

NEW PARTNERSHIP WILL UNLOCK HUGE POTENTIAL



Mayor Steve Chadwick

Having a more effective relationship with iwi is crucial for our district and after Council's decision this week to adopt a new Te Arawa partnership model, I'm looking forward to getting the new structure in place and functioning.

Change is not always comfortable but I believe this partnership will unlock huge potential in this district.

While we're not the first council to have Maori representatives, with

voting rights, sitting at the committee table, we had our own approach to how we went about it. We asked Te Arawa what would work for them.

We asked Te Arawa to come to us with a model they felt would provide them with the level of participation and contribution they wanted and we then put that out to our community for feedback.

The process involved in getting us to this week's decision has been a lengthy one and it

was challenging and at times unpleasant and difficult. But we were heartened by the community's willingness to come forward and have their say and we've listened.

This council made a commitment to improving its relationship with Maori and we will make this model work because we are all - Council, Te Arawa and the community at large - working towards the same thing - a better Rotorua.

Mayor Steve Chadwick

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TE ARAWA PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Go to Rotorua Lakes Council website and click on the Te Arawa Partnership Model link on the homepage to view:

- Video coverage of the 26 May Extraordinary Council meeting;
- The agenda and minutes for the meeting;
- Information and background about the Te Arawa partnership proposal;
- Submissions received;
- Audio recordings of submitters;
- and more related information.

TE ARAWA TO BE REPRESENTED ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Rotorua Councillors this week voted to allow Te Arawa representatives, with voting rights, on Rotorua Lakes Council's two key committees.

At an extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday councillors voted 8/5 to adopt, with slight modifications, the proposed Te Arawa partnership model which went out for public consultation and attracted more than 1800 submissions.

Mayor Steve Chadwick and Councillors Charles Sturt, Karen Hunt, Tania Tapsell, Dave Donaldson, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, Janet Wepa and Trevor Maxwell voted for the proposal.

Councillors Mike McVicker, Glenys Searancke, Mark Gould, Rob Kent, Peter Bentley voted against.

More than 250 people attended the meeting which was livestreamed on Council's website.

Councillors considered a report prepared by Group Manager Strategy and Partnerships, Jean-Paul Gaston, which provided analysis of submissions received during consultation and recommended a slightly modified version of what went out to public consultation.

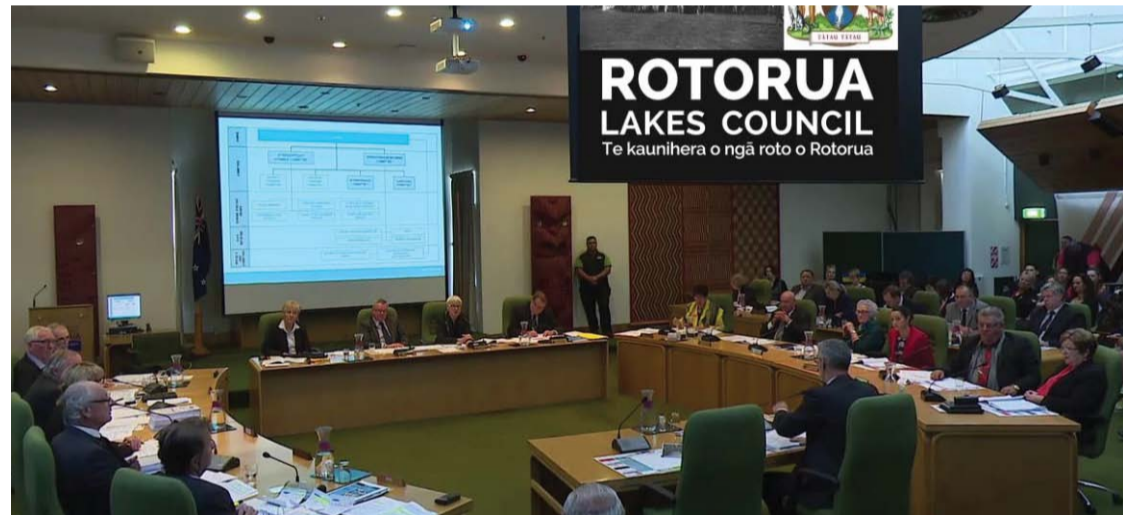
In his report Mr Gaston concluded that each of the four options identified in the consultation document (called the Statement of Proposal or SOP) and an alternative model of engagement identified by the Pro-Democracy Society did not fully address the key issues and themes raised during the submission process.

Key elements of the model adopted by Council:

- A defined nomination and appointment process;
- Up to two appointed iwi representatives on the Strategy, Policy & Finance and Operations and Monitoring committees - with voting rights;
- Changed delegations for the Strategy, Policy & Finance and Operations and Monitoring Committees to confine them to having the power to make recommendations to full Council only, rather than make decisions on behalf of full Council;
- Maximum costs for Council support for the Te Arawa Board and its activities to be \$250,000 annually, except for during a Te Arawa election year (every 3 years) when the maximum budget will be \$290,000.

