

January 2018

PROGRESS ON PROPOSED TARAWERA SEWERAGE SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

An investigation to establish a sewerage scheme for the Tarawera community is underway. The Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee, which was set up in 2016, is exploring a feasible system that will best serve the community that can be implemented in an affordable way, with help from funding secured by the committee. This update will explain what the committee has done so far, what sewerage scheme options are available, the funding that's been sourced and also aims to address concerns you may have about this project.

Most homes in the area use domestic septic tank systems with varying forms of disposal. These will require significant upgrades to meet the Bay of Plenty's Onsite Effluent Plan and improve the health of the lake, which both iwi and the community want to achieve through a suitable sewerage scheme to help enhance the mauri (life essence) of the lake for future generations.

WHO ARE WE?

Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee (LTSSC) is made up of 20 community representatives, key stakeholders, iwi, land trusts, Rotorua Lakes Council, Regional Council and Tarawera Ratepayers Association. It is independently chaired by Glenn Snelgrove.

OUR TASK:

- Investigate and recommend the most appropriate wastewater disposal option to the community and Rotorua Lakes Council
- The final recommendation must be sustainable and help to improve the health of Lake Tarawera

OUR FINDINGS:

- We have been presented with evidence that septic tanks contribute to the increased nitrogen (N), phosphorus(P) and E-coli (disease causing bacteria) discharged into the lake causing water quality deterioration
 - Lake Tarawera water is unsafe to drink but safe to swim in
- Looked at ways to achieve a reticulated wastewater scheme; and
- Identified five possible and viable wastewater options

WHAT ARE THE FIVE OPTIONS?

1. A Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) system located on your property. A STEP system is a 3800 litre septic tank with a filter and pump inside the tank. The filtered effluent is pumped through pressure pipes to a local Wastewater Treatment Plant and the solids remain in the system, which have to be removed periodically.
2. A STEP system where the filtered effluent is pumped to Ōkāreka and on to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant.
3. A Low Pressure Grinder Pump (LPGP) would be located on your property to pump all the waste to a local Wastewater Treatment Plant.

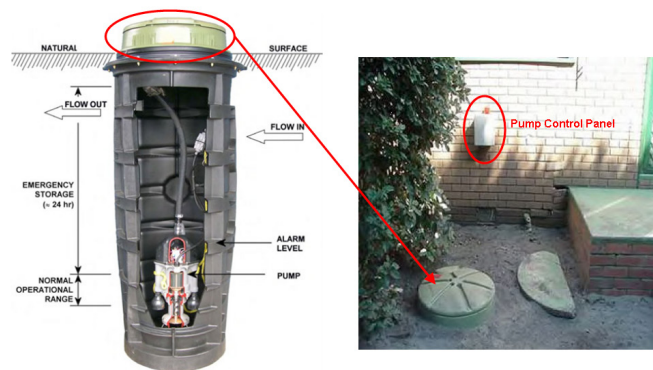


4. A Low Pressure Grinder Pump that pumps the waste to Ōkāreka and then on to the Rotorua Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- At this stage, the committee is leaning towards this option.
- Of all options, it appears to best meet our objects; more environmentally friendly, affordable and cultural aspirations.

5. If no decision is made to have a community reticulation system, then each individual property owner would need to:

- Install an Aerated Wastewater Treatment System with Nutrient Reducing capabilities (AWTS+NR), which is also referred to as OSET (Onsite Effluent Treatment) system. The wastewater from this system would be discharged to a soil soakage system. This system would be an improvement in performance over septic tanks but would not fully remove the N and P from the catchment. It would also require a reasonable amount of land for disposal of the effluent.
- This option may cost each property owner up to \$20,000 and is not eligible for subsidy.
- Not all properties will be able to accommodate one of these systems because of land slope and stability, available space, proximity to ground water and unsuitable soils. Property owners in this category would need to apply for a resource consent which would seek to mitigate the effects of the discharge.
- This is our least favoured option.



FUNDING

The options range from about \$15m to \$19m in cost. This translates into a cost per property of about \$40k. The good news is that we have received subsidies from the Rotorua Lakes Council of \$1,500 per property and \$6.5m from the Freshwater Fund administered by the Ministry of the Environment. This support would significantly reduce costs for each property to about \$18,000+GST.

Further down the track, we will outline options for payment which will include putting it on your rates bill or making a lump sum payment. Once we have settled on a preferred option and finalised the grants and subsidies, we will be in a position to bring back firmer costings.

LATEST REPORTS

The committee will consider the information from two reports, which we encourage you to look at:

- **The Cultural Impact Assessment Report (CIA)**
 - Prepared by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT)
 - It identifies tribal connections to the area, environmental and cultural concerns and recommends solutions
 - You can read the full CIA report at: <https://goo.gl/kWA4os>
- **The Suitability of On-Site Effluent Treatment (OSET) systems report**
 - Prepared by Bay of Plenty Regional Council
 - It highlights the current wastewater disposal methods, land required for wastewater disposal and reports on the Lake Tarawera landscape and soil geology
 - You can read the full report here: <https://goo.gl/U7GF7M>

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

We warmly welcome you to a community meeting at 11:30 a.m. on 14 January, 2018 at the new community hall on Alexander Road, Lake Tarawera (the old Play Centre) where you can find out more about the scheme.

This hui (meeting) will follow the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association Annual General meeting (at the same venue) that starts at 10:00 a.m., which you are also invited to attend.

If you have any questions about the scheme or the AGM on the same day, please feel free to contact committee members:

Glenn Snelgrove (Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee Chair):

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Libby Fletcher (Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association):

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**ROTORUA
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