commencing in February 2025.

This report summarises key developments in these critical projects, recruitment efforts, and stakeholder engagements, including recent progress with Kāinga Ora on the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund programme.

4. TE MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

4.1 Rotorua Museum Programme

A comprehensive programme has been established for the Rotorua Museum project, integrating construction, exhibition, and operational activities to ensure the successful reopening. Construction progress, risks, and budget updates are detailed in the Museum project report provided in the new reporting format as attachment 1. Upcoming key milestones include addressing structural issues in Zone 3 and finalising building consent changes. Active risk management and stakeholder engagement, including iwi and funders, continue to support the programme's progress.

4.2 Stormwater Programme

Recruitment for the IAF Programme Manager and Project Manager positions remains ongoing, with the Capital Delivery Manager providing interim support to maintain project momentum. The variation order (VO2) has been approved by Kāinga Ora and Rotorua Lakes District Council, consolidating

interdependent stormwater projects to improve delivery efficiency and address additional infrastructure needs. Detailed work programmes and updates risk registers are being prepared reflecting changes to the programme. This work aligns with the transition to the Major Capital Delivery team, with updates to be provided using the new project management framework. High level details of the IAF programme, including key project locations and the scope of the approved variation order (VO2) have been provided in attachment 2.

4.3 Wastewater Programme

A Wastewater Programme Manager has been successfully recruited, enabling the transition of key wastewater projects in February 2025. These projects include the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade, a recovered water disposal solution, wastewater renewals and the remaining onsite wastewater treatment connections at Rotoiti.

4.4 Risks and Challenges

Financial pressures remain a challenge across the portfolio especially where legal processes, stakeholder engagements, and technical complexities could result in cost overruns. Proactive measures to mitigate these issues include maintaining robust financial tracking systems to monitor expenditure against budget in real time, prioritising early resolution of legal and stakeholder issues through targeted engagement strategies, and establishing contingency plans for technical complexities. Enhanced risk management practices, including scenario planning and early identification of potential cost drivers, will also support more effective budget control going forward.

Stakeholder engagement complexities, particularly with iwi groups and funders such as Kāinga Ora, require continued focus to maintain progress. Effective communication and robust engagement strategies remain essential to mitigate these risks.

5. TE TINO AROMATAWAI ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The matters discussed in this report are not considered significant under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

6. NGĀ KŌRERA O TE HAPORI ME TE WHAKATAIRANGA COMMUNITY INPUT/ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLICITY

No consultation is required for this report, as it is an internal management update.

7. HE WHAIWHAKAARO CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. Mahere Pūtea Financial/Budget Considerations

While the projects remain broadly within their allocated budgets, risks of cost overruns persist due to various challenges. Delays related to legal processes, stakeholder engagement, and technical complexities continue to exert financial pressure, particularly on the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade.

The Tarawera Sewerage Scheme faces escalating costs from legal injunctions, iwi discussions, and security-related expenses. Similarly, the WWTP Upgrade has encountered increased financial risks due to unforeseen ground conditions, requiring site redesigns and potentially leading to substantial variation claims from Trility.

The East Rotoiti/Rotomā Sewerage Scheme also faces budgetary risks stemming from delays in resolving legal and trustee-related issues for Whenua Māori properties. These delays could lead to increased costs if not resolved promptly.

Mitigation strategies include proactive engagement with stakeholders, close monitoring of expenditure, and prioritising approvals for contractual variations and claims. Financial oversight is being enhanced under the new reporting framework to ensure transparency and timely responses to budget challenges.

7.2. Kaupapa Here Me Ngā Hiraunga Whakariterite Policy and Planning Implications

The transition of project management aligns with the Council's strategic objectives and long-term plans. There are no major policy implications at this time.

7.3. Te Aromatawai Whakapātanga Ki Te Tāngata Whenua Tāngata Whenua Impact Assessment

Not required as these are operational updates with no decisions required.

7.4. Tūraru Risks

The key risks associated with these projects include funding stability, delays, cost overruns, and the potential for reputational impact. Enhanced oversight under the reshaped Capital Delivery Team is expected to mitigate these risks through improved project governance and risk management.

7.5. Te Whaimana Authority

The Committee has the authority to evaluate the contents of this report and make recommendations.

8. TE WHAKAKAPINGA CONCLUSION

The Council's critical capital delivery projects continue to make progress amidst the ongoing organisational reset. The establishment of the Rotorua Museum Programme demonstrates a coordinated approach to project delivery, integrating construction, exhibition, and operational planning to ensure success. The transition of wastewater and stormwater projects to the Major Capital Delivery team is on track to commence in February 2025, with interim measures in place to maintain momentum despite recruitment challenges.

Approval of the variation order (VO2) by Kāinga Ora and Rotorua Lakes District Council marks a significant milestone for the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund projects, enabling streamlined delivery and enhanced outcomes. The new reporting framework, now approved, provides a foundation for improved governance, risk management, and transparency across all critical projects, ensuring alignment with Council's strategic priorities.

Key risks, including financial pressures and stakeholder engagement challenges, are being actively managed through targeted mitigation strategies to safeguard project timelines, budgets, and outcomes. Ongoing efforts to resource the Major Capital Delivery team and refine work programmes will further strengthen the Council's ability to deliver these essential projects successfully.

NGĀ ĀPITI HANGA

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 (**Confidential**) - Rotorua Museum Project Report – January 2025

(Distributed separately)

Attachment 2 - Map of Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) Programme



8.3 PROGRESS REPORT - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

Doc ID: 21119850
Prepared by: Sarah Pauli, Business and Programmes Support Officer
Approved by: Stavros Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets
Attachments: 1. Progress Report - Infrastructure and Assets

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the report 'Progress Report - Infrastructure and Assets' be received.

