



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

Kaupapataka Agenda

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 2 April 2025

Time: 9:30 am

Venue: Council Chamber

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

Cr Barker

Members

Cr Wang (Deputy Chair)

Mayor Tapsell

Cr Kai Fong

Cr O'Brien

Cr Waru

Cr Brown

Cr Paterson

Cr Maxwell

Cr Kereopa

Cr Lee

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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).
<p>Relevant Statutes</p>	<p>All the duties and responsibilities listed above must be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p>

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 Rārangī 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 5 March 2025	6
6	Ngā Tāpaetanga - Presentations	13
6.1	Works Team Integration Update.....	13
7	Pūrongo Kaimahi – Staff Reports	14
7.1	Adopt Local Water Done Well Consultation Document for Public Consultation.....	14
7.2	Progress Report Infrastructure and Assets	18
8	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)	43
8.1	Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2025.....	43
8.2	Verbal Update – Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.....	43
9	Te Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing Karakia	44

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 5 MARCH 2025****RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held 5 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Minutes (Draft)

Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting
held Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 9:30 am
Council Chamber, Rotorua Lakes Council

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

APOLOGIES: Cr Kereopa
Cr Wang (for lateness)
Cr Maxwell (for early departure)

STAFF PRESENT: A Moraes, Chief Executive;
T Collé, Group Manager, Organisational Performance & Innovation;
S Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets;
J-P Gaston; Group Manager, Destination Development;
D Jensen, Chief Financial Officer;
G Kieck, Manager - Governance, Strategy & Compliance;
W Bamford, Programme Manager, Rotorua Museum;
N Michael, Executive of Communications – Mayor's Office;
D Cossar, Governance & Democracy Lead;
R Dunn, Senior Governance and Democracy Advisor;
G Konara, Governance and Democracy Advisor.

The meeting opened at 9.30am.

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

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Lee opened the meeting with a blessing.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

RESOLVED IE 25/03-010

Moved: Cr Paterson

Seconded: Cr Brown

1. That the apologies from Cr Kereopa be accepted.

2. That the apologies from Cr Wang for lateness and Cr Maxwell for early departure be accepted.

CARRIED

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

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

Minor Matters

Cr Lee asked if baseline figures relating to Rotorua’s water quality could be published on the website.

The Chair requested Stavros Michael, Group Manager – Infrastructure and Assets to provide an update at the time of his report.

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED IE 25/03-011

Moved: Cr Kai Fong

Seconded: Mayor Tapsell

1. That the minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held 5 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

6 NGĀ TĀPATANGA - PRESENTATIONS

6.1 COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER CONSENT

Stavros Michael spoke to a presentation titled “Comprehensive Stormwater Consent Presentation” (ECM-21181428).

In response to Cr Lee's request raised as a minor matter, Mr Michael noted that the Council is complying with the national drinking water standards.

The Chief Executive extended an invitation to Cr Lee to have a discussion with him in relation to Cr Lee's query on the disclosure of elements of drinking water quality on the the council's website.

Action Point

- Cr Paterson asked for a copy of the application submitted to IXOM to receive the award for best drinking water.

The meeting adjourned at 10.54 am.

Cr Maxwell left the meeting at 10.54am.

The meeting resumed at 11.16am and Cr Wang joined the meeting.

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

7.1 MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2025
<p>RESOLVED IE 25/03-012</p> <p>Moved: Cr O'Brien Seconded: Cr Waru</p> <p>1. That the report 'Major Capital Projects Progress Report - January to February 2025' be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

Thomas Collé overviewed and Will Bamford spoke to a presentation titled "Rotorua Museum Seismic Strengthening and Restoration" (ECM 21181450).

The Chair noted that an opportunity will be given in the public excluded session for any questions relating to the confidential attachment to this report.

The Chair noted that a letter has been received from the Minister of Health.

The Chair tabled and read out the letter. The letter is in response to the request from Rotorua Lakes Council to withdraw the direction to fluoridate Rotorua Lakes Council water supplies until there has been a public enquiry into the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation.

This letter is attached to the minutes (ECM-21181619).

8 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 25/03-013</p> <p>Moved: Cr Waru 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>8.1 - Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2025</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>8.2 - Rotorua Museum Seismic Strengthening and Restoration Financial Update February 2025</p>	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</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>8.3 - Variation Approval - Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Stage 1 - Contract 22/038</p>	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>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 Activities</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.</p>		
<p>CARRIED</p>		

The meeting moved in to public excluded session.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting moved out of public excluded session.

OPEN SESSION

10 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Lee closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Meeting closed at 12.38pm

To be confirmed at the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting on 2 April 2025.

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

Attachment - Letter from the Minister of Health

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Health
Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Minister for Auckland



04 MAR 2025

Andrew Moraes
Chief Executive
Rotorua Lakes Council

Cr Karen Barker
Chair
Infrastructure and Environment Committee

c/o kim.mcgrath@rotorualc.nz

Ref. SBC-77

Dear Andrew and Karen

Fluoridation of Rotorua Lakes Council water supplies

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2025 concerning the Director-General of Health's direction to Rotorua Lakes District Council to fluoridate the Rotorua Central and Rotorua East water supplies.

You have requested to have the direction to fluoridate withdrawn until there has been a public enquiry into the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation. I also acknowledge your request for me to direct the Director-General of Health to pause any proposed legal action in relation to any non-compliance with the direction to fluoridate.

In December 2021 the Health Act 1956 was amended to give the Director-General of Health the power to direct local authorities to fluoridate drinking water supplies. Given this independent statutory power to direct local authorities to fluoridate sits with the Director-General of Health, the matters you raise in your letter are not matters for me to address. Any queries you have in relation to the direction to Rotorua Lakes Council to fluoridate should be directed to the Director-General of Health.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. - B.' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Health

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

6.1 WORKS TEAM INTEGRATION UPDATE

Update from Stavros Michael – Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assests and Alex Wilson, Group Manager, Community Experience.

