

Rotorua
Rural Community Board Plan
2025-2028

Contents

	Page
Our Vision & Our Purpose	3
Your Community Board	4
Our District – A summary	5
Our unique rural character	
• Rural Working Zone	6
• Rural Lifestyle & Village Zones	7
• Our environment – lakes	9
• Waikato River	10
Our people value...	11
Our population	12
Our economy	13
Our Rural Communities	14
• Reporoa & Broadlands	15-16
• Rerewhakaaitu	17-18
• Kaharoa & Hamurana	19-20
• Waikite Valley	21-22
• Kaingaroa Village	23
• Mamaku	24-26
• Ngakuru, Horohoro, Upper Atiamuri	27-28
• Our rural Marae	29
Our Key Outcomes	30
• Outcome 1 – Our infrastructure is resilient, and meets current & future needs	31-32
• Outcome 2 – We have safe rural communities with access to quality facilities & services	33-34
• Outcome 3 – Our natural & built environment is healthy & retains its unique rural character	35-36
• Outcome 4 – Our rural communities are resilient, connected, and well-informed	37-38
Rural Board Key priorities 2025-2028	39-40
Plan On A Page	41
Devolved Funding	42
Community Halls Information	43-44
Appendices – Separate document	45



Anzac



Anzac Day
2025
Reporoa





Our Rural Board Vision

Rural communities that are prosperous, well-connected, and valued for their contribution to the district.

Our Rural Board purpose

To represent rural people and places, and work with Council to achieve positive outcomes for rural communities.

Your Community Board has several functions

- ✓ Represent and act as an advocate for the interests of their communities
- ✓ Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the board
- ✓ Maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community
- ✓ Prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community
- ✓ Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community
- ✓ Enable democratic local decision-making
- ✓ Develop a community plan to reflect community preferences and concerns

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Meet your Rural Board

Our Rural District

The Rotorua Lakes Council district is 261,906 hectares in area - 41% forest, 43% agriculture and 8% lakes. Most of the land in the Rotorua District can be described as rural, with agriculture and forestry the two main land uses and among the biggest economic drivers for the district.

While over 80% of the district's land area may have rural zoning, it contains about 20% of the district's population. This difference provides an insight into its characteristics and character – wide open spaces where large areas have been cleared or modified in some way for productive use, in many cases against a backdrop of impressive volcanic landscapes or next to lakes.

Our communities have rich iwi ancestral history, also post-World War II farm settlement history, and a diverse cultural mix of people from around the world who have settled in the district to work on the farms and in rural businesses. Across the district Māori make a significant economic contribution through land ownership and farming activity, water source governance and co-management, as well as environmental restoration & biodiversity protection initiatives.

There are several rating zones in the Rural Ward including:

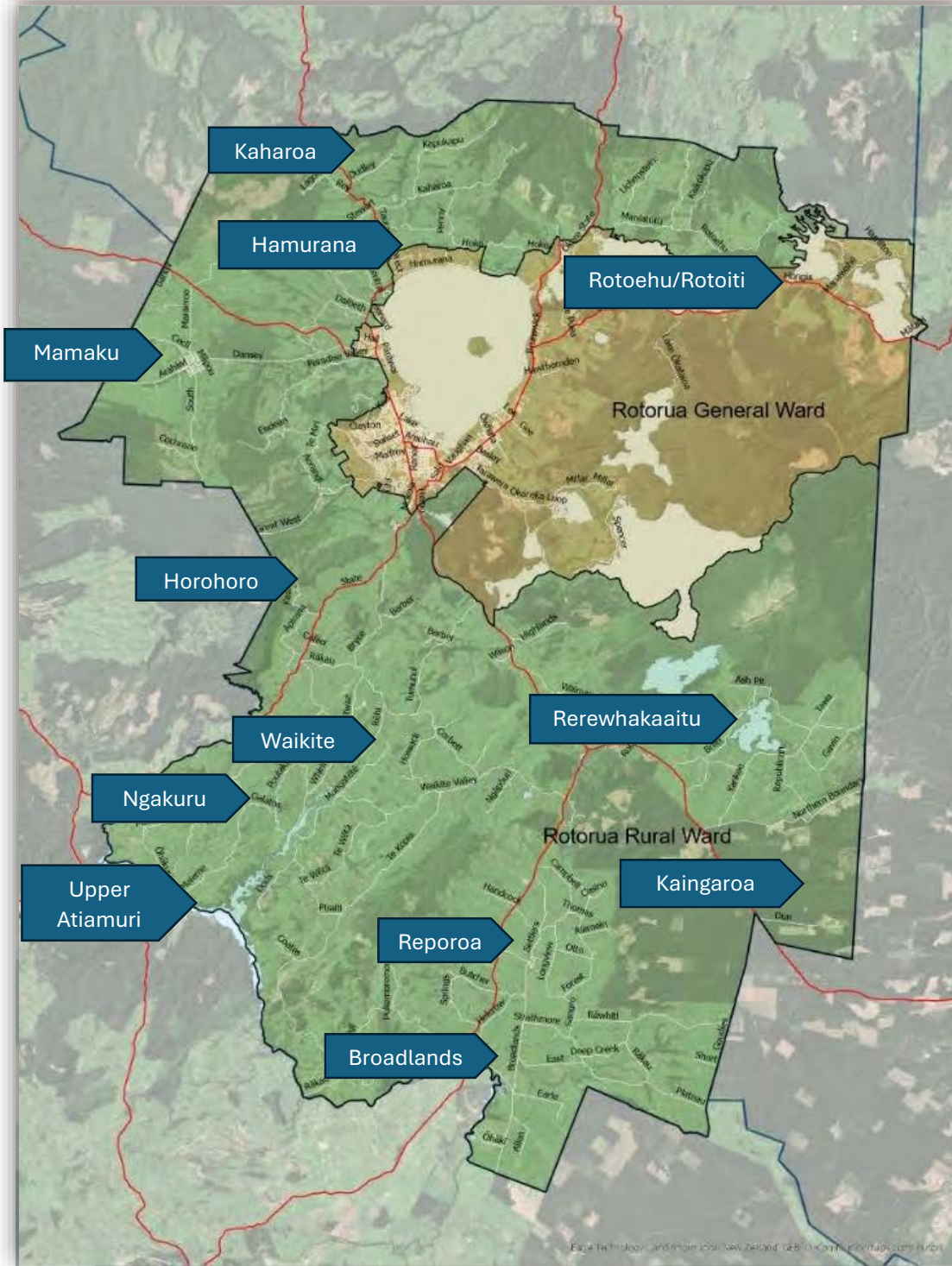
- Rural Working Zone
- Rural Lifestyle zone
- Rural Village zones

The district has approximately 1200kms of roading with 120km of these being unsealed, all largely in the Rural Ward.

Our rural ward has a **unique environmental character** with the southern boundary of the district delineated by the Waikato River. Additionally, there are several lakes and streams. Many rural water supplies originate from natural springs across the district including Rewarewa Springs, Taniwha Springs, Wharepapa Springs and Deep Creek. These supplies are vital to both domestic and agricultural use and are maintained by Rotorua Lakes Council.

The Rural Ward makes a significant contribution to the rates revenue of Rotorua Lakes Council and contributes strongly to the economy & prosperity of the district.