Progress Report



To:	Mayor, Chair and Members – Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Meeting Date:	5 February 2025
Group:	Infrastructure and Assets
Group Manager:	Stavros Michael
Report approved by:	Andrew Moraes, Chief Executive
Components:	Network performance – Transport; Network performance – Waters; Environmental Performance; Emergency Management; Active and Engaged Communities

Stats and Facts

DECEMBER 2024/
JANUARY 2025

**New connection applications
December 2024 to 15 January 2025**

2024/25

	Application numbers	New dwellings/lots connected
Water	22	34
Storm water	7	14
Waste water	11	23
Totals	40	71

Matahi Road Pavement Rehabilitation



<p>Wastewater schemes:</p> <p>East Rotoiti/Rotomā: 90% completed</p> <p>Tarawera: 58% completed, 395 of 427 of boundary connections installed – Progressing Stage1.</p>	<p>Counters tracking walkers and riders entering Whakarewarewa Forest over a 16-day Christmas-New Year period showed walker numbers similar to last year while riders increased 20% for the same period. Counts of riders on the Forest Loop increased by 15%.</p>
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Ohu: Waka | Network Performance - Transport

Transport Capital Projects

Programme	Projects	Progress
Subsidised renewals	Resurfacing (critical for maintaining integrity of road foundations)	2024/25 reseal programme finalised to align with budget, scheduled for Q2-Q3. Target is to reseal 6-8% of total network. Average seal lifespan is 15 years. Pre-seal repairs are underway with resurfacing to follow in Q3.
Subsidised renewals	Pavement rehabilitation (about 0.3% of network targeted per year)	Matahi Rd pavement rehabilitation expected to be finished in January. Strathmore Rd pavement rehabilitation construction underway and expected to be finished in March. Will strengthen the road that has been weakened over time by traffic and water ingress.
Subsidised renewals	Footpaths (approx. 600km of footpaths in total in Rotorua)	The reduced 2024/25 NZTA allocated budget for walking and cycling means limited subsidies for footpath renewals for three years. Focus will be focussed only on urgent safety repairs.
Subsidised Cycleways (LOS)	About 60km of cycleways/shared paths constructed since 2018	No funding in LTP years 1-3 for new cycleways/shared paths. No new cycleways will be constructed.

Programme	Projects	Progress
Subsidised Minor Improvements (LOS)	Local road improvements	<p>No NZTA funding allocation has been made so projects will be limited and highly prioritised on critical safety parts for the next three years.</p> <p>Lichenstein Rd resilience improvements (subsidised under government’s Crown Resilience Programme) has been prioritised for construction in Q3.</p> <p>Oturoa Rd safety improvements scheduled for LTP year 2 or 3, depending on budget allocation and fiscal constraints.</p> <p>The Speed Management Plan is on hold while we evaluate the new national policy direction. The new ‘Rule’ stipulate variable speed limits outside schools are to be implemented by 1 July 2026.</p> <p>No NZTA funding allocated for speed management infrastructure so a purely reactive approach will be adopted to address any current risk, as required.</p>
Subsidised Emergency Works	Emergency storm damage repairs to restore level of service	Emergency works from May 2024 storm event - 90% complete with Linton Park link shared path to be reinstated in Q3 2024/25.
Unsubsidised Renewals	Parks road renewals to maintain integrity of road condition	Sites programmed for resealing in 2024/25 being finalised and have been embedded into contractual delivery schedules for Q3 and Q4.
Unsubsidised Street Improvements (LOS)	Improvements to enhance levels of service (LOS)	No provision in LTP years 1-3 for urban/rural street improvements. No plans for this activity.
Unsubsidised Rural Seal Extension (LOS)	Lichenstein Rd	<p>Lichenstein Rd seal extension has been designed and is out for tender.</p> <p>Tawhero St West design now complete but unlikely to fit within approved annual budgets so design will be held until funding availability clarified.</p>
Unsubsidised Growth (LOS)	Upgrades to support growth	<p>Porikapa Rd shared path and pedestrian/shared crossings (CIP) are now fully completed.</p> <p>East Gate intersection improvements in detailed design and awaiting NZTA approval. Works will then be tendered and we will seek NZTA financial support. A Tender outcome report will be submitted to Committee for direction once NZTA position is advised.</p>

Programme	Projects	Progress
CERF-funded Transport Choices	<p>Shared paths and zebra crossing upgrades (various)</p> <p>BoPRC Enhancing Public Transport in Rotorua</p>	<p>No NLTP or LTP funding available to implement CERF-designs (shared paths).</p> <p>BoPRC considering the public transport options. Most proposals will depend on RLC funding allocation for infrastructure changes.</p> <p>New bus stops proposed for Amohau St to accommodate new bus routes. No government funding available so project on pause.</p>

Transport Operations

- Programmed seal maintenance proactive/cyclical and reactive works are ongoing and no material defects or service disruptions have occurred.
- Unsealed road metalling programme up to the level allowed by available budget but ready to respond to weather impacts if and as needed.
- Storm damage works: general reactive clean-up and reinstatement from weather events ongoing and are adaptive to the risk created by new weather events.
- Environmental maintenance: seasonal mowing is in progress up to the levels of service funding availability allows.
- Traffic services maintenance: The annual re-marking programme is well underway and streetlight maintenance is ongoing. An extension of the streetlight contract to June 2028 has been approved.
- Network and Asset Management: 2024/2025 annual condition surveys will be carried out nationally by NZTA with Rotorua district scheduled for November/December 2025. Future NLTP funding levels likely to be allocated on basis of identified road condition which will inform forward work programme development, treatments and activity management planning going forward.

Ohu: Wai | Network Performance - Water

3 Water Capital Projects

Water Main Renewals

Background	Progress
<p>The renewal and upgrade of watermains is essential to ensure asset sustainability, network resilience and reduced water loss from ageing pipelines. An average 1.5% of the 800km network is renewed per year. Average life expectancy is 75 years.</p> <p>Koutu area is being targeted for pipelines renewal in 2024/25. This package will target identified leakage. Old, galvanised iron service pipes will be replaced with PVC materials and the existing delivery main will be left in service due to galvanised iron pipes having a significantly lower expected lifespan while the main is still serviceable.</p>	<p>A 2024/25 package of water renewal streets in the Koutu area has been awarded.</p> <p>Work has been completed on Karenga, Raukura, Haumoana, Tatai, Bellvue, Turipuku and Tiwhai streets.</p> <p>Work is underway on Frank, Mill and Ian Streets.</p> <p>The renewal of 2km of water mains along Kaharoa Road is also complete.</p>

Reporoa Water Main Upgrades

Background	Progress
<p>The Reporoa water network has two water sources located on either side of the network, Wharepapa Spring and Deep Creek Spring.</p>	<p>Stage 1 of the upgrades were successfully completed in FY 2023/24 with water main on SH5 between Handcock and Reporoa roads upgraded. This was targeted first to replace a section of AC pipe in poor condition. The upgrade resulted in a reduction of water loss from the network.</p>
<p>New water take resource consent conditions mean less water can be taken from Wharepapa. To offset this, more water will need to be pumped from Deep Creek. As the springs are on opposite sides of the network, upgrades of key distribution mains are needed to ensure the Deep Creek source can pump water throughout the network.</p>	<p>Stage 2 involves a water main upgrade along Broadlands Road from Homestead to Reporoa roads. Construction has started.</p>
	<p>Stage 3 is planned for FY 2025/26 and involves a water main upgrade along Reporoa Road, which will connect stages 1 and 2.</p>

