

Lakes Water Quality TAG: Position on sewage treatment.

Lake Rotomā has the highest water quality of the 12 lakes in the Rotorua Lakes Programme but water quality monitoring indicates a risk of water quality decline from nuisance algal growth if actions are not taken to control nutrient inputs to the lake. Lake Rotoiti water quality has improved markedly as a result of the Ohau diversion wall and sewage reticulation of Okawa Bay and parts of the north western area of the lake. The diversion wall is only a temporary measure, however, and sustained recovery of Rotoiti beyond the lifetime of the diversion wall will require reduction of other nutrient sources. The Lakes Water Quality Technical Advisory Group recommends that for both lakes sewage treatment forms an important part of the protection and recovery process. Residential properties are generally located close to the lakes and leakage from septic tank soakage fields flows rapidly to each of the lakes, taking with it nitrogen and phosphorus that can drive algal blooms. Addressing sewage discharges from these septic tanks is a key action in lake protection.