Councillors resolved to consider options for greater Te Arawa (tangata whenua) input into Resource Management Act hearing processes in a separate report to be presented to Council in August.

The Te Arawa working party which consulted with iwi on the model will be asked to continue working with Council and Te Arawa to develop arrangements, policies and agreements to support the proposed Te Arawa Board and processes to appoint its representatives on council committees.



Facts about the approved partnership model

The Te Arawa representatives will not be on the full Council or become councillors - they will be committee members only, with voting rights.

The committees will have the power to make recommendations only to Council, rather than make decisions, as is currently the case for some matters. This means final accountability for decision-making rests with elected members on Council.

A Te Arawa Board will be elected at large and nominate people to be its representatives on the committees. The nominees will need to have relevant knowledge, skills and expertise and will need to be approved by the full Council for appointment to the committees.

Is the model adopted by Council different to what was consulted on?

It is in essence the same but with a couple of modifications, prompted by submissions and feedback.

Te Arawa representation on

the CE Performance Review committee has been deleted, the committee delegations will be changed (as above).

Te Arawa representation on the audit and risk committee and in Resource Management Act decision-making will be worked through separately with councillors to decide on these aspects at a later date.

What happens now?

Council staff will start working with Te Arawa representatives regarding the detail of the model and support for the establishment of a Te Arawa Board.

How much will this cost ratepayers?

Maximum costs for Council support for the Te Arawa Board and its activities will be \$250,000 per year, except in a board election year (every 3 years) when the maximum will be \$290,000.

Te Arawa will also contribute to the costs.

Why weren't Maori wards considered as an option?

Council was bound by a previous decision made against considering Maori wards for the next two elections.

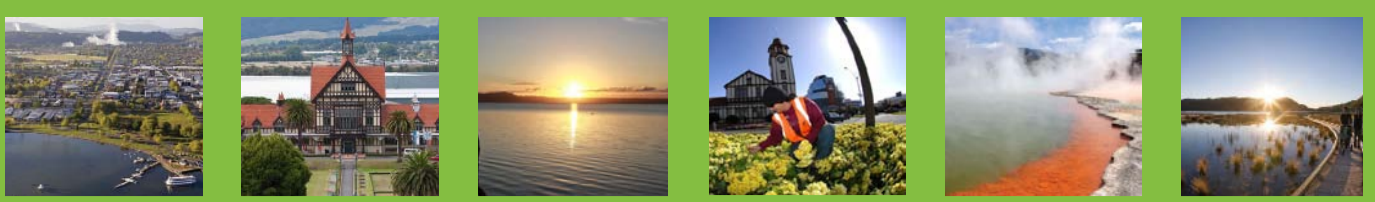
The earliest Maori wards could be introduced would be for the 2019 election and this would require another representation review to be undertaken, in 2018.

The current representation review cannot consider Maori wards, due to Council's previous decision.

Is the model legal?

Council has sought legal advice throughout the process to ensure all options put forward for public consultation and consideration by Council are lawful.

Legal advice confirms Council has broad discretion, through legislation, to make its own assessment as to how it will provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to its decision-making processes.



REVIEW TO DECIDE FUTURE MAKE-UP OF COUNCIL

A review of council representation arrangements, Your Choice – 2016 Election review, will seek community feedback to help develop a proposal to put to Council.

The review working party, chaired by Councillor Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, also includes Councillors Charles Sturt and Tania Tapsell and community representatives Jill Nicholas, Aroha Bray and Brian Eagle.

The review is a requirement of the Local Electoral Act and has to be undertaken by all councils every six years. It will recommend matters such as the number of councillors to be elected, whether or not

there should be community boards, and whether councillors should be elected by wards.

The working party will lead an active community engagement process for the review over the next few months. The community will be able to provide feedback via a survey and public forums and that feedback will be used by the working party to develop a proposal which will then go to Council.

Details about the community feedback phase will be publicised from next week. An approved proposal will then go out to public consultation when residents can make submissions.

DOUBLE COUP FOR ROTORUA REVEALED AT TRENZ



Prime Minister John Key at TRENZ 2015 at Energy Events Centre.

Two big announcements at TRENZ were a double success for Rotorua.

The first announcement revealed that New Zealand tourism's biggest annual international business event, which was hosted at Energy Events Centre this month, will return to Rotorua in May 2016.

Mayor Steve Chadwick says it meant a lot to have TRENZ return to Rotorua next year.

"It's a great endorsement for all those in our district working extra hard to ensure we remain a top-of-mind visitor destination with an excellent tourism offering."

In another major coup for the city, Prime Minister

John Key announced that the government is investing \$350,000 towards Rotorua's World Spa project.

