

Progress on East Rotoiti Rotomā Sewerage scheme

December 2016



The objectives of the East Rotoiti Rotomā sewerage scheme are still:

- To help protect the mauri of the lakes - to keep the lakes clean
- To protect the health of the people
- To avoid the issues of OSET compliant units at every house
- To make good use of available subsidies.

Resource consent application

Rotorua Lakes Council submitted an application for resource consent for the scheme on 19 September 2016. Submissions were then invited.

A total of 22 submissions were received. Of these, eight supported the application without conditions. Nine gave conditional support, and of these eight were from Lake Rotoehu. Four official bodies made technical submissions and were neutral. One submission from some land-owners opposed the application.

Rotorua Lakes Council hopes to meet with those who opposed or attached conditions to their support. The purpose of the meetings will be to hear and understand their concerns and to seek ways of resolving them to the satisfaction of all.

Charging for the scheme

The RRSSC has held discussions with Rotorua Lakes Council regarding the capital charge to ratepayers for the scheme. While subsidies cover a large part of the cost of the scheme, ratepayers in the area will contribute to the capital cost. The discussions originated from a public meeting when it was suggested that charging ratepayers within the area covered by the scheme could start next year.

This is being discussed further and a recommendation from RRSSC will be made, as input to the options being developed for inclusion in the 2017/18 annual plan.

Biolytix trial

The Biolytix trial at Ruato Bay and Gisborne Point has now started. Units have been successfully installed at two properties at Gisborne Point and seven at Ruato Bay. Installation of a trial biolytix system at Ruato Marae is expected to occur before Christmas.

The trial will take a short time to settle in, a year to operate and then results will be evaluated. The community will be updated on progress. Decisions as a result of the trial are expected in the first half of 2018.

Design work by Rotorua Lakes Council

Design work for the Rotomā sewerage piping network is underway. The design is being undertaken by Rotorua Lakes Council staff in conjunction with iwi representatives.

The way ahead

The next step is the consideration of the resource consent applications by BOPRC and Rotorua Lakes Council. The process involves first the hearing of submissions (jointly by the two councils) and a decision being made on the application.

Following that, there will be an opportunity for appeal if any of the submitters consider the issues they raise have not been dealt with satisfactorily.

If resource consents are granted and there are no appeals, or appeals are resolved and no further hearings therefore required, tenders will be called for the construction of a treatment plant, land disposal system and piping network to service Lake Rotomā.

Once the Biolytix trial is complete, a decision will be made, based on the results of the trial, regarding the connection of houses to the piping system at Lake Rotoiti. The Rotoiti part of the scheme can then proceed in 2018.

If you have any inquiries please email info@rotorualc.nz and someone will contact you. Please note, Rotorua Lakes Council will be closed from midday Friday 23 December until 8am Monday 9 January 2017.