

Te Kaupapa Tiaki o ngā Roto

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Update – September 2024

Tēnā rā koutou. Kei te mihi tonu nei i roto i ngā tini āhuatanga o ngā wā. Nau mai ki te pānui nei.

Warm greetings and in the many happenings of the times. Welcome to this Tarawera Sewerage Scheme update.

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Rotorua Lakes Council (Council) update

From Gerhard Mostert, Engineer's Representative

These regular updates are provided to local community groups, respective hapū and other community members to share via their networks.

Council contribution

As part of the Long-term Plan decisions, Council approved an increase per household council funding contribution from **\$1,500.00 to \$2,700.00** for the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme. This in effect contributes another \$0.6m to the scheme. Council and community representatives will continue to seek additional funding support from other possible sources and agencies and before the final targeted rate will be considered.

Locality Plans

Agreement by each property owner to finalise on-property Locality Plans is a necessary element of Stage 2 of the scheme so building consents can be obtained and installations can proceed. We wish to again **urge property owners to collaborate with the Stage 2 contractor on this matter to avoid contractual progress delays and unnecessary additional project costs.**

Signing the Locality Plan indicates the owners' consent to the:

- Installation of necessary sewerage assets on the property.
- Recording of the location for future maintenance and replacement (full Council responsibility).
- Identification of any required Heritage NZ investigations.
- Acknowledgement of potential minor location changes if required by the owner.

The installation of these assets and their connection to house plumbing requires building consent. Signed owner permission on the Locality Plan is a crucial part of the building consent application process.

Signing the Locality Plan does not imply agreement or disagreement with the funding principles of the scheme, nor does it commit the owner to the payment of targeted capital or operational rates. These matters will be considered by the Council when setting the targeted rate as the scheme is reaching its practical completion date. The requirement to connect to the scheme and eventually pay the set rates is already established in legislation and Council decision-making processes.

DDL, the contractor for stage 2 of the project, has begun arranging onsite visits, with initial interactions and physical installations planned to start in October 2024.

Council will, once commissioned, oversee the on-property system, fund its on-going operations, maintenance, and future replacement. Delays in signing the Locality Plan will delay the system installation process and increase costs. You can view our 10 May Locality Plan update [here](#).

Please contact Hamish Stewart to arrange your onsite visit and drafting of the Locality Plan for the new LPGP system. Hamish can be contacted on 027 235 0967 or hamish@ddl.nz.

Financials

Council, in collaboration with the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA) and other community groups, is diligently focussed onto managing the current expenses of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme. We include a comprehensive financial report in our regular updates to the Tarawera community. The table below also highlights identified risks that could directly impact current financial expenditures.

TCC SCHEME PHASE	Budget Approved (million)	Contingency (million)	Total (million)	Budget Used (million)	Budget Remaining (million)	% Completed
Planning / Design / Legal:	\$2.48m	\$0	\$2.48m	\$2.48m	\$0.02m	99.92%
Stage 1 - Reticulation and Pumping Stations:	\$13.38m	\$1.34m	\$14.72m	\$11.0m	\$3.68	74.98%
Stage 2 - Onsite LPGP installations (Start Oct '24):	\$11.03m	\$1.10m	\$12.13m	\$0.43m	\$12.0m	0.36%
TOTALS:	\$26.89m	\$2.43m	\$29.32m	\$13.6m	\$15.7m	58.42%
Financial and other risks:	<p>Current and anticipated Legal cost: To enable Stage 1 of the scheme to be completed without interference a legal injunction application was lodged with the District Court to prevent anyone from obstructing progress of the project. There are legal costs for that process and Council will eventually make decisions on how to treat these costs. Current cost: \$97,334.67 Anticipated possible future cost to address work obstructions: \$10,000.00</p> <p>Anticipated Site Safety cost: To ensure effective monitoring and facilitate a possible reconvening of the Court if required, site operations will be monitored through CCTV cameras, security, and regular police patrolling. Current cost: \$4,545.00 Anticipated future cost: \$25,000.00 depending on site interference</p> <p>Anticipated contract cost variation: Difficulties to obtain signatures for the Locality Plans & Building Consents. Delays to secure consents to finalise the Locality Plans may slow down the Stage 2 installations causing time-related costs to the project. Increase in cost to complete the 3 pumping stations to enable gradual and progressive commissioning of on-property connections. Anticipated future cost: \$ (currently being evaluated).</p>					

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme budget used as of August 2024

If you have any questions regarding the scheme, please contact us at TaraweraSS@rotorualc.nz or phone 07 348 4199.

We thank the Tarawera community for your support and recognising the importance of protecting the health of our community and waterways for future generations.

For regular updates, visit our website by scanning this QR code or search www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/tarawerassupdates:



Cultural Team update

From Kahurangi White-Parsons, Partnership Advisor

Cultural Monitoring

Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera, the collective of Māori Landowners in the Tarawera area regularly hold cultural inductions for contractors and Rotorua Lakes Council project staff and are the first point of contact for cultural monitoring of the project. This does not include the Rotokākahi area, as this is the responsibility of the Rotokākahi Board of Control.

Progress Reports

Monthly reports from Fulton Hogan detailing work progress and next phases are sent to Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera, Tūhourangi Tribal Authority and Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA).

Lake Rotokākahi

Rotorua Lakes Council received a petition from the Rotokākahi Board of Control in early April 2024 and the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee responded to that petition. You can view the petition [here](#) or watch the livestreamed meeting [here](#).

