



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

Kaupapataka Agenda

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD

Date: Thursday 17 September 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

Mr Guyton

Members

Cr Barker

Mrs Rose
Mrs Marshall
Mrs Forlong

Quorum

3

**Andrew Moraes
Chief Executive**

ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD DELEGATIONS

Type of Committee	Independent Board
Subordinate Committees	N/A
Legislative Basis	Schedule 7 s30, Local Government Act 2002
Purpose	The purpose of the Community Board is to: • Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community • Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board • Maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community • Prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community • Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community • Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.
Membership	4 elected representatives 1 Council representative
Quorum	3
Meeting frequency	Monthly
Delegations	• Make submissions (as a Community Board) to any organisation relating to matters of interest to the Board in respect of the Board's area (a copy of any such submission is to be given to the Council's Chief Executive); • Represent the interests of the community at Council, Committee or Subcommittee meetings when a motion under debate relates to a matter that the Board considers being of particular interest to the residents within its community; • Consider matters referred to it by Officers of the Council, the Council, including reports relating to the provision of Council services within the Board's area, and make submissions or recommendations in response to those matters as appropriate. This will include: a) monitoring and keeping the Council informed of community aspirations and the level of satisfaction with services provided; b) providing input to the Council's Long-term Plan and Annual Plan; c) providing input to proposed District Plan changes; d) providing input to strategies, policies and plans that impact on the Board's area; and e) Providing input to bylaw changes that impact on the Board's area. • Council shall consult with the Board on issues that impact on the Rotorua Lakes Community Board's area and allow sufficient time for the Board's comments to be considered before a decision is made.

Rotorua Rural Community Board – Plan on a page 2025-2026

Our purpose

To represent rural people and places, and to work with Council to achieve positive outcomes for rural areas

Our Vision

Rural communities that are prosperous, well-connected, and valued for their contribution to the district

Infrastructure is resilient & meets current and future needs

FY 2025 /26 initiatives

- Rural & Urban street improvements - investigate funding & workplan
- Roadside mowing schedule – is it fit for purpose and addressing safety concerns
- Road surfaces - Seal extension budget, resealing program
- Rural drainage & stormwater management

Safe rural communities with access to quality facilities & services

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- Our Community Halls are fit for purpose and well managed - work with council for positive outcomes for rural communities
- Regular RFS reporting to the board
- Further additions to CCTV network in rural areas where possible

Our natural & built environment is healthy & retains its unique rural character

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- RLC rating model – more information provided. Is it fair? (UAGC, targeted rates, etc)
- Rural zones – what are they and what are the rules.
- Rural character - Define/articulate this.
- What does a well-functioning rural environment look like?

Rural communities are resilient, connected, and well-informed

FY 2025/26 initiatives

- Prepare a communication & engagement plan for the board and build relationships with key stakeholders.
- Prepare a relationship accord between Council & board
- Natural hazards and flooding maps – who are affected communities?

Devolved Funding

- Review the funding Terms of Reference and allocation process annually
- Investigate the program of work planned for the rural area for the upcoming financial year

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1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Tūtawa Mai

Tūtawa mai i runga

Tūtawa mai i raro

Tūtawa mai i roto

Tūtawa mai i waho

Kia tau ai te mauri tū

Te mauri ora, ki te katoa

Hāumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

Tūtawa Mai

I summon from above

I summon from below

I summon from within

I summon the surrounding environment

The universal vitality and energy to infuse and enrich all present

Enriched, unified and blessed

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

The Chair invites notice from members of:

1. Leave of absence for future meetings of the Rotorua Rural Community Board; or
2. Apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

4 TE PAPA KŌRERO MŌ TE TUAWHENUA HAPORI – RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Rotorua Rural Community Board Meeting held 20 August 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Minutes

**Rotorua Rural Community Board meeting
held Thursday 20 August 2026 at 1:00 pm
Committee Room 1, Rotorua Lakes Council**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms Rose (Deputy Chair)
Ms Marshall, Ms Forlong
- APOLOGIES:** Mr Guyton, Cr Barker
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Fairgray-McLean, m.e consulting (Market Economics, via Zoom)
Sue Taylor, Reporoa.
Keren Leslie, Reporoa.
Chris Paterson, Kaharoa.
Jan Hall, Ngākuru.
- NO ATTENDANCE:** Nil
- STAFF PRESENT:** Debbie Cossar, Governance & Democracy Lead.
Rick Dunn, Senior Governnace & Democracy Advisor.
Damon Mathfield, Manager – Spatial & Policy Planning.
Simon Thurston, Senior Policy Planner.
Rachel Doelman, Transport Safety Advisor.
Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor.
Stephanie Kelly, Development & Partnerships Manager.

The meeting opened at 1.00pm.

The Chairperson welcomed elected members, staff and members of the public.

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Ms Rose opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

“That the apologies for Mr Guyton & Cr Barker be accepted.”

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Ms Marshall

CARRIED

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

The Chair ruled that the item “Regional Spatial Planning” be heard next.

7.5 REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report ‘Regional Spatial Planning’ be received.

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Ms Marshall

CARRIED

Damon Mathfield, Manager – Spatial & Policy Planning overviewed the presentation titled “BoP Regional Spatial Plan & Rotorua Rural Socio-economic Assessment – Rural Community Board August 2026”. (Attachment 1) and commented on the following points:

- A new Resource Management System is to be applied using a top down approach with national policy direction and standards at the top setting clear objectives and expectations. As directions are applied at regional and local levels the scope of the matters that can be regulated are intended to narrow.
- A combined regional and local government plan around spatial, natural environment and land use.
- The outcomes included a) Management of land and natural resources b) Concise policy direction c) Fewer plans that are focused on Regional level d) Fewer consents and permits.
- Regional Spatial Plans fill the gap in the planning hierarchy between national instruments and implementation.

- Spatial planning across the Bay of Plenty includes Rotorua Future Development Strategy, Smart Growth Strategy and Eastern Bay Spatial Plan.
- Creating a shared evidence base to support the preparation of the Regional Spatial Plan focussing on relevant and reliable information to support decision making while engaging with the Lakes and Rural Community Boards and other stakeholders.
- Developing a spatial framework to divide the rural environment into logical areas of analysis, recognising differences between areas and how they function in different ways:
 - North-western Rural Environment and Southern Urban Edge - Hamurana, Hamurana Hinterland, Northern Outer Area, Ngongotahā Hinterland, Mamaku, Rotorua Surrounds South & West, Outer West.
 - Eastern Rural Environment - Lakes A Hinterland, Lake Okareka & Lake Tarawera.
 - Northeastern Rural Environment and Lakebed Settlements - Rotorua Eastern Hinterland, Tikitere, Mourea, Okere Falls, Rotoiti, Tapuaeharuru, Lake Rotoma, NE Outer.
 - Southern Rural Environment - SE Outer, Kaingaroa, Outer South SH30, Outer South Waikato, Outer South SH5.
- Rural environment land use with the primary sector land use making up most of the activity across the rural area with similar portions in commercial forestry and dairy. The district level map shows differences between other areas (dairy and other agriculture focus plus commercial forestry) vs northern areas where influence of proximity to urban environment is greater i.e. more residential.
- The rural environment has around 12% of district employment and accounts for around 16% of the GDP.
- Primary sector agricultural activity has largest GDP for district, with two-thirds of this is estimated to occur in the rural environment.
- Analysis shows to a much greater extent in forestry, where Rotorua has regional and national competitive advantages. Dairy is comparatively lower value capture, with other stages of value chain occurring outside of district. Tourism is also critical.
- Residential and lifestyle properties are significant in the district's rural environment.
- Larger concentrations of residential/lifestyle properties into northern parts of the district, a large portion of which occurs in the Lakes Community Board area.
- Influence of proximity to urban area and lake amenity. Also, access to other larger urban economies which are more proximate to the northern parts of the district.
- Significant amount of residential/lifestyle properties across southern catchment, but more scattered and development patterns are different (1-2 dwellings at a time and different parts of the market).
- Residential uses will generate important trade-offs and have implications for RSP.
- Main growth since 2000 in terms of formation of new lifestyle properties.
- Concentrations in lifestyle zone as expected, but also large portion (nearly 50%) in Working Rural Zone.
- Lakes A zones has 6% properties and 2% land area.

