


















# Introduction: summary of the state of Rotorua's environment

Indicator	State	Page	Summary	Related Indicators	
<b>1. Freshwater sustainability</b>					
1.1	Lake water quality - trophic level index.		18	Little change in the past seven years. However, some changes in the ecosystem can take decades, so this result is not unexpected.	1.2 1.3 1.4 4.1 4.2 7.6
1.2	Stream water quality - stream macroinvertebrate community index (MCI).		19	More monitoring is necessary to establish trends and reasons for changes in MCI.	1.3 4.1
1.3	Protection of lake water quality - percentage of water body margins protected from livestock access.		20	About 98% the district's lake margins are protected from stock access, which prevents direct nutrient input into water bodies.	1.1 1.2 1.4 4.1
1.4	Bathing water quality - faecal coliform counts in Rotorua lakes and streams.		21	Declining faecal coliform counts mean safer bathing areas.	1.3 4.1 9.3
<b>2. Geothermal resources</b>					
2.1	Health of geothermal fields - geothermal field water levels and surface feature activities.		26	Geothermal fields have recovered and are in a new state of equilibrium. The use of geothermal resources for energy production is an emerging environmental issue for the district.	3.1 11.1
<b>3. Culture, heritage and tourism</b>					
3.1	Tourism - number of visitor nights in Rotorua.		32	Overall, visitor nights have remained steady. However, since 2004 both visitor nights and expenditure have continued to increase. The Energy Events Centre has equipped Rotorua with a greater capacity for national and international events in close proximity to the CBD.	1.1 3.2 7.5 10.8 1.2 4.2 8.1 11.1 1.3 5.1 8.2 1.4 7.1 9.1 2.1 7.4 9.2

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<b>3. Culture, heritage and tourism</b>					
3.2	Protection of Rotorua's heritage - number of archaeological sites, number of heritage sites, number of protected lwi heritage features, number of authorities granted by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.	 STEADY	33	Only one heritage building listed in the Rotorua District Plan has been destroyed. Twelve consents were granted between 2002 and 2006 by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to "modify, disturb or destroy" heritage sites in the district. A heritage study has been recently completed to identify the range of heritage buildings and structures in the CBD where development pressure is greatest.	3.1 4.2 6.1 7.6
<b>4. Biodiversity</b>					
4.1	Land cover - percentage change in land cover.	 GETTING BETTER	38	The amount of planted forest has increased 4.4% and indigenous forest has increased by 2.9%. Primary pastoral land has decreased by 5.6%.	1.1 4.2 12.3 1.2 6.1 1.3 12.1
4.2	Protected natural areas - area (ha) protected.	 GETTING BETTER	40	There have been 33 new protected areas established since 2002.	1.1 3.2 12.1 1.2 4.1 12.3 3.1 6.1
<b>5. Open spaces</b>					
5.1	Reserves - area of reserves per 1000 residents.	 BASELINE	46	There are 12.3 ha of reserves per 1000 residents. This amount compares favourably with other councils in the North Island with similar sized populations.	7.5 10.2 7.6 12.1
<b>6. Rural land</b>					
6.1	Rural land - number and size of rural subdivisions.	 STEADY	52	Rural zones bordering the residential areas are being developed for residential purposes. Rural residential lots were the most popular type of new lot created from 2002 to 2007. The most common types of consents in the rural area were for building closer to boundaries or building houses higher than 7.5 metres.	3.2 4.1 4.2 10.3 10.4 10.7

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<b>7. Urban design and amenity</b>				
7.1	Air quality - number of exceedances in the urban area.	 STEADY	58  This is an emerging issue. Air quality standards are being exceeded in winter months in residential areas. A Local Air Management Area Plan is being developed to meet the Ministry for the Environment's national air quality standards, which take effect in 2013.	3.1 7.6 10.3 10.6 10.7
7.2	Noise levels - in district zones.	 GETTING BETTER	60  There has been no change over the long term to noise levels in the residential zones. In rural zones it has generally become quieter with a decrease in both L10 and L95 noise levels.	7.3 7.4 7.6
7.3	Noise complaints - number of noise complaints.	 GETTING BETTER	62  There has been a decrease in the number of noise complaints.	3.1 7.6 7.2
7.4	Residential development- dwelling density, section size and lots available for potential development.	 GETTING BETTER	63  Dwelling density is higher, section sizes are becoming smaller and there are fewer lots available for potential development than in 2001. Development in the urban area is desirable, as it means the infrastructure required for housing exists, and travel distance for people to get to work, school and other amenities is reduced.	1.1 3.2 5.1 7.1
7.5	Industrial and commercial development - industrial vacancy rate (%) and commercial vacancy rate (%).	 STEADY	65  In general there has been a decrease in the number of vacant industrial buildings. Similarly there has been a decrease in retail vacancy numbers since 2001. The long term trends show that both variables are quite cyclical in nature, and therefore are being shown as steady.	3.1 7.2 8.1 8.2
7.6	Walkways - length of walkways.	 GETTING BETTER	66  In 2005/06 the Lake Rotoma Walkway was constructed, increasing the total length of walkways in the district by 7.5%.	3.1 7.6 10.2