COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

May 2017 to 7 May 2019

This is our Communication on Progress in implementing the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.
Part I. Statement of Continued Support by Rotorua Lakes Council Mayor

4 March 2019

His Excellency Mr A. Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tēnā koe

I am pleased to confirm that Rotorua Lakes Council reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles as part of the Rotorua 2030 Vision. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our community stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Steve Chadwick JP
Mayor
Kia ora koutou,

As lead Councillor of the Sustainable Living Portfolio it is my pleasure to share with you the key highlights and progress that we have achieved over the past two years.

Residents told us that protecting the natural assets of our district is a top priority. So, Rotorua Lakes Council undertook a corporate carbon emissions audit which measured our carbon footprint. We now know what we need to do and are creating action to reduce harmful greenhouse gases that come from Council operations such as; making our waste system more environmentally friendly, reducing fuel use, and optimizing electricity consumption.

Through our new partnership model with Te Tatau o Te Arawa we have made significant strides in celebrating our indigenous heritage with Te Arawa who are the tangata whenua, Maori people of this land. This has brought cultural, economic, environmental and social benefits to the Rotorua district.

We heard from young people that climate change is a key concern for their futures. In November 2017 we facilitated a series of youth workshops with Cities Programme Director Michael Nolan and in March 2019 we supported the student strikes for climate change by welcoming them into Rotorua Lakes Council for discussion.

We are continuing to work alongside students, business leaders, local iwi and our wider community to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the Rotorua district.

Nga mihi nui,

Cr. Tania Tapsell
Lead Sustainable Living Portfolio
Rotorua Lakes Councillor

Rotorua Lakes Council- Communication on Engagement 2019 3
Part II. Description of Actions

Have a dedicated sustainability plan or a holistic city/regional plan that incorporates the ecological, economic, political and cultural dimensions of the region’s sustainability. Utilise assessment tools and methodologies developed by the Global Compact Cities Programme, and sharing knowledge and innovations developed with the use of these tools. Engage at the Innovating level of the Global Compact Cities Programme.


In 2016, Council completed the Sustainable Living Strategy identifying a model of sustainable living which acknowledges the important relationship of partnership with Te Arawa who are the tangata whenua, Māori people of this place. The perspective of sustainability reflects key concepts of understanding the interconnectedness of people, the natural and spiritual worlds.
Te tauira toitū oranga o Rotorua
Rotorua model of sustainable living

Interdependent Holistic Sustainable Ecosystem
The Sustainable Living Strategy focusses on six key objectives:

- **He hapori pūmanawa, He hapori ngāwari** - People are resilient to change, and able to adapt and thrive
- **Kia tau te iwi o Rotorua ki te nuinga ngā kai ora, ngā kai pai ki te tiaki te mauri tū, te mauri ora** - People in Rotorua will at all times have access to enough safe and nutritious food for a healthy and active lifestyle
- **Ka noho te iwi i ngā kāinga whakaru, ngā kāinga haumaru** - People live in affordable healthy homes
- **Toitū te papa, Toitū te wai, he tuarā mo te taiao** - Our land and water is sustainably managed and supports the natural environment
- **Mimiti atu ai ngā para, ka whai tikanga te wāriu** - We minimise our waste and recover its value
- **Kei te takatū a Rotorua mo te ao hōu, mai te mahi tiaki, me te mahi whakakorengia ngā hau ‘greenhouse’** - Rotorua will be ready for the approaching post-carbon economy through greater energy efficiency and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

**Acknowledge participation in the Global Compact publically and promoting the initiative and the ten principles within our sphere of influence.**

Rotorua Lakes Council has taken the opportunity to share the value of our participation in the U.N. Global Compact Cities Programme at a number of fora including:

- Providing Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) background to the UN Global Compact Cities Programme for consideration as part of their climate work (August 2017)
- Facilitated a series of workshops in Rotorua with Michael Nolan, Cities Programme Director including: Youth Workshop on Climate Change - four schools with year 7 and 8 (11-13 year olds) on climate change and giving feedback on Council’s Spatial Plan; Workshop for Council staff and elected members across the wider Bay of Plenty on Climate Change and opportunities for collaboration; Long-term Plan Workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals and the global-local interface; Workshop for staff examples of successful local government partnerships with the private sector attracting investment (November 2017)
- Mayor facilitated LGNZ agenda for Michael Nolan, Cities Programme Director connection to present to the New Zealand Metro Mayors meeting in Christchurch and Regional & Rural Mayors in Wellington (November 2017)
- Collaboration Bay of Plenty (COBOP) Climate Group - sharing Council’s sustainability progress underpinned by the UN Global Compact Cities Programme with the region’s Councils. (2018- ongoing)
- COBOP Climate group - sharing opportunity for UN Global Compact Cities Programme Partnership Initiative with region’s Councils. (December 2018).
Engage at the Innovating Level - undertaking a multi-year project to address a complex or seemingly intractable issue(s) within the city or region, which is supported by leaders across business, civil society and Government

The Sanatorium Reserve Restoration Project

Sanatorium Reserve is a 77 hectare inner city site located on the shores of Lake Rotorua. The fourth largest area of geothermal habitat in New Zealand, it is classified as a ‘critically endangered’ ecosystem. It is a breeding area for at least five threatened bird species, and home to ‘at risk’ geothermal kānuka.

Once a pristine ecological site with rich native biodiversity, its ecological values are being compromised by the invasion of weed species, especially dense arrow bamboo, which covers vast areas of the Reserve and excludes the growth of other vegetation. Other threats to the environment include pest animals, unplanned vegetation clearance/ tracks and rubbish dumping.

Work has begun on restoring the Reserve to its former glory. Our aim is to re-establish the ecology, involving the community in the restoration process wherever feasible. Subsequent phases of the project will see further enhancement with a network of low-impact cycling and walking paths, viewing platforms and cultural/environmental interpretation. These will enable more people to safely experience and enjoy the Reserve and foster greater understanding and care of its precious environment and cultural heritage. The unique inner city location makes it easily accessible for the Rotorua community.

Support has been attained from key stakeholders including Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust (the mandated body of Ngati Whakaue), Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird.

Attached as Appendices 1 and 2 are the two Sanatorium Reserve update newsletters.
### Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Progress on key strategies from our Sustainable Living Strategy with reference to the Ten Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals:

