



**ROTORUA** LAKES  
COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua

**Environmental Strategy**  
**Draft Strategy Document (2024 to 2054)**

Mauri wai, mauri whenua,  
mauri toi, mauri ohanga,  
Mauri tāngata, mauri ora

Vitality and health of water and of land  
Of creativity and the economy,  
Sustains the people and sustains life

---

Document Version DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY Version xxx

---

Date 11 January 2024

---

## Contents

<b>PART 1:Our present - Where we are at</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Purpose of the strategy	4
1.2 About us in our environment	4
1.3 Strategic context	5
1.3.1 Key legislation	5
1.3.3 Strategic linkages	6
1.4 Environmental and Community Wellbeing	7
1.5 Challenges	9
1.6 Roles and responsibilities	10
<b>PART 2:Our direction – Our strategy for the next 30 years</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Strategic theme 1 – Working together and connecting people to enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystems in public places	12
Introduction	12
Theme 1 - Where we are now	12
Theme 1 - Where we want to be	12
Theme 1 - What we need to do	13
2.2 Strategic theme 2 – Mitigating public infrastructure impacts on the environment	13
Theme 2 - Where we are now	13
Theme 2 - Where we want to be	13
Theme 2 - What we need to do	13
2.3 Strategic theme 3 – Promote and enable waste minimisation	14
Theme 3 - Where we are now	15
Theme 3 - Where we want to be	15
Theme 3 - What we need to do	15
2.4 Strategic theme 4 – Minimising council’s carbon footprint and improving climate resilience	15
Theme 4 - Where we are now	16
Theme 4 - Where we want to be	16
Theme 4 - What we need to do	16
<b>PART 3:Implementing our strategy</b>	<b>16</b>
3.1 Strategic actions and responses to change and challenges	17
3.2 Monitoring and review	23
3.2.1 Review period	24
3.2.2 Monitoring and evaluation	24

## PART 1: Our present - Where we are at

### 1.1 Purpose of the strategy

Nature and biodiversity support life and wellbeing, and the health and wellbeing of our community is intrinsically linked to and reliant on the natural environment. Nature and biodiversity, the biological and genetic diversity of all living things and ecosystems, underpin our economy, society, and our very existence. We rely on forests, rivers, lakes, oceans, and soils for the food we eat, air we breathe and water we drink for our health, happiness and prosperity - our wellbeing.

The purpose of this document is to describe Rotorua Lakes Council’s (RLC) strategy for contributing to the restoration and protection of the environment, and mitigating the environmental impacts and risks, associated with our infrastructure, services and activities. The Environmental Strategy describes:

- RLC’s approach to managing our programmes and practices in a way that protects and restores our environment and *contributes to* Council’s community outcomes and environmental wellbeing.
- How RLC delivers its work to *meet its current and anticipated future legislative obligations*, in relation to environmental risk mitigation.
- RLC’s approach to including environmental factors and considerations into decision-making.

We have developed four strategic themes that form the overall Environmental Strategy, as shown below.

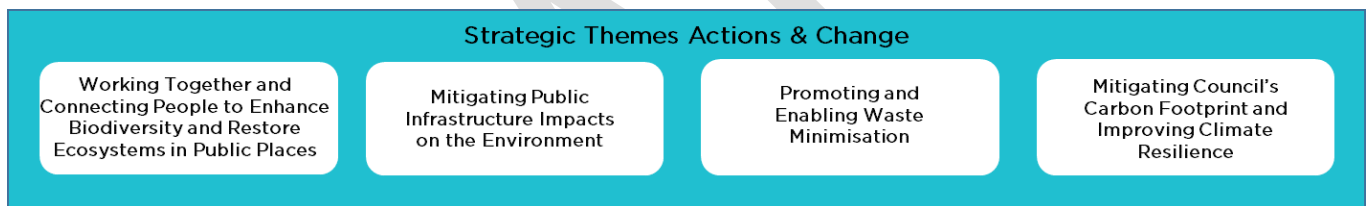


Figure 1 Environmental Strategy - strategic themes

The Environmental Strategy provides a 30 year blueprint for our district to ensure we are meeting our current and anticipated future legislative obligations in relation to environmental risk mitigation and delivering outcomes for our current and future communities in a way that contributes to environmental wellbeing. This strategy informs the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy and technical Asset Management Plans, both of which are used to implement strategic actions.

The strategy scope includes the following council activities (assets, services, and regulation):

- Open space and recreation.
- Three waters.
- Solid waste.
- Land transport.
- District development.
- Council property and corporate functions / footprint including offices and fleet.

The strategy scope excludes activities and regulation outside of RLC’s scope and responsibility.

## 1.2 About us in our environment

The volcanic landscape of lakes, calderas and geothermal features in Rotorua is unique. The region includes 18 lakes, three major rivers and seven geothermal fields. The total size of the Rotorua district is 261,906 hectares which today consists of 41% forest, 43% agriculture and 8% lakes.

According to oral history, many Rotorua residents trace their ancestry to Tamatekapua, the captain of the Arawa waka that arrived in New Zealand. Kahumatamomoe, a Te Arawa ancestor, journeyed inland where he discovered Lake Rotorua and settled. The Rotorua township was established over one hundred years ago, with the signing of the Fenton agreement between the Crown and Ngāti Whakaue on 25 November 1880.

Rotorua continues to have a strong Te Arawa culture and is considered a centre for Māori culture and expression. A partnership agreement with Te Tatau o Te Arawa, which represents the collective interests of Te Arawa, captures our shared vision and goals and our intention to build an enduring partnership that is beneficial to the Rotorua community. The partnership with mana whenua is embedded in the way RLC works.

Today the Rotorua District is home for approximately 78,000 people (estimated as at 30 June 2022). The geothermal features and the ready access to the environment with lakes, forests and rural landscapes, are highly valued by the community and attract many visitors. The history and cultural identity and strength of our community’s connection to nature makes our district unique. Environmental stewardship is vital for preserving our district and part of our DNA.

## 1.3 Strategic context

### 1.3.1 Key legislation

There is multiple legislation and national plans that we must comply with in managing our infrastructure assets and services we provide for our community. The key existing legislation impacting the four strategic themes is shown in the table below. It is noted that while key environmental legislation is undergoing change, it is anticipated that future legislation will follow international trends and give effect to international agreements that require environmental protection.