Tarawera Lower Reservoir

Background	Progress
<p>A new 3500 cubic metre concrete reservoir is proposed on Tarawera Road to further increase storage capacity and ensure sufficient storage for high demand periods in the eastern water supply.</p>	<p>The Committee approved a tender recommendation in December. A Design/Build Contract has subsequently been awarded to local company, Concrete Structures, who have commenced the detailed design and will proceed to construction within the 2024/25 year.</p>
<p>Reservoir capacity designed to accommodate the current and forecasted growth in Eastern suburbs and increase resilience of water supply as well as to address allowable take for the water sources.</p>	

Fluoridation Plant Construction

Background	Progress
<p>The Director General of Health has directed RLC to fluoridate the Central and Eastern water supplies.</p>	<p>A Design/Build Contract was awarded to APEX Water.</p>
<p>RLC subsequently entered into a funding agreement with Ministry of Health (MoH) to fund 100% of the construction costs for the fluoridation system and plants.</p>	<p>Detailed design for the fluoridation plants is approved. The Contractor has finished the main civil works components like earthworks, retaining wall and delivery bunds. Installation of pipework, dosing and monitoring equipment to start early 2025.</p>
	<p>The plants are scheduled to be completed in March 2025. The Council will be advised on the readiness of the system to be activated in February 2025 once relevant discussions have been completed.</p>



Pictured: Eastern delivery bund, storage tank and building foundations



Pictured: Central delivery bund and storage tank foundations

Morey Street Stormwater Detention Dams

Background	Progress
<p>Two stormwater detention dams have been constructed above Morey St to reduce the potential occurrence/impacts of flooding in the lower catchment and to provide for upstream growth in Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTs) 1100 houses. A \$15m funding agreement with Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) was agreed to assist with funding of the dams.</p>	<p>Committee approved expanding project scope and contract value to meet Regulatory Authority building consent conditions. Contract adjustments have been made and practical completion of the earth dam embankments and primary spillways has been granted.</p> <p>Remaining Shovel Ready Funding (\$13) has been released to RLC. The Contractor is currently reinstating the site and contract finalisation of works and claims quantities is underway.</p>

Linton Park Detention Dam

Background	Progress
<p>The existing dam was below current safety standards and at risk of failure. The Project will enhance capacity in line with the western stormwater management plan and will mitigate against flooding in Mangakakahi and Utuhina catchments enabling some 1000 new houses. Funding contribution of \$6.8m from DIA, balance from RLC and IAF funds. Works critical to western catchment stormwater master plan to enable future housing.</p>	<p>Construction of the dam is now complete.</p> <p>Building consent is underway for the enhanced spillway to offset the need for another dam at Linton Park West. Applications have been submitted to the IAF programme to transfer funds to this project to cover the additional works required. IAF has signalled preliminary support for this reallocation.</p>

Victoria Street to Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Sewer Main Upgrade


Background	Progress
<p>Trunk sewer main between Victoria Street and the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) conveys sewage from the city's central and western areas.</p> <p>Its current capacity is under-sized for growth driven increasing demand, sometimes resulting in overflows during rain events. A duplicate main will increase the conveyance capacity and will allow the rehabilitation of the existing main.</p>	<p>The Geothermal nature of the reserve triggers need for a dewatering resource consent. Initial iwi consultation for consent considered the proposed sewer alignment through Sanatorium Reserve was incompatible with the reserve purpose.</p> <p>Section one from Victoria Street to Marist Rugby Park will be progressed now and new alignment options for the second section from Marist Park to WWTP are being evaluated and will be discussed with Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust and Ngāti Whakaue iwi. Agreed route will then be taken to detailed design in 2025/26.</p>

Peka Block Development Enabling - Water and Wastewater

Background	Progress
<p>RLC is providing enabling infrastructure for water supply and wastewater services for Peka Block land development with delivery planned in two stages:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Install new water main from Hemo Reservoir to Peka Block along SH5 and install new pressure wastewater main along SH5 from just north of intersection of SH30 to Peka.</p> <p>Stage 2 - Construction of wastewater pump station.</p>	<p>Stage 1: Contract for water and wastewater pipelines installation has been awarded. Construction is expected to be substantially complete in February 2025.</p> <p>Stage 2: Pump station design is complete and a contract has been awarded. The target completion date is June 2025.</p>

East Rotoiti/Rotomā Sewerage Scheme

Background	Progress
<p>Scheme aims to remove adverse environmental effects of septic tanks and improve health of the lakes and communities. Biolytix pre-treatment units are being installed on properties, connecting to underground network leading to Rotoiti Wastewater Treatment Plant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater treatment plant operating in compliance with resource consent conditions. • Whenua Māori and marae installations yet to progress as trustee consensus and Māori Land Court decisions are required. 51 Whenua Māori properties will be addressed as legal matters are concluded. • Marae Committees will be advised that Council has made final funding allocation in line with scope of the tenders and no additional funding will be provided for high-capacity systems installation. • A regulatory process started with some 13 properties (non Maori Whenua) that have not consented to the on-property installations. • Final net capital targeted rate set in LTP and targeted rate payments are progressing well.

Background	Progress
 <p><i>Pictured: De-watering and trench shield on Wharetoroa Drive</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future growth properties will be addressed as they occur and installations will be made once building consents have been issued. • Environment Minister initiated a project review to assist signing-off of reallocation of \$10m to the project. Information required is being exchanged with MfE. The final report will be submitted to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme strategy group. The funding reallocation (\$10m) is expected to be drawn down by RLC during January.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade

Background	Progress
<p>Upgrade to enhance treatment capacity and quality to meet new consent requirements and growth comprises membrane bioreactor (MBR) with full UV disinfection.</p> <p>Completion planned for the end of 2025 followed by a one-year 'proving period'. Forest irrigation remains in place pending completion of Sustainable Forest Approach (SFA) project.</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Scaffolding in place for installation of Blower Building upper floor cladding and roof.</i></p>	<p>MBR structure is complete and wall finish quality has been accepted, allowing installation of the membranes and the associated supports to begin.</p> <p>A workable design solution has been found that will allow construction of the Inlet Works to be completed without any design changes (that were thought necessary due to the flooded excavation issue). This will allow TRILITY to progress most of the remaining scheduled works without waiting for the Storm Flow Pump Station re-purposing design to be completed. This required collaboration between TRILITY and the Depot Street Pump Station design teams to mitigate flow risks.</p> <p>Level monitoring of the ground surrounding the flooded (now rectified) excavation has shown no significant ground settlement or movement of structures. Monitoring will continue but the risk from invasive movement is now low.</p> <p>Work still progressing to address a variation claim relating to 'unforeseen ground conditions' that led to the excavation flooding. This is a complex issue with many factors to consider. RLC's position is that the claim is not accepted.</p> <p>The upgrade programme remains on track with commissioning expected in spring next year and substantial completion in January 2026.</p> <p>In parallel, work continued to identify potential sites for discharge of treated wastewater outside of Whakarewarewa Forest. Desktop studies are now</p>