- More recently, smaller properties have accounted for a greater share of the lifestyle growth. Influenced by reticulation, but also the market where appears to be growing developer-driven component which would create multiple lot developments and seek to maximise yield.

Methodology and Next Steps

Part A: Project Establishment and Context Development

Stage 1: Project Initiation and Set-up

Stage 2: Strategic and Socio-Economic Context

Task 2.1: Strategic and Spatial Context Analysis

Task 2.2: Socio-Economic Assessment

Part B: Spatial Analysis, Issues Identification and Reporting

Stage 3: Spatial Analysis and Issues Identification

Task 3.1: Spatial Analysis

Task 3.2: Issues and Opportunities

Stage 4: Reporting and Recommendations

Action Point

Mr Mathfield and Mr Dunn to schedule a combined Regional Spatial Planning workshop with the Lakes Community Board and the Rural Community Board.

Participate update

The Chair asked Kihi Tawhai, Engagement and Relationships Specialist to provide an update on the Participate application and how the board and community can use Participate to manage Devolved Funding applications. Mr Tawhai commented on the following points:

- A Rural Community Board devolved funding application page has been created.
- The board has \$125,000 devolved funding available for the 2026/2027 financial year to allocate for improving council owned assets for example local reserves, playgrounds, buildings and roads.
- The board have four strategic priorities for 2026/27: 1) Infrastructure is resilient 2) Safe Rural Communities 3) Natural Rural Environment is Healthy 4) Rural Community Resilience.
- There are 8 targeted rural communities Mamakū, Kaharoa, Horohoro, Ngākuru, Reporoa, Rerewhakitū, Waikite Valley, Ātiamuri.
- Applications open in September, the applications are reviewed in October with the final decisions being made in November.

4 TE PAPA KŌRERO MŌ TE TUAWHENUA HAPORI – RURAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Mamaku

Ms Rose mentioned that she had received an apology from Rachel Bidois, Mamaku Ratepayer Association and commented on the following points:

- Raj Seneviratne, Emergency Management Officer presented the Emergency Management Committee a “starter kit” which included a 1st aid kit, torch, hi vis jackets, nappies, gloves, masks etc.
- Hall hireage has increased: community charge \$10/hr, events \$35/hr and funerals a koha.
- Saskia du Plessis, Community Development Advisor has provided great support to the community around improving drainage in the area. Some drains have been hidden underground for years. Other issues are historic back filling which property owners need to address.

Reporoa

Keren Leslie commented on the following points:

- The stage curtains have been re-hung.
- A small hall committee has been set up to help manage hall bookings.
- A working bee was held to clean the hall following the completion of the maintenance work. There is still some minor work to be completed.
- The hall is scheduled to be up and running by the end of August 2026.
- Look at potential devolved funding or community fund raising to upgrade the toilets and replace the microwave.

Ngakuru

Jan Hall commented on the following points:

- The hall committee have been trying to get some paint supplied so they can paint the exterior of the hall.
- Working on getting the hall committee approved as an incorporated society.
- The hall committee meet bi-monthly.

Kaharoa

Chris Paterson commented on the following points:

- The hall committee meet monthly.
- The hall is well utilised for example a monthly social night is held for the community, childrens events etc.
- The community is enthusiastic around having an Emergency Management Hub at the hall.
- There are a lot of new residents in the area. Community Residents Association members have produced a “Welcome to Kaharoa Pamphlet” they distribute to new residents as well as dropping in and introducing themselves to new residents.

Ms Rose explained that there was a “table top exercise” to discuss the potential of an Emergency Management Hub being established at Mamaku on 9 September 2026 at 6.00pm with the purpose of the meeting to look at roles and responsibilities.

5 TE WHAKAŪ I NGĀ MENETI - CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Rotorua Rural Community Board Meeting held 16 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Ms Marshall

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

7.1 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD - MINOR MATTERS

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the report ‘Rural Community Board - Minor Matters’ be received.**

Moved: Ms Marshall

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Head Start Programme update

Rick Dunn gave a verbal update and commented on the following points:

- On 19 August 2026 Rotorua Lakes Council approved a joint “Head Start” proposal with Tauranga City Council to establish a Rotorua unitary authority and a western authority merging Tauranga and Western Bay.

Community Hall Site Visit Feedback

Ms Rose and Ms Marshall asked that this item be moved to the 17 September 2026 Rural Community Board meeting.

Community Hall Condition Assessment

Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor explained that the last “Community Halls Condition Assessment” was completed in November 2024. A new condition assessment is underway and it will be presented to the board once completed.

Ms Marshall explained that currently devolved funding can only be allocated for CAPEX on Council owned assets and asked that the board should also be able to allocate devolved funding for Operational Expenditure as well.

ACTION POINT

Rick Dunn to report back to the board on the process to allowing Devolved Funding to be allocated for both Capital Expenditure and Operational Expenditure projects.

LTP 2024-2034 – Rural Street Improvements Funding

Deb Cossar, Governance & Democracy Manager provided a verbal update and commented on the following points:

- About 75% of the district’s roading network, which totals about 1,000kms, services the rural sector. Most of the rural roading network has no footpaths, lighting and/or traffic safety engineering facilities and this funding pool is dedicated to providing enhancements like footpaths, pedestrian crossings, railings, lighting and traffic controls within or near rural villages/centres with guidance from the Rural Community Board and the wider rural community.
- Funding of \$140k for Rural Street Improvement should be available in Year 1 of the 2027-37 LTP.
- The board can submit to the LTP when consultation opens.

ACTION POINT

Rick Dunn to include the item “Rural Street Improvement Funding” onto the “Action Items” table to allow the item to be monitored monthly.

7.2 WAIOTAPU SCHOOL BUS SHELTER INSTALLATION

HE TŪTOHUNGA

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report ‘Waiotapu School Bus Shelter Installation’ be received.

