

# VISION 2030 | The Rotorua Way

## Economic monitor shows Rotorua momentum continues

New Infometrics data shows Rotorua's GDP increased 3.9% in 2016 and Mayor Steve Chadwick says the district is well placed to continue making the most of the improved economic conditions.

All indicators used for the report were positive for Rotorua.

"It shows there is ongoing interest and investment and underlines the importance of forward planning like the current Vision 2030 refresh to the district's ongoing success," the mayor says.

Rotorua GDP growth last year was the same as for the Bay of Plenty as a whole, compared with a 3.2% increase for New Zealand.

### From the report:

- > Rotorua GDP +3.9% in 2016 (BOP 3.9%, NZ 3.2%)
- > Traffic +5.4% to record levels (BOP 7.6%, NZ 4.5%)
- > House prices +27% (putting pressure on rental market)

- > Housing pressure also impacted by strong population growth + people moving from e.g. Auckland + net international migration
- > Retail trade up 6.2% (BOP 6.9%, NZ 2.9%)
- > Visitor spend in 2016 a record \$770m, up 6.6% on 2015 (international up 5.5% to \$370m, domestic up 7.7% to \$399m)
- > Guest nights up 7.7% (BOP 8.5%, NZ 6.2%)
- > Strong job growth – top contributors accommodation & food, transport, postal & warehousing, agriculture, forestry, public admin, manufacturing
- > Building sector struggling to find both skilled and unskilled workers
- > Unemployment at 5.8% (BOP 5%, NZ 5.1%)
- > Residential consents +30% (BOP 33%, NZ 10%), non-residential +42% (BOP -1.4%, NZ +1.7%)
- > House sales up 23% (BOP -0.4%, NZ -0.03%)

View the full Infometrics Report at:  
[rotorualakescouncil.nz/surveysandreports](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz/surveysandreports)

## i-Site work moves to clock tower

Rotorua i-Site and Visitor Centre manager Graham Brownrigg checks out progress on earthquake strengthening work which has moved to the historic clock tower with work in the foyer completed. The refurbishment will include a café, due to open late October. The i-Site clock and bells have been stopped to protect them while work is underway in the tower. That is expected to be finished in early May.

*Rotorua i-Site and Visitor Centre manager Graham Brownrigg in the tower end of the building.*



## Council operating result improves

January has seen a small improvement in Council's financial operating result with the overall shortfall against budget reducing from \$599,000 to \$457,000.

Overall, Council expects to end the financial year \$1.3m behind budget due to loss of revenue and costs associated with the closure in November of Rotorua Museum.

Council's financial performance for the seven months ended 31 January was reported at last week's Operations and Monitoring Committee meeting.

Capital expenditure is forecast to end the year \$4.4m over budget due to the unbudgeted

purchase of previously leased off-site museum storage and \$3m of funding set aside for next year for the library building upgrade being pulled forward into this financial year because the project is progressing ahead of schedule.

Meanwhile, sale of surplus properties is ahead of budget and expected to generate an additional \$3m which will be used to offset additional capital spend, leaving a further \$1.4m to find and likely to be received through further property sales.

No increase in borrowing is anticipated this financial year.

## In Brief

- > Inflows into Rotorua's wastewater treatment plant will remain high for a few days following the weekend's rainfall but are within the plant's capacity. On Saturday high volumes of rainwater getting into the city's sewerage system and going through the treatment plant caused an overflow from a pond at the plant from which treated wastewater is pumped to the forest. The overflow entered the Puarenga Stream. An investigation will be undertaken. For more information go to [rotorualakescouncil.nz](http://rotorualakescouncil.nz)
- > Council has partnered with Western Heights Community Association to complete the Youth Spaces Plus programme across the district with a governance group being established to support these communities.
- > The learner pool at the Aquatic Centre is closed this week to enable non-slip lining to be extended. Swim classes are being accommodated in other pools at the centre.
- > Work is underway renewing signs and structures and repairing boat ramps at district reserves. Service levels, including janitorial services, are also being reviewed and following engagement with boat ramp users at Rotoiti, the Lakes Community Board is looking at options to reduce summer congestion at key sites.
- > De-sexing of high-risk dogs continues to be met with a positive response from most local dog owners. To date 90 of 147 dogs identified (61%) have been de-sexed or euthanised and a seizure and de-sexing programme is beginning for the remaining (about 57) identified dogs.
- > 1180 children are enrolled for Aquatic Centre learn to swim classes for term one while up to 2500 will benefit from free or low-cost swimming lessons this year thanks to grants worth \$57,000 from BayTrust and Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust.
- > Discussions are underway with a preferred contractor for construction of the Hemo Gorge roundabout sculpture. The successful tenderer will be announced when the contract is finalised.
- > Council is looking at ways to entice inner city property owners to spruce up their buildings and incorporate Rotorua's Wood First Policy.

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