Work on the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme was paused in January following protest obstruction, interference with the work site and safety concerns raised by the contractor.

In May, Council applied to the District Court for an injunction against persons unknown, under section 162 of the Local Government Act 2002 to enable works associated with the Tarawera scheme to continue. You can view a copy of the application and summary [here](#).

Rotorua Lakes Council's application to the District Court for an injunction to prevent disruption to the Tarawera sewerage scheme, was adjourned indefinitely in a decision released by Judge Clark on 17 July.

Judge Clark confirmed that the Council's works on the road corridor are lawful and can continue. Any conduct obstructing or interfering with the works could lead to an injunction being granted. The Court's decision allows for legal proceedings to be renewed urgently if necessary.

There has been significant media attention of late and Council's position is outlined below:

The purpose of the Tarawera scheme is to protect the health of the community and Lake Tarawera. Without the scheme, untreated human wastewater will continue to leach through septic tanks and groundwater into Lake Tarawera which is unacceptable to all parties.

The scheme is the result of extensive community consideration over many years, including discussion with and input from, iwi and hapū. Arriving at the preferred option followed careful consideration of all technical, cultural, financial and planning factors.

The Cultural Impact Assessments and Archaeological Report recommended the road corridor to be used for the main pipelines as the risk of disturbing archaeological sites within the existing road reserves is very low. There are archaeological monitoring protocols in place.

Council has entered into and is bound by legal commitments and we cannot now re-design or re-route the project, changing decisions made some four years ago which would come at a significant cost to the Tarawera and wider community.

We understand some do not support the pipeline running along Tarawera Road and we acknowledge and respect people's right to peaceful protest. However, the safety of contractors, road users, the protection of public assets and avoiding costly delays is paramount.

There are access points to Rotokākahi and Department of Conservation land on either side of the road reserve past the temporary fence.

On 9 August 2024, a letter was issued to the Tarawera community and key stakeholders regarding the continuation of works past Lake Rotokākahi (Green Lake). You can view a copy of this letter [here](#).

Operational works commenced on 19 August 2024. From this date, expect possible delays of **up to five minutes** on Tarawera Road, towards Lake Rotokākahi (Green Lake). The works will include:

- Site enabling works
- Directional drilling of the rising main pipeline
- Installation of associated assets
- Site reinstatement

To ensure effective monitoring and facilitate a reconvening of the Court if required, site operations will be monitored through CCTV cameras, security, and regular police patrolling.

Stage 1 – Fulton Hogan update

From Ross Dallaway, Project Manger

Sewer Main

Over the last few months, crews have been working to install both pressure and rising main between Kariri Point and the Black Barn. To facilitate this install, specialist rock saw equipment was used. This chosen methodology is expediting progress through the challenging ground conditions, with a precise and accurate alignment.

During August, works will commence on the installation of the outstanding section of rising main past Lake Rotokākahi.

Our teams will continue to install all necessary associated underground and above ground assets.



Saw cutting down Spencer Rd



Rocks encountered during Saw cutting

Boundary Assemblies

Crews are continuing with boundary assembly installs as we progress with installation of the pressure main.



Boundary Assembly installation

Pump Stations

Construction has progressed well at both Stoney Point and Buried Village pump stations. All fibreglass chambers have now been installed and concrete pump chambers have now been constructed.

Cliff Road pump station has also progressed, with the hard stand surfaces now complete. Pipe connection and pump fit out works are to follow as required, on all three pump stations.



Cliff Road Pump Station



Transfer Station Pump Station – Holding tank installation

Traffic Management

Our traffic management presence has increased over the last the few months, particularly the use of traffic lights 24x7 to facilitate the install works between Kariri Point and the Black Barn.

We continue to work closely with our traffic management providers and Rotorua Lakes Council to ensure delays are kept to a minimum.

Stage 2 – DDL (o/a Goodrick Contracting Ltd) update

From Hamish Stewart, Project Manager

Council has proceeded towards a contract with the preferred Stage 2 tenderer, DDL, and physical works will commence in October 2024.

A DDL representative will contact you to confirm the location of your on-property system to conclude the Locality Plan necessary for the statutory Building Consent application process. The final Locality Plan will be recorded in your property file for future reference and to note the Council's asset maintenance responsibilities.

You are welcome to contact Hamish Stewart (DDL Contract Engineer) directly on 027 235 0967 or TaraweraSP2@ddl.nz, to commence this Stage 2 process.

Between now and October 2024, DDL will:

1. Contact you to arrange an onsite meeting to finalise the location of your on-property system and discuss re-instatement requirements;
2. Seek your signoff of the final Locality Plan;
3. Apply for the statutory Building Consent to install the on-property system.
4. Arrange a suitable time with you to install the on-property system once the Building Consent is granted and issued.
5. Install the on-property system and re-instate property affected by installation.
6. Apply for the system's Code of Compliance Certificate so it can be connected to the mains network.

This stage of the project differs from Stage 1 (the mains) because most of the work is on private properties. DDL is committed to minimising the impact of the work on your gardens, paths, driveways and other amenities and will work with you to achieve the least amount of disruption.

Kei te mihi tonu ki a koutou i te āhuatanga o ngā mahi e whakatutukihia ana i ngā kōkiritanga o Tarawera. Kia noho haumaruru tonu mai, kia noho ora tonu mai koutou.

Acknowledgements to iwi and the community for the continued support in progressing the works of Tarawera. Keep safe and keep well.
