



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

Kaupapataka Agenda

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD

Date: Thursday 22 October 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

Order of Business

1	Karakia Whakapuaki – Opening Karakia	5
2	Ngā Whakapāha – Apologies	5
3	Whakapuakitanga Whaipānga – Declarations of Interest	5
4	Te Papa Kōrero Mō Te Tuawhenua Hapori – Rural Community Forum	5
5	Te Whakaū I Ngā Meneti - Confirmation of Minutes.....	5
5.1	Minutes of the Rotorua Rural Community Board Meeting held on 17 September 2026	5
6	Ngā Tāpaetanga - Presentations	13
7	Pūrongo Kaimahi – Staff Reports	14
7.1	Butcher's Pool Renewals Project Update.....	14
7.2	Long-term Plan 2027-2037 update	16
7.3	Rural Community Board 2026/27- Action Points.....	17
7.4	Rural Community Board Devolved Funding for the FY2026-2027	23
7.5	Rural Community Board - Minor Matters	35
8	Te Karakia Whakamutunga – Closing Karakia	47

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 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Rotorua Rural Community Board Meeting held 17 September 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Minutes

**Rotorua Rural Community Board meeting
held Thursday 17 September 2026 at 1:00 pm
Committee Room 1, Rotorua Lakes Council**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr Guyton (Chair)
Cr Barker, Ms Forlong

APOLOGIES: Tina Rose, Tina Marshall

IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Bidois

NO ATTENDANCE: Nil

STAFF PRESENT: R Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor
Kihī Tawhai, Engagement & Relationships Specialist
Amy Duckett, Community Development Tem Leader
Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor
Craig Tiriana, Programme Manager – Local Water Done Well

The meeting opened at 1.00pm.

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

1 KARAKIA WHAKAPUAKI – OPENING KARAKIA

Cr Barker opened the meeting with a Karakia.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA – APOLOGIES

Resolved

“That the apologies from Tina Rose and Tina Marshall be accepted”.

Moved: Mr Guyton

Seconded: Cr Barker

CARRIED

3 WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

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

MAMAKU – RACHEL BIDOIS

- A Civil Defence meeting was held to discuss developing an Emergency Management Hub.
- Representatives from Kaharoa, the Hall Committee and Mamaku Ratepayer Association attended.
- A Civil Defence Committee was formed.
- A mock emergency was trialled.
- The leaking window has been fixed.
- The cemetery sign has been installed.
- A water supply to the cemetery is underway.
- Sponsors have been secured to allow a lifeguard to be paid at the School Pool.

REPOROA – CR BARKER

- Reporoa have started discussions around introducing an Emergency Management Hub.
- It is great to have the community hall open.

NGĀKURU – MR GUYTON/ROB TANE

- Thanks to Council for paying the invoice for exterior cladding repairs so quickly.
- A leak under the building needs to be repaired.
- A leak in the guttering needs to be repaired.
- The community have raised funds to purchase the paint for the hall.

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.

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Cr Barker

CARRIED

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA – PRESENTATIONS

Nil

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

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.**

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Cr Barker

CARRIED

Craig Tiriana, Programme Manager – Local Water Done Well spoke to his presentation and commented on the following points:

- The purpose is to give the Board a clear, high-level understanding of the journey so far and the decisions ahead.
- Council has been navigating central Government's legislative changes to the previous Three Waters & Affordable Waters regulations since 2015.
- Last year Council adopted its Water Services Delivery Plan which was adopted by DIA (now MCERT)
- Local Water Done Well is the Government's framework for the future delivery of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.
- It gives councils flexibility over delivery arrangements but requires services to meet regulatory standards and be financially sustainable. The core issue is which delivery approach best manages future cost, capability, resilience, and compliance.
- Head Start is a separate government initiative. Its future implications are not yet known, and existing Treaty settlement obligations continue to apply.

- Following community consultation, Council adopted a staged approach in 2025, services remain in-house until July 2028, while a possible multi-council water services organisation is investigated. If Council does not proceed with that model, the fallback is an in-house business unit.
- CCO's will be a separate board.
- On 23 September, Council will be asked to consider the investigation findings and identify a preferred future delivery option for Rotorua.
- Council will also decide whether to approve public consultation and whether an alternative option should be presented alongside the preferred option.
- This is not the final decision to establish a joint organisation. It is a decision about what should go to the community for feedback. Consultation will inform the final go/no-go decision later in the year.
- The seven strategic objectives provided a common basis for assessing the options.
- The existing in-house model was shortlisted because approved Water Services Delivery Plans show that it can meet statutory requirements over the next ten years. The asset-owning joint organisation was also shortlisted because it offered potential benefits from scale, financing, and specialist capability.
- Continuing in-house remains viable, but the report expects increasing pressure over time from investment needs, regulation, resilience, and workforce capability. The joint model is expected either to lower running costs or allow greater investment from projected revenues.
- Further information is available on the RLC website.

7.2 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD - MINOR MATTERS
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report 'Rural Community Board - Minor Matters' be received.

Moved: Cr Barker

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Parking

Ms Forlong noted that older people are finding the new parking system difficult to use.

Cr Barker explained that feedback can be made through the Participate platform.

Community Hall Site Visit feedback

Tina Rose and Tina Marshall will provide a verbal update at the RCB meeting on 15 October 2026.

Ngākuru Community Hall update

Covered in item 4. "Rural Community Forum".

Hall Committee discussion

Feedback from the hall committee meeting held 16 July 2026.

7.3 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD DEVOLVED FUNDING FOR THE FY2026-2027
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report 'Rural Community Board Devolved Funding for the FY2026-2027' be received.

Moved: Ms Forlong

Seconded: Cr Barker

CARRIED

Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor overviewed the item.

Kihi Tawhai, Engagement & Relationships Specialist gave a verbal update on the Participate platform.

7.4 ROTORUA RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD 2026/2027 - ACTION POINTS
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report 'Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/2027 - Action Points' be received.

Moved: Cr Barker

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor overviewed the item.