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| **Celebrate our Te Arawa heritage** | - Te Tatau o Te Arawa representatives participate on Council committees; supporting iwi partnership with Council  
- Te Amorangi programme increasing the capability of Council staff 2017-19:  
  - 200 staff have attended noho marae (Overnight marae stay and cultural workshops)  
  - 120 staff have attended reo classes (Māori language)  
  - 350 staff have attended a Treaty or Te Arawa Stories lecture  
- Developed draft Rautaki Mō Te Reo Māori (Māori Language Strategy)  
- All Council job titles bilingual  
- All Council reports include bilingual headings/sub-headings  
- Council meetings reflect Māori tikanga (practice)  
- Citizenship ceremonies reflect Te Arawa  
- All new staff invited to Whakatau-formal welcome  
- Together with Te Tatau o Te Arawa, RLC leads Rotorua Reo Rua including:  
  - Upgrading the children’s playground Taikākā as a Reo Māori playground, where families can practice using te reo  
  - Securing NZ Transport Authority agreement to allow Reo Māori signage at the city entryways  
  - Publishing a full translation of the Long Term Plan consultation document  
  - Te Aka Mauri holds our te reo Māori collections, established a new reo Māori children’s story time (He Aka Pikirangi) and provides | 1, 2, 6 | 10, 11, 16 |
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| whakapapa research support for community members | - Supporting Toi Ohomai’s free community reo Māori classes attracting 30 enrolments with a diverse group of beginner learners  
- Bilingual public signage at Hemo Gorge entry to Rotorua, and being introduced through all signage renewals  
• Te Pukenga Koeke o Te Arawa, the Te Arawa Kaumatua (elders) advisory committee for the Museum, took on similar duties for Te Aka Mauri  
• Engagement with Te Arawa entities and communities in relation to key Council developments- e.g. Waste Water Treatment Plant, Hannah’s Bay Reserve Management Plan, Lakefront Development, Redwood & Forest Developments, Te Aka Mauri- design, Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre, Rotorua Museum  
• A public waiata mai (Māori song) class is held once a month at the Rotorua Library  
• He Aka Pikirangi, a weekly total reo Māori immersion session for preschoolers run by Rotorua Library  
• Rotorua Lakes Council named a winner at 2018 Māori Language Awards in Kāwanatanga (Government) award category for work delivered by its Te Amorangi ki Mua, Te Hāpai ō Kī Muri Unit  
• Creation of the Manahautū Māori role to focus on improving Council’s capability and performance in developing partnership with iwi and responding to the needs of Māori. There are only two Councils in the country that have a kaupapa Māori – focussed role in their executive leadership (Tier Two).  
• Rotorua became NZ’s first Reo Rua (bilingual) city, committing to supporting the use and celebration of te reo Māori  
• Developed Te Haerenga (Bicultural Development) Framework |                            |                              |
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| Promote social and economic inclusion through collective impact approaches | • Council is a partner to the ‘Rotorua Working Together Forum’ whose priority project has been ‘Engaging Rangatahi (Youth) in Positive Pathways’. Key achievements include:  
  - Youth Hub IT platform piloting extended uses with 1315 youth and 79 businesses already utilising  
  - ‘License to Work’ programme supporting youth readiness for work as well as employer readiness for youth  
  - Driver Licensing Programme- a collaboration including Bluelight Youth Driver Navigator Programme with schools, Rotorua Community Youth Centre, Whanua Ora Collective, Department of Corrections with Howard League/Rawiri & Tipu Daniels/ Provincial Growth Fund, Te Roopu A Iwi with Te Kooti Rangatahi with Ministry of Justice, Literacy Aotearoa, working with independent instructors to deliver access to driver licensing as a pathway to employment and preventing unlicensed driver pathway to criminal records. In just six months in 2018, 403 people utilised the service. Of those sitting the license test, 100% achieved the learner license and 89% achieved the full license  
  • Child Equity Pilot commenced 2019 evaluating partnership with a low socio-economic school community of 111 children, philanthropic, business and community organisations to increase children’s access to extra-curricular activities to develop aspiration and sense of inclusion. To date new activities include ‘Bikes in Schools’, learn to swim, ukulele lessons, mentoring, school holiday programme, new sports teams  
  • Council’s community grants policy increased focus on equitable outcomes and collaboration from 2018. Partnerships with 11 community organisations 2018-21 (nine organisations 2015-18). Small community grants to 44 community groups 2018-21 (38 groups 2015-18) Neighbourhood Matching Fund distributed $70,000 across 28 community projects 2016/17, and $92,000 across 26 community | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 10 |