This document aims to capture the character of the Rural Ward and its communities and articulate the aims & strategy of the Rotorua Rural Community Board.



The Working Rural zone.....

Across the Working Rural Zone, a diverse network of productive and innovative enterprises fuels Rotorua's prosperity. Alongside long-established forestry and farming, the district supports a broad mix of land-based and value-adding industries — from timber mills, biogas treatment plants, and renewable energy generation to transport and logistics hubs, forage and fibre processing, plant nurseries, and glasshouse horticulture.

Large-scale poultry and egg producers, quarrying and aggregate suppliers, and network utility operators underpin employment, local supply chains, and infrastructure resilience. These businesses not only generate income and jobs but also uphold land stewardship, environmental innovation, and regional self-sufficiency. In many cases, they are family-owned, multi-generational operations that anchor Rotorua's rural culture.

Together, this productive base represents one of the broadest and most adaptable rural economies in Aotearoa, balancing traditional land use with emerging green industries and circular-economy practices.

Mamaku Tors Dairy farm



Mamaku Car Show, Mamaku Domain

The Rural Lifestyle & Rural Village zones.....

The Rural Lifestyle and Rural Village Zones provide the social and residential fabric that supports the working countryside. Here, clusters of homes, community halls, and schools form village-scale settlements that retain a strong sense of local identity while offering proximity to Rotorua’s urban amenities.

Lifestyle-zoned areas tend to adjoin residential edges — such as the southern end of Clayton Road, and the western and northern slopes of Ngōngōtahā. To the east, Brunswick Park blends rural privacy with lake views, while the Hamurana and Kaharoa districts remain sought-after for their open landscapes and community character.

Within the broader rural network, villages such as Mamakū and Reporoa act as service centres for surrounding farmland and forestry operations, supported by smaller communities like Ngākuru, Rerewhakaaitu, Broadlands and Golden Springs. These are the places where the region’s social infrastructure — schools, halls, churches, and marae — sustain connection, resilience, and local pride.

Our unique rural environment

Rotorua's rural environment is unlike any other in Aotearoa. Framed by iconic lakes, geothermal landscapes and strong Māori land ownership and community presence, these areas are both productive and deeply connected to cultural and environmental stewardship. From the lake edges of Rotoiti and Tarawera to the fertile Reporoa Basin and Kaharoa in the north, rural Rotorua blends high-value primary production with living taonga and vibrant communities.

Community Strength

Rotorua's rural communities are resourceful, innovative and proud of their place. Māori landowners and hapū-led enterprises play a growing role in sustainable development, while local initiatives continue to strengthen township vitality, rural education, and environmental kaitiakitanga. The Rural Board recognises and supports this leadership, ensuring the rural voice remains central to district decision-making.

Challenges and Responsibilities

Rural Rotorua sits at the intersection of productivity and protection. Maintaining water quality in our lakes and catchments, managing nutrient and land-use pressures, and supporting climate-resilient practice are shared responsibilities. These challenges require balanced, collaborative approaches that honour te taiao and enable ongoing economic opportunity. Our rural communities also share challenges associated with their small population, remoteness and distance from services.

Common issues for our rural communities can include:

- long travel distances
- social isolation in some cases
- attracting and retaining staff
- provision of infrastructure
- land-use change and a changing climate.

What are key qualities of rural life that people value?

- **Space and quiet:** Lower density living, expansive rural views, and the ability to cultivate gardens, small orchards, or lifestyle blocks.
- **Community bonds:** Smaller populations translate to high social visibility; neighbours tend to notice, support, and include one another.
- **Outdoor access as a norm:** Rivers, forests, and backroads are near at hand for tramping, cycling, hunting, and fishing.

Our lakes & waterways

The Rotorua District has 18 lakes, (16 accessible to the public), and many waterways and natural springs. Many of these springs are utilised as the water supply for the community - such as the Wharepapa and Deep Spring springs in Reporoa and the Hamurana Springs which supplies the Kaharoa and Hamurana communities.

This photo shows Lake Okaro in the foreground, with Lake Rerewhakaaitu and Lake Rotomahana in the background.

The challenge for our whole district is to maintain and improve the health of these waterways, as human activities of all kinds can contribute to water quality degradation.

In the rural district, agricultural landowners are changing their practices over time to help minimise the level of nitrogen and phosphorus in ground water.

Landowners are being asked to reduce their impact by managing nitrogen loss from their properties and undertaking land use change where possible.

Catchment groups have formed across the district that work collaboratively to improve water quality and there are many great examples of environmental stewardship occurring.

Lake Okaro & Rerewhakaaitu from Rainbow Mountain (Kakaramaea)

The Waikato River

The Waikato River runs along the southern boundary of the Rotorua district, through Reporoa, Waikite, Ngakuru and Upper Atiamuri. It is a natural taonga, a key source of water take, as well as a place of recreation for both locals and visitors alike.

The Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT), along with The Waikato River Authority, and Waikato Regional Council are responsible for co-managing the Waikato River, with the overarching purpose of restoring and protecting the health and well-being of the Waikato River and its catchments for present and future generations. TARIT has its genesis in the *Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010*. The Trust represents three Iwi Affiliates Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa, Ngati Kea-Ngati Tuara and Tuhourangi-Ngati Wahio, who assert manawhenua, kaitiakitanga, ahi karoa and mana whakahaere over the Waikato River and its many tributaries that run through our rohe. RLC has a co-governance committee with TARIT. *Legislation source; Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa, and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010 No 119 (as at 27 August 2025), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation*

There have been alterations to the ecology of the Upper Waikato River over time. These impacts are believed to have been caused by the establishment of major exotic forest plantations and associated processing plants, the clearance of native vegetation and the rapid expansion of arable farming, rural residential expansion, the draining of wetlands and discharges into waterways, domestic and industrial abstraction of water from the river, and industrial development.

River level fluctuations mean that riverside areas are affected by flooding and stagnant ponding as the river levels are raised and lowered for hydro-generation purposes.

Golden clams are a newly introduced pest species that is having a large impact on the health of the river.

Waikato River, photo taken from Ohaki Road bridge, Reporoa



Our people value...

Community spirit

Community resilience

Our unique rural environment





Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa planting day

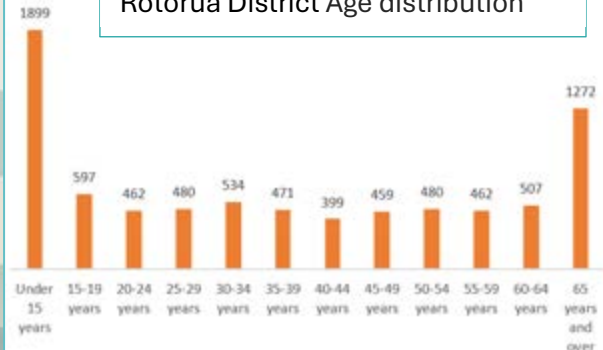


Mamaku Volunteer Fire Brigade

Rural Ward electoral population

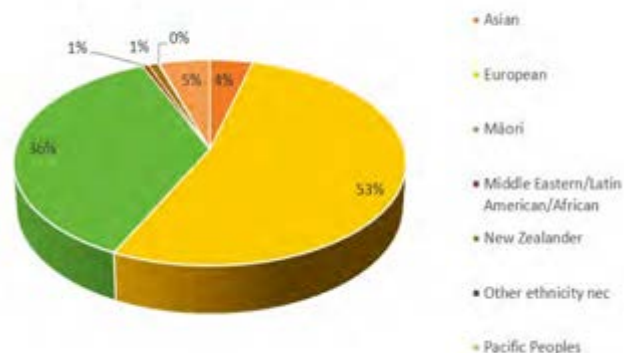
Rural Ward	Population
Tui Ridge	1,803
Arahiwi	144
Ngongotahā Valley	1,692
Ngakuru	1,878
Kaingaroa-Whakarewarewa	1,875
Golden Springs	1,854
Total	9,246