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

7.1 ADOPT LOCAL WATER DONE WELL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Doc ID: 21203349
Prepared by: Alex Barrett, Strategic Advisor, Corporate Planning
Approved by: Stavros Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets
Attachments: Nil

1. TE PŪTAKE PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the committee to approve the Local Water Done Well consultation document to conduct public consultation from 4 April 2025 to 5 May 2025.

HE TŪTOHUNGA RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report 'Adopt Local Water Done Well Consultation Document for Public Consultation' be received.
2. That Council approve to conduct public consultation on Local Water Done Well from 4 April 2025 to 5 May 2025.

2. TE TĀHUHU BACKGROUND

Local Water Done Well is the Government's plan to address New Zealand's water infrastructure and future water services challenges. It recognises the importance of local decision-making and provides flexibility for communities and Councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future. The Government's Plan and relevant legal framework adopted anticipate how it will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting economic, environmental, and water quality regulatory requirements.

Local Water Done Well is being implemented in three stages, each with its own piece of legislation.

Council must submit a water services delivery plan to the government by 3 September 2025.

The water services delivery plan began development in September 2024 after the Infrastructure & Environment Committee agreed to direct officers to start creating the plan. Workshops and discussions with elected members followed where options were presented and further information was supplied.

3. TE MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Council must prepare a water services delivery plan that:

- identifies the current state of its water services.
- demonstrates publicly its commitment to deliver water services in a way that ensures that it will meet all relevant regulatory quality standards for its water services.
- demonstrates it is financially sustainable for the territorial authority.
- ensures that it will meet all drinking water quality standards.
- supports its housing growth and urban development, as specified in its long-term plan.

The Infrastructure & Environment Committee agreed in September 2024 to direct officers to start creating the Water Services Delivery Plan.

The draft Consultation Document outlines a proposed preferred option of delivering water services and a second option to seek public feedback on.

Following approval of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document, consultation will be conducted with the community from 4 April to 5 May 2025.

4. TE TINO AROMATAWAI ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Water Services Delivery Plan must be adopted using the consultation requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024.

The Act does not require Council to consult on its draft or final water services delivery plan, but it must undertake consultation on the anticipated or proposed model or arrangement for delivering water services in its water services delivery plan.

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

A public consultation programme will commence on 4 April 2025 until 5 May 2025 and will run alongside the draft Annual Plan consultation.

In order for the community to actively engage with Council on Local Water Done Well an engagement programme based on digital first and 'meeting people where they are' has been planned.

The following channels will be used to promote the Local Water Done Well consultation.

Council's engagement platform – Participate

- Read the Local Water Done Well consultation document
- Submit online feedback

Other digital channels:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- TikTok
- Google Ads
- RLC E-Panui
- RLC digital screens
- Digital radio

Other traditional media channels will also be used including community newsletters.

In person events:

A strategy of meet people where has been used to plan the following events:

Event	Date
Kuirau park Saturday market	5 April 2025
Tamariki voice workshop, council chambers	10 April 2025
Rotorua Night Market	10 April 2025
Taihokohoko Eastside Market	13 April 2025
x2 community drop in sessions at the library	TBC

The following is the timetable for consulting and final development of the water services delivery plan.

Action	Date
Approve consultation document	2 April 2025
Public consultation opens	4 April 2025
Public consultation closes	5 May 2025
Hearings	May 2025
Deliberations	May/June 2025
Water Services Delivery Plan submitted to DIA	By 3 September 2025

**6. HE WHAIWHAKAARO
CONSIDERATIONS**

**6.1. Mahere Pūtea
Financial/Budget Considerations**

In respect of the decision to proceed with public consultation there is no financial impact. There is a budget set aside within the Organisational Performance and Innovation Group to cover costs of engagement with the community. This budget includes advertising, printing, digital, and costs associated with face-to-face engagement.

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

Council’s 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan is based on water services being delivered by an in-house Council waters division. Decisions made on this matter will be reflected in the 2027-2037 Long-Term Plan.

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

Water services are highly impactful to mana whenua because of their relationship to water and te taiao. There are engagement forums planned to engage with our Te Tiriti partners (iwi) during the consultation period.

6.4. Tūraru Risks

Timeline – in terms of the development of the water services delivery plan, a decision to approve the Local Water Done Well consultation document for community consultation is critical. A failure to adopt to go out for consultation could lead to less time to consult with the community and subsequently put at risk the development of the water services delivery plan which has a deadline of 3 September 2025.

6.5. Te Whaimana Authority

The Infrastructure and Environment committee has the authority to adopt the consultation document.

7.2 PROGRESS REPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

Doc ID: 21192464
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:	2 April 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

FEBRUARY

New connection applications 16 January – 28 February 2025



	Application numbers	New dwellings/lots connected
Water	23	36
Storm water	4	4
Waste water	15	29
Totals	42	69

Matahi Road Pavement Rehabilitation Complete



Widening of road



Aerial image of completed work



Te Ngae Rd shared path and bridge
January 2025 improvements

Wastewater schemes

East Rotoiti/Rotomā: 90% completed

Tarawera: 58% completed, 399 of 427 of boundary connections installed – Progressing Stage1.



Newly refurbished toilets at the Redwoods I-site

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 complete (see photos at front of report). Strathmore Rd pavement rehabilitation complete. Pavement rehabilitation to strengthen road weakened over time by traffic and water ingress.
Subsidised renewals	Footpaths (approx. 600km of footpaths in total in Rotorua)	Reduced NZTA 2024/25 allocated budget for walking and cycling means limited subsidies for footpath renewals for three years. Focus on urgent safety repairs only in meantime.
Subsidised Cycleways (LOS)	About 60km of cycleways/shared paths constructed since 2018	No funding in LTP years 1-3 for new cycleways/shared paths.
Subsidised Minor Improvements (LOS)	Local road improvements	No NZTA funding allocated so projects limited and prioritised on critical safety elements for 3 years. Lichenstein Rd resilience improvements (subsidised under government’s Crown Resilience Programme) is under construction and due for completion in Q3. Oturoa Rd safety improvements (not subsidised) scheduled for LTP year 2 or 3, depending on budget allocation and fiscal constraints. Speed Management Plan remains on hold while we evaluate the new national policy direction. The new rule stipulating variable speed limits outside schools are to be implemented by 1 July 2026. No NZTA funding allocated for speed management infrastructure so a purely reactive approach will be adopted to address any current risk, as required.
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-Q4 2024/25.