ACTION POINT

1. Bus Shelter SH5 Waioapu

Resolved

1. "That the Rotorua Rural Community Board send a letter to the Department of Conservation (DOC) requesting permission to install a Bus Shelter at SH5 Waioapu on DOC Reserve land (opposite Benny Bees)".
 2. That a letter of support from the Reporoa College Principal and Board of Trustees is attached."
- Colin Guyton to contact Matt Melvin, Reporoa College Principal.
 - Tina Marshall to contact Paula Crafar, Reporoa College Board of Trustees Chairperson.
 - Rachel Doelman to contact Amanda Armer, Reporoa.

2. Butchers Pool

Amy Duckett, Community Development Team Leader and Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor explained the community engagement process and commented on the following points:

- The different types of engagement channels used including Facebook.
- Marae and Mana whenua where contacted.
- 268 emails were sent to the wider community.
- There have been no email replies and no feedback received.

Mr Guyton noted that the sign at the pool had been installed.

Action Point

Cr Barker asked Rob Tane and Amy Duckett to provide a summary of the engagement process to include a) who had been contacted b) the dates of the engagement c) the different platforms used and d) details of engagement regarding the two (2) signs.

Cr Barker noted that the board would discuss how to communicate the "Local Water Done Well" to the rural community.

7.5 PARKS & OPEN SPACES REPORT
RECOMMENDATION 1. That the report 'Parks & Open Spaces Report' be received.

Moved: Cr Barker

Seconded: Ms Forlong

CARRIED

Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor overviewed the item.

8 TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA – CLOSING KARAKIA

Cr Barker closed the meeting with a karakia.

The Meeting closed at 2.35pm.

To be confirmed at the Rotorua Rural Community Board meeting on 15 October 2026.

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

6 NGĀ TĀPAETANGA - PRESENTATIONS

7 PŪRONGO KAIMAHI – STAFF REPORTS

7.1 BUTCHER'S POOL RENEWALS PROJECT UPDATE

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 'Butcher's Pool Renewals Project Update ' be received.
2. Considers the following options to address the project funding shortfall:
 - Option 1: allocate up to \$45,000 from Rural Community Board devolved funding to enable delivery of the full project scope; or
 - Option 2: remove an element from the project scope, reducing the project cost by \$3,700, and allocate up to \$41,300 from Rural Community Board devolved funding towards the revised project cost.
 - Option 3: do not allocate Rural Community Board devolved funding and officers to significantly reduce the project scope to align with the available \$100,000 renewal budget.

BUTCHER'S POOL RENEWAL PROJECT UPDATE

Since the previous update to the Rural Community Board in September, officers have completed further project planning and costing for the Butchers' Pool Renewal Project, and a preferred contractor has now been appointed to undertake the works.

As previously reported, investigations identified movement in a section of the pool wall that requires stabilisation and realignment. The geothermal environment and significant groundwater inflows also add complexity to the construction methodology, including the need for continuous pumping while major works are undertaken. These factors have been incorporated into the final scope and project cost.

The total estimated project cost is \$145,000, including a 10% contingency, against an available renewal budget of \$100,000. As previously signalled to the Board, project investigations and the complexity of undertaking works within the geothermal environment indicated that additional funding was likely to be required. The confirmed estimate results in a funding shortfall of up to \$45,000.

The project remains focused on addressing the condition and safety of the existing facility and includes:

- replacement of the pool access steps to include double handrails
- modification of the weir outlet
- replacement of the degraded boardwalk and in-pool timber seating
- stabilisation and realignment of the affected pool wall section using a deadman anchor
- concrete existing pathways, stairs and landing areas

- installation of a handrail along the steepest section of the pathway
- provision of a modesty changing room with external cubbyholes for storage of belongings, and
- a refresh of the toilet facilities.

Construction programme and site closure

Subject to confirmation of the required funding, works are indicatively scheduled to commence late October 2026 and are expected to take approximately seven weeks, with completion targeted for pre-Christmas 2026.

Communications will be undertaken to inform the local community of the closure, and Council Customer Services and the Rotorua i-SITE will also be advised so they can respond to public enquiries. Once the works are complete and the facility is ready to reopen, this will be communicated to the community.

During construction, vehicle access to the site will be restricted and the roadway entrance blocked. This will help secure the construction site, protect the works and reduce the risk of vandalism while the site is unattended. Signage advising of the closure will be installed on the site fence.

Funding consideration

The Butchers' Pool renewal has an approved Council renewal budget of \$100,000. With the total project cost now estimated at \$145,000, including a 10% contingency, an additional \$45,000 may be required to deliver the full project scope.

Given the local importance of Butchers' Pool and the benefit of completing the renewal works as a single coordinated project, officers are seeking the Board's consideration of the following options:

Option 1: Fund the full project scope

Allocate up to \$45,000 from Rural Community Board devolved funding to meet the project shortfall and enable the full scope of works to proceed.

Option 2: Reduce the project scope and fund the remaining shortfall

Remove the proposed modesty changing room and external storage cubbies from the project scope, reducing the project cost by \$3,700, and allocate up to \$41,300 from Rural Community Board devolved funding to meet the remaining shortfall.

Option 3: Do not allocate devolved funding

Officers would be required to review and significantly reduce the project scope to align with the available budget which will affect the proposed construction programme.

Options 1 and 2 would enable the core renewal and safety works to proceed within the proposed construction programme. Option 3 would require officers to reassess and significantly reduce the scope of works to remain within the existing renewal budget, with priority given to essential renewal and safety works.

7.2 LONG-TERM PLAN 2027-2037 UPDATE

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor

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

Attachments: Nil

**1. TE PŪTAKE
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this item is to provide the Rural Community Board members an update on the Long-term Plan 2027-2037 process including a timeline for future workshops.

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the report 'Long-term Plan 2027-2037 update' be received.**

Note: A presentation will be distributed separately.

7.3 RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD 2026/27- ACTION POINTS

Doc ID:

Prepared by: Rick Dunn, Senior Governance & Democracy Advisor

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

Attachments:

1. Reporoa College - Letter of support for a school bus shelter at Waioapu
2. Rural Community Board 2026/27 - Action Points

**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 'Rural Community Board 2026/27- 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.