Rotorua District Age distribution



Key Population Statistics

Rotorua District Ethnicity



Anzac Day 2025 Mataarae Marae



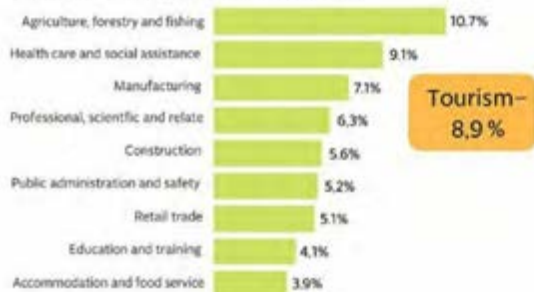
Rating information 2018:

General farming: 2018 properties plus 486 bare land.
 Rural residential: 4200 properties (lakes & rural)
 Rural commercial: 122 rating units
(Rating information from the 2018 Rural Board Plan)

ROTORUA HAS A STRONG BASE IN TOURISM, FORESTRY, AND MANUFACTURING.

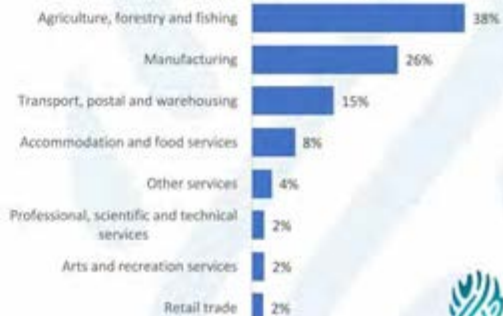
- Exports growth 12.5% in 2024, above NZ average

Ten largest ANZSIC Level 1 industries, 2024



Source: Infometrics

Exports by industries, 2024

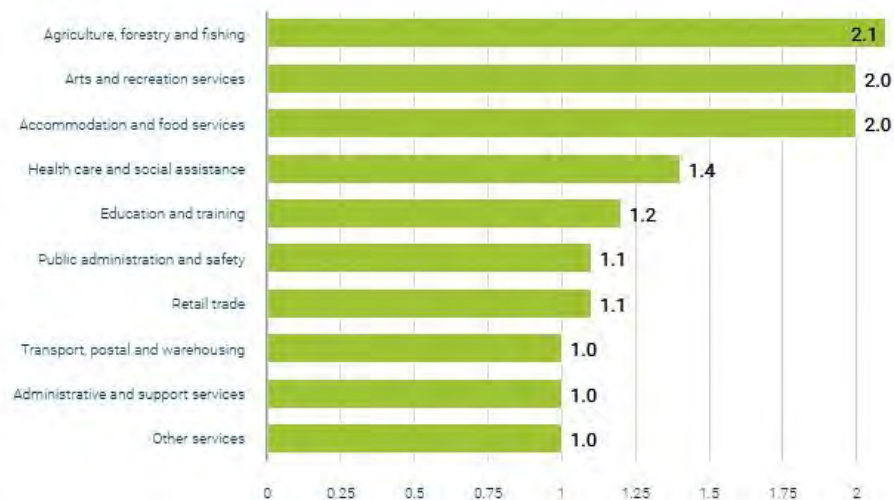


Comparative advantage

Compare areas: New Zealand ☒ Focus year: 2024 Industry level: ANZSIC Level 1

Location quotient for top 10 ANZSIC Level 1 industries, 2024

March years



Our Rotorua economy

Employment in Rotorua

District measured 37,479 in the year to March 2024, up 2.1% from a year earlier. Employment growth was lower than in New Zealand as a whole (2.2%).

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing account for 5.2% of total employment in the Rotorua District.

Economic Growth: Agriculture, forestry and fishing made the largest contribution to overall growth in Rotorua District between 2023 and 2024. The industry grew by 6.6% over the period and contributed \$32m to the district's total growth of \$24.6m.

Comparative Advantage: Agriculture in the Rotorua District has a high comparative advantage.

Comparative advantage is an economy's ability to produce a particular good or service at a lower opportunity cost than its trading partners. This comparative advantage may be a result of the area's natural endowments, location, skill profile, or historical reasons. The higher the quotient's value the greater the comparative advantage.

Exports: Total exports from Rotorua District were \$1,394.3m in 2024, an increase of 12.5% compared to the previous year. By comparison exports increased by 4.0% in New Zealand.

Source: Infometrics [Regional Economic Profile | Rotorua District | Employment structure](#)



Our Rural communities



Reporoa & Broadlands



Reporoa lies halfway between Rotorua and Taupo, approximately 40 kilometres away from either town, and this distance means it has many independent services. It has a Rural Health Service, a St Johns Ambulance Station, a Memorial Hall, a children's playground, Playcentre, Kindergarten, Squash Club, Tavern, Bowling Club, Local college and primary school. There are two other Primary schools in the Reporoa region also – Broadlands and Mihi Primary. Reporoa College has established a Rural Academy.

Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa are mana whenua across Reporoa, Broadlands and the wider Waikite and Waikato River catchments. Their occupation of this rohe predates the arrival of the great migration waka. Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa's traditional rohe (tribal district) extends from Te Waiheke o Huka to the south we extend east to their pouwhenua at Ngapuketerua beyond the Rangitaiki River.

The iwi hold significant land interests administered through multiple Maori trusts. The 4,500 hectares (11,000 acres) of land owned by the iwi adjacent to the Waikato River represents 3% of the original landholdings awarded to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa by the Native Land Court. These blocks are currently administered by: Ngati Tahu Tribal Trust, Tahorakuri Forest Trust, Takapou Farm Trust, Tauhara North Trusts, Paeroa South Farm Trust, and Tutukau East Farm Trust.

As mana whenua of the Ngā Tamariki geothermal field, the iwi worked alongside Mercury and Tauhara North No.2 Trust in the \$220 million expansion of the Ngā Tamariki Geothermal Station, supporting sustainable resource management and long-term energy security.

The project delivers substantial economic and social benefits, including large-scale renewable electricity generation, improved grid resilience, emissions reduction through reinjection technology, and the creation of hundreds of skilled jobs during construction.

Co-management of the Waikato River - Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa participates in co-management of Te Awa o Waikato through our affiliation to the Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT). TARIT was established through the settlement of historical claims for Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa. TARIT's role is to assist in the empowerment of our people to assert mana whenua over all waterways within our rohe pertaining to the Waikato River through legislation and approaches such as Joint Management Agreements (JMAs) and Accords.