Programme	Projects	Progress
Unsubsidised Renewals	Parks road renewals to maintain integrity of road condition	Sites programmed for resealing in 2024/25 underway and 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 so no plans for this activity.
Unsubsidised Rural Seal Extension (LOS)	Lichenstein Rd	Lichenstein Rd seal extension scheduled to start March 2025. Tawhero St West design now complete but unlikely to fit within approved annual budgets so design will be held until funding availability clarified.
Unsubsidised Growth (LOS)	Upgrades to support growth	Porikapa Rd shared path and pedestrian/shared crossings (CIP) are now fully completed. East Gate intersection improvements in detailed design and awaiting NZTA approval. Works will then be tendered and we will seek NZTA funding. Tender outcome report will be submitted to Council for direction once NZTA position is advised.
CERF-funded Transport Choices	Shared paths and zebra crossing upgrades (various) BoPRC Enhancing Public Transport in Rotorua	No NLTP or LTP funding available to implement CERF-designs (shared paths). BoPRC considering public transport options. Most proposals will depend on RLC funding allocation for infrastructure changes. New bus stops proposed for Amohau St to accommodate new bus routes. No Government funding available so project on pause.

Transport Operations

- Programmed seal maintenance proactive/cyclical and reactive works 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/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 progressing to levels of service funding availability allows.
- Traffic services maintenance: Annual re-marking programme is complete and streetlight maintenance ongoing. An extension of the streetlight contract to June 2028 has been approved.
- Network and Asset Management: 2024/25 annual condition surveys have been carried out nationally by NZTA. Future funding levels likely to be allocated on basis of identified road condition which will inform forward work programme development, treatments and activity management planning.

Ohu: Wai | Network Performance - Water
3 Water Capital Projects



Water Main Renewals

Background	Progress
<p>The renewal and upgrade of water mains 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, Tiwhai Frank, Mill and Ian streets.</p> <p>Work is underway on Westlock Rd, Russell Rd and Tudor Place.</p> <p>Renewal of 2km of water mains on Kaharoa Rd is complete.</p> <p>Planning for trunk water main renewal at Malfroy/Old Taupo Rd intersection is underway.</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>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 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>Stage 2 involves a water main upgrade along Broadlands Rd from Homestead to Reporoa roads. Construction is underway.</p> <div data-bbox="807 1509 1270 1733" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>Pictured: Stage 2 new water main commissioning and interconnection</i></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>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>  <p><i>Pictured: Lower Tarawera enabling work</i></p>	<p>Concrete Structures awarded design and build contract and civil design is approved. Enabling work is underway such as the realignment of water mains.</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Lower Tarawera enabling work</i></p>

Fluoridation Plant Construction

Background	Progress
<p>Director General of Health has directed RLC to fluoridate the Central and Eastern water supplies.</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 required to implement the directive.</p>	<p>Design/build contract was awarded to APEX Water.</p> <p>Contractor has finished main civil works components such as earthworks, retaining wall and delivery bunds. Installation of pipework, tanks, pumps, dosing and monitoring equipment almost complete. Electrical work and programming underway.</p> <p>The plants are scheduled to be ready for commissioning end of March 2025.</p>

Morey Street Stormwater Detention Dams

Background	Progress
<p>Two stormwater detention dams have been constructed above Morey Street to reduce the potential occurrence/impacts of flooding in the lower catchment and to provide for upstream growth in Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTLS) 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 all components of the dams has been granted.</p> <p>Remaining Shovel Ready Funding (\$13m) has been released to RLC. The Contractor is currently reinstating the site and contract finalisation of works and claims of quantities is underway. Contractor claims do not align with RLC position and a resolution process 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 agreed to that request.</p> <p>Closure of the contractual parts of claims is underway.</p>


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

Background	Progress
<p>Trunk sewer main between Victoria St and city wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) conveys sewage from the city's central and western areas. Current capacity is insufficient for growth driven increasing demand, sometimes resulting in overflows during rain events.</p> <p>To reduce the capacity of the existing main and allow it to be rehabilitated the Depot Street sewer rising main will be extended to the WWTP. This will be carried out in two stages. Stage one is to go from Victoria Street to Marist Rugby Park and Stage 2 is from the Marist Field Rugby Park to the WWTP.</p>	<p>Detailed design of section one from Victoria Street to Marist Rugby Park is complete and contract documents prepared.</p> <p>We are waiting on the outcome of a BoPRC dewatering consent application to be granted before going to tender.</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: Installation of the water and wastewater pipelines is practically complete.</p> <p>Stage 2: The Contractor building the wastewater pumpstation is planning on establishing onsite this month. Civil shop drawings have been approved, and off-site construction of various pumpstation components such as the wet well chamber has begun.</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>  <p><i>Pictured: De-watering and trench shield on Wharetoroa Drive</i></p>	<p>Wastewater treatment plant operating in compliance with resource consent conditions.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Marae Committees will be advised 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.</p> <p>Regulatory process started with approx. 13 properties (non-Māori whenua) that have not consented to the on-property installations.</p> <p>Final net capital targeted rate set in LTP and targeted rate payments progressing well. Future growth properties will be addressed as they occur and installations will be made once building consents have been issued.</p> <p>Environment Minister initiated a project review to assist sign-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) has been approved and RLC has received those funds in early February.</p>

