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Address

Dear Sir/Madam,

**TITLE (FREE TEXT PART)**

Tēnā koe

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou i runga i ngā āhuatanga maha o ngā wā, i runga anō hoki i te kaupapa nei, arā, Te Kahupapa Hai Tiaki i Te Mauri o Ngā Roto.  
Ko te tumanako kei te noho ora, kei te noho haumaruru hoki koutou.

Greetings to you amidst the many events of the times, also in regards to this project, the Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme. We hope you are well and safe in your homes.

Further to the information sent in July, this letter provides an update about the East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme, and outlines the next steps for installation of the selected pre-treatment system at each property in Rotoiti.

**Latest information**

In June 2021, Rotorua Lakes Council agreed to award the contract for the supply and installation of Biolytix BF2 on about 450 properties in East Rotoiti to Fulton Hogan. The contract also includes the operational management and maintenance of the on-site systems for a term of 15 years.

The selection followed a thorough and robust process in accordance with the requirements of the consent conditions for the scheme issued by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The performance criteria that the Biolytix system was required to meet included operational effectiveness, system safety, effluent performance, cultural alignment and long-term cost effectiveness.

**About Biolytix BF2 Eco Pods**

The Biolytix BF2 Eco Pod (system) is the approved on-site wastewater system for East Rotoiti. There will be one system installed per dwelling, and it will sit below the ground surface with an access cover above ground. It is connected to the electrical panel of the house. The system uses micro-organisms, and tiger worms, to break down organic material. This is a natural process that reduces any offensive odours from wastewater.

When wastewater enters the system, solid waste is separated from liquid using filter beds. Tiger worms and other organisms break down waste solids and convert them into liquid. The tiger worms live throughout the filter bed, naturally aerating it, and wastewater is broken down by microorganisms as it trickles through the filter bed. The treated wastewater is then pumped from the on-site system through the local reticulated network to the main Wastewater Treatment Plant on Haumingi 9B3B for final

treatment and disinfection prior to discharge.

For more information about the system visit [www.biolytix.com](http://www.biolytix.com) or contact Council on 07 348 4199 to speak to an engineer about how the process works.

### Installation process

Initially, a Council staff member will contact landowners to organise a site visit at their property. Site visits are planned to start in October 2021. Due to the large number of properties, it may be some time before owners hear from Council.

At the site visit, owners should expect to:

- inspect the property with Council staff to work out and agree on where the system will be installed, and to discuss the decommissioning of the old septic system
- receive information about the installation process and contacts for help and assistance during that time
- review and sign paperwork for the Locality Plan, Construction Consent and Archaeological Find Consent (where applicable).

The building consent will take approximately 20 working days to process (please note consent fees are covered by Council as part of the overall cost of the scheme). Once the consent is granted, Fulton Hogan will contact owners to arrange a suitable date for the installation. They will also ensure the details for reinstatement of the installation site are agreed upon.

Installation of each system will take approximately 2 – 3 days to complete, followed by a further couple of days for reinstatement depending on the site. Owners will be provided with information about who to contact if they have questions or concerns. There would only be a 2-3 hour disruption in the use of your wastewater system.

Once the system is installed, owners will receive a manual with instructions about how to operate the system. If there are any questions about this process please contact Council on 07 348 4199.

### System cost

Council remains very aware that the final cost is a concern for residents and it's important to note that every effort has been made to constrain final costs. As outlined in earlier updates (July 2021), there will be a capital contribution from landowners for the system. This capital contribution won't need to be paid until the scheme is completed (under current Council decisions) and the full, actual costs are settled. This will likely be in two years' time (2023).

All scheme participants will pay the same charge (except some community facilities such as schools, marae and sports clubs due to their importance to the community). Council's advice is that it will continue to pursue the goal that the lowest possible net costs are achieved for the local ratepayers.

#### What are the payment options?

The payment options are:

- A lump sum paid once the scheme is complete (likely 2023);
- Instalments paid over 25 years (as will be agreed by Council in due course) added each year to rates.

#### Are there other costs?

Yes, there is an annual operating cost per annum, which is equalised across Rotorua district to all properties connected to a wastewater scheme. This operating cost covers maintenance, repairs and system renewals.

### **Payment assistance**

Hardship assistance is available through Council for anyone unable to meet the cost. This will be assessed on an individual basis. Owners may also qualify for a Rates Rebate. You can read more about Rates Rebates at [www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/ratesrebates](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/ratesrebates) or call council on 07 348 4199 to ask one of our Customer Centre team members about Rates Rebates.

### **Where to find more information**

Council wants to make sure that all residents, property owners and the wider Rotoiti Rotomā community are up to date as these final stages progress. You can find updates, and background information about the project online at:

- [www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoitirotomawaterways](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoitirotomawaterways)
- [letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoiti-rotoma-sewerage-scheme](http://letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz/rotoiti-rotoma-sewerage-scheme)

Council will also supply updates to local community groups, respective hapū and other community members to share via their networks. A potential open day event will be organised around the Christmas holidays, once more certainty is gained on the current Covid alert levels.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding while this work is carried out.

Noho ora mai rā.

Nāku noa nei,  
nā



Stavros Michael  
Deputy Chief Executive – Infrastructure & Environmental Solutions