The **Reporoa village** is made up of 60 residential dwellings and has several businesses. There are other smaller settlements dotted throughout the Reporoa catchment including - **Parekarangi** (25 homes), **Golden Springs** (26 homes) and **Broadlands** (12 homes). Additionally, Reporoa has a Year 7-13 College and three primary schools – Reporoa, Broadlands and Mihi with a total of approx. 500 students.



Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa careers day Repora College 2026

The wider Reporoa valley is home to some **diverse employment opportunities:**

- Central Transport Limited (CTL) Employs 100 + staff
- Turner and Growers Glasshouse - 25 full time, plus 28 seasonal staff
- Fibre Fresh Feeds - 52 full time Staff
- Reporoa Fonterra Dairy Factory - 180 full time staff
- Donnelly's Sawmill - 70 full time staff
- Ecogas - 8 staff
- Mark Miers Contractors - 15 full time staff, plus 30 seasonal staff
- Arataki Honey - 41 full time staff
- Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland – 52 staff and a world-renowned geothermal tourist attraction

But Reporoa's main industry is agriculture - pasture grown meat, milk and fibre. There are 90 Fonterra dairy farms in the Reporoa basin and the number increases to over 100 with other dairy processors included, such as Miraka, Open Country Cheese and Olam.

Across the rest of the Rotorua rural district there are 148 Fonterra supplying farms under the Fonterra Rotorua Area manager in Kaharoa, Hamurana, Mamaku, Ngakuru, Atiamuri, Waikite Valley, and Rerewhakaaitu. This is a total of 238 Fonterra supplying Dairy farms. Additionally, it is estimated there would be at least 30 dairy farms supplying other dairy companies in the Rural ward of Rotorua. The approximate total = 268 dairy farms in Rotorua Lakes Council region.



Lake Rerewhakaaitu



View across Lake Rerewhakaaitu to Mount Tarawera

Rerewhakaaitu is a well-established dairy farming community that sits alongside Lake Rerewhakaaitu and Lake Okaro under the shadow of Rainbow Mountain (Maunga Kakaramaea), and Mount Tarawera. The community has a strong water catchment group that focuses on water quality. The local iwi include Tuhorangi and Ngati Rangitihi, who have significant land holdings and forestry interests.

Community facilities in Rerewhakaaitu include:

- **Rerewhakaaitu Settlers Hall** - In the 1950s, settlers in the Rerewhakaaitu area formed a public hall committee and with a Government subsidy of £500 and they then raised £4000 themselves through donations of hay, boner cows and calves, and other initiatives. In this way, the hall was debt-free for its opening day.
- The Lake Rerewhakaaitu School – Years 0-8, is situated in the small village of Rerewhakaaitu.
- **Rerewhakaaitu Domain and Domain Hall** - The Rerewhakaaitu Domain is managed by community members and through a grazing agreement.
- **Lake Rerewhakaaitu Reserve & playground and Guy Roe Reserve**
- CCTV camera monitored by RLC team



Guy Roe Reserve - Lake Rerewhakaaitu



Lake Rerewhakaaitu playground at Domain

Ngāti Rangitihi hold primary mana whenua in the Rerewhakaaitu area, with strong historical and contemporary associations to surrounding lakes, whenua and forests. **Tūhourangi** also maintain longstanding connections, particularly following relocation after the 1886 Tarawera eruption.

Natural growth has seen Ngāti Rangitihi occupy and sustain themselves on the Tarawera River with its access to the coastal areas, inland use of the wide-open spaces of the Kaingāroa plains and settlements and resource areas across streams, wetlands, and bush areas from the Paeroa range in the south-west, south to specific places on the Waikato River and east to the Rangitaiki River, and beyond.

The area includes significant iwi-owned forestry, farming and tourism enterprises.

Waimangu Volcanic Valley - Tūhourangi / Ngāti Rangitihi Joint Administering Body, which owns and administers the whenua (land).

The **CNI Iwi Collective** is a confederation of eight iwi from the central North Island (CNI) region: Ngai Tuhoe; Ngati RTangitihi; Ngati Manawa; Ngati Tuwharetoa; Ngati Whakaue; Raukawa; Ngati Whare; Te Pumautanga O Te Arawa, established under the **Central North Island Forests Land Collective Settlement 2008**.

Kaingaroa Tipu unites Kaingaroa Timberlands, Timberlands, and Forest Genetics, under one cohesive brand, honouring the past while embracing the future. The 145ha **Rerewhakaaitu Nursery**, will nurture the next generation of seedlings and forestry professionals, with tree stocks that support sustainable forest management across the 215,000-hectare Kaingaroa Forest Estate.

Onuku Maori Lands Trust -The Onuku Maori Lands Trust farms cover a total area of 2,440 hectares of which 740 hectares is retired. The retired area is mainly in regenerating bush. The area being farmed covers 1, hectares, split into five units - four dairy farms and a drystock farm - as described below. A further 121 hectares is in a commercial forestry operation. They also operate a Sheep milking operation **Miraka Tipu** and **Onuku Honey**. Their lands are located at the base of Ruawahia Maunga and we extend from the shores of Lake Rotomahana through to State Highway 38.



Miraka Hipi – Milking Sheep SH38, Rerewhakaaitu



Onuku Honey

Kaharoa & Hamurana



Kaharoa Hall & Domain



Kaharoa Kokako Trust



Kaharoa Catchment Group Field Day

Kaharoa is a rural community on the northern side of the lake of Rotorua District. It is mainly a farming district with both dairy and dry stock farms. The area also has significant lifestyle and small block holders with a few rural businesses in the mix. These include a Native Tree Nursery, two large egg farms and a number of holiday accommodation options which promote outdoor experiences.

A highly regarded rural school caters for year 1 through to year 8 students with an annual Lamb and Calf Day event. The school and local hall are a focal point of the community with excellent facilities which include a community 25metre swimming pool at the school, an excellent multi use astro tuft complex and large public domain playing fields.

The community hall is a focus of the area that is well maintained and used for various events including weddings. The Kaharoa Community Association oversees the hall maintenance and bookings, meeting on a regular basis. The committee also actively promotes community connections.

Within the Kaharoa area, there is a Department of Conservation Scenic Reserve that has an active Trust (Kaharoa Kokako Trust) which carries out pest control on an annual basis as well as surveys that support the breeding of Kokako. This group of dedicated volunteers have been carrying out protection measures for over 20 years to ensure that the kokako breeding pairs thrive. With various walking tracks and one main dedicated track, these are enjoyed by visitors from all over the district and country.