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 expected to be early 2026 followed by a one-year 'proving period'. Forest irrigation remains in place pending completion of Sustainable Forest Approach (SFA) project.</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Ventilation/air-scrubbing system being installed into the new switch room. From here, all new processing equipment will be powered and controlled.</i></p>  <p><i>Pictured: MBR membrane support structures being installed.</i></p>	<p>Installation of mechanical equipment (membrane supports and walkways) is underway and all other built concrete structures have been inspected and (apart from a few minor defects) accepted as complete.</p> <p>Design solution for flooded excavation paused pending evaluation of recent testing indicating low strength in some parts of storm flow pump station. Options for progression are under consideration.</p> <p>In February, a well planned site operation led to the successful live cut-in from part of the old plant to part of the new plant (RAS Return Pipe). This was completed exactly as planned and without incident.</p> <p>RLC has completed investigation into the cause of the excavation flooding. The findings are now with TRILITY and RLC has reiterated its rejection of TRILITY's variation claim.</p> <p>Upgrade programme remains mostly on track although some schedule slippages have occurred due to the flooded pit. Commissioning expected mid-2025 and substantial completion January 2026.</p> <p>In parallel, work also continues to identify potential sites for discharge of treated wastewater outside of Whakarewarewa Forest. Desktop studies are now complete and a report is being written to summarise all work completed to date.</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Installation of the new RAS Return Pipe. (See Pūmanawa for the full story)</i></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 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>The objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect the environment - Mitigate the effects of flood risk - Control contaminants - Protect infrastructure - Adapt to climate change - Increase awareness 	<p>Consent hearing was Nov 2024 and commissioners issued their decision report Jan 2025. The consent expires December 2059.</p> <p>Conditions of the consent could be accepted or appealed within a specified timeframe. The final conditions took on board much of the feedback RLC provided during the process.</p> <p>RLC is appealing one design condition related to service level of secondary flow paths. RLC believes this is not feasible. The appeal has been lodged with the Environment Court. The next steps are for RLC and BoPRC to meet and try and reach agreement. If agreement is reached, a joint statement of agreement by both Council’s will be provided to the Court. The appeal process does delay the start date of when the consent comes into force.</p> <p>RLC is responsible for managing stormwater from the urban area and infill development, managing the stormwater network, managing the quality of stormwater from the urban area, including minimising contaminants in the network including from industrial sites and this was supported by industrial submitters. The water quality plan will be finalised in line with final consent conditions over the next 12 months.</p>

Background	Progress
	<p>BoPRC is responsible for consenting greenfield developments.</p> <p>Collaboration is required for managing flood risk which depends on stormwater network efficiency (managed by RLC) as well as efficiency of natural waterways and the lake levels (managed by BoPRC). A joint walkover with BoPRC was undertaken 10 March to scope the collaboration required.</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 with urban iwi and the community will continue as we work to develop and implement Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) over the next few years.</p> <p>The CMPs will cover assets, maintenance, improvements and management of catchments, flood modelling and identification of flood mitigation options. They will identify catchment stormwater management issues including those identified by tāngata whenua and identify mitigation options to address these to meet the specified standards. Through the development of the CMPs, tāngata whenua will be invited to identify issues of cultural concern regarding (as a minimum) water quality; ecosystem health; mahinga kai and recreational or cultural use of modified natural watercourses, natural streams and geothermal waters affected by the stormwater discharges. They will be invited to identify any new or modified existing stormwater mitigation infrastructure that tāngata whenua consider would assist with addressing any identified issues of cultural concern. 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 levels of service required for future resilience are also key considerations and benefits.</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><i>Pictured: Cliff Road Pumping Station</i></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 for Stage 1 and a contract variation recommendation was submitted to Council to ensure delegated authority probity. The recommendations were approved.</p> <p>An injunction was awarded to enable completion of the pipeline near Rotokakahi.</p> <p>Progress: 22.3km of pressure mains installed, 18.6km pressure testing completed, 399 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 considering splitting the project into separable portions to reduce costs risks. Council will be updated at the Annual Plan discussions phase of various options for decisions.</p>

Water Operations

Stormwater

James Street SW Main Renewal

Williams Drainage has efficiently completed full replacement of a failing 1940s stormwater main between York Street and Malfroy Road, ensuring minimal disruption with high quality result. The original pipeline was discovered to have collapsed at multiple joints, resulting in blockages and a failure to effectively convey stormwater during rain events. The replacement totalled 115m of 300mm concrete pipe. This was carried out to a high standard, resolving these issues and improving the overall system's reliability.



Pictured: New concrete storm water pipe being installed in York Street

Diana Place – Open Drain Bank Stabilisation Works

Installation of a new timber-lined wall to stabilise the banks and protect a buried wastewater line at Diana Place is now underway and progressing well. Prior to starting the works, a stream diversion was implemented, and a comprehensive fish salvage operation undertaken. As a result, 120 koura and 8 banded kokopu were successfully relocated upstream to protect them from these works. Installation of the steel beam supports has started as part of the wall construction. These beams are 7m long and will extend 5.5m into the ground. Although harder-than-anticipated rock has been encountered, progress remains steady, and the work is progressing well given the tricky site conditions.



Pictured: Koura and Kokopu



Pictured: Pipe diversion and temporary dam for planned works



Pictured: Installation of pilings to stabilise drainage bank

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 are at present utilising additional local contractors to assist the Works teams on getting back on top of the current workloads.

Over the February/March period, two attempts have been made to break into the Rotoiti permanent generator. With the first attempt, the alarms were triggered and when the team arrived on site, they found the wires cut from the communications aerial pole and the padlock had been vandalised but not opened. Staff did well to ensure the area still had potable water while it got repaired. Repairs took about three days. With the second attempt, the alarm was triggered. When the team arrived on site, they found people still onsite. Photos were taken of the vehicle. Details that were passed onto the police. Again, the security systems were not breached at this site.