Moved: Ms Marshall

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Rachel Doelman, Transport Safety Advisor spoke to her report and commented on the following points:

- This report seeks a decision on whether the benefits of constructing a bus shelter justify the required capital expenditure, and currently unfunded annual costs associated with the land use fees required by the Department of Conservation.
- On investigation, it was found that there is no current easement or agreement between RLC or NZTA and the Department of Conservation. This means that an application would be required, and there would need to be provision and budget for the annual monitoring costs to the Department of Conservation.
- It is not possible for the south bound bus to collect passengers from Benny Bee's, due to it being too unsafe for the laden bus to cross the northbound lane.
- The Ministry of Education can fund bus shelters but not the infrastructure required for installation.

Ms Forlong asked that the board to investigate other options and asked Ms Doelman to provide a map of the area to assist to identify practical options.

ACTION POINT

That the Rural Community Board and Ms Doelman investigate options with a view of identifying a suitable alternative site for a bus shelter at Waitapu.

- 2. That the Rotorua Rural Community Board request Rotorua Lakes Council staff to investigate a different location that is not on DOC reserve to install the shelter.**

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Ms Marshall

CARRIED

7.3 ACTION POINTS UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the report 'Action Points Update' be received.**

Moved: Ms Rose

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Rick Dunn, Senior Governance and Democracy Advisor provided a verbal update and commented on the following points:

Bus shelter SH5 Waioapu

Refer to Rachel Doelmans report item 7.2.

Butchers Pool

The pool has been drained and the pool is being assessed.

Mamaku Toilets

Tina Rose has been provided with replacement toilet rolls and soap to use as required.

This item can be removed from the Action Points table.

Community Emergency Hubs

Raj Senevirante provide a table of i) Current hubs in place ii) Discussion in progress ii) Needing community contact.

Rural Roadside Mowing and Spraying

Darryl Robson is waiting on feedback from other local authorities so cost comparisons around costs per kilometre can be made.

Ms Forlong commented that the “high mow” along SH3 looks great and is very effective .

Chris Paterson/Jan Hall commented on the following points:

- The Ngākuru community identified that the community hall had some rotting exterior weather boards that needed replacing.
- A request to Council for funding to fix this problem was declined.
- The Ngākuru residents got rid of the issue by doing the repair work themselves and at their own cost.
- Although the labour to repair the exterior cladding was donated the materials cost the residents \$2,000.
- The new exterior needs painting and they have requested that Council purchase paint so the job can be completed.
- There is no hot water in the mens toilets.

ACTION POINTS

- 1) That Rob Tane visit the Ngākuru Community Hall and assess the maintenance work and amount of paint required to completed the work.
- 2) That the Ngākuru Community Hall committee apply for Devolved Funding for: a) \$2,000 for the cost of the materials to repair the community halls damaged exterior cladding. b) Provide a supply of hot water in the mens toilet.
- 3) Rick Dunn to arrange an additional meeting late October 2026 for the board members to evaluate and agree on their devolved funding allocations.

The Chair explained that:

- That due to illness, the item “Plan Change 8 Natural Hazards Decision” could not be heard at this
- meeting.

- That a presentation on Plan Change 8 Natural Hazards Decision will be given to the Lakes Community Board meeting to be held on Tuesday 15 September 2026. The Rural Community Board members are welcome to attend this meeting either in person or via Zoom to enable them to hear the update on the PC8 decision.

7.4 PLAN CHANGE 8 NATURAL HAZARDS DECISION
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report 'Plan Change 8 Natural Hazards Decision' be received.

8 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Rob Tane closed the meeting with a karakia.

The Meeting closed 14.42pm.

To be confirmed at the Rotorua Rural Community Board meeting on 17 September 2026.

Note: -Rotorua Lakes Council is the operating name of Rotorua District Council

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1) ACTION POINT

Mr Mathfield and Mr Dunn to schedule a combined Regional Spatial Planning workshop with the Lakes Community Board and the Rural Community Board.

2) ACTION POINT

Rick Dunn to report back to the board on the process to allowing Devolved Funding to be allocated for both Capital Expenditure and Operational Expenditure projects.

3) ACTION POINT

Rick Dunn to include the item "Rural Street Improvement Funding" onto the "Action Items" table to allow the item to be monitored monthly.

4) ACTION POINT

That the Rural Community Board and Ms Doelman investigate options with a view of identifying a suitable alternative site for a bus shelter at Waiotapu.

5) ACTION POINT

That Rob Tane visit the Ngākuru Community Hall and assess the maintenance work and amount of paint required to completed the work.

6) ACTION POINT

That the Ngākuru Community Hall committee apply for Devolved Funding for: a) \$2,000 for the cost of the materials to repair the community halls damaged exterior cladding. b) Provide a supply of hot water in the mens toilet.

7) ACTION POINT

Rick Dunn to arrange an additional meeting late October 2026 for the baord members to evaluate and agree on their devolved funding allocations.

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

7.1 UPDATE ON RLC'S PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS WATER SERVICES DELIVERY PLAN UNDER LOCAL WATERS DONE WELL

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Craig Tiriana, Programme Manager - Local Water Done Well

Approved by: Stavros Michael, Group Manager, Infrastructure and Assets

Attachments: 1. Community Board update - Water Service Delivery Plan implementation, Waters Working Group investigation/study into multi-council WSCCO Rotorua Lakes Council September 2026

1. TE PŪTAKE PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Rotorua Lakes Community Board, via a presentation at the meeting, on the implementation of Council's Water Service Delivery Plan under *Local Water Done Well*.

HE TŪTOHUNGA RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report 'Update on RLC's progress and implementation of its Water Services Delivery Plan under Local Waters Done Well' be received.

2. TE TĀHUHU BACKGROUND

Rotorua Lakes Council will shortly determine its preferred option for future water services delivery for the district.

Since last October council has been working to implement its Waters Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) which signalled council would deliver services through an in-house business until 1 July 2028. It may then deliver services through a multi council joint entity depending on the outcome of an investigation into a joint Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO). The fallback option would remain in-house.

A regional Working Group was formed to direct the investigation purpose and included mayor Tapsell, Cr Barker and Cr Sandford and representatives of the Whakatane, Opotiki and Kawerau district councils.

The working group has now delivered its report to the various councils which are now in the process of decision-making on a preferred mode for public consultation.

The study shows the multi council WSCCO is a viable long-term option for Rotorua district while an in-house model is also viable but comes under pressure over time.

Council is due to make its decision on a preferred option on 23 September, and community consultation is scheduled to take place across 1-31 October with hearings (if required) set for November 2-7 and a final decision by Council on 8 December 26.

The full Joint WSCCO investigation report is available [here](#) .

Community Board Update

Water Service Delivery Plan implementation, Waters Working Group investigation/study into multi-council WSCCO

Rotorua Lakes Council

September 2026



Purpose of today's update

For you to receive an update on the implementation of Council's Water Service Delivery Plan under *Local Water Done Well*.

Council has been navigating central Government's legislative changes to the previous *Three Waters* and *Affordable Waters* regulations since 2025.

Last year Council adopted its Water Services Delivery Plan which was accepted by DIA (now M CERT) for government.

What is Local Water Done Well?