REPOROA COLLEGE

Massey Road
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REPOROA
NEW ZEALAND
Phone 0064 07 333-8117
e-mail: counter@reporoa.school.nz

7 October 2026

Rotorua Lakes District Council
C/- Colin Guyton
Chair, Rotorua Rural Community Board
guytonfarms@xtra.co.nz

Tēnā koutou,

Re: Support for a school bus shelter at Waiotapu

On behalf of Reporoa College, I strongly support the proposed installation of a bus shelter at Waiotapu.

Students need a safe, clearly designated and sheltered place to wait for their school bus. A shelter at Waiotapu would provide protection from rain, wind and sun, while creating a more orderly waiting area for children and greater reassurance for their whānau.

The location presents particular concerns because of the busy road environment, nearby businesses and traffic associated with the Waiotapu tourist attraction. Visiting motorists may also be unfamiliar with the road layout. The concerns raised about accidents in this area reinforce the importance of improving facilities for students waiting for transport.

A shelter would help students gather at an appropriate waiting point, provided it is positioned with suitable separation from traffic, good visibility and safe access for boarding and leaving buses. It would also benefit other community members and passengers using national bus services at this location.

We understand that an annual Department of Conservation fee, potentially between \$1,000 and \$2,000, may affect the project's ongoing affordability. Reporoa College supports a request for this fee to be waived, where possible, in recognition of the shelter's public benefit and its contribution to the safety and wellbeing of children.

This is a practical investment in the wellbeing of our rural community.

Thank you for considering our support.

Nāku noa, nā,

Matt Melvin
Principal
Reporoa College

Rotorua Rural Community Board 2026/27

Doc. No: 22583931

Action Points:

	Meeting date	Details	By who	Comments	Completed
1	21 May 2026	Devolved Funding 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. RLC 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. Action Point: 1) That the Rural Community Board and Ms Doelman investigate logistics with a view of identifying a suitable alternative site for a bus shelter.	Rachel Doelman	Under action. Report back to 15 October meeting.	

2.		2) <i>“That the Rotorua Rural Community Board send a letter to the Department of Conservation (DOC) requesting permission to install a Bus Shelter at SH5 Waiotapu on DOC Reserve land (opposite Benny Bees)”.</i> 3) <i>That a letter of support from the Reporoa College Principal and Board of Trustees is attached.”</i> 4) <i>Colin Guyton to contact Matt Melvin, Reporoa College Principal. Karen Forlong to contact Paula Crafar, Reporoa College Board of Trustees Chairperson. Cr Barker to contact Amanda Armer, Reporoa.</i> 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. 17 August 2026 Drain pool to inspect pool walls, steps & seating to determine work required. The pool has been drained, and the pool is being assessed. Council is working with a preferred	Tina Harris- Ririnui	Under action. Report back to 15 October meeting.	
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		contractor to develop a detailed construction methodology and cost estimate. Subject to final pricing and contractor procurement, construction was anticipated to commence in October 2026.			
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) Rerewhakaitu Ngakuru	Community Board / Raj	Under action. Report back to 15 October meeting.	

4.	16 July 2026	Rural Roadside Mowing & Spraying Contact other local authorities to look at cost comparisons for costs/km.	Darryl Robson	Report back to 15 October 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	
6.	17 September 2026	Devolved Funding Process Explore if devolved funding can be used for both Capital Expenditure and Operational Expenditure.	Rick/Deb/Greg	Under Action	

7.4 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. 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**

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 Mamaku, Kaharoa, Horohoro, Ngākuru, Reporoa, Rerewahakaaitu, Waikite Valley, Ātiamuri.

Applications opened on 1 September 2026 and closed 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 11 October 2026.

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.

Doc No. 23252446

RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD – DEVOLVED FUNDING SUBMISSIONS

	Name	Location of project	Description of project	Benefits	Contact	Status	Comments
1	Larissa Allen	Intersection SH5 / Maraeroa Rd / Oturoa Rd	Install CCTV	To help prevent illegal dumping & burnouts	Dean Bates/Trent Lewis, IT Infrastructure & Security Lead.	IT to provide cost estimates.	
2	Mathew Fitzgerald	Broadlands Rd / Reporoa Rd	Remove old exotic trees and plant natives along stream area.	To revitalise stream are running into Reporoa Village.	Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor. Gary Coker, Urban Forest Advisor. Amy Duckett, Community Development Team Leader.	Community Development to provide cost estimates.	
3	Mathew Fitzgerald	Settlers Rd Reporoa	Complete continuous concrete path around the village.	To allow community members to safely walk around the village.	Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor. Amy Duckett, Community Development Team Leader.	Community Development to provide cost estimates.	
4	Jamie Butler	Longview Rd Reporoa	Install a streetlight at the Birch Rd intersection	To improve safety at night.	Rob Tane, Community Development Advisor. Amy Duckett, Community Development Team Leader.	Community Development to provide cost estimates.	
5	Gareth Ramson	SH30 / SH33 Roundabout	Roadside all around this junction and roundabout is poor sight to enter Rotorua	Increase impact into Rotorua, reduce maintenance costs with long term planting, improve the	n/a	Doesn't meet criteria / NZTA State Highway	

