

Significant milestones for Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant

1973 – 1978	Wastewater Treatment Plant constructed in 1973 and a number of upgrades carried out with the intention to serve about 60,000 people
Since 1991	The city's treated wastewater is irrigated on a number of blocks in the Whakarewarewa Forest and away from walking tracks
Early 2013	Environment Court directs Council to investigate alternative treated wastewater disposal methods as a result of concerns from tāngata whenua
Early 2013	Council signs a deed to end spraying of treated wastewater in Whakarewarewa Forest by 2019 as it is no longer environmentally sustainable
February 2014	Community-led group, the Rotorua Project Steering Committee (RPSC), is set up to consider alternative treatment systems and discharge options, and to recommend to Council a preferred option
June 2014	RPSC's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) shortlists five alternative options
July 2014	Public consultation - Council announces initiation of project stage and establishment of RPSC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RPSC agrees on shortlist of treatment and discharge options
August – November 2014	Detailed feasibility studies completed of short-listed options
September 2014	RPSC establishes a Cultural Assessment sub-committee
October – November 2014	Public consultation held – Providing an overview of the project
December 2014	Engineering technical report received. Preliminary cultural assessment and preliminary discharge location and effects report carried out.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim discharge location and effects report and interim cultural report prepared Two public consultation hui held to discuss the overall project with Ngāpuna hapū/ iwi and Ōwhata/ Rotokawa hapū/ iwi. Consultation also covered how the project been developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steering committee selected preferred option and recommendation made to Council - Preliminary designs/ final cultural impact assessment/ consultation draft assessment of environment effects
Early to mid-2016	Substantial public consultation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publishing the 'Finding a Solution for the Future' brochure detailing the purpose of the project and how it was instigated - Public meetings and site visits to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant
April 2017	Initial Land Contact Bed design signed off by RPSC
May – July 2017	Mātauranga Māori experts brought in add cultural input
Second half of 2017	RPSC, Council's Strategy, Policy and Finance Committee and Full Council agree to continue with further iwi consultation on the development of the land contact bed and discharge structure. An engagement plan was developed with help from Mātauranga Māori expert group which explored the cultural requirements of the proposed land contact bed and discharge structure

July – October 2017	Consultation with hapū, iwi, significant stakeholders and wider community
Mid-November 2017	Public feedback helped shape the completion of the Cultural Impact Assessment
December 2017	Draft resource consent filed with Bay of Plenty Regional Council for a pre-lodgement review
August 2018	Rotorua Lakes Council submits resource consent application
1 October 2018	Submissions close

What's to come?

Soon	Submissions assessed and report compiled for Environment Court
Next year	Environment Court hearing date/s set
In future	Environment Court hearing