

10 May 2024

Doc No: 20289955

**Subject: Information letter about the Locality Plan**

Tēnā koutou,

As you will be aware, following various stages of community consultation, and in accordance with its role and responsibilities under the Local Government Act, Rotorua Lakes Council has made the decision to implement a reticulated sewerage scheme for the Tarawera area of benefit.

In giving effect to the above decision to construct the scheme, Council publicly called for tenders to construct the scheme in two stages. Stage 1 (3 pump stations and pressure sewer network in public property) is progressing well and due for completion in October 2024. Stage 2 (installation and commissioning of on-property grinder pump units and pipework) was awarded to DDL contractors, who are undertaking the preliminary work necessary for construction to commence.

DDL's role is to engage with property owners, agree details of the on-property work, obtain building consents, and then construct, commission and connect the property to the new network, and as part of that process their representatives will discuss the proposed work with you and request your signature on a Locality Plan.

We understand some property owners have reservations about signing Locality Plans – this letter is to help you understand the Locality Plan, what your signature implies, and its importance to the scheme's progress.

**What is a Locality Plan?**

A Locality Plan is a map showing the location of the works to be carried out (in this case, location of your on-property system) and to record the owner's agreement for the Council assets to be built where shown.

**Why do we need to sign off on Locality Plans and what does your signature mean?**

Signing of the Locality Plan records owners' consent to the construction, its location, any Heritage NZ investigations necessary, and acknowledges there could be some location changes if required.

The construction of the assets and its connection to the house plumbing requires building consent. This signed owner permission on the Locality Plan is a necessary part of the building consent application process. **Delays to Locality Plan signing will delay the system installation process.**

**Signing the Locality Plan is not relevant to a person's agreement (or non-agreement) with the principles of the scheme, nor to any commitment to the payment of targeted capital or operational rates for the scheme.** The requirement to connect to the scheme and to pay rates already exist in legislation and as a result of the decision-making processes followed by Council pursuant to that.

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**What will I pay?**

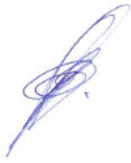
Under Council's existing funding policy as described in the draft 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, the total cost of designing, managing, constructing, and commissioning the infrastructure needed for the scheme is to be recovered from property owners within the scheme area as a targeted capital rate.

The amount of the targeted rate set by Council will depend on the total cost to construct the scheme, less any external or Council subsidies that may apply. Council will not strike an actual capital targeted rate until at least the year 2026 when the scheme is expected to be substantially completed and the actual costs are known. Until that time the rate is unknown. The capital targeted rate will not apply until the scheme is complete.

Please be assured that the Council and contractors are doing their best to complete the scheme as efficiently as possible, with minimum delay and at the lowest possible cost. **In this respect, we are conscious that additional work by the contractor and/or Council in obtaining signed Locality Plans can create additional costs to the scheme, which we hope to avoid.**

If you have any questions regarding the scheme or this letter, please contact Rotorua Lakes Council at [TaraweraSS@rotorualc.nz](mailto:TaraweraSS@rotorualc.nz) or phone 07 348 4199. For arrangements regarding the site visit and the proposed work itself, please contact DDL directly - Hamish Stewart 027 235 0967 or [hamish@ddl.nz](mailto:hamish@ddl.nz).

Ngā manaakitanga,

**Gerhard Mostert**

Senior Project Manager, Infrastructure  
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