Doc No. 23252446

			from Tauranga Whakatane directions.	spaces to detract from roadside littering.			
6	Gareth Ramson	Essendon Place Brunswick	Bike/scooter stand & Community Library trading post.	There is no park/reserve in Brunswick, so this area is a gathering place for the Brunswick Park kids.	n/a	Brunswick is in the urban area. Not in a community board area.	
7	Whitney Wilde	Mamaku Village	Replace roof on the back of the Mamaku War Memorial Hall.	To stop leaks and enable the walls to be insulated and lined so it is warmer during winter.	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.	Facilities to provide cost estimates.	
8	Lisa Tauariki	Rerewahakaaitu Rodeo Association Inc. Ash Pit Road	Construct new, fit for purpose office building & essential repairs and renovations to the rodeo arena yards & fencing, and laying driveway.	To enhance safety, event co-ordination and long-term community use. Laying a driveway will reduce mud in wet conditions providing a safe road for large horse trucks & stick trucks.	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.	RLC has no budget to build a new facility on reserve land. A hall already exists.	
9	Julie Antony	Ngākuru Community Hall	Purchase & install a Califont for the men's toilet. Purchase x70 additional chairs from Sebel: Posture Plus Onyx. (\$8,263) Sand & polyurethane hall floor. Purchase of 3-panel room dividers (x4). TSB Living (\$302.60)	To provide hot water for handwashing. To replace old chairs that don't stack well creating extra hall space. Current surface is breaking down. To replace old room dividers.	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.	Facilities to provide cost estimates.	
10	Christine Paterson	Kaharoa Community & Hall Assoc. Inc. (KCA)	1)Renovate room connected to supper room. Instal commercial fridge. (\$1,725) Install storage shelving unit. (\$280)	To create a clean fresh multipurpose room to both the main hall & support room. Which gives hall users another space to utilise for their activities.	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.	KCA have provided costs: Fridge \$1,725. Shelving \$280. Subtotal \$2,005.	

Doc No. 23252446

			2)Renovate meeting break out space (carport area) Repair downpipe & install drainage pipe. Renovate 3 wooden seating units. Line the ceiling with plywood. Permanently install existing clear wind breaks.			KCA have provided costs: Drainage pipe \$290. Carport roof \$1,904. Wood stain \$185. Secure wind break curtains \$36. Rail capping \$30. New wooden gate \$185. Hinges & bolts \$100. Plywood \$286. Seating squabs \$140. Subtotal \$3,156. TOTAL \$5.161.	
11	Keren Leslie	Reporoa Memorial Hall	1)Purchase 120 black stackable chairs. 2)Purchase portable projector \$899. Projector screen \$110. Whiteboard with easel 3)Re-carpet committee room. 4)Install lino in supper room.	To restore the facility to a safe, functional & welcoming standard to serve the wider Reporoa community	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.	Facilities to provide cost estimates. (some costs have been provided)	

Doc No. 23252446

12	Whitney Wilde	Mamaku Hall	Purchase 180 chairs - \$17,067 & 11 tables - \$1,782	To enable larger events to be held which will support the hall and the community.	Sam Martin, Manager Facility Services.		
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Submissions:

Open	- 1 September 2026	Close	- 11 October 2026
Review & evaluation	- 29 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

7.5 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. Local Water Done Well - Consultation Document

**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.

**HE TŪTOHUNGA
RECOMMENDATION**

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

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

- Community Hall Site Visit - Tina Rose & Tina Marshall
 - Feedback from the community halls site visits undertaken by board members
- Name tags for board members - Board members
- Local Waters Done Well - Cr Barker
 - Strategy to update rural community

OUR PLAN FOR OUR WATER

CHOOSING OUR FUTURE OCTOBER 2026

Help us decide the future of water services in Rotorua. Should Council continue delivering water services in-house, or move to a Multi-Council-Controlled Organisation?

**Tell us what you think
before 30 October 2026.**



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

Water is the lifeblood of the land, and the land is the sustenance of the people.



rlc.net.nz/WaterReforms

Message from the Mayor	4
Introduction	5
Water services and infrastructure at a glance	6
Background and investigation	9
Potential delivery models	11
Changes since the investigation started	12
Treaty settlement obligations and engagement with iwi and hapū	13
How we got here	14
Consultation	16
High-Level Comparison of the Preferred and Alternative Option	17
Have your say	19

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR HE KUPU NĀ TE MANUKURA

Councils across New Zealand are required to decide how they will deliver drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services in the future under the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

"For Rotorua, this decision is about more than infrastructure. Our identity is deeply connected to our lakes and waterways, and we recognise water as central to life."

We also know our community values protecting our natural and cultural heritage while ensuring services remain reliable and affordable.

Following community consultation in March 2025, Rotorua Lakes, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau councils signed a Heads of Agreement, committing to investigate the potential for a shared approach to delivering water services.

Since then, our councils have worked collaboratively to assess the options, consider the impacts for our communities and learn from the experiences of other councils to build a clearer understanding of how water services can be delivered sustainably into the future.

Our local circumstances are unique. We have long-standing relationships and commitments with iwi, hapū and Māori landowners that differ from those of our neighbouring councils. Council remains firmly committed to honouring these arrangements, which include joint water take consents, infrastructure located on gifted reserve and Māori-owned land, wastewater discharge arrangements involving Māori land, and a range of statutory, Treaty settlement and relationship-based commitments.

The investigation phase of this project is now complete and identified options that meet Government requirements while also reflecting the needs and values of our communities. In considering these options, we have looked beyond cost alone, balancing affordability with long-term financial sustainability, environmental outcomes, cultural values and regulatory requirements.

Water services will remain in-house until at least 2028, with no changes for ratepayers during this time. If a new model is adopted, services are expected to continue with minimal disruption.

The two options recommended for consultation are outlined in this document. I encourage you to carefully consider what is proposed and share your feedback to help shape the future of water services for Rotorua and future generations.

Ngā mihi



Tania Tapsell
Her Worship the Mayor of Rotorua



INTRODUCTION KUPU WHAKATAKI

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.