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<td>Council hosts the Dementia-friendly Rotorua Steering Group whose activities include an intergenerational project connecting Early Childhood Centres with Aged Care Facilities</td>
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<td>Library provides public access Wi-Fi, public computers, mobile library to 15 rural schools and 12 aged communities fortnightly, preschool groups, teen’s services, Lego Club, on-line training library, free computer classes, book clubs, community meeting spaces, supporting SparkJump programme providing disadvantaged families with affordable online access</td>
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<td>Council signed UN Women’s Empowerment Principles 2017</td>
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<td>Improve urban design to foster stronger connections to our culture, our environment and between people</td>
<td>Development of extensive network of shared paths with an addition of 21km since 2015 to total of 66.6km. Annual cycle survey indicated 36% increase in weekday cyclists from 2016-2018.</td>
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<td>Spatial plan completed</td>
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<td>Smokefree Outdoor Spaces Policy utilising passive signage and social reinforcement covers all playgrounds, youth spaces, reserves, lakefronts, sports grounds, bus stops, Council funded or located events, all outdoor eating places and the entrances/ exits to all public buildings. Outdoor eating places achieved 99.5% compliance at 2019 audit. High compliance all other sites.</td>
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<td>Te Aka Mauri Library and Child Health Hub health and wellbeing project bringing library and children’s health services together under the same roof opened February 2018 after four years’ consultation, planning, development and construction. Includes adjacent outdoor park and play area, with pedestrian and parking zones, and in close proximity to the central bus stop. Interior design reflects local Māori culture and heritage. Significantly improved attendance rate at health appointments, high holiday programme attendance, award-winning</td>
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| Enhance safety in our communities by working collaboratively with our people | - 2018-19 CBD Summer safety initiative with Police, City Guardians, Maori wardens and others reduced inner city crime by 18%  
- Civil defence- over 100 of Council’s 380 staff have undertaken civil                                                                                                                                  | 1, 7, 8, 9                  | 3, 6, 9, 11, 13          |
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| and agencies which bring people together                                | defence training. Our partners include Police, Fire and Emergency NZ, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Lakes District Health Board, Unison power supply company, Neighbourhood Support, Ministry of Social Development, SPCA, Citizens Advice Bureau, Salvation Army, Te Puni Kokiri  
  - Ngongotaha flood event civil defence emergency activation 29 April 2018 to manage severe weather event with 182 mm of rain in a 24 hour period. This was the second highest ever recorded in Rotorua. As a result, Rotorua’s rivers, streams and storm-water systems were overwhelmed by a large volume of rain water in a very short period of time. Flood water inundated a large number of homes and caused significant damage to our local infrastructure. Subsequent recovery involving rebuild of two rural bridges, sections of roads, storm water repair, support of residents from 90 homes that were issued with insanitary notices. Support included Mayoral Manaakitanga Fund and navigators to assist e.g. with insurance and temporary accommodation. | 1, 6, 8, 9                  | 10, 11, 16                  |
| Provide information which enables people to connect to others and access services |  
  - Council’s new online engagement forum ‘Let’s Talk- Kōrero Mai’. Over 2017-2019: 39 topics; 31,500 visits; 18,449 aware participants; 6611 informed participants, 1609 engaged participants  
  - Representation Review in 2015 led to two Community Boards from 2016 increasing representation of rural and lakes communities | 7, 8, 9                      | 1, 2, 3, 11, 10, 13         |
| Collaborate through a network approach to address local food security   |  
  - ‘Kai Rotorua’ local Food Network has continued to develop including a project growing ‘kumara’, an indigenous food staple, community gardens, food teaching  
  - A number of community groups are rescuing and redistributing surplus food from supermarkets and other suppliers through lower socio-economic communities  
  - Sunday Farmers Market in its third year provides opportunity for local | 7, 8, 9                      | 1, 2, 3, 11, 10, 13         |
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<td>producers and growers to sell produce weekly. 25 stalls in summer, rainy day store option, 500-1000 people attending each week. The stalls are locally made wooden carts constructed from locally sourced timber and sustainability is a focus of the market with a goal to become waste-free • Council is a partner to ‘Healthy Families Rotorua’. “Ka Pai Kai’ social enterprise has developed from this support and provides healthy affordable school lunches to 8 schools on a daily basis</td>
