

Lake Rotorua's water quality: Roles and responsibilities



Everybody has a role to play in improving the water quality of Lake Rotorua. Understanding the issues and individual measures we can all take greatly assists reaching the long-term goals in protecting the water quality of Lake Rotorua.

There are organisations within the Bay of Plenty that have specific responsibilities for the water quality of Lake Rotorua. These include:

- The Te Arawa Lakes Trust
- The Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- The Rotorua District Council

As part of the Deed of Settlement for Te Arawa (the Deed of Settlement of the Te Arawa Lakes Historical Claims and Remaining Annuity Issues), the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group was established in law in 2006.

The Group is a permanent committee made up of representatives from the three organisations. A Crown representative from the Ministry for the Environment also attends meetings as an observer.

The purpose of the Strategy Group is to contribute to the promotion of sustainable management of the Rotorua Lakes and their catchments for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, while recognising and providing for the traditional relationship of Te Arawa with their ancestral lakes.

The three organisations have also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Crown, formalising a relationship to maintain or improve the water quality of the Rotorua Te Arawa lakes.

Due to the national cultural and heritage significance of the Rotorua Lakes, the Crown agreed to provide half of a \$144.2 million package to help to improve the health of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Ōkāreka. The rest is provided by Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Rotorua District Council.

Each partner of the Strategy group plays a vital and different role.

The role of Te Arawa Lakes Trust is to:

- Represent the iwi. Te Arawa has mana whenua as the owner of the lake beds and provides cultural advice on all aspects pertaining to the lakes
- Aid in protecting the cultural identity of Te Arawa people with their lakes
- Ensure the cultural identity wairua, tikanga and kawa of the of the Te Arawa people is invested in the strategy to improve the lakes of the Rotorua District
- Protect the mauri of the Lakes
- Ensure meaningful and binding working relationships with iwi/hapū and their ancestral lakes.

The role of Bay of Plenty Regional Council is to:

- Implement the Strategy for the Lakes of the Rotorua district
- Administer the relevant sections of the Resource Management Act 1991 (including managing water quality and quantity)
- Monitor and report on water quality issues in the Lakes
- Implement the Rotorua Lakes Recreation Strategy and Regional Pest Management Plan
- Plan for and manage land uses within the lake catchments
- Implement the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration programme through operational objectives
- Contribute to funding the package to help to improve the health of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Ōkāreka, in association with the Crown and district council.

The role of the Rotorua District Council is to:

- Administer the relevant sections of the Resource Management Act 1991 (including controlling the effects of land use)
- Provide and maintain the urban sewerage and storm water discharge infrastructure
- Plan for and manage land uses within the lake catchments
- Contribute to funding the package to help to improve the health of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Ōkāreka, in association with the Crown and district council.

The role of the Crown is to:

- Provide a national perspective on lake management and matters of national importance
- Contribute to funding the package to help to improve the health of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Rotoehu and Ōkāreka, in association with the regional and district council.



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