

## Te Kaupapa Tiaki o ngā Roto

### Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Update – December 2024

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E te mano, e te rahi, koinei te mihi maioha ki a koutou katoa i roto i ngā kaupapa nunui o te wā. Anei te pānui hou mō te kaupapa nei a te 'Tarawera Sewerage Scheme'.

Nō reira tēnā koutou katoa.

*Warm greetings to everyone and acknowledge the many important undertakings that are upon us. Here is the latest update about the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.*

*Greetings again to you all.*

### 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.

#### Lake Rotokākahi works completion injunction update

The Rotorua District Court has issued an injunction to allow the unobstructed continuation and the safe completion of the Tarawera Stage 1 sewerage scheme.

The installation of pipework under Tarawera Road is 90% complete. However, work was paused on August 30 to address some concerns from iwi and hapū regarding project information. The injunction aims to ensure the safety of contractors, protestors, and the public during the project's execution. The Tarawera sewerage scheme is essential for protecting the health of the lake, community, and natural environment. This complex project supports various social, health, financial, cultural, and environmental considerations.

The project enjoys broad community support due to its significance in environmental protection and community health which are highly valued by Rotorua residents and visitors. Operational planning for the resumption of work is now underway.

Given the upcoming summer and school holidays, we are mindful of potential traffic disruptions, and this will inform our operational planning for the optimal time to restart work. The remaining work is expected to take approximately four weeks to complete, assuming no further disruptions occur.

The injunction clearly outlines the need to restrict access to the work site for the safety of the public, council staff, and contractors. Measures will be implemented to ensure reasonable access to whenua and the lake during the execution of the work.

Our elected members are exploring various options to provide cost certainty for the Tarawera property owners. The council has reallocated \$2 million previously designated for the Aquatic Centre to this project to help mitigate net costs to the property owners.

The Tarawera scheme, which will connect approximately 446 current properties to a reticulated sewerage system, aims to protect the health of the community, the lake, and downstream catchments. Without this scheme, wastewater would continue to leach into Lake Tarawera and discharge into the Tarawera River, affecting neighbouring districts and communities.

The scheme is the result of community recommendations to Council and further community consultation since 2015, including discussions with and input from iwi and hapū. The preferred option was recommended and adopted by Council after careful consideration of all technical, environmental, cultural, financial, and planning factors.

Rotorua's history is built on the respectful relationship between generations of iwi, hapū, and others in the community. The council is committed to continuing this relationship for the benefit of all.

### 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. Council received repeated feedback from the local community and local groups that they support the reticulation as the most viable intergenerational option for the community. Council is aware of the community's concerns on cost certainty and is exploring options to address that. 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 **December 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 the overall 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 [TaraweraSP2@ddl.nz](mailto:TaraweraSP2@ddl.nz).

## Financials

Council, in collaboration with the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA), Lake Tarawera Working Group 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:	\$2.48	\$0.00	\$2.48	\$3.03	-\$0.55	122.24%
Stage 1 - Reticulation and Pumping Stations:	\$13.33	\$1.66	\$14.99	\$13.57	\$1.42	90.55%
Stage 2 - Onsite LPGP installations (Start Oct '24):	\$11.03	\$1.10	\$12.13	\$0.75	\$12.05	0.62%
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$26.84</b>	<b>\$2.76</b>	<b>\$29.60</b>	<b>\$16.14</b>	<b>\$12.92</b>	<b>45.59%</b>
<b>Financial and other risk's:</b>	<p>Lake Rotokākahi delay costs: To enable Stage 1 of the scheme to be completed without interference a legal injunction application has been applied for and awarded by the District Court to prevent anyone from obstructing progress of the project. Legal costs for that process, contract delay costs and site security have imposed significant extra costs to the project (some are reflected in the Planning and legal part above). Council will eventually make decisions on how to treat these costs.</p> <p>Delays to securing consents to finalise the locality plans will slow down the Stage 2 installations causing time related costs to the project and those costs will be allocated to the project for final attribution.</p>					

*Tarawera Sewerage Scheme budget used as of November 2024*

If you have any questions regarding the scheme, please contact us at [TaraweraSS@rotorualc.nz](mailto: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](http://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/tarawerassupdates):



## Cultural Team update

### Cultural Monitoring

Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera, the collective of Māori Landowners in the Tarawera area provide cultural inductions for contractors and Rotorua Lakes Council project staff and are the first point of contact for cultural monitoring of the project. For the Rotokākahi area, the Rotokākahi Board of Control have appointed an independent cultural monitor to oversee the work in this area. The details of this appointment are still being discussed.