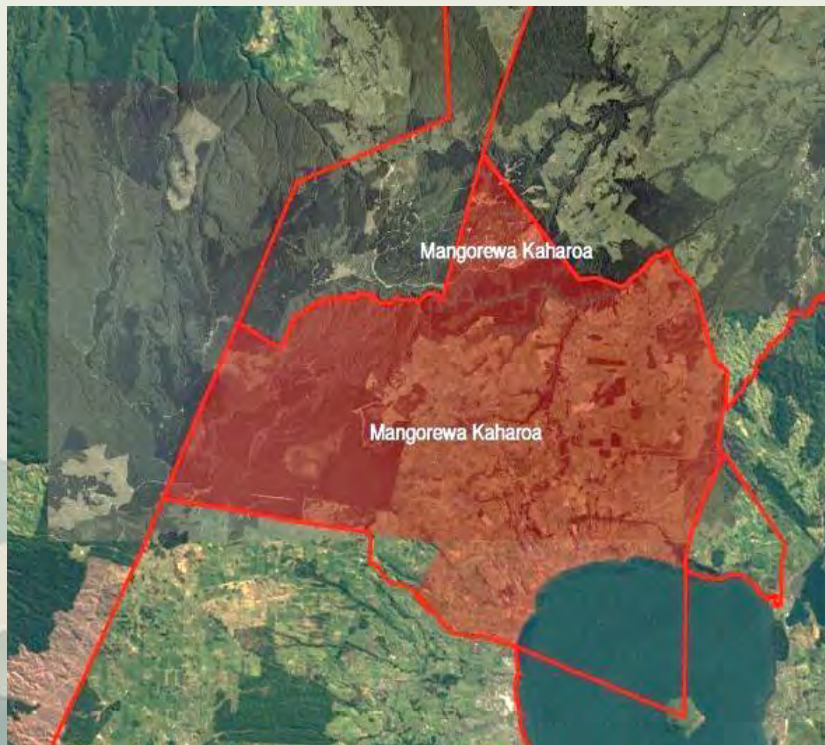
Ngāti Rangiwewehi hold mana whenua across the Kaharoa and Hamurana areas. The iwi whakapapa back to Ohomairangi of Hawaiki and are part of the Te Arawa confederation. Tarimano Marae serves as the iwi's principal marae and cultural base. Ngāti Rangiwewehi are recognised kaitiaki of key water sources, including Taniwha Springs and the Rewarewa water supply, which provide drinking water to Ngongotahā, Awahou, Hamurana and Kaharoa

Local iwi Ngāti Rangiwewehi trace their origins to Ohomairangi, a tupuna of Hawaiiki from whom all of the Te Arawa confederation descend. Ngāti Rangiwewehi is an Iwi as derived from the confederated tribes of Te Arawa, and closely identify with those iwi/hapu that descend from the eight children of Rangitihi known as Nga-Pu-Manawa-e-Waru, the eight beating hearts of Rangitihi.

Tarimano Marae - Tarimano Marae is situated and located on the northwestern shores of Lake Rotorua, and next to the Te Awahou Stream (Te Wai Mimi o Pekehaua). The stream mouth opens on to Lake Rotorua.

Taniwha & Hamurana (Rewarewa) Springs

In Ngāti Rangiwewehi tradition the Taniwha and Hamurana Springs are linked. The taniwha, Pekehaua, made his lair in the main spring of the Taniwha fountainhead but travelled by underground channels to other waterways.



Taken from Te Waerenga Road back to Lake Rotorua

Waikite Valley

Waikite is nestled in a valley beneath the Paeroa Ranges. There is significant thermal activity and Waikite is home to the well-loved Waikite Hot pools which were established by the Waikite Community and now run by Rotorua Lakes Council. In early history, local Māori used many of the thermal waters for domestic living. In the Waikite area there is a Primary School, Playcentre, Squash Club, 9-hole Golf Course, a Community Hall and the Waikite Domain which has a Scout Hall.



Waikite Thermal Reserve from the Waikite Golf Club

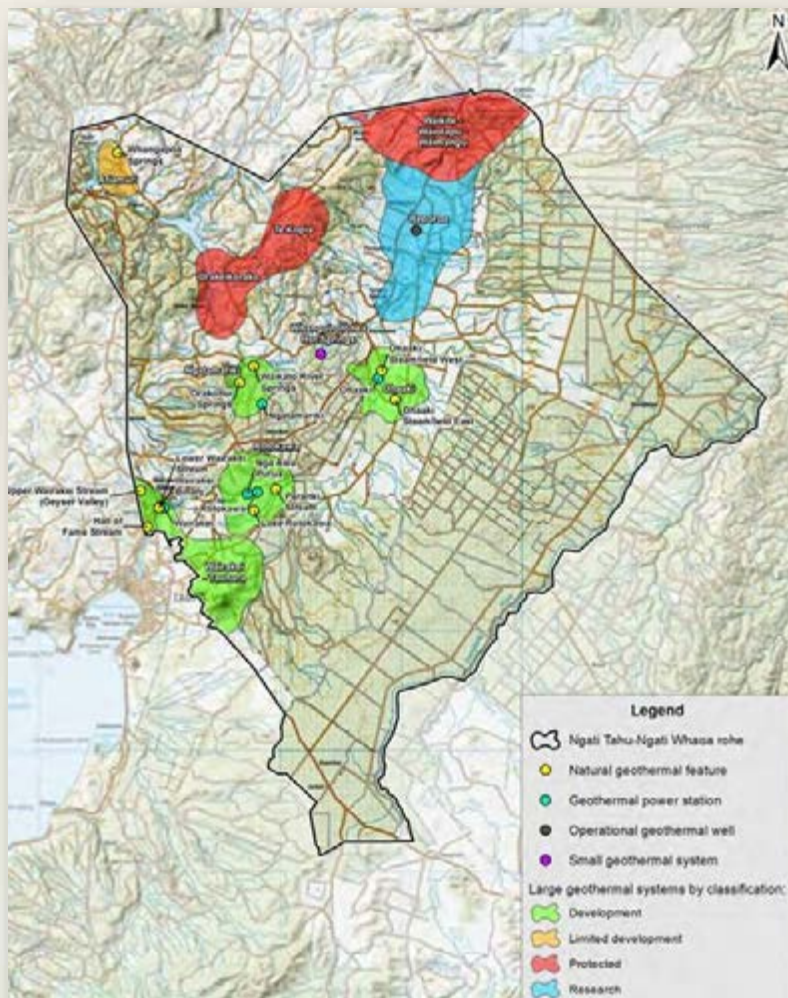
Waikite Pools – The pools were initiated by the community and a rate levied on 80 households to pay for the work. There was a significant amount of volunteer labour and resources used to build the pools, which were opened on 1st July 1972. There have been several caretakers and custodians over the years, with a lease arrangement established in 1997 with Mark & Lisa Bowie, who are there today. Fees are set by Council.

Waikite Valley Hall. Built in the 1950's there were sports days and galas as well as other events organised to raise funds for the hall, with the first in 1953. Various other fundraising events such as card evenings and housie nights were also organised, to collect enough money for the hall to be opened debt-free. Local residents volunteered time and labour to build the hall, while the County Council supplied a carpenter and engineer to manage its construction. MR N. B. Hunt, chairman of the Rotorua County Council, officially opened the Waikite Valley Settlers Hall in 1957.



Waikite Hot Pools historic photo





Local iwi Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa and their relationship with geothermal taonga in Waikite & Waiotapu.

Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa has a historical, cultural and contemporary association with geothermal resources within their traditional rohe. Such resources were used for cooking, drinking, bathing and healing. Large kainga and cultivations were often established around these taonga such as at Orakei Korako, Ohaaki and Waiotapu.

Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa has an active role to play in kaitiakitanga over a number of geothermal fields within the district including Orakei Korako, Te Kopia, and Waiotapu-Waikite-Waimangu.

Te Kopia has features of international significance such as the unique and long-active mud-geyser, the only one of its type in New Zealand and possibly the world. The Te Kopia fumarole is also considered to be the most powerful geothermal fumarole currently remaining in New Zealand.