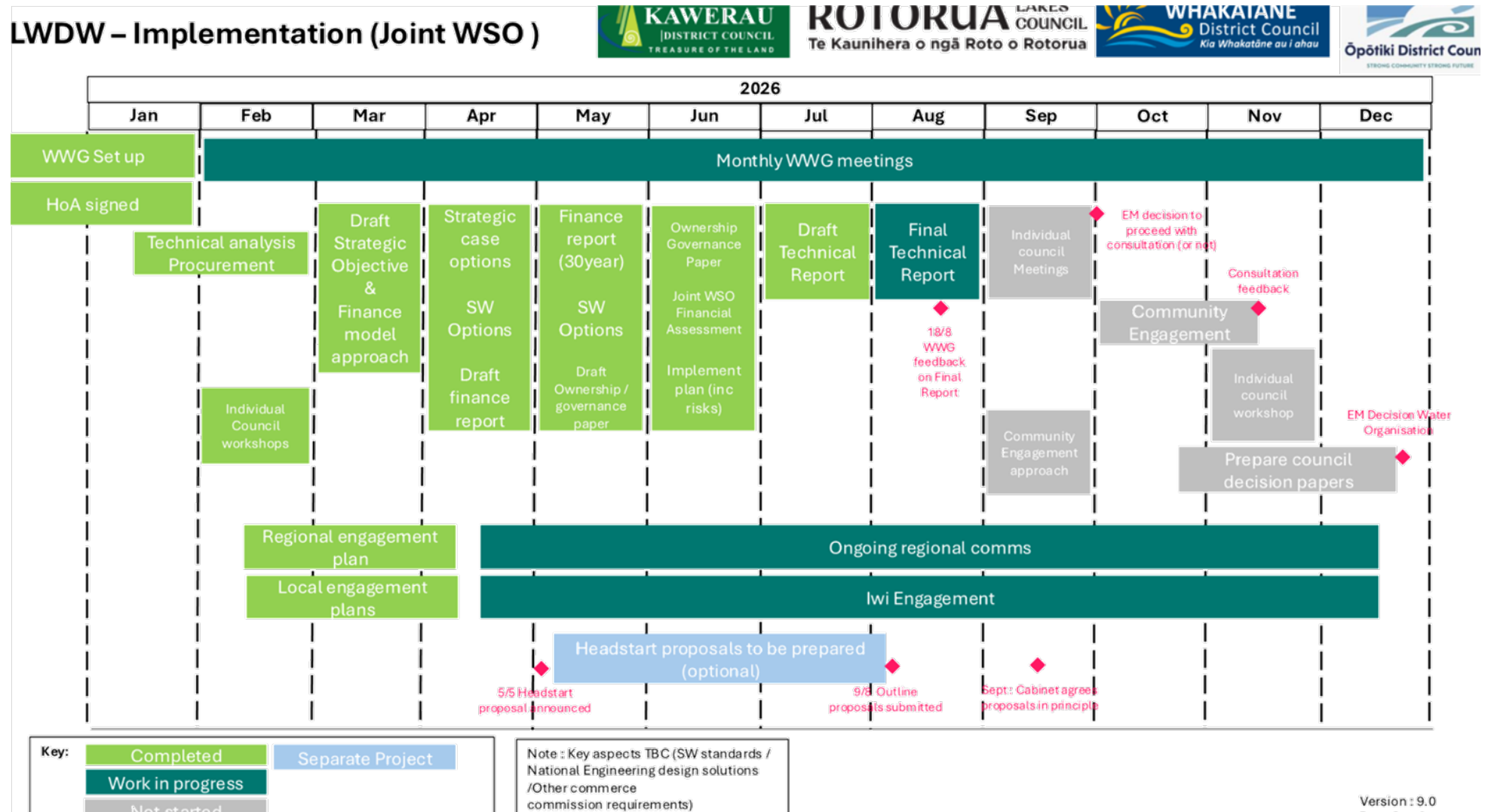
Local Water Done Well is the Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges. It gives councils and communities greater flexibility to determine how drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services will be delivered in the future, while ensuring these services remain financially sustainable and meet regulatory requirements.

How does Head Start impact this process?

Head Start is a government initiative to reshape Local Government. They are separate processes under separate prospective legislation. Any future impact on already legislated water reforms is not known. While the Government is proposing changes to aspects of local government and resource management legislation, Treaty settlement obligations will continue to apply.

How we got here

- 2024: Repeal of previous water services legislation and Local Government (Water Services) Bill introduced to Parliament.
- April 2025: Community consultation alongside 2023-2024 Annual Plan (55 submissions received).
- WSDP 2025 Council decided on staged approach to water services delivery: in-house until July 2028, then may transition to multi-council WSCCO (depending on investigation and final decision). RLC's fall back option is an in-house business unit.
- Working group (WWG) established, developing business case based on 7 strategic objectives
- WWG met monthly (Dec 25 to Aug 26)
- August: final report joint WSCCO Investigation completed



What council needs to decide first

On 23 September Rotorua Lakes Council will be asked to:

1. Consider the findings of the final WSCCO Investigation report from the Waters Working Group
2. Identify a preferred future delivery option for the Rotorua district
3. Approve public consultation of that preferred option
4. Confirm any alternative option to be presented alongside the preferred option during consultation

WSCCO Investigation by Waters Working Group

- Work together with Eastern Bay councils collaboratively (scale)
- Opportunity to learn from other entities establishment across country (understanding/knowledge)
- Create a potential strawman WSCCO for testing/assessing (model)

Strategic objectives – the basis of options assessment

Efficient and financially sustainable delivery of water services for the communities of the District, now and into the future

Protects and promotes public health and the environment
- meeting regulatory requirements

Water services are resilient to natural hazards, seismic risk and climate change

Integrated water services and infrastructure planning that promotes efficient, equitable, and integrated delivery

Affordable fit for purpose service to consumers and communities that meets the needs, and expectations of the District

Council obligations to hapū and iwi are valued and honoured

Impact on remaining council operations and viability

MARTINJENKINS



Initial options assessed

Options



Internal Business Unit
(Status Quo)



REBOP asset owning
(WSCCO)



REBOP water org – service
delivery only (WSCCO)

Shortlist

1. Yes- current delivery models meet statutory requirements over the next 10 years, with approved WSDPs in place.
2. Yes_ potential for strong future benefits. Detailed financial comparisons and development of possible governance and representation mechanisms allowed fuller consideration.
3. No – limited economies of scale, complex accountability arrangements and no investment or financing advantages

Key findings

- Asset-owning joint WSCCO assessed as strongest model to deliver against strategic objectives.
- In-house delivery meets current requirements but would face growing pressure over time.
- WSCCO would be expected to deliver at a lower run cost to consumers than individual councils through current operating models and/or enable greater levels of investment with the currently projected revenues.
- Stormwater is included (3 Waters delivery)
- Iwi representation was supported and would need to be determined during detailed design and iwi-mandated
- Detailed design of the entity would be required for ownership, representation etc

Rotorua specific findings

- Rotorua has less immediate financial pressure and is better positioned to continue in-house across the medium term.
- Multi-council WSCCO offers material long-term benefits.
- Rotorua households would receive largest per-connection savings: \$216 pa, \$5600 cumulative across FY 29-54.
- Rotorua benefits from greater financing capability, access to specialist capability, larger organisation better able to respond to future regulatory, resilience and workforce pressures.