Background	Progress
	<p>underway to investigate the potential of several other potential discharge sites.</p> <p>Terms of Reference are in progress for the establishment of an advisory group with mana whenua stakeholders to further explore discharge point options. Work is also underway with the Regional Council to review sites already investigated under their de-nitrification programme to explore whether both parties can benefit from a common site.</p>

Water Planning Projects

Resource consent renewal for water supply takes

Background	Progress
<p>Resource consents for six of the Council’s urban water supplies expire before or during 2026: Karamū Tākina (Central), Waipā (Eastern), Hemo (Eastern), Rewarewa (Hamurana/Kaharoa) and Wai-iti (Rotoiti), Rotomā (Lake Rotomā).</p> <p>Technical assessments (ecology, hydrology, demand forecasts, structure assessments) and iwi/hapu engagement are required to support new resource consent applications and to enable cultural impact assessments to ensure low risk for new consents.</p>	<p>Technical assessments have been completed and scoping of conditions is underway. The application for Waipā and Hemo consents renewal has been accepted by BoPRC and existing use rights have been granted until a new consent is approved.</p> <p>Cultural Values and Impacts Assessments for Karamū Tākina and Rewarewa (Hamurana) are underway. RLC is working with mana whenua on Karamū/Tākina which provides about 60% of our central supplies. As instructed by the Committee, work has begun on a relationship agreement that will go to Council for consideration and adoption.</p>

Rotorua Urban Area – Comprehensive Stormwater Resource Consents

Background	Progress
<p>BoPRC requires RLC to consolidate its 39 stormwater discharge resource consents for urban Rotorua and apply for a single comprehensive consent to cover the whole urban catchment. This will be managed through a catchment management plan for each of the 7 main urban catchments for streamlined, consistent management of stormwater discharge and associated works.</p>	<p>Consent hearing was held 12 and 13 November 2024 and we are now awaiting the final conditions from the commissioner.</p> <p>RLC worked through various technical aspects with BoPRC. We have reached agreement in principle for the BoPRC requirements for the water quality plan and this will be finalised in line with the final consent conditions.</p> <p>A letter of support was received on behalf of industrial submitters.</p> <p>Te Arawa Lakes Trust provided an iwi engagement and assessment report of the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) and mana whenua representatives spoke at the hearing. Engagement</p>

Background	Progress
	<p>with urban iwi will continue as we work to develop and implement Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) over the next few years. A draft CMP will be used to lead further discussions with relevant iwi and the content and timeframes will be informed by final consent conditions.</p> <p>Community input will be sought for the CMPs. These will cover maintenance, improvements and management of catchments. Assessments will be needed to determine the scope of works per catchment. Maintenance works budgets will be submitted to Council for approval at the appropriate planning phase. Addressing the backlog of outstanding maintenance will be a multi-year process and a significant undertaking with the Waters Group.</p> <p>New standards for water quality and improved LOS required for future resilience are also key considerations and benefits that will be achieved.</p>

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

Background	Progress
<p>Approved implementation: Stage 1 - street mains, trunk mains, pump station, including connection to Ōkāreka scheme.</p> <p>Stage 1 is programmed to align with \$6.5M MfE Deed Funding commitments.</p> <p>Stage 2 is construction of about 430 individual LPGP units to connect properties to the reticulation system.</p>	<p>Stage 1 construction of mains and pump stations is 90% complete. These are being modified to allow for gradual connections and improved redundancy provisions with the extra costs managed within contingencies. Costs incurred due to needing to pause the project (legal, security, site protection and contract timeframes) created unbudgeted costs on the contract for Stage 1 and a contract variation recommendation will be submitted to Council to ensure delegated authority probity.</p> <p>An injunction has been awarded and discussions are now underway on implementation to enable completion of the pipeline near Rotokakahi.</p> <p>Progress: 21.9km of pressure mains installed, 18.1km pressure testing completed, 395 of 427 boundary assemblies installed.</p> <p>Ongoing communications and updates between RLC staff and resident groups. Project updates are emailed to more than 350 addresses and quarterly updates to all stakeholders, including progress against budgets and anticipated risks.</p> <p>The flow of agreements to establish locality plans and obtain building consents is slow and we are</p>



Pictured: Transfer Pumping Station

Background	Progress
	considering splitting the project into separable portions to reduce costs risks. Council will be updated at the AP discussions phase of various options for decisions.

Water Operations

Three Waters Reforms

The third piece of legislation in the Government’s three-stage process for implementing Local Water Done Well, the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, was introduced to Parliament in December 2024. This Bill provides for:

- Arrangements for the new water services delivery system, including:
 - Structural arrangements for water services provision such as establishment, ownership, and governance of water organisations;
 - Operational matters such as arrangements for charging, bylaws, and management of stormwater networks;
 - Planning, reporting and financial management.
- A new economic regulation and consumer protection regime based on the existing economic regulation regime that applies to electricity lines services, gas pipeline services, and airport services.
- Changes to the water quality regulatory framework and the water services regulator, including:
 - Changes to the Water Services Act 2021 to reduce the regulatory burden of the drinking water quality regime and improve proportionality in the application of regulatory powers.
 - A change in approach to Te Mana o te Wai
 - A new single standard for wastewater and stormwater environmental performance.

The Bill is expected to be enacted in mid-2025.

Work continues on development of a Draft Water Services Delivery Plan which is required to be submitted by 3 September 2025. The Committee agreed in September 2024 to direct officers to start creating the Water Services Delivery Plan on the basis of an in-house model, while options to explore other arrangements enabled by the legislation remained open and were being explored. Consultation on Council’s proposed service delivery arrangements is intended be undertaken alongside the 2025/26 Annual Plan process.

Stormwater

Oen drain maintenance has been a priority during summer to protect service levels during the high grass growth season. Teams have been busy across the region undertaking herbicide spraying and scrub clearance to keep our network at full capacity. We are heading toward what has historically been a season for intense rainfall events, making it critical that our open drain network can operate at 100% of available capacity.



