
From: Tania Tapsell
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2024 4:58 pm
To: 'mark.mitchell@parliament.govt.nz' <Mark.Mitchell@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme

Kia ora Minister,

It was great to see you on Tuesday and I appreciated getting into your busy schedule, thank you.

As I mentioned we have a situation in Rotorua and I would appreciate any assistance you can provide to support, as we need a commitment of Police resource to complete works on an essential Lake Tarawera Sewerage scheme.

Work has been obstructed now for nearly a year due to protestors who do not want the final 1km of pipeline to go past Lake Rotokākahi. Due to safety concerns for our contractors we had to pause works, and the cost of this delay will now be in excess of \$1.5m which is a significant unbudgeted cost burden on our ratepayers.

Rotorua Lakes Council sought the Courts assistance to enable us to complete the works and twice the Court reaffirmed the Council's position. The judge has recently granted an injunction to enable works to continue and be completed safely.

My problem is that the contractors understandably won't start work again until we have sufficient Police resource to assist them to work safely and without interference, this is due to behaviour and threats from the protestors. Unfortunately, the Police have informed us they don't have enough resource on the ground to begin this until February.

So we can plan accordingly, what I need is Police to definitely confirm resources will be allocated to the project in February (likely 17th onwards) and commit to resourcing the presence on site until the works are complete, which we expect to be 4 weeks. The Police have been clear that their presence can ramp down if the full resource is not required once the work commences. We are fine with this, so long as we have full Police cooperation to support us to get this very important work underway again in the New Year.

P.s. here's background information on the project: [Tarawera Sewerage Scheme - Rotorua Lakes Council](#)

Please let me know if you need any further information or would like to discuss this further.

Ngā mihi,



Tania Tapsell

Manukura | Mayor

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Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Corrections
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Minister of Police



24-049

Mayor Tania Tapsell
Tania.Tapsell@rotorualc.nz

Dear Tania

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2024 seeking a commitment from Police that Police resources will be allocated to the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme project in the New Year.

Police's operational decisions, including those relating to resource allocation, are ultimately the responsibility of the Commissioner of Police so I am unable to direct Police in these matters. However, Police is aware of my expectations that people not only are safe, but also feel safe in their community. I have sought information from Police regarding the circumstances you have outlined in the Rotorua policing area.

I am advised that Police is committed to ensuring a safe resolution to the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme project in a timely manner which, following the last collective discussion, is set to recommence works in February 2025. I am advised that this has already been agreed to by Rotorua Police at an earlier meeting which was attended by the Rotorua Lakes Council Chief Executive and his team, and Police staff including the Rotorua Police Area Commander, Inspector Herby Ngawhika and the Bay of Plenty Police District Commander, Superintendent Tim Anderson.

I am advised that the Bay of Plenty Police District Commander has sought to meet with you to further discuss Police's approach and planning, and that he and the Rotorua Area Commander are always available to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have regarding policing in your area.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mark Mitchell'.

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister of Police