Table 1 Key existing legislation for strategic themes

Key Legislation	Strategic Theme 1	Strategic Theme 2	Strategic Theme 3	Strategic Theme 4
Resource Management Act (1991) and amendments				
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2020) regulations and Te Mana o te Wai				
Water Services Act 2021				
National Environmental Standard – Biodiversity				
Waste Minimisation Act (2008)				
Te rautaki para   Waste strategy (2023)				
Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019				

Key Legislation	Strategic Theme 1	Strategic Theme 2	Strategic Theme 3	Strategic Theme 4
Emissions Reduction Plan (2022)				
National Adaptation Plan (2022)				

Key:

Minimal (if any) impact	Direct impact 	Partial impact 
-------------------------	---	--

### 1.3.3 Strategic linkages

The relationship between Council’s Community Outcomes, Strategies and how they guide Council’s policies and plans and the delivery of activities is shown in the framework diagram below.

It also shows how RLC’s strategies including the Environmental Strategy align and give due regard to Te Arawa’s Vision 2050 and Te Tūāpapa o ngā Wai o Te Arawa - Te Arawa’s Cultural Values Framework, which articulate the long-term aspirations for the Te Arawa Lakes.

RLC seeks to continue developing the Rotorua district in a way that responds to growth and at the same time retains and works to enhance the unique character of our place that is special to us all. RLC identified nine Community Outcomes (draft and still to be adopted as part of the 2024 Long-term Plan). Council’s Strategies and Long-term Plan aim to deliver Council’s community outcomes.

**The Environmental Strategy has a direct link with the following Community Outcomes:**

- Mana Whenua / Tāngata Whenua Aspirations. We recognise and support the aspirations of Tāngata Whenua / Mana Whenua and partner to grow economic and social opportunities and benefits for everyone
- Environment – Mauri Taiao. We are committed to protecting and improving our lakes, waterway and forest environments
- Connected and Resilient. Our communities are cohesive and prepared for the effects of climate change, natural hazards and we invest in safe and reliable infrastructure.

The Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) who are owners of the Te Arawa lake beds, BOPRC and RLC have formed a partnership to work together to deliver the Te Arawa Lakes Strategy. This environmental Strategy contributes to the delivery of the Te Arawa Lakes Strategy.

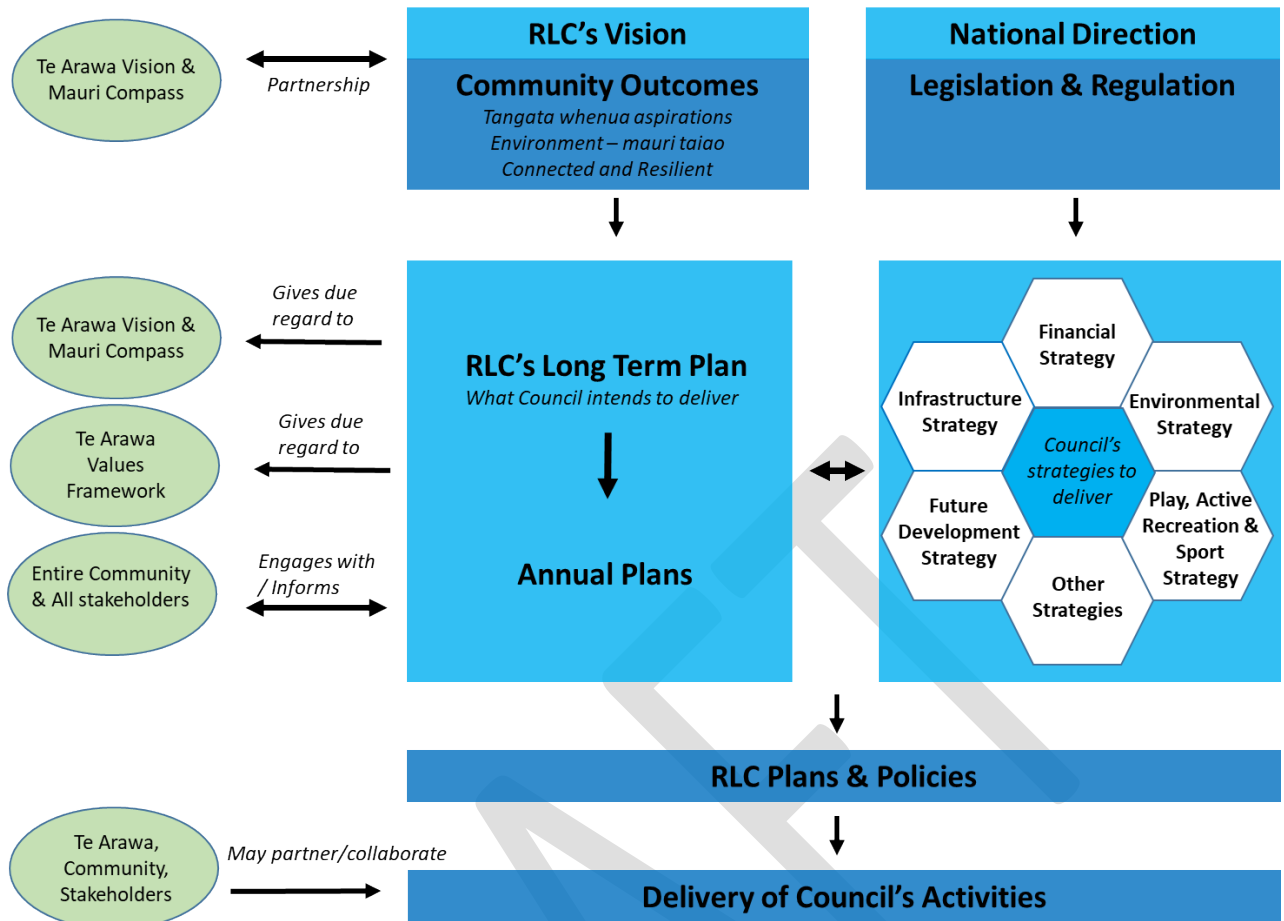


Figure 2 Strategic linkages framework diagram

## 1.4 Environmental and Community Wellbeing

The Te Arawa 2050 Vision is: **Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora, Te Arawa E!**

It refers to the optimal growth and wellbeing of culture, people, place, environment, economy, innovation, leadership, and unity and collaboration for all within the Te Arawa rohe. "This vision is guided by the words of our ancestor Houmaitawhiti". Seven strategic themes have arisen, each with its own whāinga tawhiti and strategic objectives for 2050.