Mayor Steve said the World Spa announcement was great news, fitting with the council's vision for the district to reclaim its title of 'Spa Capital of the South Pacific'.

"The funding will provide a boost towards progressing the work that has been underway for some time."

"We believe the potential for spa and spa-related developments is huge. It could be what takes our tourism industry to the next level and I look forward to further progress."

NEW INTERSECTION FOR INNER CITY

Works on a new intersection to strengthen the pedestrian connection along Haupapa and Tutanekai streets will get underway next week.

The intersection is being constructed as part of Rotorua Lakes Council's ongoing revitalisation of the inner city, and follows on from the successful completion of the Pukuatua Street/ Eruera Street intersection.

Works will include removing existing gardens and hard structures, planting new gardens, improving the irrigation system, increasing the pedestrian margin, incorporating new seating for the Rotorua Night Market, and placement of two new bike stands and a sculpture.

Works will begin on 2 June and are expected to be completed by the start of July.

DEVELOPER SUPPORTING 'WOOD FIRST' INITIATIVE

Work is underway on Rotorua's first inner city building to support Lakes Council's new Wood First policy, by use of innovative new wood products.

The council policy is aimed at encouraging use of wood products and supporting the district's vital wood industry. Local developer Ray Cook of R & B Consultants, is taking the lead with the Wood First concept through a new design build and lease back of premises for tenants ACC, on a site R & B owns in Pukaki Street.

The move follows an initiative by council controlled organisation, Grow Rotorua, to approach local developers, architects and engineers about utilising more timber in their buildings - specifically engineered wood products.

Mr Cook said he had been exploring the use of cross-laminated timber panels and



Ray Cook

laminated veneer lumber on the project because of the site's geotechnical issues - so the timing was perfect for him.

Work on the new ACC building on Pukaki Street is expected to be complete in November.

WORKS TO BEGIN ON NEW BUS ROUTE

Works will get underway next week on the new inner city bus route.

The bus stop changes are expected to reduce some of the problems which occur from time-to-time on Pukuatua Street where large numbers of people often gather at what is currently the prime inner city bus hub. The new route also covers the inner city area, including Rotorua Central, more effectively.

The bus stands will be located on the southern side of Arawa St outside Jean Batten Square, on the eastern side of Amohia St between Haupapa

St and Pukuatua St, the western side of Fenton St outside Cobb & Co, and in Rotorua Central.

Rotorua Lakes Council Transport Operations manager, Peter Dine, said to accommodate the new route structural changes have to be made to the footpath at the Arawa and Amohia street sites. "Works will include excavating the footpath and installing new platforms, and while traffic management will be in place and we'll try and minimise disruption to the public, we ask people to stay clear of worksites and obey the signs."

VISITORS WELCOMED FROM CHINA'S ROTORUA TOWN



Forty-three residents from China's Rotorua-Nanjing township were welcomed to the city with a powhiri at Rotorua Museum. The Chinese delegation's visit followed visits to Rotorua by more than 300 residents from Nanjing's satellite town over the past 10 years. The Chinese township bearing Rotorua's name, is in the Jiangling district of the provincial capital Nanjing. Public buildings in the centre of town have been designed to replicate the look of several Rotorua public buildings, including the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre, and there is even a scale replica of Lake Rotorua, complete with Mokoia Island.

BRIEFLY

HAVE YOUR SAY ON LONG-TERM PLAN

Rotorua residents have an opportunity tomorrow to speak with councillors and council staff about what's proposed for the Long-term Plan.

An information display is in the district library and councillors and staff will be there from 10am to 2pm (30 May) to speak to members of the public.

Submissions to the Long-term Plan close 2 June.

For more information visit the library or go to the council website and click on the Long-term Plan link.

CELEBRATE 75 TICKETS TO GO ON SALE

Tickets go on sale next week for Rotorua's Celebrate 75 community variety concert.

The event to celebrate the Civic Theatre's 75th birthday is being held on 17 July, and will showcase performers from dance groups, cultural groups, and local singers.

Ticket prices are \$40 show only or \$55 pre-show, drinks and canapes. Booking fees apply. Purchase from the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre's Ticketmaster outlet or online at www.ticketmaster.co.nz.

CHANGES POSITIVE FOR ROTORUA SAYS MAYOR

Changes to regulations dealing with the earthquake risk of older New Zealand buildings will provide more certainty for building owners and developers in Rotorua, says Mayor Steve Chadwick.

New Zealand has been categorised into zones according to seismic risk with Rotorua categorised as medium. Timeframes for work needed on quake-prone buildings have been adjusted according to seismic risk level.

Mayor Steve said it was a sensible move away from the previous one-size-fits-all approach.

The policy changes will be followed through into amendments to the Building Act.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Rotorua Lakes Council owns more than 3,780 culverts
- Maintains 123 bridges
- Operates nearly 5,000 lights around the city
- Maintains about 144 bus shelters.