Waiotapu is the most colourful thermal area in New Zealand. It has five geysers, hot springs, mud pools, fumaroles, craters, and steaming ground. Two of the springs are unique in New Zealand. The first, Champagne Pool, is large (30m wide), and is actively growing two hectares of sinter terrace. The second, Hakareteke Geyser, is the only sinter-depositing geyser with acidic waters in New Zealand. At Waikite, Manuroa spring is believed to have the largest volume of outflow of all sinter springs in New Zealand. Waiotapu Thermal is a thriving tourism venture that employs many local people.



Kaingaroa Village



Kaingaroa Village is situated in the Kaingaroa Forest between Rotorua and Taupō on the volcanic plateau of the Central North Island. It has 435 residents, with 98% being Māori.

In 1987, the NZ Forest Service closed its operations in Kaingaroa, and through parliamentary decision, the land was returned to Ngāti Manawa. This marked an important milestone for the village but also resulted in a huge undertaking to upgrade the village's facilities and infrastructure.

The village is now owned by an Ahu Whenua Trust and managed by the Kaingaroa Forest Village Council. The Ahu Whenua Trust comprises representatives from Ngāti Manawa and residents of the village which is surrounded by one of the largest planted forests in the Southern Hemisphere. As the village is self-governed, there has been a limited supply of funding for maintenance and new infrastructure to revitalise it over the years.

Completing the implementation of the Kaingaroa Village Community Development Plan enabled the community to realise its aspirations to grow and thrive. Over five years, from 2019 to 2024, key development projects in Kaingaroa Village were completed. This included drilling a new water bore, putting in new underground infrastructure and resurfacing roads.

Te Huingawaka Marae - *Hapū*: Ngāti Kaingaroa; Ngā Tipuna o Te Motu (Tūhoe)



Kaingaroa Marae



Mamaku

Mamaku is a **small village 20 minutes out of Rotorua**. Sitting at a height of about 560 metres above sea level. It has around 900 residents and an area covering 2.67 km². Once a thriving township with native timber logging and 5 working mills dating back to the 1880's. The last mill closed in 2015. Today's industry is Dairy and sheep farming.

Mamaku has many **well-established businesses** including a local garage, two engineering businesses, the Blueberry farm experience, Rail Cruising, Off-Road NZ, Canopy Tours tourism run along Dansey Road, KR Fredricksen Fencing, Mamaku Cattery. There is a Mamaku grocery store and the Mamaku School with 98 students. The school opened in 1895. There is also the Mamaku memorial hall built in 1953. It is the hub for the community and is used today for, parties, reunions, fitness classes, badminton, Line dancing, meetings, training room and it makes part of the Civil defence hub.

Mamaku has unusual rock formations known as the **Mamaku Tors** formed by gasses and debris from volcanic eruptions. They are a beacon to tell drivers they are close to Rotorua. Mamaku is also home to the Rare Bright blue mushrooms, (*Entoloma hochstetteri*), sitting on the forest floor. There is a spring called the Blue spring which filters through to Mamaku to provide the village with its own water along the Mamaku Plateau.



Mamaku Community Pool



Mamaku Memorial Hall reopening 2025



Mamaku Car Show, Mamaku Domain

The people of Mamaku live in a tight knit community, where people value the alternative lifestyle of living in a rural community, but also close to town. Mamaku is 20 minutes to Rotorua, and many residents commute to work from Mamaku each day.

There are also many rural lifestyle blocks close to the village. It is one of the last rural places in the Rotorua district to have affordable lifestyles.

Mamaku has a strong history of railway connection to Rotorua and northwards, with the old railway line now being used by Rail Cruising tourism.

The village was also a hub for forestry activities and milling, and in its heyday, there were at least five timber mills in the town.

Ngāti Te Ngākau and Ngāti Tura maintain longstanding whakapapa connections to the Mamaku area, the western slopes of Ngongotahā maunga, and Kaponga (Mamaku). Many local place and road names reflect these connections.

Iwi have exercised stewardship over native lands and ecosystems in the area for generations, including long-running involvement in conservation and pest-management programmes.

Ngāti Tura / Ngāti Te Ngākau exercise mana whenua over the Ngongotahā area and are actively engaged in contemporary development processes through formal agreements that recognise their authority, whakapapa connections, and kaitiaki responsibilities.

Their marae, **Tarukenga and Parawai**, are two of twelve identified Pa on the western face of Mount Ngongotaha up into the ngahere and gully's of Kaponga (Mamaku). This area transitions into our Ngati Ahuru whakapapa over to Putaruru, illustrating how cultural heritage saturates the caldron of the Rotorua basin.



Tarukenga Marae



Parawai Marae, Ngongotaha



Mount Ngongotaha

Iwi have protected native interests in this area before the land wars of the 1850s and the **Kaimai Kaponga Conservation pest program** has operated within the area since 2020 and continues to this day, covering 47,000 hectares of PCL lands. This demonstrates a sustained commitment to the care of the environment and preserving the ecosystem.





Mamaku has a strong volunteer fire brigade that has local volunteers that give their time to attend any emergencies. Mamaku Fire Brigade as it was below.



Ngakuru, Upper Atiamuri & Horohoro



The Bluff Club – social club

Ngakuru, Upper Atiamuri and Horohoro are adjacent communities that each have their own primary schools and share The Bluff Club as a point of social contact. There is also the Ngakuru Hall where a Farmer's Market is held at the Ngakuru on the first Saturday of every month.

The area is largely dairy farming, with several large iwi land holdings. There is also a hothouse that commercially grows flowers, a nursery, and a blueberry farm.

Ngāti Kearoa, Ngāti Tuara are mana whenua in this rohe and are descendants of two esteemed Te Arawa women, Kearoa and Tuara. Kearoa, a rangatira, was married to Ngatoroirangi, tohunga and navigator of Te Arawa waka. Tuara, descended from Ika, also travelled on Te Arawa waka. These two lines of descent merged through the union of Te Rangiwhaitu and Te Uira. The presence of Ngāti Kahungunu in Horohoro reflects settlement associated with Māori Land Development Schemes initiated from the late 1920s.

Ngāti Kearoa Ngāti Tuara's ancestral lands originally spanned 45-50,000 acres. This vast area stretched from the base of Horohoro maunga north to Tihi-o-Tonga, Tarewa, and across the rugged Patetere lands, extending south toward Tokoroa and east to Tikorangi. These lands encircle the Matahana basin, eventually returning to Horohoro.

Today, the iwi retain 4,000 acres in hapū ownership, including 2,500 acres for farming and forestry. There is also 586 hectares on Horohoro maunga set aside as a bush reserve.

Joint Management of Karamu Takina Springs - Ngāti Kearoa-Ngāti Tuara, through the Karamū Tākina Trust, will support Rotorua Lakes Council's application to renew its water take resource consent, which expires in 2026. Joint planning and investment will be undertaken to enhance the mauri (life force) of the springs and surrounding environment.

Rongomaipapa Marae is the marae of **Tuhourangi** and **Ngāti Kahungunu**, situated in the Horohoro area.





Ngakuru church

The Ngakuru/Horohoro area straddles both the Bay of Plenty Region and Waikato Region.