Pictured: Pole with coms wire stripped



Pictured: Cable box torn off container



Pictured: Padlock badly damaged but still holding

Reservoir Assessments for all Rotorua sites: Site visits were made by Becca for the rest of our concrete reservoirs that are getting a full assessment completed. This report will help us allocate money in the coming financial years to improve the life expectancy of the reservoirs.

Wastewater

Critical cutover of new pipework at WWTP completed, working with Upgrade team and contractors. Dry weather has led to a good level of treatment.

Ohu: Taio | Environmental Performance & Climate Change

Climate Change

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.

Safe and Sustainable Journeys (Road Safety Education)

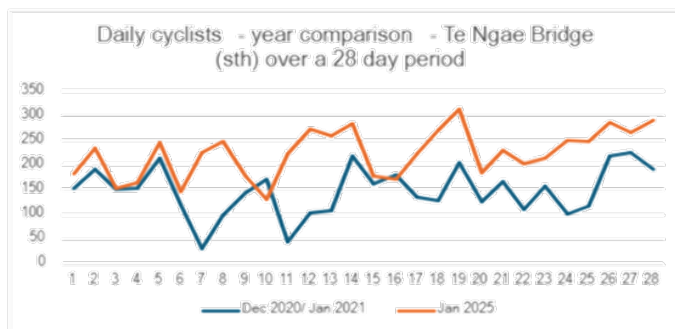
- **Eke Haumarū** - Bike safety and scooter skills fun days are being held in conjunction with reserve activations and other community-led events during the school holidays. The Eke Haumarū team has started the school year at Lynmore School, where they are delivering grades 1 and 2.
- **Tour bus stops and parks** - Working on finalising review of CBD tour bus stop locations. Information brochure for operators will follow. GIS map created for current locations and available on RLC website.
- **Rural school bus infrastructure** – The Rural Community Board (RCB) has been able to fund upcycling of three old rural shelters for Awahou and Rerewhakaaitu with Mamaku to be scheduled. The Board also funded restoration of one shelter in Rerewhakaaitu which has of sentimental value for the community.
- **School safety** – RLC staff helped Malfroy School with some problems they were experiencing at pick-up. The changes they suggested to the school were taken on board and a trial went better than expected with parents scoring the changes very highly and principal Nicky Brell very pleased.
- **Cycle Safety** – Three Go by Bike Days were held in February, with an excellent turnout. Skills sessions for adults have been offered with a poor turnout.



Pictured: Go By Bike Day pit-stop - Te Ngae Road/Puarenga Stream

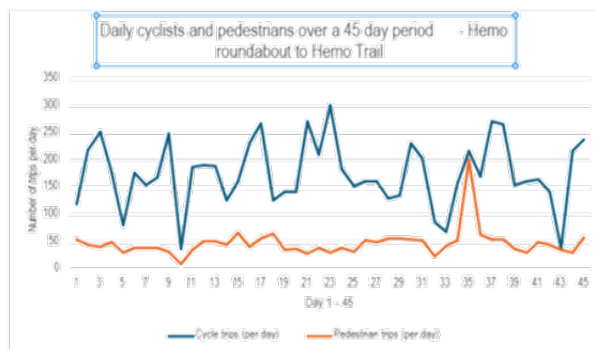
Mobile cycle counters have been placed at two sites over the January/February period.

Te Ngae Bridge (south/forest side of Te Ngae Road): 2020/21 count was done prior to completion of Te Ngae Rd shared path and bridge upgrade, although construction had begun. There has been a 52% increase in daily cyclists since that last count in 2021 (2021 average 148 cyclists per day; 2025: average 225 cyclists per day). This increase is especially good, as the permanent counters across the network generally peaked around the summer of 2020/21 due to more local people biking which is most likely related to the Covid lock-down (more personal time and less traffic on the road). The upgraded infrastructure has made a huge difference on Te Ngae Rd, it is a lot safer and the cycle network to the east side is far more connected than it was in 2021.



Hemo roundabout to Hemo Trail shared path

This is the first time a cycle count has taken place at this location. It is an important location and a good indicator of how many people are cycling to and from the Waipa trails (as opposed to driving to the trails).



Hemo roundabout to Hemo Trail shared path data

Waste Management

Landfill

Routine maintenance has continued over the summer season. At the Transfer Station, Waste Management were endeavouring to separate out construction and building waste to send to a more appropriate class 2 facility. Due to the limited yardage on-site, the material was being stored on spare ground next to the transfer station. During a recent consent compliance site visit, BoPRC were unhappy with where the material was being temporarily stockpiled, issuing a non-compliance. Waste Management is working through this with BoPRC.

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.

A household battery recycling unit is now available to the public at the Rotorua Recycling Centre – 72 kg of batteries were submitted for recycling over the month of February.

There was a fire in the recycling bunker at the Te Ngae Rd Recycling Centre on 15 February, likely caused by a lithium battery being discarded in household recycling. While there was a significant amount of smoke mainly from cardboard and paper, FENZ had the situation quickly under control. No major damage was caused to any of the remaining buildings and infrastructure on site.

Resourceful Rotorua Litter Reduction Campaign

Our litter monitoring programme is nearing completion, recording observations from various locations across the district and covering areas with existing litter bins, sites where bins have been removed and areas where there have never been bins. This will continue until the end of April to ensure we have a sufficiently large sample to inform a revision of our bin optimisation plan and we expect to have a report on this by the end of May 2025.

Alongside this, Council continues to encourage and support community clean-ups. A new litter clean-up organiser guide is now available on the RLC website to guide these activities and advise of support available, with emphasis on health and safety. In addition, we also continue to offer gloves, pickers and litter bags and provide support with disposal of littered that is cleared through community activities.

