

# THE PHANTOM



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By now you will have received the letter from the Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC), “**Proposed Tarawera Wastewater (Sewerage) Reticulation Scheme**”. The Lake Tarawera Ratepayers’ Association (LTRA) is delighted that Council has agreed to the proposed option for wastewater reticulation. The proposal is a key milestone towards RLC commitment to the project, and planned commencement on 1 July, 2021.

RLC have made their commitment to the project conditional on a high level of ratepayer support through signed acceptance of the proposal in their letter.

Sufficient ratepayer support will trigger:

- Inclusion of the project funding into the RLC 2021-2031 Long Term Plan
- Commencement of detailed design

### BACKGROUND:

- ♦ In March 2008, a report to the Lake Tarawera Action Plan Working Party from the Wastewater Sector group, recommended the LTRA support the need for reticulation of wastewater at Tarawera, ‘*because reticulation removes potential nutrients from the catchment and is thoroughly proven, permanent and relatively maintenance free*’
- ♦ On 17 December, 2015, the Mayor of RLC committed to establish the Wastewater

Working Group for Tarawera with \$50,000 funding and this was approved by Council in mid 2016

- ♦ In August 2016, the first meeting of the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee was held with multi-party representation including from the LTRA and local community
- ♦ In August 2017, \$6.5M was granted from the Ministry of the Environment to the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Scheme
- ♦ On 15 October, 2018, after thorough investigations of the viable options, the Lake Tarawera Sewerage Steering Committee unanimously agreed to support an onsite Low Pressure Grinder Pump (LPGP) system for each property, to be connected to Lake Okareka, via Tarawera Road, then to the Wastewater treatment Plant in Rotorua
- ♦ At a community meeting on 20 October, 2018, 100 Tarawera residents and ratepayers unanimously supported the Lake Tarawera Wastewater scheme consisting of onsite LPGP systems for each property and that the system trunk main connect to Lake Okareka system via Tarawera Rd then to the WWTP in Rotorua
- ♦ On 26 November, 2020, Council passed a resolution agreeing to the proposed Tarawera Wastewater Reticulation as recommended by the Steering Committee
- ♦ Funding Plan to be reported in the 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan

### **THE LTRA SUPPORTS SEWERAGE RETICULATION 100% - WHY?**

- To protect the jewel in the crown of the Rotorua Lakes for future generations to enjoy as we have. We know that lake water quality is in decline—LTRA Waikato University funded water sampling since 2004 confirms this

In 2004, LTRA set up funding for Waikato University to undertake water quality research in Lake Tarawera. Research has continued every year since. To date \$76,500 has been donated.

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BoPRC) authorises wastewater discharges at Lake Tarawera.

Existing septic tanks do not meet BoPRC standards for wastewater treatment into lake catchments and will no longer be permitted

- The compliant alternative to septic tanks is an Advanced OSET system with Nitrogen Reduction (NR), however this option is not possible for approximately 40% of properties at Lake Tarawera due to physical constraints.
- The cost of an Advanced OSET system with NR is similar to the recommended option of reticulated sewerage

All ongoing maintenance, repair and end of life replacement of an Advanced NR OSET system, is the property owner's responsibility

**While the LTRA is 100% supportive of reticulated sewerage for Tarawera we are very disappointed with the proposed RLC payment terms because:**

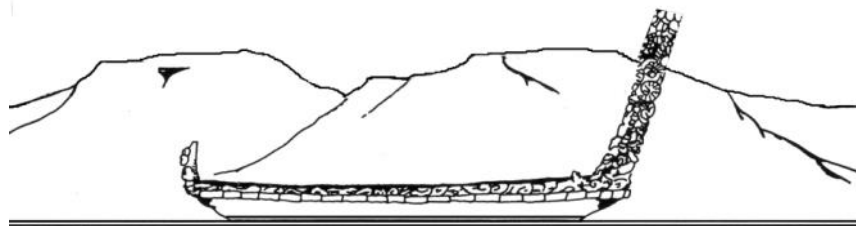
- The price has increased markedly
- The payment on first flush in July 2024 is to be a lump sum
- The proposed amount is open ended

We, the LTRA committee, are continuing to work on your behalf to seek improvement to the payment terms with RLC. We are also exploring external alternative financing arrangements (from ASB, ANZ, BNZ, Kiwibank and Westpac) which could be available from the relevant bank that each ratepayer banks with to allow payment over time.

### **We strongly recommend you support this scheme by saying Yes**

- **A reticulation scheme is the only viable wastewater option for the Lake Tarawera community. Inevitably, it must proceed.**
- **Delay means unnecessary further decline in lake quality**
- **The days of septic tanks are numbered; by 2024 BoPRC requires them gone**
- **Further delay means increased cost**
- **There are NO alternatives**

## Join the Lake Tarawera Ratepayers' Association



LAKE TARAWERA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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NAME.....

LAKE TARAWERA ADDRESS.....

HOME POSTAL ADDRESS.....

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Our membership is \$100 p.a. and ensures you are kept informed of what is happening locally.  
Please make payment by direct credit using your surname and initials as the payment reference

LTRA Bank Account: 12-3155-0095175-00

### CURRENT LTRA COMMITTEE

Chair: **Libby Fletcher** [libby@ultimatenz.com](mailto:libby@ultimatenz.com)

Secretary: **Martin Wiseman** [martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com](mailto:martin.wiseman@dlapiper.com)

Treasurer: **Richard Noke** [nokemeister@icloud.com](mailto:nokemeister@icloud.com)

#### Committee:

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