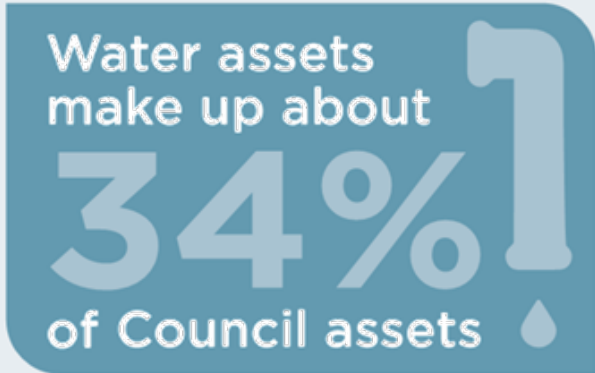
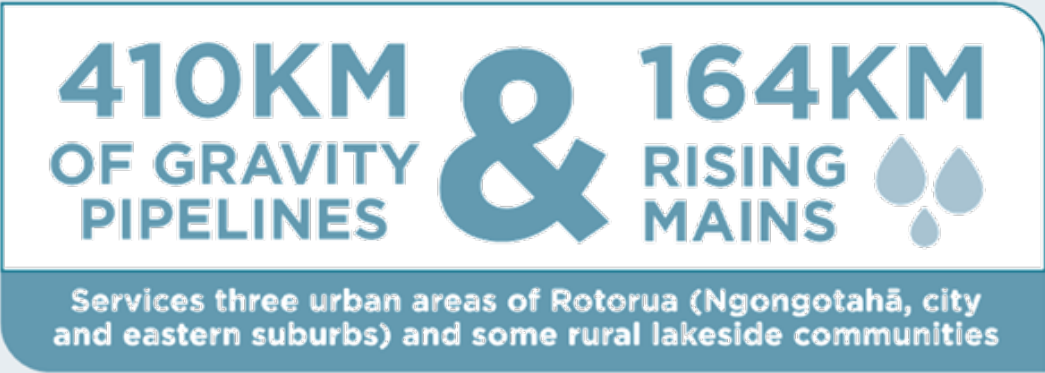
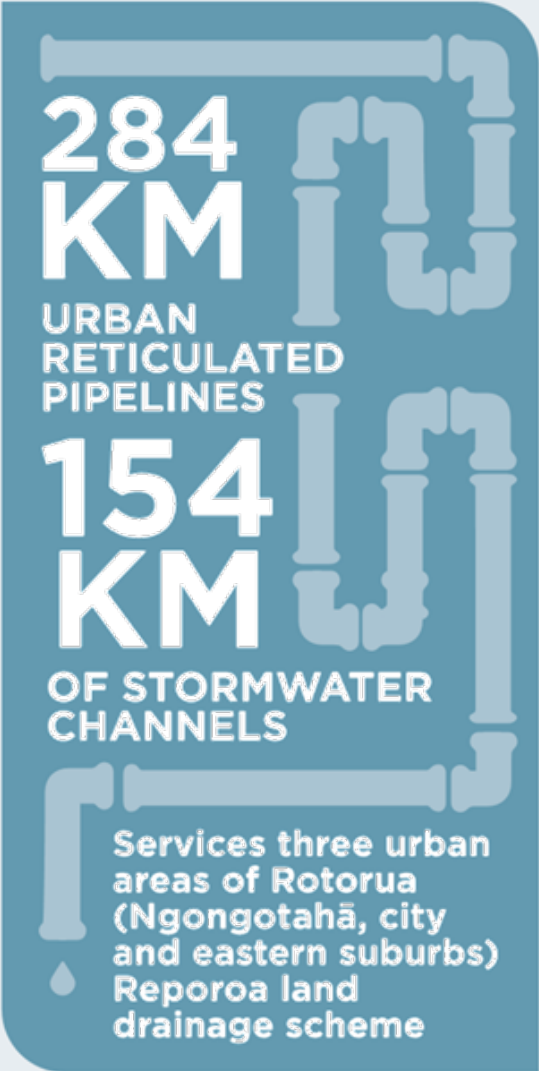
Rotorua Lakes Council is now considering options for the future delivery of water services. To support this decision, Rotorua Lakes, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau councils jointly commissioned a detailed assessment of potential service delivery models. This evaluated how different models would perform against infrastructure investment needs, regulatory requirements, service resilience, governance arrangements and long-term financial sustainability.

While each district has its own unique needs and priorities, we share a common goal: delivering safe, reliable and affordable water services that meet the expectations of our communities, comply with Government requirements, and support the long-term sustainability of our water infrastructure.

The findings of the assessment have informed Council's preferred option for the future delivery of water services. Before making a final decision in December, Council wants to hear from the community to ensure the approach best meets the needs of our district.



WATER SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
 AT A GLANCE | HE MĀTAIHANGA KI NGĀ
 RATONGA WAI ME TE TŪĀNUKU





BACKGROUND AND INVESTIGATION TE TĀHŪHŪ KŌRERO ME TE RANGAHAU

In 2025, Rotorua Lakes Council consulted with the community on its Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) as part of the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms. The WSDP outlined Council's preferred approach for the future delivery of water services and demonstrated how water services would remain financially sustainable, support ongoing infrastructure investment, and meet regulatory requirements.

Following consultation, Council resolved a multi-staged approach: to continue delivering water services through an in-house business unit until 1 July 2028. It may then be delivered by a multi-council Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO) depending on the outcome of an investigation/study, with the fall-back option being in-house.

In December 2025, Rotorua Lakes Council joined Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau district councils in a joint assessment of whether a WSCCO could deliver better long-term outcomes than each council continuing to provide water services independently. The four councils signed a Heads of Agreement to investigate the potential for a shared operating model.

A regional Waters Working Group (WWG), comprising the Mayor and two elected members from each council, was established to guide the investigation. The working group was supported by chief executives and technical staff.

Independent analysis was undertaken by advisory firm MartinJenkins, supported by independent adviser Max Baxter, former Mayor of Ōtorohanga. The work also drew on lessons from multi-council water organisations being established elsewhere in New Zealand.

The central question of the investigation was whether a joint WSCCO could deliver better outcomes than continuing with separate, in-house delivery models.

The assessment focused on the councils' shared objective of providing safe, reliable and affordable water services that meet regulatory requirements and community expectations, now and into the future.

The five workstreams of the assessment:

- strategic assessment of options against agreed objectives
- financial analysis, including 30-year modelling and assessments of the cost to provide the service
- assessment of stormwater service delivery options
- ownership, governance and representation design options
- development of a high-level implementation plan.

Strategic objectives of the 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.

Impact on remaining council operations and viability.

Council obligations to hapū and iwi are valued and honoured.

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



The challenge

Learn about the scale of water services across the four councils, sector challenges, and why change is being considered.

View the strategic objectives used to assess each option and understand what matters most when considering the future of water services.