Waste Minimisation Education

Waste minimisation activities have included:

- Two public community workshops at the Linton Park Community Centre and library (nine attendees). Subsidised composting equipment continues to be offered to those attending.
- Venue funding for monthly Rotorua Repair Cafe: 18 broken items were seen in February, with 14 repaired during the event session and a further four identified as repairable.
- Sponsorship for two business sign-ups to Refill NZ, an initiative to promote re-use over single-use beverage containers. Businesses signing up to Refill NZ confirm that they are happy for people to fill a water bottle for free at their site, communicating this by displaying a sticker in their window and being listed on the Refill NZ app and website. Secret Spot Hot Tubs Rotorua and Aotearoa Dive joined in February, following promotion and encouragement by project partner Rotorua Sustainable Charter.
- Two full day waste education sessions at one local primary school, with five more scheduled to take place over March and April. Students have been learning about the waste hierarchy, with sessions on responsible disposal, recycling, composting and waste minimisation (rethink, reduce, reuse). A compost bin has been donated and established at the school.



Pictured: Lynmore Primary students apply the Waste Hierarchy to reduce waste from everyday items

Completion of the 'Stationery Revive' pilot phase, 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. With just two collection boxes out over the Christmas period, approximately 2,700 useable items were donated and prepared for ongoing use. This included:

- 385 books or notepads (exercise books, refills, notebooks, notepads, clear files)
- 2252 writing utensils (pens, pencils, coloured pencils, felts, erasers, sharpeners)
- 84 other items (book bags, calculators, glue sticks, pencil cases, rulers, protractors, compasses, twink, scissors, staplers).
- 89 exercise books were refurbished with damaged covers replaced.

All items were provided to Love Soup which “re-homed” all items in time for the new school year.



Pictured: Collection, refurbishment and distribution phases of Stationery Revive

Water Quality

Consent monitoring: The Draft Rotorua Urban Water Quality Contaminant Monitoring Programme will be updated during the next 12 months in line with final Comprehensive Urban Stormwater Consent (CSC) conditions. This is a long-term monitoring programme that covers indicators of water quality, sediment quality and ecosystem health. RLC and BoPRC have discussed and agreed in principle that we will align the monitoring carried out by each Council. This monitoring will be incorporated into the Water Quality Plan. The purpose is to demonstrate compliance with the Consent trigger levels or to trigger action if exceeded and to demonstrate urban stream water quality relative to national water quality targets (NES-FM).

Through development of Catchment Management Plans over the coming years, tāngata whenua will be invited to identify desired amendments or additions to the monitoring programme, including the use of cultural monitoring indicators, parameters or tools and these will be considered in periodic reviews of the Water Quality Plan.

Contaminant monitoring:

Investigative monitoring is also a requirement of the consent and this is ongoing. The objective is to identify contaminants, locate the source which may be urban industrial rural etc., and ensure those responsible for the contaminants take action to mitigate.

Monitoring to date indicates good water quality through most residential areas (not industrial areas) most of the time and we have identified a few issues that have been rectified/fixed, and we continue to investigate a few. 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.

As the monitoring progresses, it is becoming apparent that the quality of stormwater from industrial areas and large unsealed areas is poor and a concerted effort is required to address this. 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 above permitted levels. Council is required to manage the effects of urban industrial land-use on water quality. A modified approach for stormwater licencing under the bylaw was proposed. This will be modified to both align with the conditions of the CSC and to reduce RLC's risk of non-compliance. Industrial premises (activities and/or sites) will be subject to a risk assessment and those that are assessed as 'moderate-' or 'high-risk' will require stormwater licences. The quality of stormwater from high-risk sites will be monitored as a condition of the licence. The quality of the stormwater must be within acceptable levels for the industry to continue to hold a licence. The finer details will be worked out and the Bylaw will be updated to ensure the requirements are clear.

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?](#)). The protocol was recently reviewed. To ensure fast effective communication of warnings as they arise, the communication plan and location of any signage was included. The revised version has been signed by all parties to the agreement.

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 and removed a couple of days later after results confirmed the site was suitable for bathing.

Throughout this bathing season, E. coli levels were occasionally high (red mode) when rainfall was high. E coli levels were often elevated (orange mode) in the Ngongotahā Stream at railway bridge and the Utuhina Stream at Lake Road, where permanent health warnings remain in place.

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 was advised at several sites on Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Rotoehu.

The warning at Holdens Bay was lifted 31 January. The warning remains in place for Okawa Bay where levels have reduced but have not been low enough for long enough to remove the warning (last update 6 March).

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):

In August 2024, work on a major Council infrastructure project, the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme, had to be paused due to individuals opposed to the scheme taking action that put Council contractors at risk. Those incidents made it apparent that additional security and logistical support would need to be put in place before work could recommence, including significant support from police.

In November 2024, the capacity and capability of the project planning team was increased and the "Consolidated Planning" protocols outlined in New Zealand Government handbook for Coordinated Incident Management (CIMS) were adopted. The RLC Manager for Emergency Management was joined to the planning team due to his expertise in the CIMS framework, experience in police operational planning and working collaboratively in an inter-agency environment.

The operational challenges associated with progressing the project created a situation where two government agencies had distinct roles to perform. Rotorua Lakes Council had responsibilities and obligations pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002, including "promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities" (s. 10), and to make provision for appropriate infrastructure to ensure the community is provided with essential services (s. 101B). New Zealand Police had responsibilities and obligations pursuant to the Policing Act 2008, particularly in respect of "keeping the peace, maintaining public safety, law enforcement" and providing "community support and assurance" (section 9 – Functions of Police).

Accordingly, the operation planning was progressed using the CIMS "Unified Control" model, with Rotorua Lakes Council and Police working collaboratively to establish objectives and priorities. However, each agency had a separate operational plan to cover their respective roles and responsibilities.

The joint operation to re-establish the site was successfully executed the evening of Monday, 24 February. All operational objectives were achieved, including the safe re-establishment of the site and minimum disruption to local communities. The road to Tarawera was re-opened on schedule at 7am Tuesday, 25 February.

However, works were again paused on Friday, 28 February due to the Rotokakahi Board of Control initiating action through the Environment Court in an effort to stop the work proceeding. The Environment Court signalled it will consider the matter with urgency. In the meantime, the inter-agency planning team will develop contingencies for a subsequent re-start of works, pending the outcome of the Environment Court hearing.