People flourishing across all measures of wellbeing is a priority of the Te Arawa 2050 Vision. A Te Arawa values-based model for housing was created with the wellbeing of people, culture and the taiao at its core to help meet this priority.

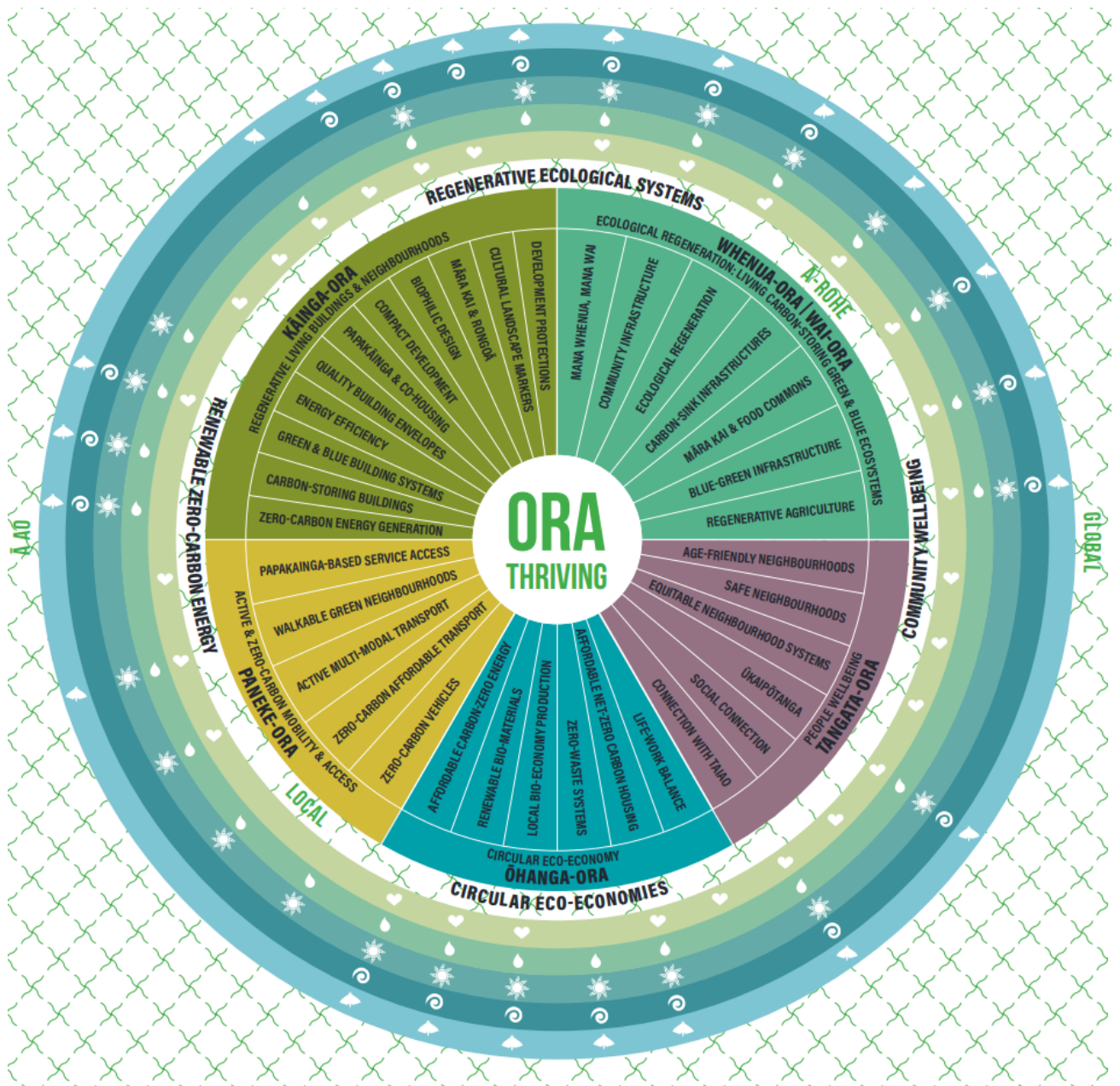


Figure 3 Mauri Well Being Compass (from <https://tetatauotearawa.rocketspark.co.nz/documents/>)

The Mauri Well Being Compass is underpinned by the five planetary wellbeing below. The environment is centric for achieving wellbeing.

- Papa-Ora / Eco Diversity.
- Mata-Ora / Eco Integrity.
- Ranga-Ora / Balanced Temperature.
- Wai-Ora / Balanced Water Cycle.
- Hapori-Ora / Community Wellbeing.



### Alignment and contribution to environmental and community wellbeings

Each of the four strategic themes aligns with, and contributes to, both the Te Arawa Vision 2050 and Wellbeings and RLC’s Community Outcomes as shown below.



Figure 4 Alignment of the Environmental Strategy with Council’s Community Outcomes and with Te Arawa Aspirations for Environmental and Community Wellbeings

## 1.5 Challenges

The environmental challenges we are facing are shown in the figure below including the link to the strategic issues identified in the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.