There is a Council reserve situated beside the Waikato River on Whirinaki Valley Road and also one on Ohakuri Road where there used to be the Upper Atiamuri Pony Club.

Ngakuru Hall – Mr Sim, MP, officially opened Ngakuru Hall on 18th August 1945. This was just a few days after VE Day. Various improvements have been made to the hall since its construction, including a supper room that was built in 1954. In 1965 the front area outside the hall was sealed. In the 1970's the front entrance was renovated and a new floor put in. Local volunteers assisted with the many different improvements.

The **Upper Atiamuri Hall** is managed by South Waikato District Council.

Horohoro School is a small rural school situated beside the Kearoa Marae.



Ngakuru Farmers Market at Ngakuru Hall



Ngakuru Farmers Market at Ngakuru Hall

Rural Ward

marae



Mataarae Marae



Tarimano Marae



Rongomaipapa marae



Kearoa marae



Tarukenga marae

- **Tarimano Marae** is situated and located on the north western shores of Lake Rotorua, and next to the Te Awahou Stream (Te Wai Mimi o Pekehaua). The stream mouth opens on to Lake Rotorua. The physical address of the Marae is 62 Gloucester Road, Te Awahou. The primary hapu is **Ngāti Rangiwehehi**.
- **Kearoa Marae** - The ancestral lands of **Ngāti Kearoa Ngāti Tuara** stretch over 45-50,000 acres from the base of Horohoro maunga to significant landmarks including Tihi-o-Tonga, Tarewa, and Patetere. Our whenua extends south towards Tokoroa and east to Tikorangi, framing the Matahana basin and circling back to Horohoro.
- **Rongomaipāpā marae** is located at Horohoro, just outside Rotorua. The primary hapū are **Ngāti Kea and Ngāti Tuarā**.
The whare tupuna is called Māruahangaroa. The marae connects ancestrally to Te Arawa waka, the awa Pōkaitū and the maunga Te Horohoroinga-o-ngā-ringaringa o Kahumatamomoe, or Horohoro as it is known colloquially. Rongomaipāpā marae affiliates to both Tūhourangi and Ngāti Kahungunu.
- **Tarukenga marae** is just outside Rotorua. Its primary hapū are Ngāti Te Ngākau and Ngāti Tura of **Te Ure o Uenukukōpako iwi**.
The wharenuui is called Te Ngākau. The marae connects ancestrally to Te Arawa waka, the roto Te Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe and the awa and maunga Ngongotahā.
- **Mātārae marae** is located just 2 km west of Reporoa. The primary hapū is Ngāti Mataarae of **Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa**.
The whare tupuna is named Mataarae and the marae ancestrally connects to the waka Te Manu-nui-a-rangi, the maunga Paeroa and the wai Mangahoanga.
- **Te Huingawaka Marae** is local meeting ground for the Tūhoe hapū of **Ngāti Kaingaroa and Nga Tipuna O Te Motu** and is situated on Dunn Rd, Kaingaroa.

Our Rural Community Board key outcomes



Four key themes & outcomes for this plan are.....

- 1** Our infrastructure is resilient and meets current and future needs.
- 2** We have safe rural communities with access to quality facilities & services.

- 3** Our natural and built environment is healthy and retains its unique rural character.
- 4** Our rural communities are resilient, connected, and well-informed.

Outcome one



Our infrastructure is resilient and meets current & future needs.



OUTCOME 1 – INFRASTRUCTURE IS RESILIENT AND MEETS CURRENT & FUTURE NEEDS

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED	KEY ACTIONS/PRIORITIES
Rural Roding sealing program is moving forward at an appropriate rate. The board has input into the roding program.	Board Chair/Councillor	Roding team	Oversight of the roding program for each year as well as budget allowed for in LTP
Rural & Urban Street improvements Speed humps, crossings, etc	Board	Governance team Roding team	Check LTP budget and advocate for change
Street condition (curbing & footpaths) and lighting in rural villages – “Rural & Urban Street Improvements” budget	Board	Roding team Councillors	Mamaku Village plan and other roding plans Funding in LTP budget
Drainage & Stormwater systems Are they robust and fit for purpose?	Board/Councillor	Roding team	Review current systems & advocate for change if needed

Outcome two



**We have safe rural communities
with access to quality facilities & services**

OUTCOME 2 - SAFE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY FACILITIES & SERVICES			
ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED	KEY ACTIONS/PRIORITIES
There are safety measures in place at key sites in the district (e.g CCTV cameras)	Board	CCTV team	Investigate further CCTV sites
Rural roadside mowing program and vegetation control	Board	Parks & Reserves Team Roading team	Understand the schedule for these tasks and advocate where necessary
Animal Control – board supports the animal control team in rural areas	Board/communities	Animal Control team	Regular updates to the board around any key concerns such as dog attacks on stock
Rural Water supplies are functioning efficiently with minimal leaks. Understand the Local Waters Done Well implications for rural supplies.	Board	Waters team Request For Service (RFS) records of problems logged, as a report to board meetings	- Monitor RFS system for patterns of faults/issues - Understand impact of LWDW changes



Outcome three



Our natural & built environment is healthy & retains its unique rural character.



OUTCOME 3 - BUILT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS HEALTHY & RETAINS ITS UNIQUE RURAL CHARACTER

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED	KEY ACTIONS
Community Halls are maintained to an appropriate standard. Facilitate any conversations with communities due to the Property Portfolio review.	Board/Councillor	Property team Council Infrastructure GM/Property team	Work with elected members and communities to find solutions to hall issues
Community Halls are managed in an appropriate manner with an online booking system.	Board/Councillor	Thriving Communities team Governance team	Hall Guidelines and booking system are updated
Playgrounds & public spaces are maintained to a safe and appropriate standard:	Board	Parks & Reserves Team	Work to maintain & improve existing facilities (Devolved Funding)
District Plan rules – are appropriate for the rural zones and activities and reflect the unique rural character of our district	Board/Councillor	Planning team Rate/finance s team	- Understand rating model, UAGC - Advocate for any change - Understand District Plan rules

Outcome four



Our rural communities are resilient, connected, and well-informed.



OUTCOME 4 - RESILIENT, CONNECTED & WELL-INFORMED RURAL COMMUNITIES			
ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED	KEY ACTIONS/PRIORITIES
Civil Defence hubs – support and communicate rural communities to establish hubs	Board members	CDEM team	Identify gaps in Civil Defence hub establishment
Communication between Rural Board and stakeholders is effective and engaging: - Between board & council staff - Board & community - Board to Councillors - Board to external stakeholders – BOPRC, WRC	Rural Board/Councillor	Governance Comms team	- Assign admin person for facebook page - Establish a website - Continue to deliver Rural Connect newsletter & expand audience - Delegations to council - Formalise a Rural Board Communication Plan
Make key connections within the community	Rural Board/Councillor	Governance	- Rural Forum - Formalise contact list