Pictured: Open drain spraying and scrub clearance work by the RLC works teams

Substantial clearance work of one of our timber lined drains in the Owhata area was successfully completed recently. This area is particularly difficult to access as it is in a highly developed suburban area and runs through several private properties that are separated by fences and bridges in multiple locations.



Above: Melrose Avenue major clearance of timber lined drain



Above: Repaired gross pollutant trap working effectively to capture rubbish and debris after a rain event during the Christmas break.

Water Supplies

Water consumption across all supplies has increased as expected during summer but has remained within manageable levels to date due to cooler weather and intermittent rainfall. We are continuing with radio and social media messaging to remind consumers to avoid unnecessary use of water. The Karamū Tākina (headworks) water supply required double pumping for a few days to maintain reservoir levels.

Proactive maintenance and remedial operations are ongoing. To address a backlog of unplanned jobs, particularly water leaks due to resourcing constraints, we have at times utilised additional local contractors.

Wastewater

- Refurbishment of Secondary Clarifier 1 bridge (central pivot bearing, central pillar and electrical cables) at the Rotorua WWTP has been completed.
- The annual gravity renewals programme has begun. Pre-clean and CCTV of the pipelines has been completed, with relining to begin in late January.

Ohu: Taio | Environmental Performance & Climate Change

Climate Change

Climate Commission first annual monitoring report measuring progress against Government emissions reduction plan was released in July 2024. First National Adaption Plan Report was released in August. These reports can be accessed via the [Climate Commission's Website](#).

Collaborating on Climate Change Workshop: Staff presented work being undertaken by RLC to Council, Waikato Regional Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council at a workshop. Councillors will be further informed on this work, with a view to potentially finding opportunities to collaborate on common ground.

Emissions Reductions: We are undertaking a range of actions like enabling and encouraging active modes of transport and waste reduction to reduce emissions and energy consumption.

Adaptation: Climate change effects cause significant cumulative impacts on infrastructure and core services. The focus of current efforts is on climate adaptation in predicting impacts and designing improvements to networks that would, as far as possible, help reduce risk to properties and our receiving environment.

Framework and performance measures: To ensure RLC meets its responsibilities and achieves targets, we will evaluate the Rotorua Climate Change Action Plan later this year along with national guidelines, targets and legislation, and climate preparedness guidelines, to identify action required and within our sphere of influence, and any gaps in our current work programme.

Safe and Sustainable Journeys (Road Safety Education)

- **Eke Haumarū** - Bike Safety and Scooter skills fun days are being held in conjunction with Thriving Communities reserve activations and other community-led events over the school holidays.
- **Tour bus stops and parks** - Working on finalising review of CBD tour bus stop locations. Information brochure for operators will follow. GIS map created for current locations, available on RLC website.

- **A & P Show** – We ran an Interactive display and engaging activity at the Rotorua A&P show in December. The focus was on ‘Safer Vehicles’ and vehicle safety ratings. The NZTA Decepta car was delivered and messages from the NZTA [‘Last line of defence’](#) marketing campaign were shared.



Pictured: Decepta car on display at A&P Show

- **Christmas Parade** – A Road Safety Rotorua walking float was organised with School patrollers, primary school students and parents with a good reception from the public. School patrollers shared road safety messages on placards, such as ‘Slow down around schools’, ‘drive safely these holidays’ etc.



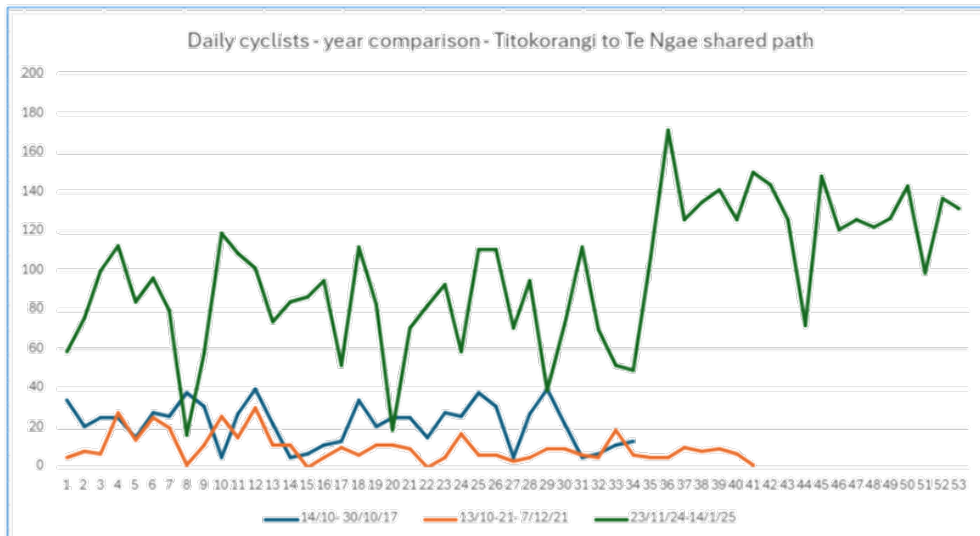
Pictured: Children participating in the Christmas parade

Cycle counters – Mobile counters have been at two sites over the December/January period.

- **Te Ngae to Titokorangi shared path**

A huge increase in cyclists (and pedestrians) has been seen on the Titokorangi to Te Ngae shared path, a limestone chip path connecting Te Ngae Rd (nearest Puarenga Stream bridge) to Titokorangi. Peak hour usage shows the path is used for recreational riding and workplace and school commuting. The high increase in numbers could be attributed to completion and quality of the Te Ngae shared path, recent maintenance of the lime chip path surface and the completion of the pedestrian crossing on Tarawera Road and shared path network into Lynmore and

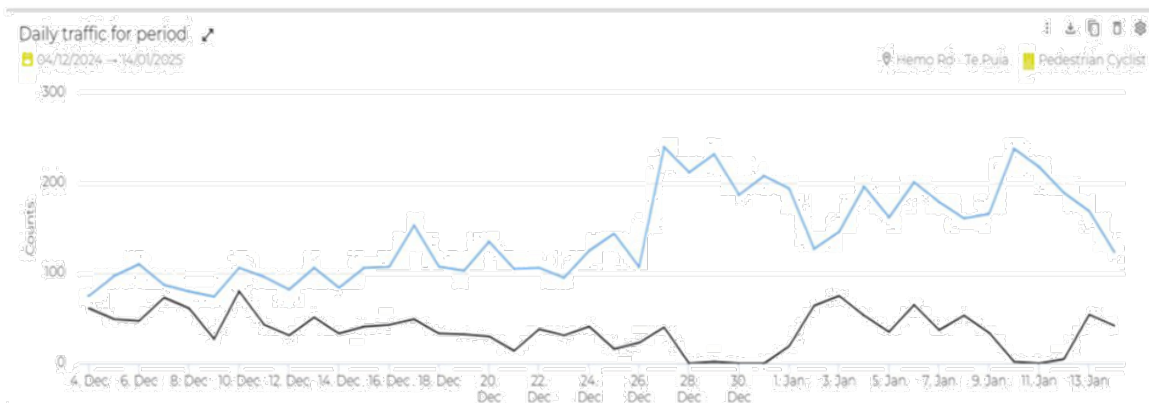
connecting into Owkata. Staff observations in a morning commute, including Rotorua Lakes High students riding to school from other suburbs. Average daily cyclists using this path over the count period was 97 cyclists per day.