Consultation overview

- 1-31 October: wide community consultation
- Current to 31 October: targeted engagement with landowners and iwi/hapu
- 2-7 November: Hearings (if/as required)

Engagement with Iwi

Have reached out to iwi / hapū within Council's territory.

Focus has been on iwi / hapū with landowner / agreement-holder interests

- Direct hui with Mayor / Water Working Group Councillors
- Targeted information booklets and discussion papers to inform hui and discuss specific issues

Little interest expressed outside of iwi / hapū with landowner / agreement-holder interests so information sessions / wānanga will be held

Engagement ongoing

Current position

These landowner interests have now been brought more directly into the process, ensuring the engagement approach reflects both Treaty/iwi relationship obligations and practical landowner/infrastructure interests.

Key message

Engagement is no longer being treated as generic iwi engagement only. The process now recognises the different levels of interest, influence, and risk across iwi, hapū, landowners, and existing infrastructure agreements.

Key Dates

- Final WSCCO investigation report completed in **August 2026**
- Waters Working Group recommendation put to partnering councils during **September 2026**
- Public consultation on preferred option through **October 2026**
- Council to consider public consultation feedback **November 2026**
- Final decision for a multi-council WSCCO go/no-go **December 2026**

Questions/discussion

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ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL

7.2 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD - MINOR MATTERS

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor

Approved by: Greg Kieck, Manager, Governance, Strategy & Compliance

Attachments: 1. Community Hall Committee discussions 16 July 2026

**1. TE PŪTAKE
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Rotorua Rural Community Board members to discuss minor matters that have arisen since their last monthly meeting.

The following items have been included for discussion at the Rural Community Boards September 2026 meeting:

- Community Hall Site Visit feedback - Tina Rose & Tina Marshall
 - Feedback from the community halls site visits undertaken by board members Tina Rose & Tina Marshall (moved to 15 October 2026)
- Ngākuru Community Hall update - Tina Rose & Jan Hall
 - Feedback received from Sam Martin, Manager – Facilities Services regarding the process to fund the maintenance cost to replace the damaged exterior cladding, re-painting the hall and to install a hot water supply to the men’s bathroom.
- Hall Committee discussion – 16th July 2026 at Rotorua Lakes Council - Cr Barker
 - Feedback from the Hall Committee meeting – 16 July 2026

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the report ‘Rural Community Board - Minor Matters’ be received.**

Hall Committee discussion – 16th July 2026 at Rotorua Lakes Council

Present:

Lesley Goodard (Lake Okareka), Julie Antony & Jan Hall (Ngakuru), Matt Wild & Tina Rose (Mamaku), Lynda Pacey (Lake Rerewhakaaitu), Jo Wallace, Chris Paterson & Tina Marshall (Kaharoa), Karen Forlong (Upper Atiamuri), Colin Guyton & Karen Barker (Reporoa)

Apologies:

Keren Leslie (Reporoa Hall committee)

Invitations sent to: Ngongotaha Hall Committee, Broadlands Hall, (Broadlands School), and Waikite Hall committee

Discussion notes

Cr Barker provided a brief overview of the Property Review and Draft Property Strategy, and provided some background and financial context around the Council's property portfolio.

- Council has previously managed facilities in a siloed approach, and elected members gave direction to take a consistent, portfolio-wide approach to asset management and investment. This has led to a full review of all of our facilities and properties (except reserves and parks), and provided detailed information around asset condition, usage, and return on investment.
- Optimised replacement cost of our council facilities assets = \$563,000,000 (see below)
- A deficit of previous investment in council facilities across the portfolio has led to an identified gap in resourcing that would lead to significant rates increase if full investment was made 3.5% rates increase (approx.)

Financial Liabilities for RLC Summary

Facilities Asset Grouping	Optimised Replacement Cost	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Annual Depreciation	Needed Annual Forecast Renewals	Appropriate Annual Maintenance Cost
Visitor/Economic Enabling	\$147,410,200	\$102,197,599	\$3,862,147	\$2,931,872	\$1,465,936
Administration	\$31,315,160	\$17,982,960	\$667,830	\$909,500	\$454,750
Activity Enabling – Regulatory	\$41,102,400	\$9,706,146	\$466,700	\$721,597	\$360,799
Activity Enabling – Community	\$250,366,600	\$88,242,559	\$5,395,398	\$4,613,034	\$2,306,517
Non-Activity Enabling	\$93,481,220	\$28,883,267	\$1,344,795	\$1,647,919	\$823,960
TOTAL	\$563,675,580	\$247,012,531	\$11,736,870	\$10,823,922	\$5,411,961
2026/27 Annual Plan				\$8,568,515	\$1,627,509

NB. Excludes PARRs, Infrastructure, operational equipment

Financial Liabilities Summary

	Annual Forecast Renewals Needed	Appropriate Annual Maintenance Cost	TOTAL
Policy/Strategy	\$10,823,922	\$5,411,961	\$16,235,883
2026/27 Annual Plan	\$8,568,515	\$1,627,509	\$10,196,024
Variance	\$2,255,407	\$3,784,452	\$6,039,859
Impact on Rates	1.3%	2.2%	3.5%

Community hall committee – feedback on their halls

Upper Atiamuri Hall – Karen F

- This hall once belonged to RLC but was transferred to Soth Waikato District Council(SWDC). They have now sold it to the Upper Atiamuri School for removal to the school grounds to use as a school hall.
- The hall wasn't getting much use as it was and SWDC had sent a clear message to all their hall committees that they need to demonstrate that you use your hall and we will partner with you to manage it.

Lake Okareka Hall – Lesley

- The Lake Okareka community are passionate about their hall and use it regularly for community events. It is also used full-time for a pre-school Mon-Friday 8am – 4pm and so if there are community gatherings, the pre-school team need to clear the building.
- Events and organisations that use the building include Lake Okareka Residents Assn, and also non-locals hire the hall.
- The pre-school has an agreed rent that the Ministry of Education pay to council
- The hall committee has three people, but the entire community support them and there is a good community network.
- There are some issues with wheelchair access

Ngakuru Hall – Julie & Jan

- The hall has regular use by various groups including the local primary school, yoga classes, a beauty therapist, the monthly Farmers Market, Fonterra workshops, Rural Women and PTA meetings.
- It is also used regularly for weddings, funerals.
- The school and the local church across the road use the building regularly and pay an annual fee.
- Ngakuru have 8 people on their committee and a core group of key people who have supported the hall for decades and do much of the small remedial and maintenance jobs that are required in a volunteer capacity.
- A recent 80th birthday event for the hall was held with great success.
- There are cladding issues that need to be remedied soon to prevent damage to the integrity of the building

Mamaku – Matt

- The hall committee has 8 core members and a further 4 members who attend the monthly meetings irregularly, but help with various events
- The hall is used for a variety of events and is used 3-4 times a week by various community groups such as garden circle, the ukelele club, strength classes and a drop-in clinic.
- The committee organises regular events to gather and connect the community in their hall including their recent Matariki event and a movie night during the school holidays. They also hold regular quiz nights.
- The committee voluntarily do regular fix-up jobs
- The hall is also used for weddings, funerals and birthdays.
- There are issues with holes in the floor and leaking around a window

Lake Rerewhakaaitu – Lynda

- Rerewhakaaitu has two halls – the Settlers Hall and the Domain Hall. In more recent times the Domain Hall gets more use. The Settlers Hall is larger and a good venue for

funerals and larger events. It also gets used for Timberlands events/meetings, evening events and also by the school.