See how the Internal Business Unit and Multi-Council-Controlled Organisation options preformed against assessment criteria, and the rationale behind the recommended option.

Explores the proposed governance and ownership arrangements, including council representation, iwi and hapū involvement, decision-making processes and accountability mechanisms.



POTENTIAL DELIVERY MODELS NGĀ MOMO HORANGA KAI Ā TĀTAU:

Each council continues to deliver water services in-house with the creation of a financially ring-fenced unit within council.

Ownership of assets and responsibility for delivering water services transfers to the WSCCO.

Responsibility for delivering water services transfers to the WSCCO but ownership of assets remains with individual councils.

*This option was discounted during the investigation as it was considered less optimal.



Summary of high level options assessment - Technical report page 45:
rlc.net.nz/WaterReforms

CHANGES SINCE THE INVESTIGATION STARTED | NGĀ MEA KUA PANONI MAI I TE TIMATANGA O TĒNEI KAUPAPA

Since councils prepared and submitted their Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) in mid-2025, the legislative and regulatory environment for water services has continued to evolve. While the direction of reform remains focused on delivering safe, reliable and financially sustainable water services, new regulatory requirements have increased expectations on water service providers.

In May 2026, the Government announced the voluntary Head Start pathway as part of its wider local government reform programme. This pathway enabled councils to submit proposals for reorganisation into larger unitary authorities. Councils that did not submit under the Head Start pathway will go into a “backstop” central Government-led reforms process. As the implications of any future local government reorganisation are uncertain and outside the scope of this investigation, they have not been considered in the assessment of water service delivery options.

At time of writing, key changes affecting water services include:

- New wastewater environmental performance standards, which are expected to require providers to make significant investment in wastewater infrastructure over time to meet regulatory requirements.
- The introduction of economic regulation by the Commerce Commission, including information disclosure requirements that increase transparency and accountability for water service providers.
- An increasingly comprehensive regulatory framework that places greater emphasis on long-term planning, asset management, financial sustainability, performance monitoring and customer outcomes.

These changes reinforce the need for councils to consider whether their preferred delivery model will be capable of meeting growing regulatory obligations, funding requirements and customer expectations over the long term.

 Refer to page 9 of the Technical report: rlc.net.nz/WaterReforms

How does Head Start impact this process?

The Government has deferred further decisions on Head Start until after November’s general election. Head Start is separate from the legislated water reforms and is being progressed under different proposed legislation. It is not yet known whether Head Start will have any impact on the water reforms.

TREATY SETTLEMENT OBLIGATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH IWI AND HAPŪ NGĀ HERENGA O NGĀ WHAKATAUNGA TIRITI ME TE WHAKAHONO KI NGĀ IWI ME NGĀ HAPŪ

The Rotorua Lakes, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki and Kawerau councils operate within a complex Treaty settlement environment, with a range of established relationships, agreements and obligations involving iwi and hapū. Some of these arrangements apply across multiple council areas, particularly where catchments, waterways and other natural resources are shared.

These obligations come from a range of sources, including Treaty settlement legislation, deeds of settlement, co-governance and joint management arrangements, statutory acknowledgements and iwi management plans. Together, they help shape how councils work with iwi and hapū on matters affecting water and the environment.

Councils engage with iwi and hapū in different ways, reflecting local circumstances, relationships and Treaty settlement arrangements. Engagement has been undertaken with iwi and will continue throughout the process. This may include through formal governance arrangements, council-iwi forums, project-specific engagement and ongoing relationship-based approaches.

While the Government is proposing changes to aspects of local government and resource management legislation, Treaty settlement obligations will continue to apply.

Councils will remain responsible for maintaining relationships with iwi and hapū and meeting their statutory obligations. If a multi-council WSCCO is established, further work will be undertaken to determine how these relationships and responsibilities will be supported under the new model, while ensuring councils can continue to meet their obligations and maintain effective partnerships with iwi and hapū.

HOW WE GOT HERE

TE AHUNGA MAI KI TĒNEI PITO

July 2028	Water services to be delivered as per Council's decision making.
9 December 2026	Council's final decision on water services delivery model.
1 – 7 November 2026	Hearings if needed.
1 – 30 October 2026	Rotorua Lakes Council community engagement and consultation. Each council is responsible for consulting with its communities.
23 September 2026	Councillors confirm preferred water services delivery model on which to consult.
January – December 2026	Investigation of joint WSCCO and engagement with iwi and hapū.
December 2025	Councils commit to a joint water services investigation. Click here
October 2025	Government accepts Council's Water Services Delivery Plan. Click here
September 2025	Councils to have developed and submitted Water Services Delivery Plans to DIA.
July 2025	Council approved a Rotorua Lakes Council Water Services Delivery Plan to be submitted for approval. Click here
June 2025	Council committed to working with willing partners to develop a potential joint water services CCO. Click here
April 2025	Community consultation alongside 2023-2024 Annual Plan (55 submissions received). Click here
March 2025	Council approved a preferred option to take out to community consultation. Click here
December 2024	Local Government (Water Services) Bill introduced to Parliament.
September 2024	Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements Act 2024) enacted and establishes the Local Water Done Well legislation. Click here
September 2024	Infrastructure and Environment Committee direct officers to develop Water Services Delivery Plan on basis of in-house model, while other options are explored.
February 2024	Repeal of previous water services legislation and Local Government (Water Services) Bill introduced to Parliament.

INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

ASSESSMENT FOR ROTORUA

Rotorua Lakes has less immediate financial pressure than the other three councils involved in the water services investigation and is better positioned to continue delivering water services in-house over the medium term. It starts from a strong compliance position, has a comparatively large asset base and customer base, and retains some capacity to fund future investment within existing arrangements.

However, the investigation shows a WSCCO would offer material long-term benefits.