Hemo Road shared path

This is the first time a cycle count has taken place on the Hemo Rd shared path. The path itself is a narrow footpath and in average condition. Many cyclists don't use this path, but the road instead due to the narrow nature and condition of the path. People who ride around the path on the grass are not counted either. Road cyclists were unable to be counted with this technology so numbers are only path users. This route is an important thoroughfare between the city, motels to Waipa mountain bike park and tourist attractions such as Te Puia and Secret Spot. We would like to see this path upgraded in the future. Pedestrian numbers are included as it is clearly a busy pedestrian route, likely due to tourists. There would likely be more pedestrians and cyclists during the term due students walking and cycling to Toi Ohomai.

Note: days with '0' cyclists recorded was due to pneumatic cables becoming unattached due to a bad connection. Pedestrians are shown as the blue line on the graph below, and cyclists by a black line.



Hemo Road shared path data

Waste Management

Landfill

We have received the results from the eDNA testing on the two streams at the landfill.

Samples taken are tested for all DNA found in the water. Some species are considered more indicative of stream health than others. These are then scored using the Taxon-Independent Community Index. The resulting TICI score gives a rating for the stream's health

- The Tureporepo Stream which runs through the middle of the landfill property has been rated as "Excellent" second highest to the highest rating "Pristine"
- The Dog Pound stream rated "Good" being scored just one point off being rated excellent

This is a reliable indicator of what life is in the stream for about 2 kilometres above the sampling point; and what we could expect to find in the stream within the landfill property. The indicators verify that the closed and capped landfill does not contribute adversely to the quality of water in the stream. These tests also provide a benchmark against future assessments of the stream's biodiversity and health.

The information is publicly available on the Wilderlab map at wilderlab.co.nz/explore.

Nets will be set in both streams from time to time as a measure of the stream's health.



Pictured: Fish trap being set in the dog pound stream Pictured: Koura caught in dog pound stream

Refuse and Recycling Collections

Both services are functioning well with no significant issues with anticipated heavier than average volumes of material collected through the holiday period.

Resourceful Rotorua Litter Reduction Campaign

Staff have been monitoring Tikitapu daily through January and recording the levels of litter present on the ground. This is now the third summer since we have removed litter bins from Tikitapu.

Prior to the trial, in a typical summer period from 20 December to after Waitangi weekend, the Tikitapu bins could hold up to 231,840 litres of rubbish. This would amount to 34.7 tonnes of waste. Staff are not seeing anywhere near these volumes being collected from the ground at Tikitapu. Additionally, we no longer face issues with overflowing bins or wasps.

Event organisers who use the Tikitapu Reserve are responsible for managing their waste and do an excellent job of ensuring all rubbish is contained and removed afterwards. The same principle applies to individuals planning a day out at Tikitapu. We are seeing that most do take their rubbish and recycling with them, something we are all grateful for.

Staff are confident that the litter on the ground can be managed effectively with increased foot patrols and working more closely with our contractors and our volunteers.

RLC continues to encourage and support community clean-ups. A new 'Litter Clean-Up Organiser Guide' is now available on the RLC website to guide the organisation of activities and advise of support available, with an emphasis on health and safety. In addition, RLC continues to offer gloves, pickers and litter bags and provide support with disposal of litter cleared through community activities.

Waste Minimisation Education

Waste minimisation activities delivered or supported have included:

- Introduction of a battery recycling bin at the Recycling Centre - this collection unit can accept most household batteries and battery embedded devices e.g. vapes, headphones, smoke alarms. Messaging to promote the collection has also emphasised the fire risk inherent in disposing of rechargeable batteries and battery embedded devices via kerbside bins.
- Introduction of a stationery waste reduction project 'Stationery Revive', in collaboration with Enviroschools Bay of Plenty - this project works to reduce stationery waste by taking in donations of used but still usable stationery at the end of the school year and refurbishing it for new use. Over 1,500 useable stationery items have been donated so far. Refurbishment is scheduled to take place mid-January, following which, items will be provided for free to students and families via community resource distribution partners, just in time for the new school year.

Water Quality

Contaminant monitoring: The Draft Rotorua Urban Water Quality Contaminant Monitoring Programme being updated to support the Comprehensive Urban Stormwater Consent (CSC). Monitoring and triggered investigations inform freshwater quality management, identifying contaminants and possible mitigations. Council will do investigative monitoring to identify contaminants and long-term monitoring to identify trends. Monitoring covers indicators of water quality, sediment quality and ecosystem health. RLC and BoPRC have discussed and agreed on alignment of long-term monitoring carried out by both Councils. This will be an adaptive process with periodic reviews.

Monitoring to date indicates good water quality through most residential areas and RLC's investigative monitoring programme is working through fixing issues identified. The upper reaches of our urban catchments are suitable habitats for native fish and the open spaces team are supporting BoPRC and care groups revegetating riparian areas to enhance the ecosystem. Stormwater water quality from industrial areas and large unsealed areas is poor (discussed further below). More work is required to determine the extent to which large carparks and large areas of galvanised roofing are contributing to the load of metals in streams and to define if/when treatment will be required.

Industrial sites: Neither RLC's stormwater bylaw nor BoPRC's Natural Resources Plan (NRP) allow contaminants to be discharged to urban waterways, unless permitted. The Comprehensive Stormwater Consent will require Council to manage urban industrial land-use effects on water quality. A proposed draft approach was developed with risk assessments. Moderate and high-risk sites and activities would require stormwater licences and high-risk sites would be subject to stormwater quality monitoring, would have to reduce contaminant loss from their sites, and may require a consent to manage their activity if pollutant levels remain high. Industrial site owners who submitted on the CSC are supportive of this approach. The outcome of the CSC hearing will inform the finer details.

As the series of Catchment Management Plans are developed over the coming years as part of the CSC, stakeholders and mana whenua will consider catchment-specific values and cultural monitoring requirements and urban monitoring data to help inform the process. This will be an adaptive process with periodic reviews.