Response:

No local emergencies have occurred during this reporting cycle.

Reduction and Resilience:

Marae Preparedness and Resilience - Local Council CDEM supported local iwi representatives to develop an application for funding from the national CDEM Resilience fund, which is administered by NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency), seeking just under \$165k to support:

- preparing, training and supporting local marae to prepare for an emergency response, including marae being enabled to support the wider community in a major event
- building confidence and resilience of local iwi in respect of emergency preparedness
- provision of equipment, including radio telephone sets, that would enable marae to provide a more coordinated and robust response to an emergency.

The application was supported by the CE of Rotorua Lakes Council, the Director of EM BoP and the Chair of the BoP CDEM Joint Committee.

Local Welfare Committee - During recent months our Welfare Manager, Raj Seneviratne, has been working on refreshing and strengthening the Local Welfare Committee. Its role is to ensure government and community based agencies are connected and enabled to collaborate in providing welfare services to the community following/during an emergency event. This group meets bi-monthly. There are currently 16 organisations represented in this forum.


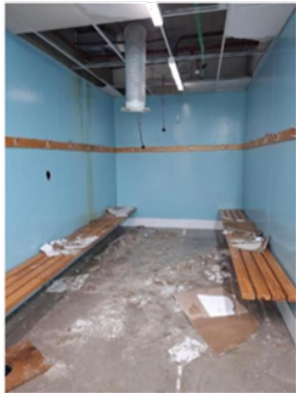
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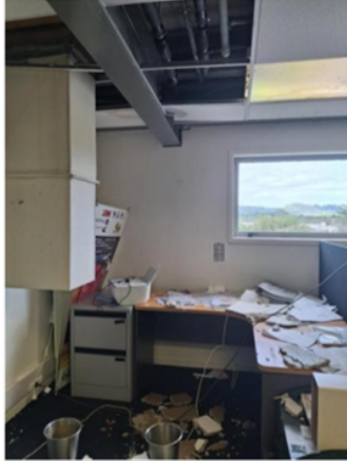
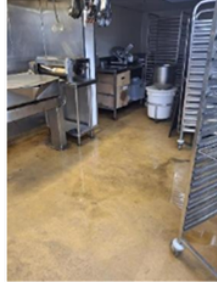


- Staff turnover remains an ongoing challenge, resulting in 50% turnover of the EOC team in the past two years, requiring extra effort to recruit and train new staff.
- Notwithstanding the above challenges, all key EOC roles are covered. Although staff capacity has been maintained, the loss of experienced staff has impacted on the overall capability of the EOC.
- The EOC currently has a pool of 108 RLC staff, sufficient to establish an effective EOC response team in the event of an emergency.

Staffing and Training:

Core CDEM foundation and intermediate training courses are scheduled for the first quarter of 2025 so newly recruited Rotorua EOC team members can complete basic CDEM training at the earliest opportunity. RLC has six staff attending the annual week-long Bay 8 training course organised by EMBoP to enhance EOC skills.

Property – Facilities Management
Capital Projects

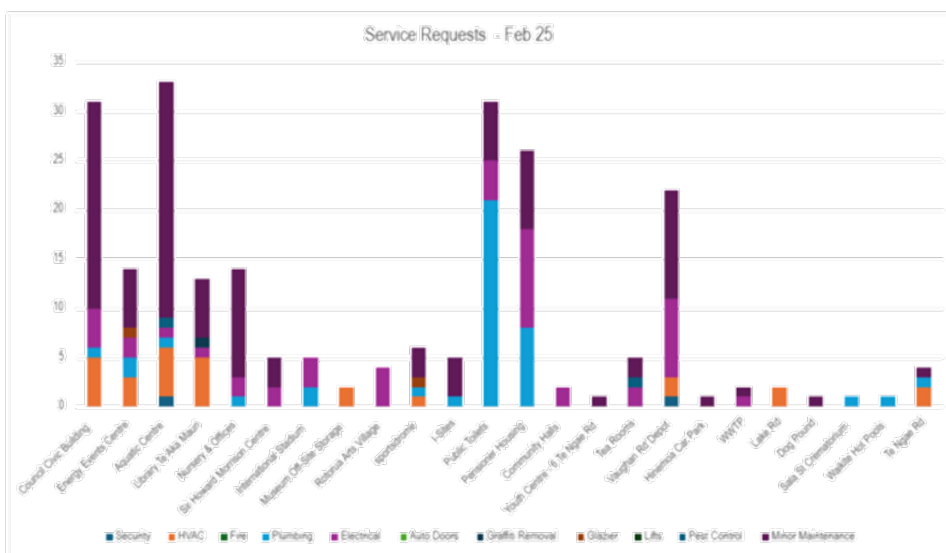
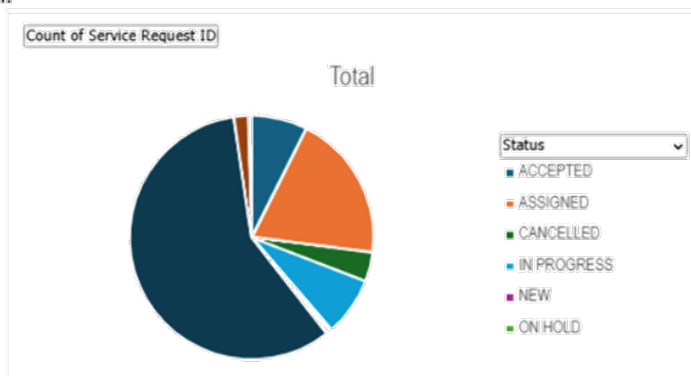
<p>Geothermal Bore Replacements</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Aerial view of Civic Centre</i></p>	<p>Drilling began at the Civic Centre in the last week of January 2025. As of the end of February, one of the two bores at the front of the Civic Centre has been completed, with the other being drilled in March. Piping install and connection will occur through April and May.</p>
<p>Energy Events Centre (EEC)</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Changing room</i></p>	<p>Fusio Pipe replacement in changing rooms well on track from a time and budget aspect. Fusio pipe being replaced with stainless steel and likely to be completed early April with remediation to walls and ceilings to follow.</p> <p>Fusio pipe failure in caterers’ office resulting in extensive damage to ceiling tiles and carpets. Leak occurred while on-site investigating another leak that occurred 1 March. Fortunately the leak did not impact on any structural elements.</p>