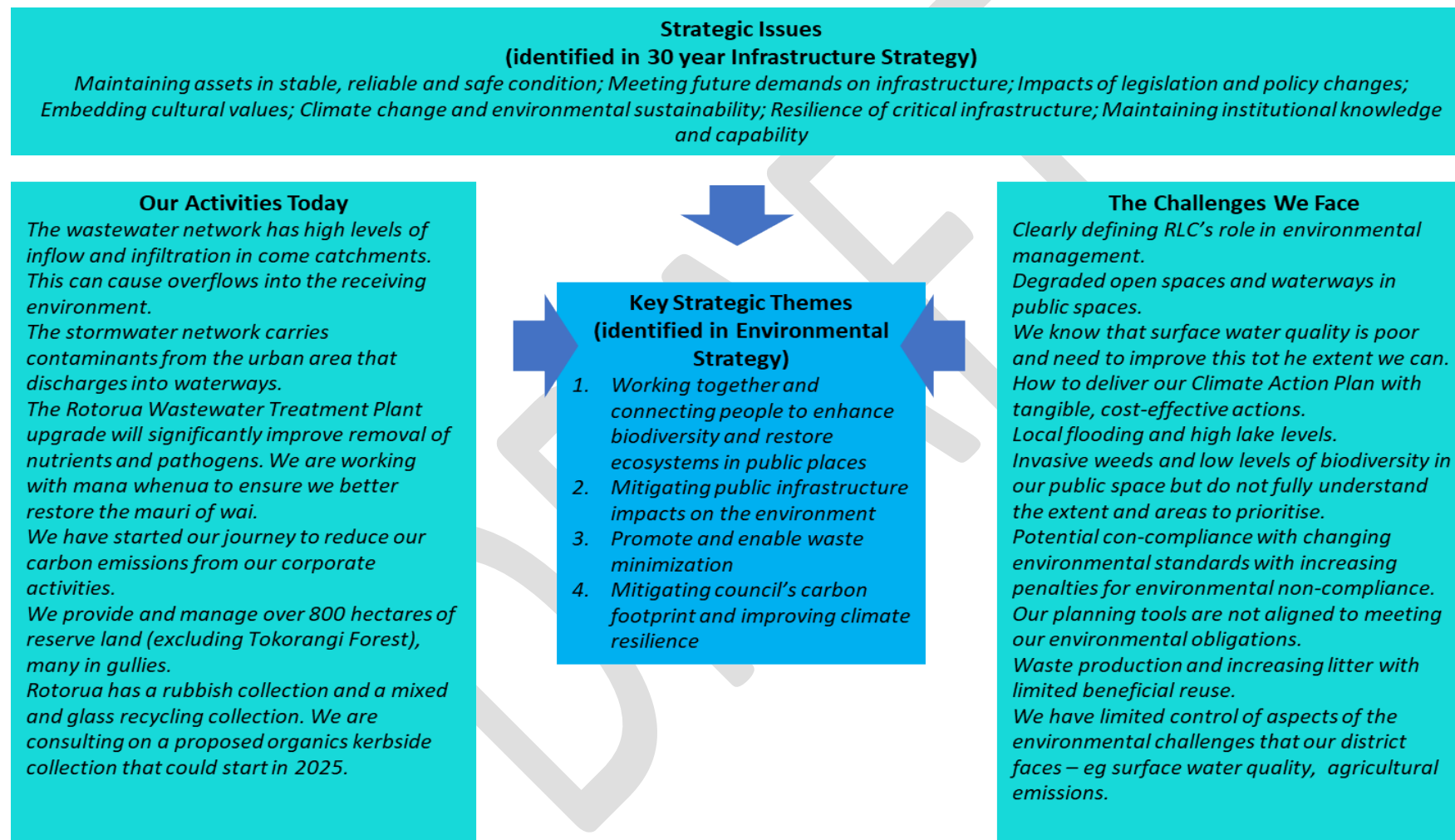


Figure 5 Environmental challenges

## 1.6 Roles and responsibilities

Central Government, Regional Councils, District Councils, Iwi **and Hapū** and individuals all have a role to play in environmental management. The functional roles and responsibilities at governance level are shown in the figure below.

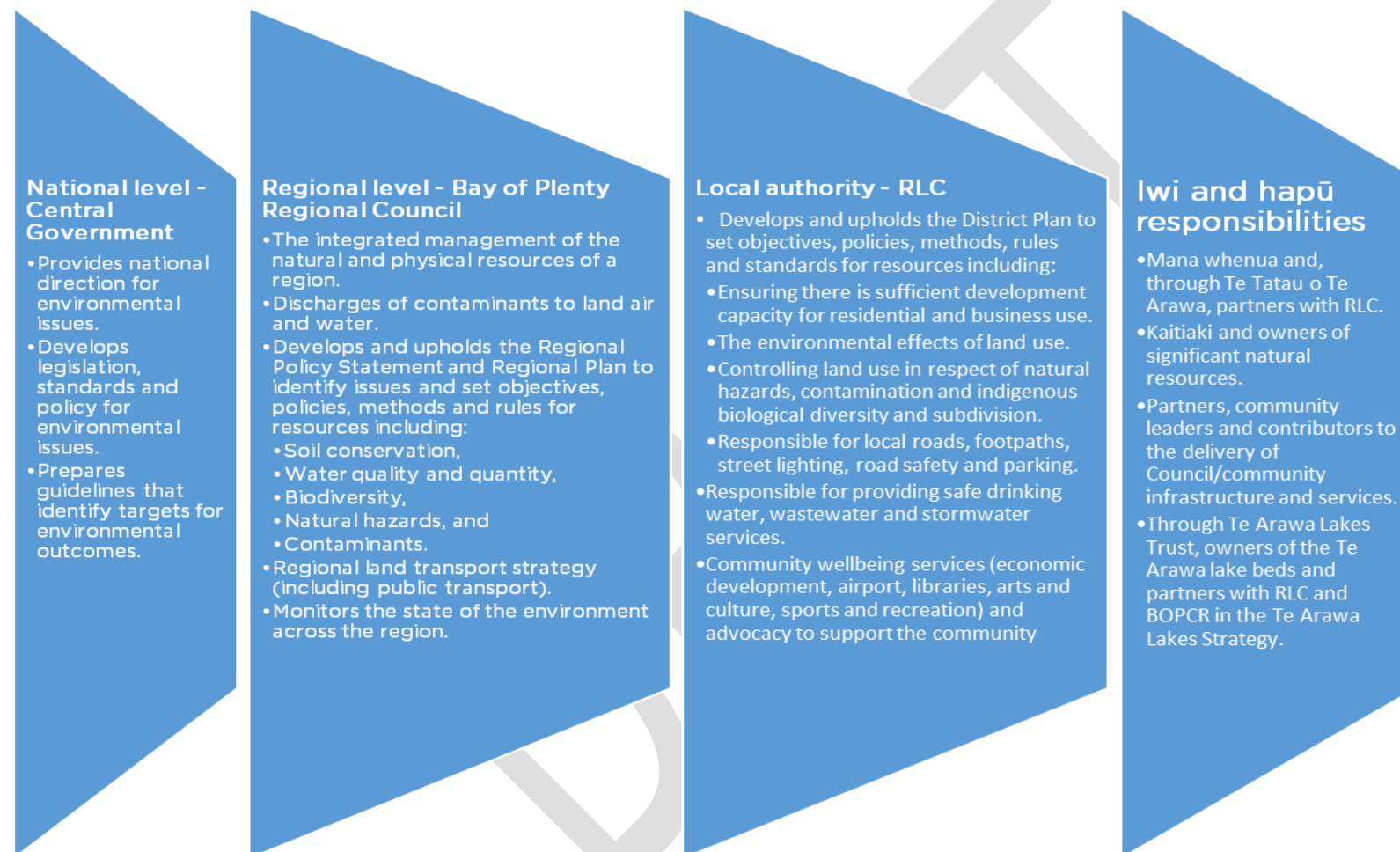


Figure 6 Key functional roles by lead agency

## PART 2: Our direction – Our strategy for the next 30 years

### 2.1 Strategic theme 1 – Working together and connecting people to enhance biodiversity and restore ecosystems in public places