- The Domain often funds some of the R&M that is required on both buildings due to revenue generated through lease of the domain land.
- There are 15 people involved with the hall committee and they meet regularly but not often. Sometimes if a decision needs to be made they will have their discussions via email before proceeding.
- Lynda noted that she had been involved with the hall for over 20 years and the charges hadn't gone up at all in that time.

Kaharoa – Jo & Chris

- Their hall is well-used by the community as well as Hamurana residents and people from Rotorua city
- The building has been used more since the quality of the building has improved
- The hall committee do the preparation for an event and the cleaning afterwards.
- They feel that the booking system should remain with the committee, and mentioned that the conditions of hire and hire rates have not changed in many years
- The hall committee has 9 people including the Principal of the Kaharoa School, and they meet monthly,
- A \$20 subscription is paid annually per family
- The committee apply for grants in order to carry out upgrades to their hall (e.g. heat pumps, etc)
- It was noted that they enjoy the flexibility to actively lead their own projects on the hall, and gave the example of the recent upgrade to the kitchen benches with devolved funding from the Rural Board. The committee organised quotes and contractors for installation of the benches, within and less than the grant allowance. This is something they would like to see continue.

Reporoa – Colin

- Observation that the hall remains closed since Dember 2023, and that the works have been completed, but a building warrant of fitness is required.
- Tina R and Tina M have visited the hall and said it looks great

Common themes and general discussion

- There was a general acknowledgement of Rob Tane for his recent involvement with the halls and the improvement with communication that has occurred.
- A common theme across the members that the communititews are invested in their halls, put effort into managing them and that they hold huge sentimental and historical value for the communities.
- There was concern about the attitude of council towards the Rural community and their lack of investment in these key buildings does not make the community feel valued
- The rural community contributes significantly to the rates revenue of council – this should be reflected in the maintenance of these key community hubs. (mentioned that the Western Bay of Plenty halls are immaculate in comparison). It is challenging to charge ratepayers for usage of the halls, particularly for funerals.
- Concerns around the quality and cost of works to halls and lack of sign-off from council for work done
- A review of hall conditions of hire and charges has not been done for decades.
- There was a feeling that an online booking system could be problematic and there was some that thought bookings should remain with the hall committees.
- It was proposed that there should be a more collaborative approach to the communities working with council in the management of halls to get the best outcomes.

- Flexibility of council to allow local people to carry out works if they are qualified (and not have to use the “preferred supplier” pathways which drive cost into projects)
 - Utilise local volunteers and local qualified tradespeople for projects
 - Encourage contributions from Council, local materials, and donations/grants sourced by the community to get the best value for money
 - If hall committees or resident associations are incorporated or charitable trusts, they can then apply for funding to help match fund and council funding. Donated materials could also save costs
- It was suggested that there be more control over the hall maintenance budget and that the Rural Board could oversee
 - It was suggested that the Rural Board could have oversight of the hall maintenance budget and have the discretion to make decisions regarding the prioritisation of projects across the halls based upon applications to the board from the hall committees. This would require the committees to have a strategic plan for their hall and to be accountable for any funding approved for their hall (Hastings District Council model) See more here: [Rural Halls Maintenance Fund | Hastings District Council](#)

Colin thanked everyone for their attendance and Tina M encouraged the representatives to go back to their community and ask for feedback on this discussion and any further ideas to improve the management of our halls.

Further updates will be provided to the attendees and other hall committees of any progress with the council Property Strategy.

7.3 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD DEVOLVED FUNDING FOR THE FY2026-2027

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor

Approved by: Greg Kieck, Manager, Governance, Strategy & Compliance

Attachments:

1. Rural Community Board - Devolved Funding Submissions
2. Rotorua Rural Community Board Devolved Funding 2026/2027

**1. TE PŪTAKE
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Rural Community Board members updated information on the status of Devolved Funding applications and funding for the 2026/2027 financial year.

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the report 'Rural Community Board Devolved Funding for the FY2026-2027' be received.

**2. TE TĀHUHU
BACKGROUND**

**3. TE TĀHUHU
BACKGROUND**

Devolved funding was first introduced in 2018. Funding is transferred to the community boards from Council. The fund is to support the aspirations of rural and lakes communities and aligns with the priorities of each community board.

Each community board administers a total of \$125,000 of devolved funding per financial year. Funding can only be used for Council owned assets, i.e. anything that is on Council owned land, such as reserves and playgrounds, Council buildings and local roads.

The Rural Community Board priorities that are outlined in the Rotorua Rural Community Board - Plan 2025-2026 are as follows:

- Infrastructure,
- Safe rural communities,
- Natural and built environment,
- Resilient and connected rural communities.

Examples of assets that have been funded in the past:

- CCTV cameras
- Playground items for a reserve

- School bus shelters
- Fridges, heat pumps, ovens, tables, and chairs for community halls
- Community toilet block
- Defibrillators at community locations
- Picnic tables and benches.

Funding is allocated and then administered by Council officers who arrange purchasing and the installation of all items.

Rotorua Lakes Council has developed the “Participate” platform to allow community members to submit devolved funding applications.

The Rural Community Board have four strategic priorities for 2026/27:

- 1) Infrastructure is resilient.
- 2) Safe rural communities.
- 3) Natural rural environment is healthy.
- 4) Rural community resilience.

There are 8 targeted rural communities Mamakū, Kaharoa, Horohoro, Ngākuru, Reporoa, Rerewhakitū, Waikite Valley, Ātiamuri.

Applications opened on 1 September 2026 and will close on 11 October 2026. A workshop has been scheduled for Thursday 29 October 2026 to allow the board members to review and evaluate the applications. Decisions and notifications will take place in November 2026.

Table 1 shows the applications received as of 10 September 2026. The table will be regularly updated.

Table 2 is a working document which lists projects that have devolved funding allocated, the status of the project through to completion and the balance of available funding.

RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD – DEVOLVED FUNDING SUBMISSIONS

	Name	Contact	Location of project	Description of project	Benefits	Contact	Status	Comments
1	Larissa Allen	027 9661083	Intersection SH5 / Maraeroa Rd / Oturoa Rd	Install CCTV	To help prevent illegal dumping & burnouts	Jane McLeod (was Kelly Fletcher)		
2	Mathew Fitzgerald	027 6875412	Broadlands Rd / Reporoa Rd	Remove old exotic trees and plant natives along stream area.	To revitalise stream are running into Reporoa Village.	Rob Tane / Gary Coker		
3	Mathew Fitzgerald	027 6875412	Settlers Rd Reporoa	Complete continuous concrete path around the village.	To allow community members to safely walk around the village.	Rob Tane / Gary Coker		
4	Jamie Butler	022 5819246	Longview Rd Reporoa	Install a streetlight at the Birch Rd intersection	To improve safety at night.	Rob Tane		
5	Gareth Ramson	027 2485630	SH30 / SH33 Roundabout	Roadside all around this junction and roundabout is poor sight to enter Rotorua from Tauranga Whakatane directions.	Increase impact into Rotorua, reduce maintenance costs with long term planting, improve the spaces to detract from roadside littering.	NZTA (See Darryl Robson)	Doesn't meet criteria / NZTA State Highway	

6	Gareth Ramson	027 2485630	Essendon Place Brunswick	Bike/scooter stand & Community Library trading post.	There is no park/reserve in Brunswick, so this area is somewhat the gathering place for the Brunswick Park kids.	Rob Tane	Brunswick is in the urban area. Not in a community board area.	
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Submissions:

Open	- 1 September 2026
Close	- 11 October 2026
Review & evaluation	- October 2026
Decision & notification	- November 2026

ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD

Doc. ID: 20891111

Devolved Funding 2026/2027 = \$125,000

No.	Capital Expenditure Project	Approved (\$)	Date approved	Completed	Balance (\$)
1.	Butchers Pool Project Aug/Sep – Budget confirmed	TBC			\$125,000
2.	Bus Shelter SH5 Waioapu DOC would require an easement. RLC could pay for shelter. Council could pay for easement & annual costs.	TBC			

Devolved Funding 2025/2026 = \$125,000

No.	Capital Expenditure Project	Approved (\$)	Date approved	Completed	Balance (\$)
1.	Supply new chairs for the Waikite Valley Hall. (148 chairs requested)	\$17,000	19 August 2025 (Sam/Eric)	Chairs ordered through Sebel & includes trolley. Due Feb 2026.	\$108,000
2.	Purchase & install one CCTV in Mamaku.	\$15,000	19 August 2025	Completed	\$93,000
3.	Purchase tables & chairs for the Mamaku Memorial Hall. (120 chairs requested)	\$15,500	19 August 2025 (Sam/Eric/Tina) 120 chairs \$9,894. 12 tables \$700 Total \$10,594	Completed Nov 2025. Re-allocate \$4,906	\$77,500
4a	Purchase chairs for the Kaharoa Community Hall. (60 chairs requested)	\$6,000	19 August 2025 (Sam/Eric)	Completed	\$71,500
4b	Purchase portable sound system for the Kaharoa Community Hall. Note: the RLC Property Team will fund the cost of paint for the Kaharoa Community Hall from Councils maintenance budget.	\$2,500	19 August 2025 (Sam/Eric) \$1,823	Completed Nov 2025. Re-allocate \$677	\$69,000
5.	Purchase blue tooth microphone for the Ngakuru Hall	\$200	19 August 2025	Completed Nov 2025 (\$150.00)	\$68,800
6.	Remove the garden at the Reporoa Squash Club & install a security light. Includes levelling & metalling. (No security cameras will cost another \$8k)	\$15,000	19 August 2025 (Wiremu)	Completed	\$53,800

n/a	Provide funds towards the renewal of the Ohakuri boat ramp.	\$20,000	19 August 2025 (Wiremu)	Not a council asset, re-allocate	n/a
7.	Additional devolved funding to add to the \$15k allocated in 2025. (Ref. # 6 - Reporoa Squash Club)	\$11,315	19 February 2026	Completed	\$42,485
8.	Parks & Open Spaces team to identify minor enhancement projects using the remaining devolved funding balance.	\$14,000	19 February 2026	New concrete picnic table & seats Rerewhakaaitu Domain Res. \$7K. New concrete picnic table & seats Lake Okaro Res. \$7K. Ecological planting Lake Ohakuri Res. \$TBC.	\$28,485
9.	Supply Public Safety Rescue Equipment & Signage (x5) from Drowning Prevention Aotearoa 0 additional funding required.	\$1,410	18 March 2026		\$27,075
	Note: No additional projects were identified.	0	n/a	n/a	\$27,075 Unallocated

Devolved Funding 2024/2025 = \$125,000pa

No.	Capital Expenditure Project	Approved (\$)	Date approved	Completed	Balance (\$)
1.	Install handrails for stage & emergency exit at Rerewhakaaitu community hall, using existing devolved funding allocated in 2022/23.	\$1,900	2022/23	Yes	\$123,100
2.	Install footpath and raised courtesy crossing outside the Mamaku School.	\$80,000	19.11.24	Yes	\$43,100
3.	Supply & replace kitchen bench tops at Kaharoa Community Hall.	\$15,000	19.11.24	Yes	\$28,100
4.	Purchase ladder for the Ngākurus Community Hall.	\$500	19.11.24	Yes	\$27,600
5.	Purchase fencing materials for the Taylor Place Reserve Playground Project.	\$8,000	19.11.24	Yes	\$19,600
6.	Supply Public Safety Rescue Equipment & Signage (x5) from Drowning Prevention Aotearoa. Installation (by RLC) Total Allocated (up to)	 \$6,850 \$1,500 \$8,350 \$9,000	18.03.25	Project underway	 \$10,600

7.	Replacement roller blinds – east wall high windows Reporoa Hall	\$4,358	07/02/25	Yes	\$6,242
8.	Re-allocate funds towards the Mamaku heat pumps.	\$6,242 + \$14,240 (heat pumps already allocated) Total \$20,482	June 2025	Yes	0

7.4 ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD 2026/2027 - ACTION POINTS

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor

Approved by: Greg Kieck, Manager, Governance, Strategy & Compliance

Attachments:

1. Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/27 - Action Points
2. Waiotapu Road Reserve Boundaries
3. Waiotapu SH5 Underpass

**1. TE PŪTAKE
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this item is to provide an update to the Rural Community Board members on the status of the action points from previous community board meetings.

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the report 'Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/2027 - Action Points' be received.

**2. TE TĀHUHU
BACKGROUND**

Action points are a specific task assigned to an individual or group to complete. The table is a tool that enables the community board members to monitor and track action items.

The Rural Community Boards action points table is updated monthly. The attached table shows the action points discussed at the last Rural Community Board meeting held on 20 August 2026 and any updates that followed that meeting.

With regard to the first action point "Bus Shelter SH5 Waiotapu", at the last meeting the board requested maps to show boundaries of the road reserve. Two maps are attached to show the road reserve boundaries and SH5 underpass.

Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/27

Doc. No: 22583931

Action Points:

	Meeting date	Details	By who	Comments	Completed
1	21 May 2026	Bus shelter SH5 Waiotapu. Neither RLC or NZTA have any type of lease or easement for the DOC reserve land adjacent to the highway underpass. DOC would require an easement. RCB could pay for shelter, Council could pay for easement & annual costs. Easement costs \$2,450 - \$3,750 plus GST. Management fees \$250 - \$1,000 plus GST Quote for bus shelter: 4.8m wide, full width seat, plywood cladding, coloursteel cladding, concrete floor, \$11,510 installed excluding NZTA road corridor or traffic management costs. DOC Community Agreement Rachel Doelman advised that a "Community Agreement" is to grant the public access to maintain conservation land - not for the building of structures. Rachel is waiting for confirmation from DOC (Kristina)	Rachel Doelman	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	

2.	Butchers Pool Butcher's Pool renewals budget 2026/27 - \$100k. Community consultation May/June 2026. Work to start October 2026. Potential completion date late 2026. Ngāti Tūwharetoa are pleased with the plan however they do not want the road sign re-installed. July 2026 – Project planning and further investigation of the outlet weir. August 2026 – Procurement phase i.e. cost estimates and project budget breakdown. to be confirmed. October – December 2026 – Construction phase. New changing facilities Feedback received during community engagement in 2022, where users indicated the current facilities were too far away from the pool area. Will continue to consider this aspect of the project alongside any further community feedback and can review the inclusion or exclusion of basic modesty changing facilities if warranted. 17 August 2026 Drain pool to inspect pool walls, steps & seating to determine work required.	Tina Harris- Ririnui	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	
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3.	16 July 2026	Community Emergency Hubs Identify communities that have Community Emergency Hubs (CEH) in place and those that need to establish a CEH. <i>Current Hubs</i> Mamaku Waikite Valley Lake Ōkāreka <i>Discussions in progress</i> Ngongotaha Rotoiti/Rotoehu Rotomā Kaharoa Seventh Day Adventist church <i>Needing community contact(s)</i> Reporoa (met with school principal - need to move from there with right community contacts) Rerewhakitū Ngakuru	Community Board / Raj	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	
4.	16 July 2026	Rural Roadside Mowing & Spraying Contact other local authorities to look at cost comparisons for costs/km. <i>Waiting for feedback from other local authorities.</i>	Darryl Robson	Report back to 17 September meeting	
5.	20 August 2026	Rural Street Improvement Funding That the board prepare a submission to the 2027-37 LTP requesting an increase in funding.	Rick/Deb	Under Action	

Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/27

Doc. No: 22583931

Action Points:

	Meeting date	Details	By who	Comments	Completed
1	21 May 2026	Bus shelter SH5 Waiotapu. Neither RLC or NZTA have any type of lease or easement for the DOC reserve land adjacent to the highway underpass. DOC would require an easement. RCB could pay for shelter, Council could pay for easement & annual costs. Easement costs \$2,450 - \$3,750 plus GST. Management fees \$250 - \$1,000 plus GST Quote for bus shelter: 4.8m wide, full width seat, plywood cladding, coloursteel cladding, concrete floor, \$11,510 installed excluding NZTA road corridor or traffic management costs. DOC Community Agreement Rachel Doelman advised that a "Community Agreement" is to grant the public access to maintain conservation land - not for the building of structures. Rachel is waiting for confirmation from DOC (Kristina)	Rachel Doelman	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	

2.		Butchers Pool Butcher's Pool renewals budget 2026/27 - \$100k. Community consultation May/June 2026. Work to start October 2026. Potential completion date late 2026. Ngāti Tūwharetoa are pleased with the plan however they do not want the road sign re-installed. July 2026 – Project planning and further investigation of the outlet weir. August 2026 – Procurement phase i.e. cost estimates and project budget breakdown. to be confirmed. October – December 2026 – Construction phase. New changing facilities Feedback received during community engagement in 2022, where users indicated the current facilities were too far away from the pool area. Will continue to consider this aspect of the project alongside any further community feedback and can review the inclusion or exclusion of basic modesty changing facilities if warranted. 17 August 2026 Drain pool to inspect pool walls, steps & seating to determine work required.	Tina Harris-Ririnui	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	
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3.	16 July 2026	Community Emergency Hubs Identify communities that have Community Emergency Hubs (CEH) in place and those that need to establish a CEH. <i>Current Hubs</i> Mamaku Waikite Valley Lake Ōkāreka <i>Discussions in progress</i> Ngongotaha Rotoiti/Rotoehu Rotomā Kaharoa Seventh Day Adventist church <i>Needing community contact(s)</i> Reporoa (met with school principal - need to move from there with right community contacts) Rerewhakitū Ngakuru	Community Board / Raj	Under action. Report back to 17 September meeting.	
4.	16 July 2026	Rural Roadside Mowing & Spraying Contact other local authorities to look at cost comparisons for costs/km. <i>Waiting for feedback from other local authorities.</i>	Darryl Robson	Report back to 17 September meeting	
5.	20 August 2026	Rural Street Improvement Funding That the board prepare a submission to the 2027-37 LTP requesting an increase in funding.	Rick/Deb	Under Action	



7.5 PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Tina Harris-Ririnui, Open Spaces Planning & Development Manager

Approved by: Rob Pitkethley, Manager - Parks & Open Spaces Manager

Attachments: Nil

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the report 'Parks & Open Spaces Report ' be received.**

BUTCHERS' POOL RENEWAL UPDATE

The Butcher's Pool Renewal Project was approved to address ageing infrastructure, improve safety and accessibility, and enhance the overall visitor experience.

The original scope of works includes:

- Replacement of the existing pool access steps with handrailed steps to provide safer and more accessible entry.
- Modification of the weir outlet to improve functionality and operational performance.
- Replacement of the degraded boardwalk and in-pool timber seating.
- Construction of new concrete landing areas to address surface deterioration and improve safety and durability.
- Installation of handrails along the steepest section of the pathway to improve accessibility.
- A basic refresh of the toilet facilities, including painting and lighting upgrades.
- Subject to available budget, provision of a modesty changing facility with storage cubbies and landscape enhancements around the site.

The project team has continued investigating the condition of the pool structure to inform detailed design and costing. A key challenge has been the geothermal water ingress into the pool. Three separate attempts were required to empty the pool before a successful inspection could be undertaken using a generator-powered extraction system. Once pumping ceased, the pool refilled in less than 20 minutes, highlighting the significant groundwater inflows that will need to be managed during construction.

The inspection identified that sections of the pool wall structure have deteriorated beyond initial expectations and will require replacement as part of the renewal works. This additional work will be incorporated into the final scope and cost assessment.

Council is currently working with a preferred contractor to develop a detailed construction methodology and cost estimate. Due to the specialist nature of the geothermal environment, several project components require products and materials that are not readily available and supplier pricing has taken longer than anticipated to obtain. As a result, a confirmed project cost is not yet available.

Given the rapid rate at which the pool refills, construction will require continuous pumping throughout the duration of major works, creating an additional project complexity that is being factored into both the methodology and costings.

Subject to final pricing and contractor procurement, construction was anticipated to commence in October 2026.

Officers expect to be in a position to provide the Rural Community Board with a further update on project costs and scope refinements at the October meeting.

The following are images of the pool emptying operations:





8 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Kia whakairia te tapu
 Kia wātea ai te ara
 Kia turuki whakataha ai
 Kia turuki whakataha ai
 Hāumi e. Hui e. Tāiki e!

Restrictions are moved aside
 So the pathway is clear
 To return to every day activities
 To return to every day activities
 Allied, enriched, unified, and blessed