### Progress Reports

Rotorua Lakes Council provide monthly reports from contractors for Stage 1, Fulton Hogan and Stage 2, DDL that detail the work progress and next phases to Te Pūtaiki o Tarawera, Tūhourangi Tribal Authority, Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association (LTRA) and Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT).

## Stage 1 – Fulton Hogan update

*From Ross Dallaway, Project Manger*

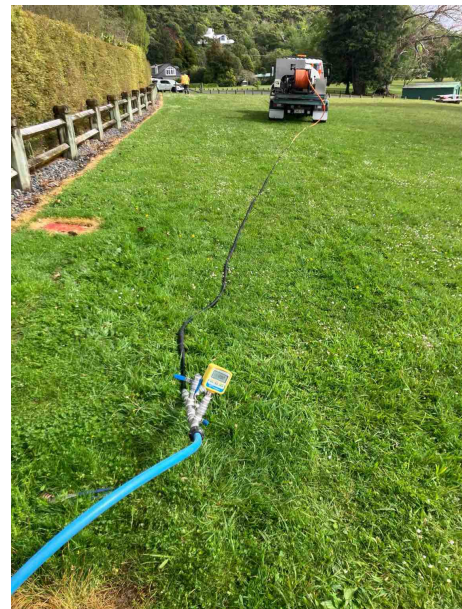
### Sewer Main

Over the last few months crews have been working to install critical asserts both above ground and underground on the pressure and rising mains. The assets include various valves and connection points.

As part of quality assurance, the last remaining sections of main are currently being pressure tested to ensure the quality and integrity of the completed works.



*Air Valve Install Spencer Rd*



*Pressure Testing Sub-Mains*

### Pump Stations

Construction of all three pump stations are progressing well. The concrete pump chambers have been poured, hard stand surfaces have now been completed. Currently crews are working on the remaining pipe fit out works, with lids and the remaining above ground assets to be installed soon after.





*Stoney Point Pump Station*



*Transfer Station Pump Station*

### **Fibre Install**

The fibre optic communication cable between the pump stations is currently being drawn through the ducts that were laid in conjunction with the main(s).

### **Traffic Management**

Our traffic management presence will continue with the utilisation of traffic lights for the remainder of pressure testing and fibre install.

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

Over the holiday period our teams will be taking a break to recharge their batteries so we can hit the ground running in the new year. Our teams will be off site from 21 December 2024 and will return on 6 January 2025. The majority of the traffic management will be removed during this period whilst we are not working. Please obey any remaining signage as it has been left in place to protect you from a hazard.

### **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 December 2024.

DDL will start installing the Low-Pressure Grinder Pump (LPGP) tanks and connecting to the Boundary Assembly on properties from December 2024. We will have a break and then re-commence installations from mid-January 2025 onward. The properties that have been granted a Building Consent will be contacted over the coming weeks to arrange a suitable date for the installation.

DDL will also be installing tanks at Council's public toilets throughout January and continuing with Locality Plan visits. We are excited to get underway with Stage 2, working through cultural inductions and Heritage New Zealand requirements.

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](mailto:TaraweraSP2@ddl.nz), to commence this Stage 2 process.

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.

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*E mihi kau ana ki a koutou katoa i tō koutou tautoko tonu ki te whakatutuki ngā mahi ki  
Tarawera. Kia noho haumarū tātau katoa.  
Acknowledgements to everyone for your continued support in progressing the works at Tarawera.  
May we all remain safe and well.*

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