Bathing water/Public Health:

A bathing water protocol exists where: BoPRC collects and tests samples at key bathing sites. The Medical Officer of Health makes the call on health warnings and posts these on their website and social media. Toi Te Ora inform Te Arawa who liaise with iwi, and Council, who notifies the public and erects signage as required. Bacterial and cyanobacteria monitoring results are publicly available on the LAWA website ([Land, Air, Water Aotearoa \(LAWA\) - Can I swim here?](#))

Bacterial contamination (E. coli):

Permanent health warnings remain in place at Utuhina Stream at Lake Road and Ngongotahā Stream at Railway Bridge. New signs were erected before Christmas at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

Other monitored bathing sites are generally suitable for bathing when there has been no rainfall, and levels are elevated during and following rain. The MoH general statement always applies *“It’s best to avoid swimming in rivers, streams, lakes, harbour areas and at beaches for at least 48 hours after heavy rain. There is likely to be contamination from rural and urban run-off in waterways after heavy rain. To avoid illnesses such as diarrhoea, vomiting, skin infections or ear infections, avoid swimming for at least 48 hours after heavy rain”*.

One result late December 2024 at Lake Ōkāreka, Steep St, was very high and a temporary warning sign was put in place with signage removed a couple of days later after results confirmed the site was suitable for bathing.

Cyanobacteria:

High nutrient levels and warm temperatures drive cyanobacteria blooms. Results are now interpreted under the new guidelines for cyanobacteria in recreational freshwaters (published in December).

Warnings were issued for two sites on 29 December 2024: Holdens Bay, Lake Rotorua, and Okawa Bay, Lake Rotoiti. Caution is advised at several sites on Lakes Rotorua, Rototiti and Rotoehu.

The general statement from the Medical Officer of Health applies *“Algal blooms are unpredictable and can grow unexpectedly and shift around, especially in lakes. So even if there’s no alert or signage in place, always check first and if the water doesn’t seem right, stay away and stay out”* and general signage is in place.

Emergency Management

Updates

Assistance to other RLC work groups (Tarawera Sewerage Scheme): The RLC CDEM team is currently supporting contingency planning for the restart of works with a focus on ensuring safety for all.

Response: Arrangements were put in place prior to the Christmas break to ensure RLC had capacity to respond to a Civil Emergency if required. No local emergencies have occurred during this reporting cycle.

Reduction and Resilience: The RLC CDEM team will work with the Thriving Communities team in January and February to increase public awareness of the importance of planning for emergencies. CDEM staff will run stands at community events organised, enabling CDEM staff to target specific risk groups.

Following the upgrade of the CDEM pages on the Council website, CDEM staff are now regularly posting community updates on emergency preparedness.


Readiness:

- All key roles in EOC structure are covered with a pool of 112 RLC staff trained and available for deployment to support any activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).
- Three members of the EOC team resigned from Council in December 2024. For the past two years, staff leaving Council has resulted in an annual attrition rate of 20% for the EOC team.

Staffing and Training: Nothing new to report.

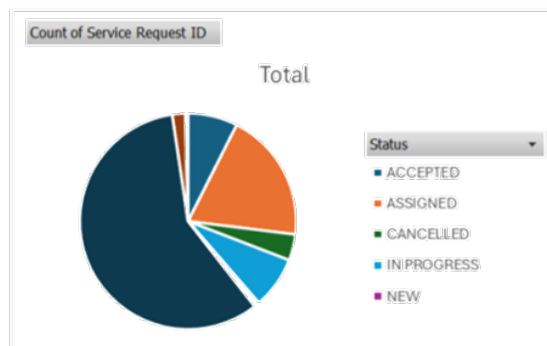
Property – Facilities Management
Capital Projects

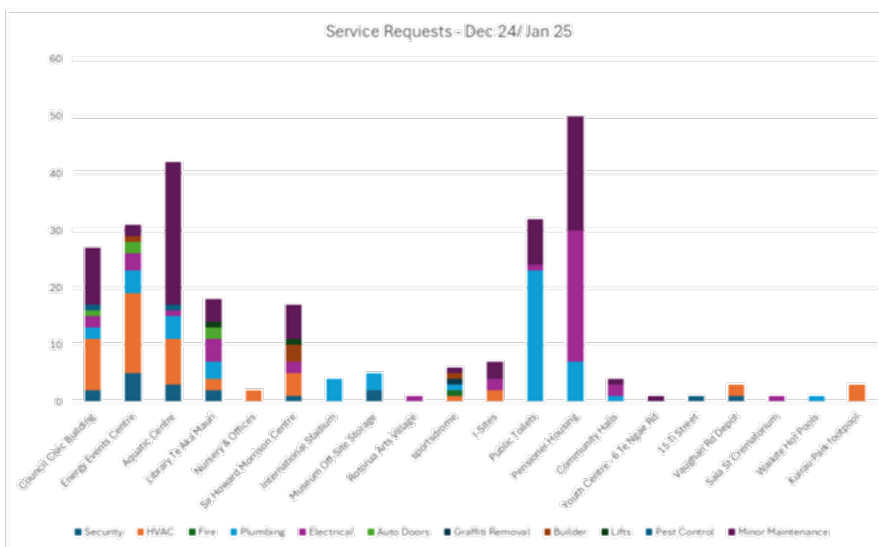
<p>Geothermal Bore Replacements</p> 	<p>Drilling at Kuirau Park for the new geothermal production bore supplying Rotorua Aquatic Centre was finished prior to Christmas with piping connections being carried out January to March with minimal disruption to operations.</p>
<p>Energy Events Centre (EEC)</p> 	<p>Fusio Pipe replacement in changing rooms programmed for mid-February 2025. Fusio pipe failed in the changing rooms over the Labour weekend causing extensive damage to ceiling tiles, walls and services. Fusio to be replaced with an alternative product.</p> 
<p>20-28 Te Ngae Road – Te Ngae Recycling Centre</p> 	<p>Demolition continued at the site to get rid of old buildings assessed as being unfit to occupy late in 2023 due to asbestos and structural concerns. The site is expected to be cleared to ground level by the end of January with fencing in place to provide security for recycling operations by end of February 2025.</p>

<p>Civic Centre</p>	<p>Work has started to replace air-conditioning in the Council Chamber which is original to the building. This is expected to be finished by mid-February.</p>
<p>Sir Howard Morrison Centre</p>	<p>Foyer floor remediation for existing timber floor sinking is being carried out and completed during shutdown period.</p>
<p>I-site on Fenton Street</p>	<p>Following the completion of the roof replacement, the internal ceiling was replaced due to damage from roof leaks. The shop area is now back in use by RotoruaNZ.</p> 

Facilities Maintenance

A total of 256 facilities maintenance jobs were received between December 2024 and January 2025, 58% of which were completed by the end of the month.