 <p><i>Pictured: Catering office damage</i></p>	 <p><i>Pictured: Leak in commercial kitchen</i></p>
<p>20-28 Te Ngae Road – Te Ngae Recycling Centre</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Cleared site</i></p>	<p>Final clean-up of demolition site completed in February 2025 with new security fencing being put in place for Smart Environment in March 2025.</p>
<p>Civic Centre</p>	<p>Work to replace air-conditioning in the Council Chamber which is original to the building was completed on-time in mid-February.</p>
<p>Rotorua Arts Village</p>  <p><i>Pictured: Replaced roof (external view)</i></p>	<p>Flat roof replacement over studio 2 was carried out in February due to failure of the old butanol material which caused water to leak through to interior space. Extensive timber decay was found within the walls leading us to believe that the leak had gone undetected for many months prior.</p>



Facilities Maintenance

A total of 231 facilities maintenance jobs were received in February 2025, 63% of which were completed by the end of the month.



- Total of 46 electrical – 21% relate to pensioner housing
- Total of 41plumbing - 51% relate to public toilets
- Total of 27 heating and ventilation
- Total of 110 minor maintenance - 22% relate to the Aquatic Centre & 19% relate to Civic Centre

Facility	Key Issues
Aquatic Centre	13 vandalism incidents recorded during February

Facilities Planning

The Facilities Team will focus on structuring a facilities strategic plan and all necessary Asset Management Plans to inform the next Long-Term Plan. Underpinning these plans will be Service Level Agreements with each occupying activities for the buildings. Within those plans, clusters of facilities will be classified and specific management protocols created. Where these facilities do not meet critical needs requirements, options will be presented to Council. The plans will also 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: The resource consent application for construction of the proposed Titoki sports field is nearing completion. The four affected neighbouring households have been notified and we are awaiting feedback on the proposal from them. Tonkin & Taylor has discussed the project with the BoPRC hydrology team who agree that the construction of sports fields here will be neutral to stormwater effects in the Utuhina Stream. The Resource Consent application will be lodged once we have satisfactorily closed out discussions with affected neighbours.

New sports field/surface lights have been installed over one hockey turf in Smallbone Park and at the sports fields and sports carpark area at Ngongotahā Domain. Building consent application for four new field-light masts at Ray Boord Park has been lodged and work is expected to get underway on installing these lights by mid-April.

Work has been undertaken to prepare for fixing significant lake shore erosion problems on the edge of the Government Gardens Reserve by the Polynesian Spa. This is scheduled for May-June with replacement of a very old, dilapidated lake-edge wall. The procurement team has assisted with necessary tender information and part of this work will also involve Scion checking material removed from the old wall, as when it was built several different timbers were provided by the Forest Service to test resilience to geothermal and submerged conditions.

Toilet Renewals: The refurbishment of the older toilet block at the Redwoods I-Site has been completed and designers are working on more detailed design for the upgrades to the Hinemoa Street toilets in the inner city.

Playground renewals: During February, we have been continuing with planning for Ohinemutu and initiated procurement for play equipment. This renewal is scheduled for later this financial year.

Baxendale: The final structure in the Baxendale stream walk has been completed allowing an accessible pathway along the banks of the Utuhina Stream. This bridge completes the structures work with only a small area now to be shaped for walking and the project will be open to the public.



Pictured: Bridge in Baxendale Esplanade Reserve on the new walking track

Sports Facility Use and Events: Summer sports have continued during summer with large numbers of players across a wide range of council fields and facilities. Winter sports are now also setting up and booking fields and gathering information to be able to make funding applications for support over the coming season. We are also trying to build in time between use for autumn field renovations, so planning is underway to try and minimise the impact on the end of the summer season and the start of the winter season.

After a very busy January sports event month, the February events have stepped away from the sports fields and been more focused on Council's recreation areas. We have had a Dodge-bow tournament at Medical Officers Reserve, canoe racing at Tikitapu, jet ski summer series at Rotomā, the Tarawera Ultra Marathon and a NZ MTB Championships in the forest. Staff have also been assisting with preparation for the Crankworx event.

Open Spaces maintenance and activities

February has been a busy month for the arboriculture team to remove some big trees which had been presenting ill health or risk to the public. This has included work at Boielle Park, Fenton and Holland streets intersection and Waikawau Reserve where mainly large poplars have been removed.

A 10-month project capturing all assets in the Titokorangi and Whakarewarewa forest areas has been completed. It included condition assessments and GPS mapping of more than 300km of tracks, 53 jumps, 1427 signs and trail markers, 68 staircases, 82 bridges and boardwalks and 31 benches and picnic tables.



Pictured: Large poplars that have been removed from Boielle Park and the Fenton/Holland Street intersection

The Works Department has continued with regular open space maintenance such as mowing, janitorial, gardening, tree crown lifting, walkway maintenance and structure repairs. Additional work has included putting in more motor bike restrictions at High Street Reserve, fencing repairs, new park furniture in some reserves and at Lake Rotomā and work on boat ramps and jetties.

8 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		
<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>8.1 Confidential Minutes of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee Meeting held on 5 March 2025</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>8.2 Verbal Update – Tarawera Sewerage Scheme</p>	<p>The withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p>	<p>7(2)(g)</p>
<p>Plain English</p>	<p>Ongoing legal proceedings</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.</p>		

9 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