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17 February 2025

Dear Property/Business Owner,

**Update: Stage 1 of Tarawera sewerage scheme**

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This letter is to inform you that work to complete Stage 1 of the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme will resume on 24 February 2025.

As a result, a section of Tarawera Road will be temporarily closed from 8pm on 24 February while the worksite near Lake Rotokākahi is re-established. Rotorua Lakes Council will be endeavouring to have one lane of the road reopen with traffic control measures by 7am the following day.

Arrangements will be in place to allow emergency services to pass through the area during the period of the temporary road closure.

Council apologises for any inconvenience the temporary road closure may cause.

The installation of pipework under Tarawera Road and the mains pump stations, which began in March 2023, is almost finished with about 1.3km of pipe still to be installed near Lake Rotokākahi. Work to complete the mains pipeline was paused in January 2024 after work was obstructed by protesters, and further engagement with iwi and mana whenua was carried out in an effort to address concerns raised. The Council made an application to the court and an injunction was issued in November 2024 by Rotorua District Court, reaffirming Council's legal right to install the sewerage pipeline within the road corridor, unobstructed. The injunction's main purpose is to ensure the safety of contractors, of any protestors and members of the public, when work resumes.

As part of the planning for the resumption of work, Council is engaging with partners and stakeholders including iwi, mana whenua, Tarawera residents and protestors. It is expected to take about four weeks to complete the pipeline, and CCTV and security will be on site to ensure compliance with the terms of the injunction and the safety of all when work re-starts. Council and its contractors aim to complete the project as soon as possible.

Elected members and staff from the Council's executive team attended the AGM of the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association on 12 January 2025 to provide updates on the status of the reticulation scheme and to hear the views of residents. At that meeting, Council representatives outlined the importance of local property owners' collaboration to agree to the on-property locality plans so building consents for the system can be obtained and to enable the most cost-effective progress of Stage 2 of the project, so the cost is kept to the lowest possible level.

During the meeting, it was also communicated that the Council will continue to explore a range of funding and regulatory options to further alleviate the capital cost burden for Lake Tarawera property owners. These options will be consulted during the upcoming Draft Annual Plan (2025/26) considerations and the Tarawera ratepayers may wish to make submissions on those proposals/options.

The Council has already approved the re-allocation of \$2m, previously tagged for the Aquatic Centre, towards this project.

The Lake Tarawera sewerage scheme has been the result of extensive community consideration over many years, including discussion with and input from iwi and hapū. The Council adopted the project following a request from the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee in 2020.

It is considered a vital project to protect the health of the lakes, the community, and our natural environment.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stavros Michael', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stavros Michael,  
Group Manager, Infrastructure & Assets