#### Introduction

This theme acknowledges He Mahere Taiao<sup>1</sup> and the interconnectedness between indigenous species, ecosystems, water, the wider environment, and the community, at both a physical and metaphysical level. Ecological diversity is the life-support system of this living planet. The health and wellbeing of people and communities are dependent on the health and wellbeing of nature and people have a collective responsibility to care for and nurture it.

#### Theme 1 - Where we are now

The current state of the health and wellbeing of nature in our district is:

- There is a significant level of open spaces including the lakes, local reserves, the Whakarewarewa forest, conservation land.
- Our community is increasingly involved in ecological restoration with indigenous vegetation throughout the district. Council continues to develop relationships with iwi and hapū and community groups in the management of public spaces – we have Protocol Committees, Reserve Committees and Recreation Management Groups.
- We have low levels of indigenous biodiversity in the urban area with amenity grasses and introduced vegetation dominating much of our open public space.
- Biodiversity has been restored in the esplanade strips to create ecological corridors along the Ngontotaha Stream and work is beginning along the Utuhina Streams
- Overland flow paths are modified and we have a stormwater network to protect our houses from flooding. We have piped flow paths in some places where there is potential to have day-lighted and/or naturalised overland flow paths.
- Some of our streams banks are planted and protected we still have areas of rural and urban land contributing to sediment build up in stream beds and river mouths that is impeding land drainage.
- Open space esplanades have limited native planting and riparian revegetation is required in many areas.
- The extent of urban canopy and cover provided by large shade trees is reducing.

#### Theme 1 - Where we want to be

We want to aim for nature in public spaces controlled by RLC supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities through:

- Our shared open spaces are contributing to eco-diversity (papa-ora), to eco-integrity (mata-ora) to balanced temperature (rangi-ora), to balanced water cycle (wai-ora), to community wellbeing (haori-ora).
- Iwi, hapū and local communities have a positive relationship with the places that are important to them.
- District Plan, policies, the Play, Active Recreation & Sport Strategy and the Future Development Strategy are protecting the environment and ensuring the ability of the environment to support people is not being diminished (ie the natural capital is not being exploited and degraded).
- We have a green urban canopy providing shade with a number of quality exotic trees (thanks to our ex Forest Service town legacy) that is transitioning towards succession with native species. Our shared open spaces are becoming diverse native ecosystems that are nurtured, protected, and free of invasive weeds.
- Our gullies and overland flow paths have large trees and tracts of diverse native vegetation preventing erosion providing linked habitats for birds and insects, places for children to play and for people to connect with nature.
- We have effective riparian vegetation along esplanade corridors.

---

<sup>1</sup> He Mahere Taiao mō ngā wai o Te Arawa – Te Arawa Lakes Environmental Management Plan

- Small tributaries are naturalised and clean and our larger streams are swimmable.

## Theme 1 - What we need to do

To improve the health and wellbeing of nature in public spaces controlled by RLC, we need to take the following steps:

- We need to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Bay of Plenty Regional Council to capture our shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the respective councils related to land drainage.
- We need to develop and maintain great relationships with iwi and hapū (including with Te Arawa Lakes Trust), to ensure matauranga Māori perspectives and cultural knowledge are respected and leveraged, and find more ways work together to establish native vegetation in public open spaces.
- We need to develop and maintain great relationships with broader community groups to leverage their knowledge and efforts, and find opportunities to work together to establish native vegetation in public open spaces.
- We need to develop a Council 'Green Infrastructure' Policy that accompanies the Future Development Strategy to inform and guide District Plan provisions, land development consent conditions, the restoration of degraded open spaces and potential collaboration.

## 2.2 Strategic theme 2 – Mitigating public infrastructure impacts on the environment

### Theme 2 - Where we are now

Our wastewater, stormwater and transport networks are integral to our district and there are aspects of these systems that adversely impact the natural environment. We have been doing a lot of work to improve our public infrastructure and there is still a lot to be done.

During major weather events, our wastewater network can be affected by inflow and infiltration, which results in overflows to the natural environment. Nitrogen in the treated effluent contributes to degradation of lake water quality and levels may increase to exceed the urban allocation limit as the population grows which would mean we would need to offset the additional load.

Our stormwater networks do a great job of conveying rainwater, and in the process of conveying water from urban land it can transport pollution to the natural environment. Contaminants from stormwater include heavy metals and hydrocarbons, and runoff contributes to both sedimentation and scour.

Our transport network is characterised by a reliance on private vehicle use which negatively impacts our carbon footprint. The transport network also impacts the natural environment by contributing to contaminant loading through sedimentation, and plastic pollution through litter movement from carriageways into waterways.

### Theme 2 - Where we want to be

We want to aim for industry best practice when it comes to mitigating the impact of public infrastructure on the environment. This means:

- Taking a multi-pronged approach to reducing the impacts associated with the wastewater network.
- Reducing inflow and infiltration in our wastewater network to an acceptable level consistent with industry best practice (or better).
- Putting monitoring and a responsive approach in place associated with our stormwater networks to drive better water quality outcomes.
- Encouraging mode of transport transfer from private vehicles to alternatives for local trips.

### Theme 2 - What we need to do

To protect lake water quality, we need to ensure the total amount of nitrogen entering Lake Rotorua from all sources does not increase. As our population grows, we need to offset the increasing level of nitrogen discharged from the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant with an equivalent reduction elsewhere.

