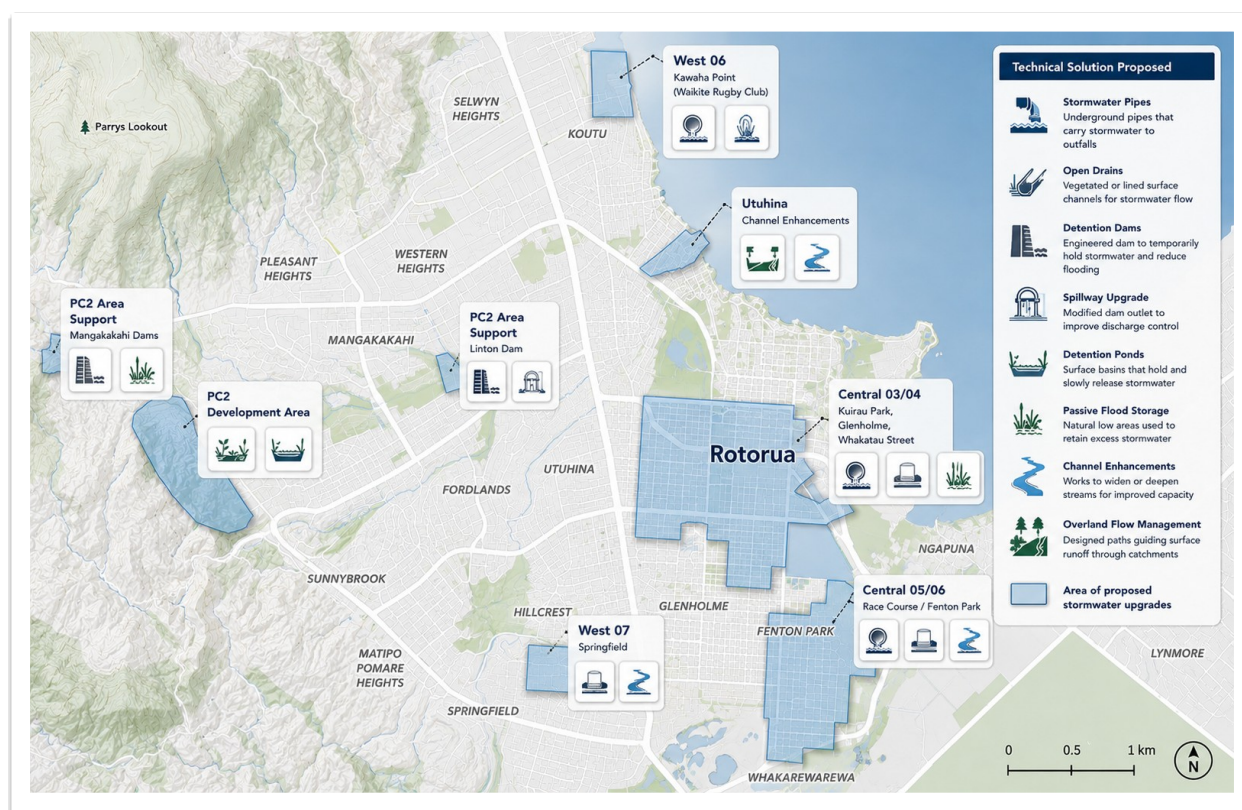


Council Continues Progress on Growth Infrastructure Programme

May 28: Rotorua Lakes Council is continuing to progress its Infrastructure Investment for Growth (IIG) programme while awaiting a key funding decision from Central Government.

The programme builds on Council's successful 2022 application to the Government's Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, aimed at fast-tracking stormwater infrastructure to unlock housing supply.

Capital Delivery Manager Elrond McCarthy told the Infrastructure Committee on 13 May that the programme remained focused on strengthening cost controls and confirming designs ahead of work starting on a range of stormwater works.



An independent assessment had confirmed 95 percent confidence in current construction cost estimates, with contractor arrangements already in place to enable works to begin quickly once funding was confirmed.

A variation to the programme was under review, with a decision expected in July.

In the meantime, Council had progressed targeted work at risk and in good faith to maintain momentum, including legal agreements, developer engagement, and planning work linked to housing delivery.

Several projects were advancing, although some had been refined following further assessment.

Proposed flood management works in Mangakakahi had been removed after it was determined they would not achieve the required outcomes. Other projects, including work in Springfield, had been scaled to better align with cost and delivery certainty.

The most complex work remained in the central city, Kuirau Park, Glenholme, and surrounding areas, where major stormwater upgrades were required to support intensification and manage flood risk. Additional work in Fenton Park and the Racecourse remained subject to the pending funding decision.

Some streamlining had occurred, with projects consolidated to improve efficiency, while preparatory work continued to ensure projects could move quickly once funding was confirmed.

Mr McCarthy said delays had largely been driven by funding uncertainty and the need to refine modelling and cost estimates, but continuing work was important to meet the Government's expectation of practical completion by December 2028.

Mr McCarthy said the team remained committed to securing Government support and progressing infrastructure needed to enable housing across the district.

General Manager Stavros Michael said the programme was critical to supporting Rotorua's long-term growth, with the potential to enable around 3,000 new homes and generate significant economic activity while improving flood resilience.

He noted that approximately half of the housing capacity was already supported under the current programme, largely through the completed Linton Park dam and spillway and Plan Change 2 which enables residential development in the Pukehāngi Heights Area.

The remaining projects were dependent on funding approval. Without it, some projects would be deferred and reconsidered through future Long-Term Plan processes.