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<td>Increase sustainable production of local food</td>
<td>• Low-nitrogen land-use directory identifies sustainable land uses • Continue to vermicompost waste water bio solids with wood pulp mill fibre to improve soil for fodder crop production</td>
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<td>6, 12, 13, 15</td>
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<td>Advocate for healthy food environments</td>
<td>• Aquatic centre policy promotes water-only beverages • All Rotorua Lakes Council water supplies are chlorinated, providing protection from bacteria (including campylobacter and E. coli) and viruses at the treatment plant and throughout the network. All supplies (except Mamaku), have ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection, providing protection from bacteria and protozoa (including cryptosporidium and giardia) at the treatment plant</td>
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<td>Plan for Rotorua district’s future quality housing needs</td>
<td>• Support Whiria te Aroha Homeless Action Plan with community partners • Advocate to Ministry of Housing and Urban Development for ‘Housing First’ service, commencing 1 May 2019- providing housing and wrap-around support services for chronically homeless • The Rotorua Housing Accord is an agreement between the Minister for Building and Construction and Rotorua Lakes Council to work together to address housing supply and affordability issues in the district. It will</td>
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<td><strong>Provide access to legislation which will enable fast-tracking of consenting and zoning processes</strong></td>
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<td>- 161 new homes in 2016/17</td>
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<td>- 149 new homes in 2017/18</td>
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<td>- Review of model of Council’s provision of 152 Pensioner Housing units</td>
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<td><strong>Encourage new home building and renovation which provides affordable and energy/resource efficient homes</strong></td>
<td>‘Sustainability Options’ contracted to provide independent home assessments and advice. In the 2017-18 year they visited 429 homes; held 12 community workshops; at phone survey over two thirds of customers were acting on advice given</td>
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<td><strong>Treat our waste water to a high standard and discharge safely</strong></td>
<td>Waste water treatment plant- proposing contract to manage build and operation of new wastewater treatment plant in partnership with Te Arawa</td>
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<td>- Consent for discharge of treated wastewater provides for iwi stakeholder group reviewing reports and providing feedback with potential impact on water conservation</td>
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<td>- Resource application allows for treated wastewater to be reused for non-potable uses</td>
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<td>- East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage Scheme aims to provide an essential service to the community that is delivered in a way that protects the health of the lake and is culturally appropriate, also supported by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and funding from Ministry of Health. Construction phase will include: building a Wastewater Treatment Plant behind the Rotoiti Emery Store; and laying about 22 kilometres of reticulation network from Matahi Road in Rotomā to the plant. Initially, Rotomā properties including non-residential will be connected to the new service next year (2019) followed by the east Rotoiti community, with provisions to potentially connect nearby dwellings to the system</td>
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| Work collaboratively with agencies, iwi and stakeholders to manage catchment areas | - Taniwha Springs land returned to iwi, continues to provide public supply of drinking water  
- Ngongotahā Community Reference Group will help create an Action Plan to reduce the risk of and impact of future storm events in Ngongotahā. The group was set up in response to the Independent Review of the severe weather event in April 2018. The aim of the group is to provide advice and recommendations to both councils, they will also lead community engagement and consultation around the development of plans for short/medium and long term actions | 7, 8, 9                     | 6, 9, 11, 13                |
| Work with stakeholders to protect and promote biodiversity              | - Sanatorium Reserve Project progressing with pest bamboo eradication programme established, regeneration of native manuka plants, identification of population of long-tailed bats (Chalinolobus tuberculatus) only the third confirmed urban or semi-urban bat location in New Zealand and regular community clean-ups  