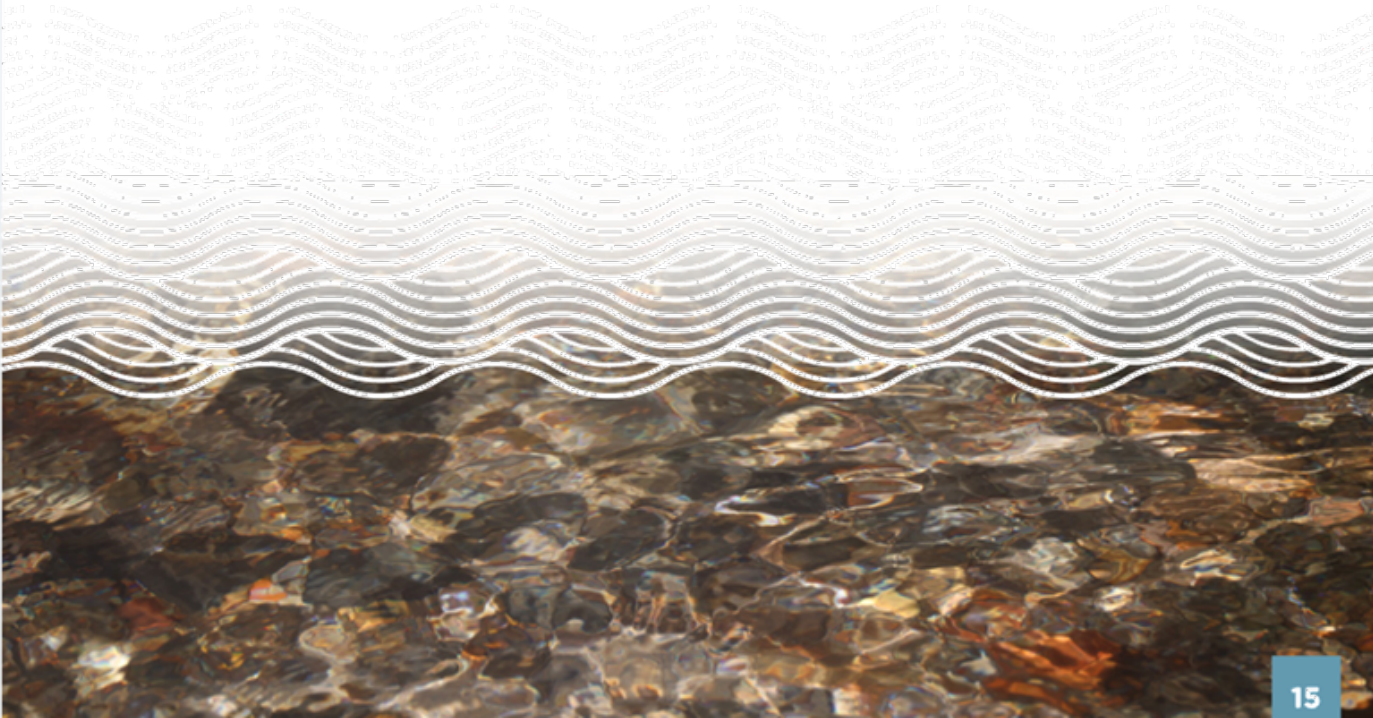
The WSCCO model would deliver Rotorua the largest per-connection savings of the four councils, with cumulative savings of about \$5,600 across Financial Years 2029-2054 (about 9%), or about \$216 a year from 2034.

Rotorua also benefits from greater financing capacity, stronger access to specialist capability and a larger council organisation better able to respond to future regulatory, resilience and workforce pressures.

The key trade-off would be the need to ensure strong coordination between the WSCCO and the wider planning environment in Rotorua, including its complex network of statutory co-governance arrangements, Treaty settlement obligations and lake-based management frameworks.

Councils and any future water organisation will need the capacity to keep tracking and responding to changes to regulations, increased competition for scarce labour, and changes in the supply chain.

 View Council's individual assessment on page 90 of the technical report: rlc.net.nz/WaterReforms



CONSULTATION
NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA UIUINGA

OPTION 1 (preferred option):

Council's preferred option is for long-term waters services delivery to remain with Rotorua Lakes Council as an in-house business unit.

Council has confidence in the strength of existing in-house programmes and strategies to continue delivering efficient, effective waters infrastructure and services to the community.

Relationships with landowners and iwi/hapu are crucial to ongoing water supply in Rotorua and Council considers these can be best protected and maintained through in-house delivery of services. There are currently two partnership agreements for access to water sources. Council holds a water take consent jointly with Ngāti Rangiwewehi for water supply from Te Puna a Pekehaua/Taniwha Springs which provides about 10% of our urban water supply and has jointly submitted an application with Ngāti Kearoa Ngāti Tuara for ongoing water take from Karamu Takina Spring which provides about 60% of our urban water supply. Council considers that consistency and certainty of these relationships is crucial and that this is best done by keeping services in-house with council.

Council notes it will be critical to ensure an in-house model remains financially sustainable and affordable but considers there will be opportunities to gain efficiencies via an in-house business unit and that an in-house unit will be able to adapt if/as needed as regulatory environments mature and/or change.

OPTION 2 (alternative option):

The other option considered by Council was to establish a multi-council water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO) with Ōpōtiki, Whākatane and Kawerau for water services delivery from July 2028, subject to those councils agreeing.

While this was the option recommended by the councils' joint working group following an investigation, Rotorua elected members had concerns about the potential erosion of local control and critical well-established relationships with landowners and iwi/hapū. The independent report from Martin Jenkins identified the WSCCO model would deliver Rotorua the largest per-connection savings of the four councils, with cumulative savings of about \$5,600 across Financial Years 2029-2054 (about 9%), or about \$216 a year from 2034.

By year 2054, water charges are expected to reach 1.6% of median household income under in-house delivery, compared with 1.3% under a WSCCO.

Under a WSCCO, water debt transfers to the entity, resulting in a modest change to Rotorua Lakes Council debt headroom.

