

2015 Progress Report Towards Our 2016 Priorities



Tatau Tatau We Together

COUNCIL MEETING ITS COMMITMENTS



This council worked to develop a clear new future for Rotorua. We have created community leadership of our new strategies through portfolios. We do this by working innovatively and outside traditional delivery mechanisms.

Our Council has been reshaped to be more effective and responsive and our work programmes now align with the 2030 Vision. This progress report tells you of how we are tracking against the agreed priorities towards 2016.

Hon Steve Chadwick JP
Rotorua Mayor

Sustainable Economic Growth

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Dave Donaldson

- Tourism sector increasingly popular recording 3.5 million visitor nights and \$593 million visitor expenditure in 2015, up from 3.2 million visitor nights and \$468 million visitor expenditure in 2014 and well on the way to its \$1 billion goal.
- Increasing levels of investment across a range of industry sectors including the recently announced \$24 million by Central Government for critical improvements to Te Ngae Road.
- District Plan becomes operational providing business and residential certainty.

Sustainable Living

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Janet Wepa

- Decision made to provide kerbside recycling and refuse wheeline bins
- Rotorua Healthy Homes Group and EECA in partnership deliver heavily subsidised insulation to improve the warmth of our housing stock.
- Neighbourhood Reinvigoration projects underway with Ngapuna and Western Heights communities to improve the local environment.
- Council becomes signatory of UN Global Compact – Cities Programme.
- Out of the Forest wastewater solution conversations continue with regard to the preferred option and preferred location.

Sport and Recreation

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Charles Sturt

- Rotorua Sport and Recreation Strategy to set the direction for sport and recreation in Rotorua completed.
- Spaces and Places review underway to identify gaps between current and future sport and recreation infrastructure requirements.
- Council supports Mamaku community to develop new youth space.
- Urban Cycling Strategic Plan completed and Cyway routes under construction.

Creative Communities

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Trevor Maxwell

- Creative Strategy written and approved in consultation with the community to provide a strategic focus for the three practice areas of Performing Arts, Visual Arts and the Creative Industries.
- Rotorua Museum experiences a 30 percent increase in local patronage.
- Children's Art House opens Easter 2016.

Inner City Revitalisation

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Karen Hunt

- City Focus consultation completed and refresh underway.
- Night Market extended to meet demand.
- Approval to proceed with Library and Child Health Hub.
- Inner City Revitalisation Strategy underway.
- Block Champions identified to boost involvement.

People

PORTFOLIO LEAD:
Cr Merepeka Raukawa-Tait

- Te Tatau o Te Arawa Board formed to establish an enduring partnership and meet council's statutory obligation.
- Positive Ageing Rotorua working group established and working in partnership with council.
- Community grants worth \$50,000 per annum distributed to 38 recipient community organisations for the next three years.
- Your Choice: 2016 Election Review underway to determine the future look of council, final decision pending.

ROTORUA 2030 GOALS

- A resilient community...
He hāpori pūmanawa...
- Homes that match needs...
Kāinga noho kainga haumaruru...
- Outstanding places to play...
Papa whakatipu...
- Vibrant city heart...
Waahi pūmanawa...
- Business innovation and prosperity...
Whakawhanake pākihi...
- Employment choices...
He huarahi hōu...
- Enhanced environment...
Tiakina to taio...



PORTFOLIO PROGRESS

2016 PRIORITY: Develop a vibrant city heart that attracts people and activity

Few empty shops

- ▲ In 2015 there were 82 vacant retail shops, down from 87 in 2014 and 85 in 2013.
- ▲ In 2015 there was 13,212m² vacant retail space, down from 18,773m² in 2014 and 19,918 m² in 2013.

People on our streets

- ▲ There was a 6.6% increase in pedestrians along Tutanekei Street in 2015 following a 12% increase in 2014.

Optimistic retailers

- ▲ Business confidence in local general business conditions increased to 37% from 25% in 2013 and 2014.

More diverse use of our inner city

- ▲ Night market extended over two city blocks.
- ▲ A second free daytime parking area for campervans and motorhomes set up at the Rotorua lakefront.
- ▲ Green corridor links existing cycleways to the east and west of Rotorua.

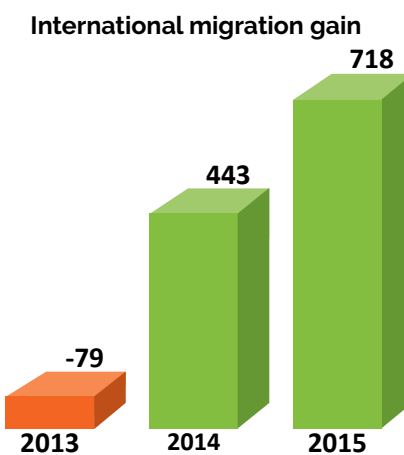
Viewed as an exciting and safe place to live, work and visit

- ▲ Every year from 2003 to 2013 net international migration to Rotorua had been negative. In 2014 net international migration increased by 443 and in 2015 Rotorua experienced a further 718 increase.

- ▼ In 2015 94% of residents were very/fairly satisfied with the appearance and cleanliness of Rotorua's city centre. This is up from 93% in 2014. Satisfaction was 94% in 2013.

- ▼ In 2015 86% of local residents felt very safe or safe in the inner city during the day. This is up from 84% in 2014 but down on 88% in 2013.

