

Te Kaupapa Tiaki o ngā Roto

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Update – March 2025

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.

Community Consultation

The Tarawera Sewerage Scheme is a key topic for community feedback for Rotorua Lakes Council's 2025/26 Annual Plan which is open for consultation until 5 May.

The draft plan focuses on delivering what was planned for the 2025/26 financial year in the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan, which was adopted last year following consultation.

There are three options for consultation:

- The status quo as agreed in the 2024-34 Long-term Plan;
- An extra \$1m funded through the Lakes Enhancement Rate;
- An extra \$4m funded through the Lakes Enhancement Rate.

The annual plan consultation document sets out details for each option relating to the expected cost to the Tarawera ratepayers and the impact on the proposed average rates increase of 7.95%.

You'll find information about the annual plan on Council's new community engagement platform Participate – go to rlc.net.nz/participate

Following the consultation, elected members will finalise the annual plan by the end of June.

Lake Rotokākahi works update

The Environment Court has dismissed applications filed against Rotorua Lakes Council in relation to the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme.

A hearing to consider the applications was held before Judge Laurie Newhook and Deputy Commissioner Glenice Paine on 19 March. The decision was released on 1 April.

In dismissing the applications, the Environment Court found there had been extensive consideration of options for the scheme since 2018 and considerable attempts by the council between 2020 and 2023 to engage with iwi and mana whenua as well as offer mitigations to their concerns.

“There can be no doubt in our minds about the importance of the project in the public interest. Improving the quality of the freshwater in Lake Tarawera must be a given, for all relevant communities including Māori,” the decision states.

Infrastructure and Assets Group Manager Stavros Michael says the decision will enable the Council to install the remaining 1 kilometre of pipeline left to complete Stage 1 of the project.

Approximately 23 kilometres of pipeline has already been installed.

“We’re obviously pleased with the outcome of the Environment Court while acknowledging there will be ongoing concerns held by some,” Mr. Michael said after receiving the written decision.

He says work will restart as soon as possible.

“There have been significant delays in completing the section of pipeline past Lake Rotokākahi which has unfortunately also added to the cost of the scheme so we are keen to get it completed as soon as we can. Planning for that will get underway immediately.

“The scheme is important for the protection of Lake Tarawera, the community and environment and extra protections are being incorporated in the pipeline work to provide additional reassurance,” Mr. Michael says.

Site fencing and traffic management around Lake Rotokākahi will stay in place. Security measures, including police presence, if necessary, will also continue for safety reasons.

View the Environment Court decision at the following link: [Decision](#)

Financials

The updated total estimated projected cost of the project is \$32.3 million, including costs associated with the delays caused by protest action near Lake Rotokākahi, **(see table below)**.

TCC SCHEME PHASE	Budget Approved (million)	Contingency (million)	Total (million)	Costs to Date (million)	Projected Cost Estimates (million)	% Completed
Planning / Design / Legal:	\$2.507	\$0.300	\$2.807	\$2.562	\$0.100	91%
Stage 1 - Reticulation and Pumping Stations:	\$14.934	\$1.658	\$16.592	\$15.928	\$0.944	96%
Stage 2 - Onsite LPGP installations (Start Oct '24):	\$10.728	\$1.100	\$11.828	\$0.826	\$11.002	%
Green Lake:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.694	\$0.245	
TOTALS:	\$28.169	\$3.058	\$31.227	\$20.009	\$12.291	65%

Tarawera Sewerage Scheme budget used as of March 2025

Council last year decided to reallocate \$2 million in Government funding from the Aquatic Centre redevelopment to the Tarawera Sewerage Scheme and will continue to explore a range of funding and regulatory options to further alleviate the capital cost burden for Lake Tarawera property owners.

A final decision on funding arrangements and net capital cost allocation for the scheme is expected as part of the 2025/26 annual plan process.

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 has received feedback that the community supports reticulation in principle but wants to understand what the final cost will be and how we got there. We will work with the community on finding the best solution and communicate appropriately.

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 has started 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.

If you have any questions regarding the scheme, please contact us at 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:



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.

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 Daniel Snow, Contract Manger

Sewer Main

All available reticulation lengths have now been installed. The only remaining length requiring completion is the rising main which runs through the Lake Rotokākahi catchment. Our team currently waiting for further direction on when this scope can be rescheduled and delivered. Once available, we anticipate this remaining reticulation scope to take 4 – 5 weeks before sewerage influent can be introduced into the scheme.

As we near closer to the completion and hand over of the reticulation scheme, we must ensure that all aspects of the reticulation length are going to operate as intended. Our teams have completed all necessary checks to ensure that all isolation valves are positioned correctly and that all supporting assets are ready to operate.

Pump Stations

All construction works at the pump station sites have now been completed. We are currently progressing through the final electrical, communication and offsite control requirements to ensure the scheme is ready to receive sewerage influent and operate as intended.



Transfer Station Pump Station

Traffic Management

We appreciate the community's patience during the traffic delays as a result of works in late February near Lake Lake Rotokākahi. Residents should expect similar traffic delays once works resume, subject to the Court's decision.

Outside of the Lake Rotokākahi zone, our ongoing traffic management presence will be minimal. Some short term stop/go operations will continue to operate but these will typically only provide the traffic protection our teams require for a small work area.

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

From Hamish Stewart, Project Manager

Installations

DDL have installed 50 Low-Pressure Grinder Pump (LPGP) tanks to date, covering both Council assets and private properties, including the 40mm line to the boundary assembly and, where possible, we have installed the alarm panel and connected to a power supply. These are partial installations due to Stage 1 not being completed, DDL are being as proactive as possible to continue with installations.

Site Visits

DDL have conducted 305 site visits with homeowners to date. These visits are a positive step forward for the scheme and the commencement of Stage 2. We will be continuing with site visits.

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.

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 reinstate 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.



*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.*