HIGH-LEVEL COMPARISON OF THE
PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE OPTION
TE WHAKATAURITE WHĀNUI I NGĀ
KŌWHIRINGA E PAINGIA ANA ME NGĀ
KŌWHIRINGA KĒ ATU

Matter	In-house Business Unit	Multi-council WSCCO
Financial sustainability	Viable short to medium term; increasing long-term pressure	Stronger borrowing capacity and long-term investment platform
Average household impact	Achievable but requires ongoing capability and investment	Stronger scale, capability and regulatory readiness
Local control/accountability	Direct council control	Shared ownership and governance; requires strong shareholder arrangements
Iwi/landowner relationships/arrangements	Existing direct relationships and arrangements kept	Relationships and arrangements must be carefully protected and transferred/managed
Stormwater	Remains directly integrated with Council unless altered	Inclusion requires clear interfaces with land use, transport, planning and emergency management
Implementation risk	Lower structural change; higher long-term capability risk	Higher transition risk; stronger long-term scale benefits
Reversibility	Easier to continue	Harder once assets/functions transferred



HAVE YOUR SAY
 KŌRERO MAI

Overview:

No matter which option we choose, water costs are likely to rise nationwide to meet higher quality standards and future challenges. We want your feedback on how you think our water services could best be managed.

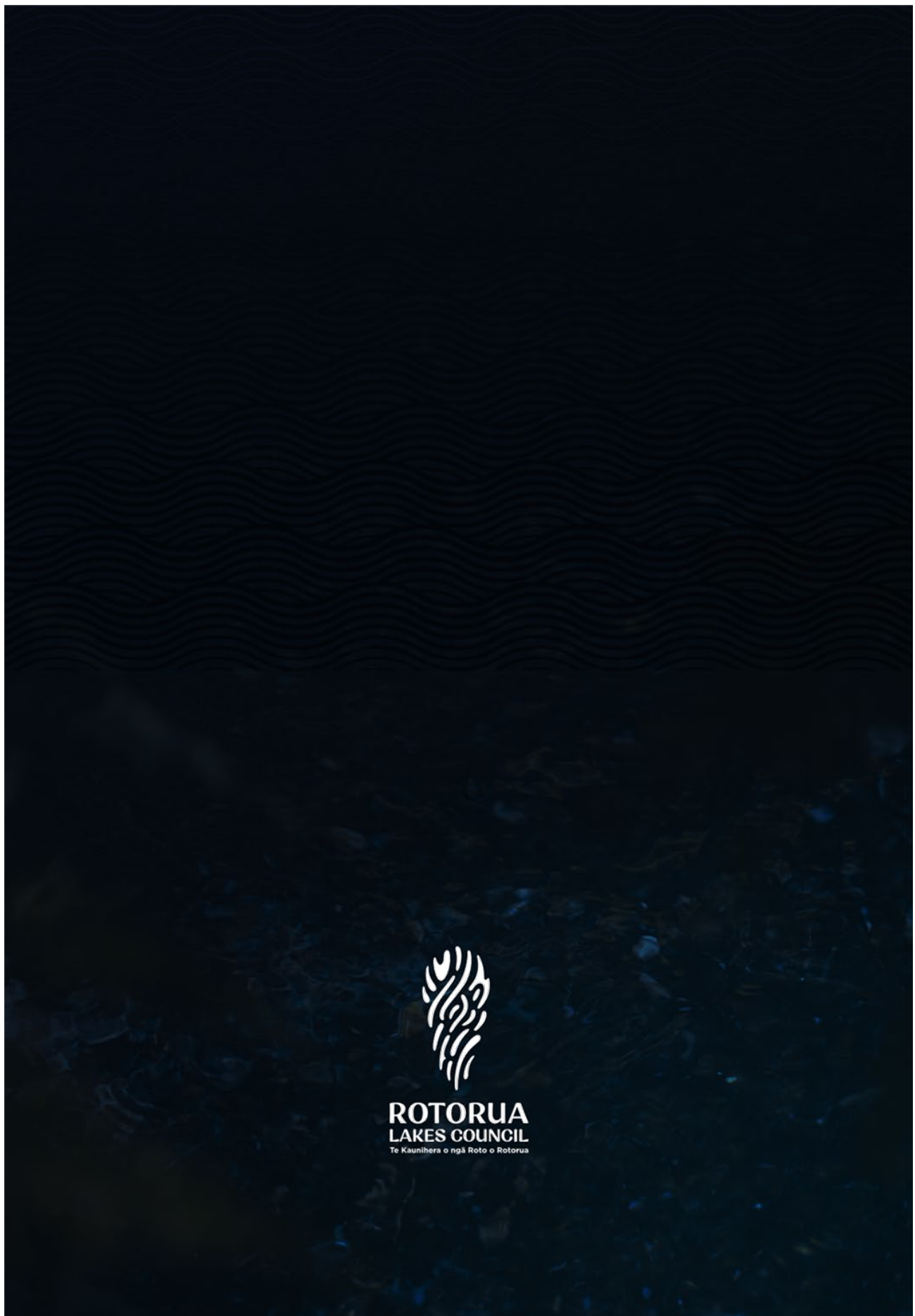
Timeline:

1 October	Community consultation opens
6 October	Drop in information session, 1pm – 2pm, Te Aka Mauri, Ground Floor
17 October	Whakaue Whakanuia Information Stall, Saturday 17 October, 9am – 1pm, Waiteti Marae
20 October	Lakes Community Board Hui, 1pm – 3pm, Rotorua Lakes Council Civic Centre, Committee Room 1
22 October	Drop in Session, 11am – 12pm, Te Aka Mauri, Ground Floor
30 October	Community consultation closes
1 – 7 November	Hearings if required
9 December	Council’s final decision on water services delivery model

There are various ways you can provide feedback for the Council to consider in its decision-making:

- Go online to: rlc.net.nz/WaterReforms and QR code
- Send your submission or feedback to Rotorua Lakes Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, DX Mailbox number (JX 10503), Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
- Drop off a submission or feedback to our Customer Centre at 1061 Haupapa Street
- Email us at participate@rotorualc.nz with the subject line ‘Local Water Done Well’
- Leave a comment on Local Water Done Well Facebook posts related to Local Water Done Well on [@rotorualakescouncil](https://www.facebook.com/rotorualakescouncil) this will be captured and collated as informal feedback
- Phone us on 07 348 4199 (8am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)
- Talk to us at one of our community events listed above.





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