- ▲ In 2015 32% of local residents felt very safe or safe in the inner city during the night. This is up from 26% in 2014 and from 30% in 2013.



2016 PRIORITY: Develop our economic base by growing existing and attracting new businesses to our region

Reduced unemployment

- ▶ In 2015 the unemployment rate in Rotorua was 6.8%, up slightly from 6.7% in 2014 and down from 10.7% in 2013.
- ▲ In 2015 the number of people on the jobseekers benefit decreased to 3,366 from 3,503 people in 2014 and 3,418 in 2013.

Increased household income

- ▲ Household income before tax has increased from \$1,530 in 2013 to \$1,580 in 2014 and \$1,620 in 2015.

New and different businesses

- ▲ In 2015 new businesses that opened or were in the process of opening included the Redwoods Treewalk tourism activity, Lumbercube wood processing, Rotorua by Segway tourism activity and the CGML Group development of the Zen building into a 4 star hotel.

An increasingly attractive investment environment

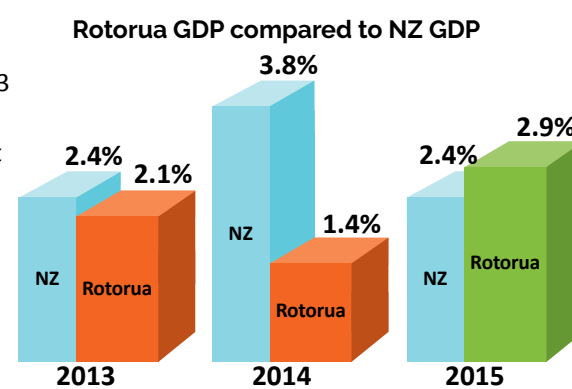
- ▲ Rotorua's GDP increased by 2.9% in 2015, 1.4% in 2014 and 2.1% in 2013. This compares to New Zealand's GDP increase of 2.4% in 2015, 3.8% in 2014 and 2.4% in 2013.
- ▲ In 2015 electronic card spend increased by 4.6% which compares favourably to a 2.6% increase for New Zealand. Electronic card spend increased by 4.2% in 2014, whereas New Zealand growth was 1.2%.
- ▼ Commercial building consents decreased from \$55.6m of value in 2013 to \$27.8m in 2014 and then increased to \$46.8m in 2015.

New jobs

- ▶ New job data for 2015 is not yet available however in 2013 there was a net increase of 520 jobs and in 2014 a net increase of 450 jobs.

Higher skilled workforce

- ▶ No new census data is available for 2015.



2016 PRIORITY: Support reinvigorated neighbourhoods and the creation of healthy homes

Homes are insulated and affordable to heat

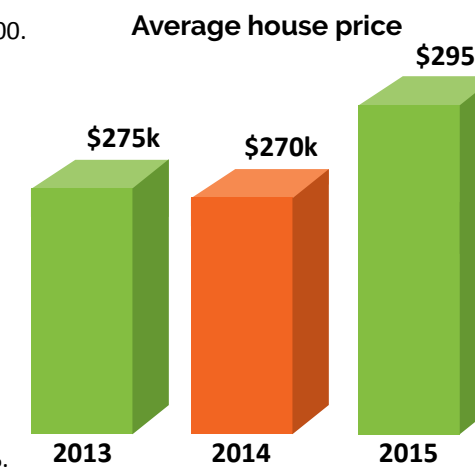
- ▲ In partnership with EECA, 523 houses were insulated in 2015 which is in addition to the 469 houses insulated in 2014 and 530 in 2013.

Growth in property prices

- ▲ The average house price in Rotorua increased by 9.3% in 2015 to \$295,000. This is an increase from \$270,000 in 2014 and \$275,000 in 2013.

Residential building consents reflect growth in new builds and refurbishment

- ▼ In Rotorua the value of residential building consents increased slightly from 2014 to 2015 by \$0.1m, while overall in New Zealand building consents increased 10%. In 2014 the value in Rotorua increased by 28% while New Zealand increased by 20%.



Key

- ▲ Good progress
- ▶ Some progress
- ▼ No evidence of progress



2016 PRIORITY: Sustainable infrastructure and affordable, effective council services

A sustainable 30 year infrastructure plan

- ▲ A 30 year infrastructure plan was developed in 2015 and formed the basis for council's capital spending within its long term plan.

Evidenced ability to manage and repay debt

- ▼ From 2007 to 2013 council debt doubled from \$75m to \$158m.
- ▲ In the 2014/15 year \$1.2m of debt was repaid.
- ▲ It is forecast that in 2016 the level of debt will be lower than what was approved in the long term plan.

Rates are within affordable levels

- ▼ In 2015 there was a one off 7% rate increase to ensure activities are funded correctly for the future.
- ▲ Future rate rises are projected to increase at the rate of local government inflation.

Transparent, trusted financial management

- ▲ A clean audit opinion was achieved in 2015.
- ▲ Reports on the council's organisational and financial position and is available to the public monthly through the operations and monitoring committee.

Affordable, cost-effective and valued council services

- ▼ In 2015 71% of Rotorua residents were very/fairly satisfied with the way rates were spent on services and facilities, down from 72% in 2014 and 75% in 2013.
- ▲ In 2015, 13 of council's 21 services had a better satisfaction rating than the previous year. This is up from 6 in 2014 and 4 in 2013.

Satisfaction with 21 council services compared to previous year