Rural Community Board

Key Priorities 2025/26

Our Ranked Key Priorities for 2025 - 2026

Item	Detail	Rationale/Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Support information
Community Halls	○ Maintenance – allocation of funding, discussions with communities around divestment or retention ○ Management (Hall guidelines)	Outcome 3 – Natural & built environment is healthy and retains its unique rural character Outcome 4 - Connected, resilient, and well-informed communities	1	○ Request data on usage, costs to run and maintenance carried out ○ Visit halls ○ Request building reports for each hall
Roading Infrastructure	○ Sealing funding insufficient (\$600,00 annually), gravel road maintenance ○ Roadside mowing program is contentious – potential changes to schedule & chemicals? ○ Roadside tree hazards	Outcome 1 – Infrastructure is resilient & fit for purpose. Outcome 2 – we have safe rural communities with access to	1	○ Request roading plan for sealing ○ Request annual mowing/spraying schedule & tree maintenance & costs ○ Advocate for change
Rural & urban street improvements	○ Funding taken out of LTP for footpaths, speed humps, crossings, etc ○ Drainage & stormwater mitigations – are they robust?	Outcome 1 – Infrastructure is resilient & fit for purpose Outcome 2 – we have safe rural communities with access to quality services	1	○ Check LTP and see when funding is restarted and how much ○ Report on drainage ○ Advocate for change
Rating model	○ What are the Rural rating units and their rules ○ UAGC – what is it and what rate do we use at RLC? ○ Is this the best model? ○ What are some of the recent issues that have arisen from the District Plan in rural areas? (Rehabilitation Facility, Community Housing) ○ Papakainga rules – what are they in relation to rural zones?	Outcome 3 – Natural & built environment are healthy and retains its unique rural character	1	○ Request a report on Rural rating zones and the rating model ○ Research other council's models as a comparison ○ Define what our unique rural character is in each zone

Our Ranked Key Priorities for 2025 - 2026

Item	Detail	Rationale/Outcome	Priority (1-3)	Support information
Services in the rural area	- Local Waters Done Well – what does this mean for rural supplies? - Request For Service (RFS) reporting to Rural Board to provide information on rural issues or emerging problems	Outcome 1 - Infrastructure is resilient & fit for purpose Outcome 2 – we have a safe rural community with access to quality services	2	- Request a report on Local Waters Done Well - RFS reports to Rural Board
Rural Safety issues	- CCTV network and further additions to improve safety in high priority areas - Anti-social and dangerous behaviour in key sites – burn outs, Butchers Pool issues, etc - Neighbourhood Support	Outcome 2 – we have a safe rural community with access to quality services	2	- Request a report on the CCTV plan for the district - Advocate for new sites for CCTV where appropriate.
Natural Hazards and flooding	- Reporoa and other drainage system - new flood modelling and what it means to low lying areas	Outcome 4 – connected, resilient, and well-informed communities	1	Request info from Waikato Regional Council on the Reporoa area
Communication	- Between Board & staff - Board to community - Board to councillors - Council to board - Board to stakeholders – WRC, BOPRC, Resident Associations, Federated Farmers, etc <u>Relationship Accord between Council & Rural Board</u>	Outcome 4 – connected, resilient and well-informed communities	1	- Formulate a <u>Board Communications & Engagement Plan</u> that outlines the types of engagement. - Prepare a <u>Relationship Accord</u> with Council & board
Devolved Funding	- Terms of Reference – Review the TOR to determine if the model appropriate and is there a possibility of different criteria? - Council’s program of work in the rural area	Outcome 2 – we have a safe rural community with access to quality services	1	- Request a program of work for the rural area - Discuss the terms of reference

Prepare a “Plan on a Page” document annually to summarise the key outcomes and priority workstreams for the Rural Board, which will be attached to each Board meeting agenda.

Rotorua Rural Community Board – Plan on a page 2025-2026

Our purpose

To represent rural people and places, and to work with Council to achieve positive outcomes for rural areas

Our Vision

Rural communities that are prosperous, well-connected, and valued for their contribution to the district

Infrastructure is resilient & meets current and future needs

FY 2025 /26 initiatives

- Rural & Urban street improvements - investigate funding & workplan
- Roadside mowing schedule – is it fit for purpose and addressing safety concerns
- Road surfaces - Seal extension budget, resealing program
- Rural drainage & stormwater management

Safe rural communities with access to quality facilities & services

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- Our Community Halls are fit for purpose and well managed - work with council for positive outcomes for rural communities
- Regular RFS reporting to the board
- Further additions to CCTV network in rural areas where possible

Our natural & built environment is healthy & retains its unique rural character

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- RLC rating model – more information provided. Is it fair? (UAGC, targeted rates, etc)
- Rural zones – what are they and what are the rules.
- Rural character - Define/articulate this.
- What does a well-functioning rural environment look like?

Rural communities are resilient, connected, and well-informed

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- Prepare a communication & engagement plan for the board and build relationships with key stakeholders.
- Prepare a relationship accord between Council & board
- Natural hazards and flooding maps – who are affected communities?

Devolved Funding

- Review the funding Terms of Reference and allocation process annually
- Investigate the program of work planned for the rural area for the upcoming financial year

Devolved Funding

The Rotorua Rural Community Board administers a total of \$125,000 of devolved funding per financial year.

The purpose of the fund is to support the aspirations of rural communities. The Rural Board is provided \$125,000 per annum to allocate to capital projects & items in the Rural area of the Rotorua District.

The funding is allocated by the Rural Community Board based on applications from the community or work programs that are already planned and then administered by council officers who will organise the purchasing and installing of any items.

This funding can be used only for council-owned assets. This means anything that is on council-owned land, such as reserves and playgrounds, council buildings and local roads.

The projects would benefit rural communities and fit the following criteria:

- The project must be within a rural area in the Rotorua District.
- The project must provide local public benefit and be free and open to all members of the community.
- The funding must go towards something that is a council asset.
- The project should align with one or more the board priorities which are: Infrastructure, Communication, Rural Safety, Community Halls.

Applications forms are on the RLC website for anyone in the rural area to apply to the fund.

RURAL COMMUNITY FUNDING



Roe Reserve, Rerewhakaaitu



Mamaku Pavillion

Rural Community Halls





Reporoa Hall War Memorial Wall



Mamaku Hall – historical photo



Community Halls are a gathering point for our rural communities and organisations. A place to connect, share ideas, and build ties. The Mamaku community demonstrated how important their Memorial Hall was to them when it was closed in Dec 2023. The Reporoa community installed a Memorial Wall of photographs and stories of servicemen and women for Anzac Day 2024. Here are some words from Sir Wayne Shelford:

Tēnā koutou katoa,

I am very sorry that I can't be with you today to share in this significant occasion.

It might seem a small thing to some to establish a Memorial Hall, but these buildings house our most sacred memories, provide a meeting place for veterans, whanau and community members, and provide a safe place where we can remember the fallen and honour their memory.

It is especially fitting for Reporoa to establish this project to honour those servicemen who were responsible for bringing this town to life.

I would like to pass on my personal thanks to everyone involved in this project, thank you for the respect and honour you are showing to our veterans, and for keeping the importance of their role in your community alive.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tā Buck Shelford

Appendices

In a separate document:

- 1. Overview of Services provided by Council**
- 2. Kaharoa Water Supply**
- 3. Reporoa Water Supply**
- 4. Mamaku Water Supply**
- 5. Rural District Maintenance Zones Map**
- 6. Mamaku Drainage Map**
- 7. Reporoa Drainage Maps**
- 8. Plan on a Page**



This plan was prepared by the Rotorua Rural
Community Board & Rural Ward Councillor in 2026.

Version 1 approved 19th April 2026

