

Statement of Proposal:

Parking - Policy, Bylaw and Inner-City Parking reviews



INTRODUCTION

Rotorua Lakes Council is reviewing the Performance Based Parking Management Practices – Policy, and Traffic Bylaw 2025, with the aim of supporting inner-city parking. Both will be consulted on at the same time under the same process as per the Local Government Act 2002. We are seeking your views on the proposed changes.

Council bylaws and policies are created to address specific issues or activities within a local area. More specifically a policy is a statement of the Council's position on a matter which guides the delivery of our services. Bylaws are rules made by each local authority and are typically enforced by the Council or Regional Council. They can be made for several reasons including:

- Provision of parking enforcement
- Safety of parking users
- A clear framework guiding parking

As part of improving parking within the inner-city of Rotorua there is one Policy and one Bylaw that are proposed to be updated, these are the:

- Performance Based Parking Management Practices (Policy)
- The Traffic Bylaw 2025 (Bylaw)

These are being updated for various reasons including:

- Reflecting current legislation
- Technology advancements
- Proposed parking layout
- To provide clarity for enforcement and compliance
- Considering safety with clear frameworks guiding parking layout



PROCESS OF AMENDING A BYLAW OR POLICY

When amending a bylaw or policy, the Council must use the special consultative procedure and comply with its requirements under the Local Government Act 2002, if the amendments are deemed to have significant interest by the public or may significantly impact on the public.

In this case, the Council considers the matters covered by the Policy and Bylaw to necessitate the special consultative procedure.



PERFORMANCE BASED PARKING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES – POLICY REVIEW

Guided by sections 77-82 of the Local Government Act 2002 the primary purpose of the Policy is to ensure that the right amount of parking is available, in the right location, and at the right price by providing a framework and guiding principles for decisions on parking management in Rotorua by Council. Council is required under legislation to manage and ensure parking compliance for our district. The Policy also considers the National Parking Management Guidance issued by New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

The Policy is currently comprised of the Policy itself (which outlines the Policy principles) and the Performance Based Parking Management Guidelines (Guidelines). The purpose of the Guidelines is to support the Policy by providing detailed guidance on how Council will give effect to the Policy principles.

PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Guidelines be separated from the Policy to create two standalone, but interconnected, documents. This approach will clarify the distinction between a guideline and a policy, allowing each to be reviewed and updated individually as required.

Both are proposed to be renamed:

Performance Based Parking Management Practices Policy. New name – “The Parking Policy”.

The Guidelines. New name – “Parking Management Guidelines”.

GUIDELINE AMENDMENTS:

Amending wording within the principles to align with the NZTA National Guidelines.

Clause 3.5 - clarifying wording to support the scope and benefits of refreshed technology.

Clause 3.3 clarifying wording supporting a mixture of free parking periods followed by paid parking up to a maximum time limit as the primary method for managing parking in the city centre.

Updated parking layout map.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

Further minor amendments to improve clarity or wording and grammar improving word flow.

Do you agree or disagree with proposed amendments to the The Performance Based Parking Management Practices – Policy?

Option 1 (Agree): Adopt the amendments to The Performance Based Parking Management Practices – Policy Parking Policy. (This is Councils recommended option)

This option includes minor changes to the Policy and Guidelines and separates the Guidelines into a standalone document.

Option 2 (Disagree): Continue with the existing Performance Based Parking Management Practices – Policy.

This option would retain the current Policy and Guidelines without separation into standalone documents.

TRAFFIC BYLAW 2025 REVIEW

Under the Land Transport Act 1998 and the Local Government Act 2002, Councils can establish traffic bylaws. The main purpose of a traffic bylaw is to manage and regulate traffic flow, ensure public safety and promote efficient use of roads and parking facilities. The Bylaw also considers the National Parking Management Guidance issued by New Zealand Transport Agency. The current review of the Bylaw has a specific focus on the alignment of parking activities.

PROPOSAL

Amendments to the interpretations and parking sections of the Traffic Bylaw are intended to: update and modernise content, ensure alignment with the proposed Inner-City parking layout, accommodate design updates and technological progress while strengthening enforceability.

THE KEY CHANGES:

Interpretation section wording updated and reviewed.

Outdated content removed i.e. pay and display parking meter areas and meter hoods which are no longer used.

Clarification of terminology i.e. using permit rather than coupon.

Other Amendments:

Further minor amendments to improve clarity of wording and grammar improving word flow.

Do you agree or disagree with proposed amendments to the Traffic Bylaw 2025?

Option 1 (Agree): Adopt the amendments to the Traffic Bylaw 2025 (This is Council's recommended option)

This will include revised wording supporting the inner-city parking refresh.

Option 2 (Disagree): Roll over the existing bylaw

This will keep the current Bylaw as it is.

INNER-CITY PARKING REVIEW

Alongside the Policy and Bylaw review, Council is working on inner-city parking and how it is managed to ensure there is a solid foundation for the future. We have reviewed the suitability of parking locations and have developed a proposed new parking layout to ensure availability of spaces for different user types i.e. shoppers, visitors and inner-city workers. This is an important aspect to achieve the right balance of access for businesses as well as those people who need to work or visit the inner-city.