To reduce inflow and infiltration, we need to take the following steps:

- Undertake the Victoria Street trunk main upgrade so that it has more capacity and better flow control.
- Undertake the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade so it will be able to handle peak wastewater flows.
- Commence the inflow and infiltration programme once it is developed.
- Understand areas of high risk to the integrity of pipes and private property to inform decision-making

To drive better water quality outcomes and reduce pollution from our stormwater network, we need to:

- Implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring programme that will provide baseline data, ongoing information on trends, and is robust to trigger action.
- Have a robust programme to investigate and identify the source of contaminants and inform the works required to mitigate - triggered by the water quality monitoring programme
- Develop a Green Infrastructure Policy (or similar) is covered in Theme 1.

To drive better water quality outcomes and reduce litter pollution from our land transport network, we need to:

- Understand where Littatrap in catchpits or other means of capturing litter and plastics will be effective in urban areas and implement
- Increase the frequency of catch pit clearing where it is shown to be effective.

To see a shift in the chosen mode of transport away from private vehicles, we need to influence behaviour in our community. To achieve this, we need to:

- Continue to invest in providing transport infrastructure for multi modes especially cycling facilities and mobility access.
- Continue to improve several pedestrian crossings to address safety and interaction between pedestrians and vehicles. This will encourage people to use alternative transport choices.
- Work alongside local hapū, within communities and businesses to understand key issues and design culturally useful solutions and messages.

Our Infrastructure Strategy 2024 provides more detail on our mitigation of the impacts of public infrastructure strategic theme.

DRAFT

## 2.3 Strategic theme 3 – Promote and enable waste minimisation

### Theme 3 - Where we are now

We successfully divert around 48% of our municipal waste from landfill, however our rate of waste to landfill per capita is approximately 200kg/year and has been increasing. More than 50% of the waste we send to landfill is organic material comprised of food and green waste which contributes negatively to our carbon footprint.

Due to many changes in the waste industry, our communities have found it increasingly difficult to understand what can and cannot be recycled. This has resulted in high rates of contamination and more recyclable material being sent to landfill.

Population growth and increased tourism will mean a greater demand on our waste infrastructure. Rotorua is a tourist destination, and it is important that the actions we put in place to reduce our waste are visible and applicable to tourists. The increasing waste volume in Rotorua is not sustainable and new initiatives are required to promote and enable waste minimisation and reduce the per capita waste to landfill.

### Theme 3 - Where we want to be

We want to create a low waste, low carbon future for Rotorua. Our goal is to reduce municipal waste generation by more than 50% and improve our diversion from 48% to more than 85%. This involves aiming for the following targets which are set in our 2022-2028 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and have a six-year horizon:

- Ongoing reduction in municipal waste to landfill
- Low levels of recycling contamination and a contamination free glass collection.
- Improved accessibility to waste minimisation services.
- Lower the levels of food and green waste going to landfill.
- Lower levels of litter in our environment.

### Theme 3 - What we need to do

Consumer behaviour leading to waste minimisation will be influenced by increased consumer awareness as well as policy interventions. To meet our waste minimisation goals we will need to:

- Support and leverage Central Government initiatives to standardise services where appropriate.
- Work alongside local hapū, within communities and businesses to understand key issues and design culturally useful solutions and messages.
- Provide for food and organic waste collection and processing in the district.
- Work towards a Resource Recovery hub and improve availability and access to waste minimisation services.
- Rationalise and optimise the use of litterbins and litter control services in our treasured environments.

Our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2022-2028 provides more detail on our waste minimisation strategic theme.



## 2.4 Strategic theme 4 – Minimising council’s carbon footprint and improving climate resilience

### Theme 4 - Where we are now

We have developed a Climate Action Plan for the district and we now need to deliver the tangible actions to reduce emissions and climate adaptation that are within council’s scope.

Council’s corporate emissions (scope 2) have reduced since 2016 thanks to several large projects: we now use geothermal instead of natural gas to heat council’s largest buildings, we have closed and capped our inefficient landfill at Atiamuri, and we have changed all our streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs. There are opportunities for further emissions reductions

The changing climate is impacting our community. High rainfall and rainfall intensity is adding risk to public, property and impacting our open spaces and infrastructure. We are using the RCP 8.5 climate change scenario projection 1:100 storm event to inform the stormwater infrastructure requirements for current major stormwater projects. Staff are trained in civil defence and emergency management.

### Theme 4 - Where we want to be

- Local infrastructure is supporting the community to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- Council’s infrastructure is resilient to the future climate.
- Urban development is occurring in locations that will not be impacted by floods and high lake levels and new urban development is not increasing the flood risk.
- People are safe during high rainfall events and surface water is not entering homes or causing roads to be flooded.
- The impacts and costs associated with flood events is minimised as far as practicable.
- There is space for water during intensive rainfall events so people and homes are protected from flooding.
- Control invasive weeds and improve biodiversity on council property (covered as part of the Green Infrastructure in theme 1).
- Urban development is not contributing to an increase in non-renewable energy use for transport (covered to some extent in Theme 2).
- Decarbonisation, energy is being generated from renewable sources, our procurement is sustainable.

### Theme 4 - What we need to do

To reduce our emissions, we need to take the following steps:

- Deliver the Rotorua Climate Action Plan actions that are within Council’s scope and reconsider the actions that will be required to achieve net zero emissions.
- Provide the infrastructure and services so food and organic waste from the community can be processed.
- Provide an urban shade canopy.
- Ensure new urban development is not at risk in areas at risk of flooding
- Work with BOPRC and communities at risk of flooding to develop a climate response plan.
- Build resilience in our infrastructure and the built environment. Note we have actions in Theme 1 and Theme 4 that will improve nature and ecosystem function and biodiversity that will also help improve resilience to adverse climate



## PART 3: Implementing our strategy

### 3.1 Strategic actions and responses to change and challenges

The actions and timing of those over the next thirty years to meet our strategic themes are summarised in the table below. This is an adaptive approach where we are not intending to identify 30 years of actions. These strategic actions will be evaluated every 3 years (See Section 3.2)

