

14 December 2023

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Tarawera Sewerage Scheme Stage 2 – Community Feedback and Actions

Tēnā koutou,

Since our last update (7 December), the Infrastructure and Environment Committee met (12 December) and we'd like to share the outcomes and decisions from that meeting.

At the 6 September meeting, the Committee noted some community concerns before fully endorsing the scheme's Stage 2 implementation and paused finalising and awarding the openly tendered for contract until a community update was undertaken and further feedback was sought on key aspects of Stage 2. That community feedback has since been received and reported to the Committee – thank you for your response.

Elected members were updated on the results of the October 2023 feedback which, according to a rounded summary of general position, showed 75% of respondents wish to be included in the Council-led installation of Stage 2 of the scheme and do not support self-installation or want to explore this.

The Committee also received a Tarawera Sewerage Scheme petition requesting that Stage 2 of the Scheme is put on hold pending a final and fixed setting of the targeted rate for the whole scheme (Stage 1 and 2), being agreed with Tarawera property owners.

A letter from the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association was also received and tabled which noted their support of the Rotorua Lakes Council's led installation of the scheme (publicly owned) on property systems for Stage 2 of the reticulation scheme and their concerns that a delay to the implementation of the scheme would likely drive more costs when the community is seeking certainty. The Association's letter also sought Council support for equitable funding balance once the scheme nears practical completion.

Actions:

- Committee agreed to give effect to its resolution (6 September 2023) to proceed towards a contract with the preferred Stage 2 tenderer.
- Contractor mobilisation mid-2024, aligning with the operational need for Stage 1 to be completed before on-property systems are installed, tested, connected and commissioned.
- Setting the final targeted rate for the scheme will be deliberated by Council at the appropriate time and at Council's Funding Policy discretion under their statutory authority.

- Council will not strike an actual capital targeted rate at least until the year 2025/26 when the scheme is expected to be substantially completed with the capital targeted rate not starting until Scheme is complete.

You can view the full public meeting agenda and presentation at this link on Council's website: www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/meetings. The meeting was livestreamed and can be watched on Council's YouTube channel: [Infrastructure and Environment Committee – 12 December 2023](#).

Lastly, I want to acknowledge iwi and the community for the continued support in progressing the works of Tarawera. Keep safe and keep well and we'll be in touch in the New Year.

Ngā manaakitanga,



Stavros Michael

GM Infrastructure & Environment