Parking data collected, alongside feedback from the community, will help refine the proposed changes to the current parking layout.

PROPOSAL

Council is also proposing improvements to the parking system to make inner-city parking easier, quicker and more flexible. The proposed improvements include:

- review of technology: parking machines, apps, and meterless payment options
- Flexible permit options for inner-city workers
- Review of parking fees
- Parking layout, changes to parking zones and timings
- Refresh for the parking building

The next step is to gather your views so we can refine these proposals together. Your feedback will be carefully considered before Council makes any final decisions, helping ensure that the parking system is fair, effective and meets the needs of the Rotorua community now and into the future.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed improvements to the inner-city parking- system including its layout?

FUTURE OF COIN PAYMENTS

Council is also reviewing the future of coin payments to reduce costs and machine maintenance, while focusing on more convenient payment options.

Coin payments account for around **10.5% of all completed transactions**. However, offering this option adds costs for machine purchase, ongoing maintenance, coin collection and deposit, and security. These costs are ultimately passed on to users.

Currently, about half of CBD parking machines accept coins. We want your feedback to help make a decision about whether coins should remain a payment option.

Option 1: Keep the current number of coin-accepting machines.

Option 2: Remove the coin payment option in favour of other payment methods.

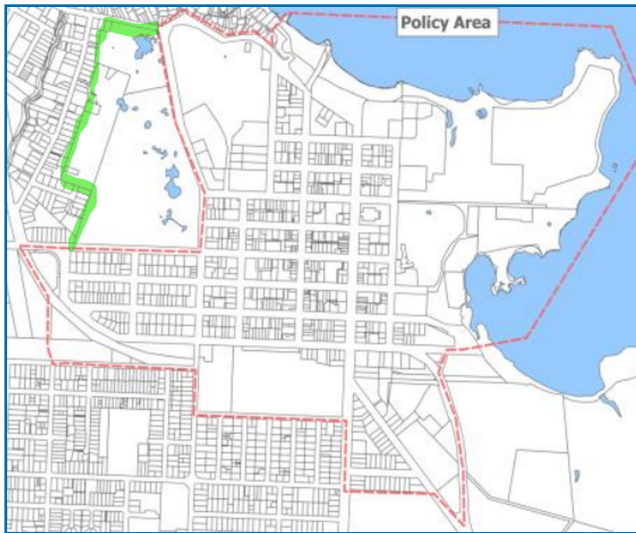
Option 3: Reduce the number of coin-accepting machines to areas where coins are most frequently used.

Is there any feedback you would like to share with us?

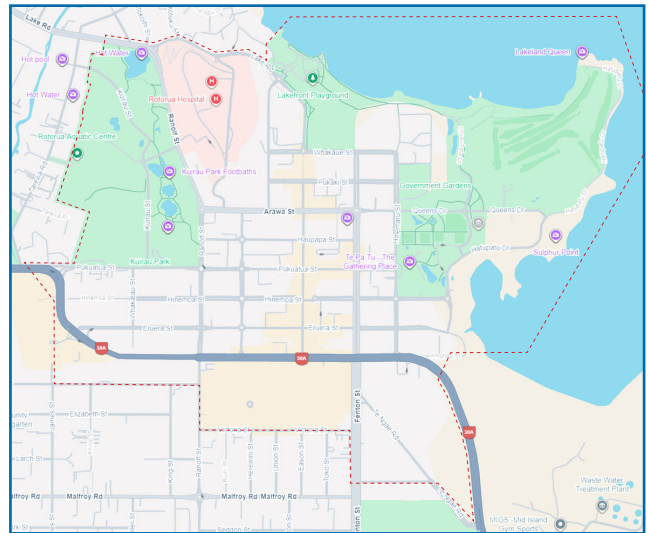
Visit our website xxx for Q&A's and further information

We have provided the following maps to show the current parking layout against the draft proposed layout. The draft map is provided for consultation purposes only and may be updated based on your feedback.

CURRENT LAYOUT



PROPOSED LAYOUT



HAVE YOUR SAY

NEXT STEPS

Community Consultation period:

Submissions open: Monday 15 Dec 2025

Submissions close: Friday 13 February 2026

Late February 2026 – Hearings and Council Deliberates and decides on the way forward

Late March 2026 – Council adopts the final Parking Policy and Traffic Bylaw

MAKING A SUBMISSION

We want feedback from as many people in our community as possible. Give us your feedback through whatever channel is the easiest for you:

Visit our website www.rotorualakescouncil.nz

Write to us: send your feedback to Rotorua Lakes Council, 1061 Hauppa Street: attention Parking

Drop off or fill out a hard copy form available at the Council Customer centre or the Library

Phone us: Call us on 07 348 4199 (8am-5pm Monday to Friday)

Email us: send your thoughts to participate@rotorualc.nz with the subject line Parking

Leave a comment on Facebook Posts related to PARKING POLICY on [@rotorualakescouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rotorualakescouncil)

Your are welcome to share your views in any way that suits you.



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