

Public to have input into Rotorua roading upgrades

Work on a \$24 million NZTA roading package for Rotorua city's eastern and central roading corridors, including Te Ngae Rd, is scheduled to start next year.

Rotorua Lakes Council and NZTA (New Zealand Transport Agency) have been working together on roading solutions for the city and will continue collaborating to identify further improvements needed to our roads.

The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback about what's proposed for the eastern and central corridors within the next two months with details about this currently being finalised.

The proposals for public feedback which includes options for the Tarawera roundabout which will be resealed by the end of March as part of NZTA's current resurfacing programme.

Public feedback on future roading options will be considered before the options are finalised for the NZTA Board's consideration and decision-making.

Investigations and development of options for the roading corridors is part of future-proofing the city's transport network to support economic growth and development, increasing roading capacity and improve safety.

For an overview of the \$24m roading package for Rotorua go to www.nzta.govt.nz (go to projects and Connect Rotorua where you will also find NZTA's most recent Rotorua-related newsletter which was issued in November 2016).

Resurfacing

Resurfacing has been carried out at three sites along State Highway 5 (Otonga Road) between Hillcrest Road and Springfield Road.

Resurfacing of Tarawera roundabout and approaches is due to be completed by the end of March.

Information about Council's roading reseals and roading capital works programme for the 2016/17 financial year can be found on Council's website – search "roading".

Annual Plan sessions continue

Discussions to provide direction for Rotorua Lakes Council's 2017/18 Draft Annual Plan continue this week.

Elected members have had several annual plan sessions covering a variety of work programmes, projects, challenges and issues.

Annual plans are the mechanism for delivering Council's long-term plan, identifying activities that will be delivered, the resources to deliver them and how they will be funded. The public will be able to have their say before the plan is finalised. The approved plan will be adopted by Council at the end of June.

One topic which has come up for discussion for potential inclusion in the Draft Annual Plan is how to deal with increasing numbers of homes being rented out as holiday accommodation (such as those on BookaBach and AirBnB) and protect the public from any potential negative impacts.

The issue is complex and is one other councils have also been dealing with in recent years. The challenge is to come up with a solution that is fair and reasonable and council staff have started looking at what options are available, elected members have been told.



Decisions from yesterday's full Council meeting

Rotorua retailers will have the option of opening for business on Easter Sunday from this year.

An Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy which will enable local retailers to trade on Easter Sunday if they wish has been adopted by the full Council.

The policy can be viewed on Council's website at rotorualakescouncil.nz/policies

Yesterday, the Council also appointed Councillor Mark Gould as the Council representative on the Rural Community Board; approved a Draft Digital Strategic Plan for community distribution and discussion; passed a recommendation to replace the Rotorua Youth Council with a new youth engagement model which will coordinate collaboration with community-led youth programmes; approved the purchase of a technology van to complement Rotorua Library's mobile library services.

