

Increased Parking Meter Fees

Council has signalled an increase in parking meter fees, bringing in a new rate of \$1.00 per hour in the 2004/05 financial year. Meter fees have not increased for around a decade and the new rates will bring Rotorua in line with many other comparable New Zealand cities. The higher parking fees are expected to encourage an increased level of vehicle turnover at meters and therefore make parking spaces more readily available. any additional revenue from this increase will be used to cover the costs of parking provision and city street operations and maintenance. Residents will still be able to utilise the parking building in Pukuatua Street at the existing rate of .50c per hour.

Rotorua Energy Events Centre

Council has allocated \$4m to the fundraising programme for the development of the new Rotorua Energy Events Centre at the existing Sportsdrome site. Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust has already committed \$10m to this project and Council is using a professional fundraising company to help secure the balance of funding required to construct a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose indoor event venue.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Community Leadership

- Reviewing Maori representation on Council
- Sharing services with other councils
- Developing Destination Rotorua concept
- Surveying community on council performance
- Assessing all Council policies from Maori perspective

Economic

- Achieving sustained district growth
- Increasing tourism marketing and planning
- Developing trans-Tasman tourist market
- Assisting the film industry
- Building Rotorua's national and international profile
- Supporting retail promotion for Rotorua

Social and Cultural

- Library expansion
- Museum/Art Gallery extensions
- Pensioner housing redevelopment
- Making CBD safer for everyone
- New Rotorua Energy Events Centre
- Developing Westbrook Park
- Aquatic Centre further developments
- Kuirau Park upgrade
- Lakefront wharf developments
- Maintaining high quality event venues
- Cemetery expansion
- Ensuring continued access to Tokorangi Forest
- New synthetic turf hockey facility
- Improvements to race course

Environmental

- Developing action plans for lakes
- Land and water quality regulations and bylaws
- Monitoring quality of the environment
- Expanded animal pound facility

Infrastructural

- Tauranga Direct Road – state highway upgrade
- Developing landfill as energy source
- Waste water treatment schemes for a number of settlements
- Upgrading city waste water treatment plant
- Maintaining high quality district roads network
- Rotorua engineering lifelines project
- Increasing parking meter fees
- Major airport developments