- Total of 42 electrical – 55% relate to pensioner housing
- Total of 53 plumbing - 46% relate to public toilets
- Total of 46 heating and ventilation – 30% relate to the Energy Events Centre
- Total of 17 security/access control - 29% relate to the Energy Events Centre
- Total of 84 minor maintenance - 30% relate to the Aquatic Centre & 24% relate to pensioner housing

Facility	Key Issues
Aquatic Centre	Seven vandalism incidents recorded during the period December 2024 and January 2025
Sir Howard Morrison Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven separate issues with door closers and locks this month. • External window cleaning to the main entrance carried out for the first time since the SHMC refurbishment.
Energy Events Centre	Commercial Kitchen [Fusio pipework failure in wall linings causing water leak in commercial kitchen, no damage to walls. Leak originally identified at the bottom of the external cladding. Long term remediation will include the removal and replacement with a different product to prevent future faults.

Property and Facilities Plan

The Property Team will focus on structuring a property and facilities strategic plan and all necessary Asset Management Plans to inform the next Long-Term Plan.

Within those plans, clusters of property and facilities will be classified and specific management protocols created. Where these properties and facilities do not meet critical needs requirements, options will be presented to Council. The plans will also will identify the correct level of investment and maintenance required to meet regulatory requirements, services needs and stable condition.

Ohu: He Hapori Kaikaha | Active and Engaged Communities**Open Space Capital Projects****Reserve Improvements**

Designs for the Titoki sports fields have been produced but more work is needed on final surface heights so Utuhina Stream flood mitigation outcomes can be incorporated into the design. This has delayed lodging the consent for construction.

The contract for more field lights at Ray Boord Park has been awarded and the necessary resource consents are being finalised for lodging. This work will be completed before the winter sports season. New lights are also being installed over one of the Hockey turfs in Smallbone Park during January and the new field lights at the Ngongotahā Domain have been installed during December and January.

The staircase down from Lynbert Road to Niel Hunt Park has been renewed and upgraded with handrails all the way to provide for better accessibility.



Pictured: New staircase into Neil Hunt Park from Lynbert Road

Playground renewals

The most recent playground soft fall renewal was completed at Corlett Street Reserve in early December and two new play pieces were installed at the same time. Meanwhile, Taylor Place Reserve improvements are finished and include a safety fence along the eastern side river bank edge and behind the basketball court. This project has been co-funded by the Rural Community Board and used local labour for some construction.



Pictured: Corlett Street Reserve playground new equipment and safety fall renewal



Pictured: Taylor Place Reserve improvements

Sports Facility Use and Events

Summer sports have been running since October and generally take a short break over Christmas before resuming late January. Sports that have been accommodated in/on Council facilities or assisted with have included touch rugby, summer football, hockey, netball, basketball, cricket, futsal, athletics and waka ama.

Touch Rugby tournaments during December provided a high level of activation at the Rotorua Stadium and Westbrook/Ray Boord Park with the NZ Māori Touch tournament on 2-3 December and the NZ Secondary Schools tournament on 8-10 December. The NZ Māori tournament has been running for 26 years with the last 10 years in Rotorua and it hosted 70 teams and supporters. The NZ Secondary Schools tournament has been running in Rotorua since 2019 and attracted 95 teams from across New Zealand. As well as players and coaching staff, this tournament also attracts approximately 4000 spectators per day to the venue.

Staff have also been working with organisers of the Rowdy Junior Touch Rugby tournament scheduled for 25-26 January, dedicated to the memory of Andrew (Rowdy) Timoti who was hugely influential on the Rotorua, national and international touch rugby community and was for five years, the world's No 1 ranked touch rugby referee. This tournament was started in 2024 with 44 teams and this year will host 63 teams.

Open Spaces Maintenance and activities

During December and January, the Works Department has been busy with turf mowing and premier reserves, as well as preparing lakeside reserves for visitors. The playground at Matahi Spit, Lake Rotomā was filled with sand after the high lake level had washed out the safety surface and the jetties that have re-emerged have been cleaned. The Lake levels at Rotomā have dropped to provide more reserve space, but the jetty at Merge Lodge on Rotomā and Ōtautū Bay at Rotoehu are still under water.



Pictured: Matahi Spit Playground on the shores of Lake Rotomā

Council staff have been working through the implications of recent legislation, the Self Contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act (2023), on Rotorua Freedom Camping areas. This has required an update of signage and information on our website, with an interactive map of overnight parking areas, dump stations and public toilets in the district. New signage has been placed at six Council overnight parking spots: Government Gardens, Hamurana Reserve, Trout Pool Road, Boyes Beach, Lake Ōkaro and Guy Roe Reserve. The signage is designed to promote responsible camping for overnighting motor vehicles and to provide clear information about where overnight parking is and is not allowed. All information also links to the Holiday Parks in the district for motor vehicle campers needing more facilities or if spaces at the sites are full.



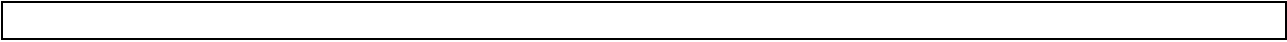
Pictured: New responsible camping signage at Government Gardens (motor vehicle overnight camping)

9 HE WHAKATAUNGA KIA HOKI ATU TE ARONGA O TE HUI HAI HUI TŪMATAWHĀNUI – RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED (TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS)

PUBLIC EXCLUDED

1. Exclusion of the Public
2. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

RECOMMENDATION		
That Infrastructure and Environment Committee resolves to exclude the public on the grounds contained in Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:		
General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
9.1 - Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024	Please refer to the relevant clause/s in the open meeting minutes.	Good reason for withholding exists under Section 48(1)(a).
9.2 - Admission Fee Increase 2025 - Waikite Valley Thermal Pools	s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.3 - Variation Approval for Contract 24-006 Geothermal Bores 2024	s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
Plain English	Commercial Sensitivity	
Consideration has been given to public interest in these matters and officers’ advice is that the above reasons for confidentiality outweigh the public interest in the matters.		



10 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Kia whakairia te tapu
Kia wātea ai te ara
Kia turuki whakataha ai
Kia turuki whakataha ai
Hāumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

Restrictions are moved aside
So the pathway is clear
To return to every day activities
To return to every day activities
Allied, enriched, unified, and blessed