Table 2 Timing of actions

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
Strategic theme 1 – Working together and connecting people to enhance biodiversity and restore eco systems in public places.		Ongoing	Provision and maintenance of public open spaces and a stormwater network	Infrastructure and Environmental Solutions	NA		
		Some ongoing actions with new strategic approach	Map invasive weeds on public land in the urban environment and prioritise eradication to inform coordination with ongoing restoration works. Ongoing eradication in highest priority areas in the interim.	Recreation and Open Spaces	NA	2024	2025
		Some ongoing actions with new strategic approach	Develop a progressive and systematic plan for the restoration of open spaces and revegetation to create ecological corridors from the hills to the lake with collaborators in conjunction with the eradication of invasive weed. Coordinate with associated works to naturalise and protect overland flow paths and 'make way for water'.	Recreation and Open Spaces, Capital Programmes, Land Development	NA	2025	Progressive and systematic - ongoing
		New approach	From the systematic restoration plan, identify the on-going annual requirements for riparian enhancement. Develop a plan and arrangements to secure riparian planting programmes in public esplanade corridors.	Recreation and Open Spaces, Infracore		2025	Progressive and systematic - ongoing
		New	Develop agreements with mana whenua (including TALT) and other potential community groups to cover working	Recreation and Open Spaces, Te Amorangi Unit	Te Arawa Lakes Trust, community groups	2024	2026

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
			together to establish native vegetation in public open spaces groups, informed by matauranga Māori perspectives and cultural knowledge and location-specific hapu environmental management plans.				
		New	Identify works required and priorities to daylight stormwater pipes, naturalise and stabilise overland flow paths, channels and drains - to inform coordination of works associated with the restoration of open spaces.	Land Development Engineering, Capital Programmes, 3 waters Services	NA	2024	2025
		New	Build provisions into our District Plan that protect nature, with flexible provisions for an urban canopy, for protecting existing urban shade trees, for incorporating site-specific water sensitive design and sponge city principles, and that align with the Urban Forest approach and the Future Development Strategy.	Policy Planning	NA	Next District Plan review	Next District Plan review
		New	Develop a Council 'Green Infrastructure' Policy that informs and guides District Plan provisions, land development and urban canopy requirements, consent conditions, naturalization of overland flow paths, and the restoration of open spaces with provisions for collaboration.	Corporate Strategy lead and various council teams	NA	2024	2026
		New	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Bay of Plenty Regional Council to capture our shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the respective councils related to land drainage.	Environmental Services	Bay of Plenty Regional Council	2024	2026
Strategic theme 2 – Mitigating public infrastructure impacts on the environment.	Nitrogen levels in the lake do not continue to increase.	Ongoing	Upgrade the Victoria St trunk main and Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant. Implement inflow and infiltration programme.	Three waters team	Capital works contractors/ service provider	2024	2028

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
	A reduction in pollutants and plastics entering our waterways from the stormwater and roading networks.	New	Trial LittaTraps or other actions to capture plastics to determine effectiveness and inform operations	Three waters, Environmental, Roding teams	University of Waikato	2024	TBC
	Contaminants in urban streams reduced to safe levels.	New approach	Pilot trial to increase the frequency of catch pit cleaning and implement where effective	Roding operations team	Service Provider	2025	2026
		New	Implemented a comprehensive monitoring programme with triggers to investigate locate and inform works required to mitigate contaminants (Figure 7).	Environmental Team	TRILITY, BOPRC	2024	ongoing
	Shared stream water quality information	New	Develop a database and display for publically available performance monitoring	Environmental Team, Data Insights Teams		2024	2026
	Transportation mode shift away from private vehicles for local trips.	Ongoing	Continue to invest in providing transport infrastructure for multi modes especially cycling facilities and mobility access subject to Council approval following LTP consultation.	Safer Journey team	Waka Kotahi	2024	2054
Strategic theme 3 – Promoting and enabling waste minimisation	Infrastructure and space that supports opportunities for investment resource recovery and circular economy investment	New	Work towards enabling a resource recovery facility	Waste team	Ministry for the Environment for funding support	2024	
	Reduce municipal waste generation and increase diversion from landfill	New	Introduce collection and processing of new waste streams i.e. organics	Waste team	Ministry for the Environment for funding support	2024	2028
		Ongoing	Increase awareness through education of residents, businesses, marae, event managers and retailers by running	Waste team	Community groups and Te Arawa Lakes Trust for education	2024	2028

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
			workshops, media campaigns and creating guide documents.				
Strategic theme 4 – Mitigating council’s carbon footprint and Improve Climate Resilience.		Ongoing	Continue working on the RLC-actions detailed in the Rotorua Climate Action Plan that are underway	Waste and Climate Change	TALT and other parties	Ongoing	
	A comprehensive policy framework and plan to deliver remaining Climate Action Plan actions (within council’s scope and reach) required to achieve targets.	New	Develop a comprehensive policy framework for the suite of requirements to deliver the Climate Action Plan target, goals and actions within council’s scope and reach. Include measurable targets, performance standards and accountability measures. This will inform the future work requirements that Council will consider and make decisions at its discretion and that will inform subsequent Long Term Plans.	Climate Change Team		2024	2026
		Underway	Update the 2015/16 baseline for council’s corporate emissions using the new accounting methods.	Waste and Climate Change	NA	2024	2026
	Reduce emissions from organic waste	New	Introduce collection and processing of new waste streams i.e. organics	Waste team	Ministry for the Environment for funding support	2024	2028
	Corporate emissions are visible	Underway	Develop a dashboard to track and make visible Council’s corporate emissions.	Climate Change Team		2024	2026
	Improve resilience and mitigate risk of flooding	Recent and ongoing	Continue to use the RCP 8.5 climate change scenario projection 1:100 storm event to inform the stormwater infrastructure requirements for all major stormwater projects eg detention dams.	Infrastructure Growth and Performance Planning			Ongoing
		Recently underway	Flood risk modelling for climate change scenarios to help council improve the resilience to climate change, to inform the requirements and constrains for new developments and to inform the revision of the District Plan provisions for natural hazards	Infrastructure Growth and Performance Planning		2024	2026