- A number of Landcare groups volunteer to improve land, stream and lake environments, supported by Bay of Plenty Regional Council including: Te Komiro o Te Utuhina, LandCare Ōkāreka, Eastside Collective, Tiaki Early Learning Centre, Rotorua Golf Club, Awahou Care group, Tikitapu Forest & Bird, Tarawera “rat pack”, Tarawera Landcare 2115  
- Five Predator-free NZ 2050 community projects- bringing together central and local government, iwi, philanthropists, non-government organisations, businesses, science and research organisations, communities, landowners and individuals | 1, 3, 7, 8                  | 11, 13, 14, 15             |
| Encourage diversification of land use to reduce environmental impact   | - Land development planning- nitrogen allocation on the land being subdivided  
- Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS) of Waikato adopted as guiding code for subdivisions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 7, 8, 9                     | 11, 12, 13, 14, 15         |
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| Review methods to improve storm water management             | • Heavy rain events in January, February and April 2018 caused significant localised surface and property flooding. These events and their effects have been evaluated and long-term plans have been formed in conjunction with the Bay Of Plenty Regional Council to gradually implement programmes to minimise the risk of future flooding. The climate change forecasts predict the future occurrence of heavier and more intense storm events. Enhanced storm water effects modelling are underway, and will be gradually implemented over a number of years through optimised renewal and upgrade works  
• High lake levels Lake Okareka July 2017 and associated high groundwater levels prompted the Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) to invoke emergency measures to enable them to increase the outflow from the lake to the maximum physically possible. We worked with the BOPRC to identify and implement viable draining options to minimise local property damage and general flooding risk | 7, 8, 9                      | 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15        |
<p>| Protect the geothermal ecosystem and features                 | • Rotorua Geothermal Liaison Group comprising RLC, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waiariki Māori Geothermal Advisory Group, Waikato Regional Council, Department of Conservation representatives meet regularly to discuss the management objectives of the Rotorua Geothermal System and consider how these will translate into the review of the Rotorua Geothermal Regional Plan | 1, 7, 8, 9                  | 7, 9, 11, 15                |
| Avoid and minimise waste                                     | • 800 additional rural properties included in kerbside rubbish and recycling collections which doubled the geographical area covered by the service | 6, 7, 8, 9                  | 11, 12, 13                 |
| Encourage product stewardship/extended producer responsibility| • Support for ‘Say NO to plastic bags Rotorua’ community movement; supported voluntarily by many businesses, reusable shopping bags | 7, 8, 9                      | 11, 12, 13                |</p>
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| Promote recycling                    | • 34% increase in waste diverted from landfill  
• 29% increase in glass recycling  
• 50% increase in recovery of plastics and fibre from the waste stream  
• Recycling streams for glass, paper, aluminium, steel and plastics collected and sold  
• Green waste collection available at landfill site and reused as mulch                                                                                   | 7, 8, 9                      | 11, 12, 13                   |
| Resource recovery                    | • Council’s Landfill operation has closed and waste is now sent to a new landfill which is able to recover methane                                                                                     | 7, 8, 9                      | 11, 12, 13                   |
| Develop a carbon abatement plan     | • Community-wide carbon footprint baseline developed with Bay of Plenty Regional Council  
• Corporate carbon footprint developed  
• Committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in 2018  
• Currently progressing development of climate risk and vulnerability assessment, target setting and climate adaptation and mitigation plan | 7, 8, 9                      | 11, 12, 13                   |
| Reduce fuel use for transport through planning and design | • Cyway and shared paths development- 21km of shared paths added to our network since 2015 now 66.6km of designated shared paths  
• One Council petrol-fuelled vehicle replaced by four e-bikes  
• Parking enforcement vehicle is electric powered  
• Community events to encourage walking, cycling and public bus transport  
• Cycle stands at key CBD locations  | 7, 8, 9                      | 7, 11, 13                   |
APPENDIX 1: SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION UPDATE (OCTOBER 2018)

SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION UPDATE

OCTOBER 2018

SIGNAGE

Visitors to the Sanatorium Reserve will hopefully have seen the following information boards at the main entrance points.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Rotorua Lakes Council is working with its community partners and a range of conservation organisations to restore the reserve to its former beauty.

Kaitaia-based Wildlands Consultants will be removing plant and animal pests from the site. In particular, the large clumps of arrow bamboo (Phyllostachys pubescens) will be removed from the reserve.

The project will run in September 2018 and will be ongoing for at least a year.

During this time, the reserve will remain open, with restricted access to specific areas where weed control is taking place.

BAMBOO REMOVAL

Work to remove pest plants began on the Reserve in September, with the focus being on the removal of arrow bamboo using a remote-controlled mulcher.

Contractors have been searching all clumps of bamboo before mulching to check for homeless people and nesting birds.

Weed control operations are going well, with significant areas of bamboo already down. Wildlands will be revisiting and treating all clumps later in the season to reduce grow back.
SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION UPDATE

RUDDISH CLEAN-UP
During Conservation Week at the end of September, the Sudima Hotel organised a clean-up of the reserve. The event attracted over 60 people, and 360kgs of rubbish were collected in 2 hours on the day. Volunteers included children from Rotorua Primary School, students from Toi Ohomai and staff from Chris Smith glass.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?
We will be in touch to organise the first meeting of the Working Group, early in 2019. In the meantime, if you any questions/need any further information, please contact the Project Manager, Richard Dahlenburg:

Richard.Dahlenburg@rotoruacl.nz
07 350 0168
027 493 4184
APPENDIX 2: SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION UPDATE (MARCH 2019)

SANATORIUM RESERVE RESTORATION
MARCH 2019

BREAKING NEWS!
Long-tailed bats have been detected at two sites in the Reserve. The bats were found to be using the area during a survey with acoustic monitoring equipment that detects their echolocation calls. This is a significant find, being only the third confirmed urban or semi-urban bat location in New Zealand.

BATS are New Zealand’s only native land mammals. Although long-tailed bats (Chalinolobus tuberculatus) used to be common throughout New Zealand in the 1800s, they are now classed as ‘threatened - nationally critical’ and are a high priority for conservation. Bats are negatively affected by increasing light and traffic. Their presence in the Reserve is likely due to the substantial areas of forestry close to the city.

BRINGING THE VISION TO LIFE
The vision for the Reserve is:
“The ecological integrity of Sanatorium Reserve and Sulphur Point is restored so that the area can be enjoyed by visitors using a high quality, low impact network of tracks and other facilities.”

At February’s meeting, the project Working Group began to brainstorm the next stage of the project, i.e. how to provide safe access to the ecological restoration area without harming the fragile environment and the unique flora/fauna. The ideas generated will be used to develop a concept plan and to look for funding opportunities to bring our vision to life.

SUDIMA RESERVE CLEAN-UP
The Sudima Hotel is organising another rubbish clean-up in the Reserve. Meet at the Hotel at 1:00pm on Monday 1 April. For more details, contact Chris Frye on 021 183 6622 or chris@sudimaarotorua.co.nz

DOC UPDATE
On Friday 16th November 2018, four critically endangered black-billed gulls were found dead at Sulphur Flats. Subsequent imaging of the gulls determined that the likely cause of death, of at least one of the birds, was a rifle shot (BB). As part of our colony monitoring, we had several trail cams positioned within the flats. We were fortunate enough to have captured two individuals with a rifle aiming and presumably shooting at our protected species.

After a thorough investigation that included a multimedia campaign, we were able to identify the two individuals who have subsequently been spoken to by police and DOC. The investigation is still ongoing and we hope to have a resolution quite soon.

(KEVIN BUTTELL)

MOTUTARA POINT UPDATE
Preliminary has been for the upgrade of the Motutara Point (Sulphur Point) walkway to a dual-use walk/cycleway linking the Lakefront redevelopment to the Sanatorium Reserve. The proposed route alignment has been assessed by Wildlands and a resource consent will be lodged shortly.

The proposed track will take in the 4 sculptures that were installed round the Point at the end of last year. Created by leading national carvers, these pieces acknowledge and celebrate Rotorua’s rich natural and cultural environment and provide an opportunity to engage with and share in local stories.

(WILL BANFORD)

‘Taniwha’ by steve molloy

Sudima
BAMBOO REMOVAL

They say that a picture speaks a thousand words. Here is some of the amazing progress that Wildlands have been making with bamboo removal in the reserve. The hot dry summer weather has helped restrict the bamboo regrowth, but follow up spraying will continue over the next 2-3 years to ensure eradication. Where bamboo and other weeds have been removed, the native flora will be able to grow back.

On the margin of the rugby fields, there is an area where mowing has been stopped and grass has been sprayed. Seedlings of manuka are already regenerating within this area.