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
		Underway	Develop maps to indicate the most likely flow paths for water in a 1:10, 1:50, 1:100 range of storm events, acknowledging that there are many factors and features that influence where stormwater will flow through the urban environment, to inform the green Infrastructure Policy, the Future Development Strategy, and raise awareness of natural land drainage and flood risk.	Land Development Engineering, Infrastructure Growth and Performance Planning		2024	2025
		New	Informed by stormwater modelling, overland flowpath mapping and the stormwater master plan, consider 'sponge city' design concepts and where we need to 'make way for water' to inform our open spaces restoration plans and Future Development Strategy.	Land Development Engineering, Infrastructure Growth and Performance Planning	NA	2024	2025
		New	Develop a plan to ensure overland flow paths on private property do not impede land drainage and do not contaminate stormwater.	Land Development, Infrastructure networks, Corporate Planning	NA	2024	2026
		Underway	Work with our Te Arawa Lake partners and the community to identify options for a long-term solution to reduce the environmental risks associated with high lake levels.	Infrastructure and Environmental Solutions	Te Arawa Lake partners		
	The capacity of major urban streams is not impeded by sediment buildup.  Reduce water quality risks associated with a high groundwater table	New	Work with our Te Arawa Lake partners to identify how sediments entering and accumulating in major stream beds and stream mouths can be reduced and removed.	Infrastructure and Environmental Solutions	Te Arawa Lake partners		

Strategic theme	Desired outcome	Ongoing / new action	Action description	RLC responsibility	Involvement of partners	Start date	Completion date
	and impeded land drainage are reduced						

DRAFT

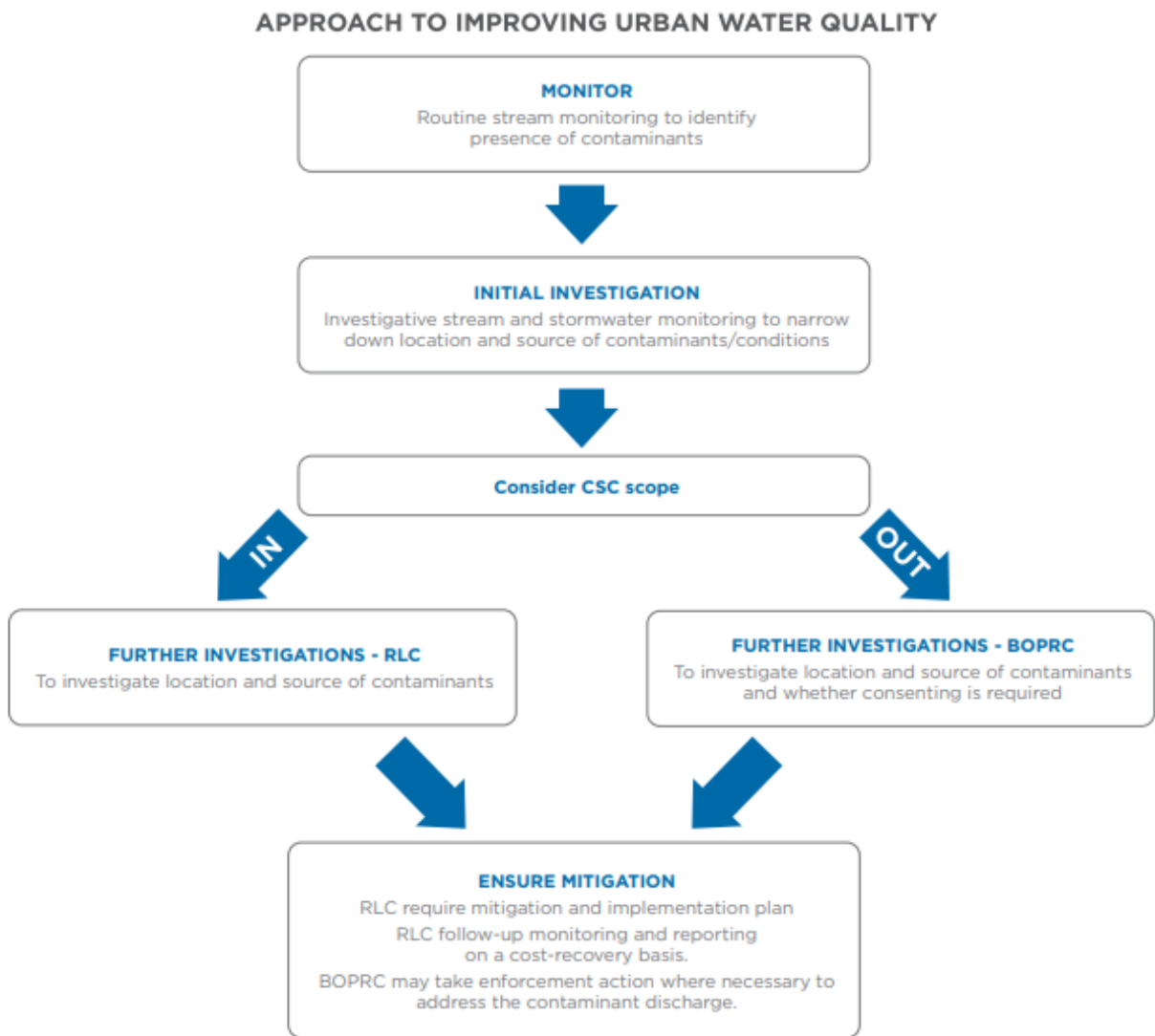


Figure 7 Approach to water quality monitoring and triggered investigations to identify and mitigate contaminants

## 3.2 Monitoring and review

### 3.2.1 Review period

This Environmental Strategy reflects our best, current understanding of the challenges the Rotorua district will face over the next 30 years. Our knowledge will evolve as the strategy is implemented, and indeed as the district develops over time. We are prepared to be responsive to change and we plan to formally review the Environmental Strategy every three years to align with Council's Long-term Plan process.

### 3.2.2 Monitoring and evaluation

To ensure we are undertaking actions that are effectively contributing to the outcomes, we will track the key strategic actions in Table 2, we will assess the results from pilot trials, and we will monitor performance measures in the "Performance Management Framework" that sits within our Activity Plans within Council's LTP.

This information will be evaluated to help us understand the effectiveness of actions, to identify when we need to stop doing an action and/or change course, to identify when we need to consider new actions and opportunities to achieve better environmental outcomes, as well as to identify when we should celebrate success. There will be an evaluation every three years as part of the Environmental Strategy review and recommendations will be developed for consideration through the LTP process.

The strategic actions reflect that we are embarking on a journey to become more environmentally sustainable and we are embedding an adaptive, responsive and evidence-based approach.

DRAFT