



LAKES DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Submission to the Rotorua Lakes Council
Proposed Long Term Plan 2018-2028



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Introduction – Lakes District Health Board

The Lakes District Health Board (Lakes DHB) is one of 20 District Health Boards in New Zealand and has a purpose of funding and providing personal health services, public health services and disability support services for the Lakes district. The Lakes DHB serves a population of just over 110,000 and covers 9,570 square kilometres. One third of the population are under 25 and the same proportion identify as having Maori ethnicity. The Lakes district stretches from Mourea in the north to Mangakino in the west down to Turangi in the south and across to Kaingaroa village in the east. The major centres of population are Rotorua and Taupo and the main smaller communities are Mangakino and Turangi. Multiple iwi lie within the Lakes DHB region, with the various Te Arawa iwi in the north (Rotorua area), Ngati Tuwharetoa in south (Taupo, Turangi area), Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa in the west (Mangakino area) and Ngati Manawa in the east (Kaingaroa Village area).

Introduction - Toi Te Ora Public Health

Toi Te Ora¹ Public Health (Toi Te Ora) is funded by the Ministry of Health and is the public health unit for the Lakes DHB. Toi Te Ora's purpose is to improve and protect the health of the population, with a focus on reducing inequalities in health. Toi Te Ora has prepared this submission on behalf of Lakes DHB.

Many of the crucial underlying factors that contribute to population health and wellbeing are directly influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. For this reason, Toi Te Ora and Lakes DHB welcome the opportunity to (a) provide feedback to the Rotorua Lakes Council on its proposed long term plan for the district; and (b) assist Rotorua Lakes Council to achieve its goals and deliver on its vision. Toi Te Ora's vision, purpose and goals are closely aligned. *(Please refer to Appendix 1 for Toi Te Ora's Strategic Plan Overview.)*

Social Determinants of Health

Lakes District Health Board, with its public health unit Toi Te Ora, places a great deal of emphasis on the social determinants of health, or what has been referred to as:

"...the social, economic and environmental conditions that influence the health of individuals and populations. They include the conditions of daily life and the structural influences upon them, themselves shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels. They determine the extent to which a person has the right physical, social and personal resources to achieve their goals, meet needs and deal with changes to their circumstances. There is a clear link between the social determinants of health and health inequalities..."²

Essentially, health starts where we live, learn, work and play. Individuals often have little control over the social determinants of health, but these determinants can either constrain or support the choices we make, as well as the lifestyle we lead. The most effective illustration of this approach comes from the 1992 work of Dahlgren and Whitehead:³

¹ Toi Te Ora represents the ideal of the ultimate and enduring wellbeing. 'Toi' is the name of a celebrated ancestor in the Eastern Bay of Plenty and 'Ora' is to be alive, well and healthy.

² http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE

³ http://www.local.gov.uk/health/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511260/ARTICLE



Local government has a great deal of influence over the determinants of health, which is why it is important we work together to make a difference. Lakes DHB encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to take a “health in all policies” approach⁴ that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, in order to improve population health and health equity.

Specific priorities for Rotorua Lakes Council, and the subject of the current consultation process, which have a major impact on health outcomes for the population, include water and waste-water management, waste management, environmental sustainability, facilities for active and thriving communities, housing, and equitable rating. These issues are excellent examples of the importance of our organisations collaborating to achieve similar outcomes. By working together using a preventative approach we can create a community that supports healthy lifestyles, rather than treating people who are already unwell.

This Submission

For ease of reference, Lakes DHB responses in the following tables are linked to specific pages in the following key document supplied by Rotorua Lakes Council as part of this consultation process:

- He aha ō whakaaro? What do you think? Long-term plan 2018-28 consultation

A symbol has been used to confirm Lakes DHB’s position on each of the issues to which it has responded, as defined in the following key:

Symbol	District Health Board Position
✓	Support and endorse
*	Recommend further consideration
X	Disagree

⁴ http://www.who.int/social_determinants/hiap_statement_who_sa_final.pdf

Topic and Comments	Page Ref	Key
<p>Aquatic Centre Lakes DHB supports Option 1: “Redevelopment of the Aquatic centre to broaden its range of uses and meet the needs of Rotorua residents and visitors.”</p> <p>The proposal to redevelop the aquatic centre, including the development of a learn-to-swim pool, supports Lakes DHB’s vision of ‘Mauriora (Healthy Communities)’.</p> <p>Public recreational spaces, such as swimming facilities, can benefit the health and wellbeing of the community. Benefits include:⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing contact with nature and spaces of cultural significance • Promoting social interaction and cohesion • Promoting physical activity • Reducing stress and promoting mental wellbeing. <p>The addition of the learn-to-swim pool in particular will increase opportunities for play and physical activity among young children by providing facilities fit for needs.</p> <p>Lakes DHB also encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to consider the needs of the ageing population and ensure the Aquatic centre is age friendly. Council should consider using the ‘8-80’ approach, whereby if a facility or service is suitable for an eight year old and an 80 year old, it will be suitable for everyone in the community.⁶</p>	15	
<p>Tarawera Sewerage System Lakes DHB does not support any of the outlined options and recommends reconsidering avenues to fund the Tarawera Sewerage System that is equitable for the community.</p> <p>Capital works present a considerable cost to homeowners, even after subsidies and the Council contribution outlined in Council’s preferred option. As discussed in previous Annual Plan and Long Term Plan submissions to Rotorua Lakes Council, it is recommended that Council considers rating for public health infrastructure and services based on property capital values. This would ensure the cost of any wastewater scheme is shared more equitably across all ratepayers in the Rotorua district. Charging communities for capital works through targeted rates places a significant economic burden on the individual communities and homeowners. These capital works are for the greater good of the whole community.</p> <p>Toi Te Ora will continue to work with Rotorua Lakes Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council to implement a sewerage solution which will safeguard the health of the Tarawera community and environment. Lakes DHB recommends the Council continues</p>	27	

⁵ Regional Public Health (2010). *Healthy Open Spaces: A summary of the Impact of Open Spaces on Health and Wellbeing*. <http://www.rph.org.nz/content/d893f45e-9d35-4906-bde7-c4912036c97e.cmr>

⁶ 8-80 Cities (2017). *Creating cities for all*. <https://www.880cities.org/>

Topic and Comments	Page Ref	Key
to work with the steering group to identify more equitable options.		
<p>Waste Management Services for Rural Communities Lakes DHB supports Option 2: “All rural communities receive kerbside services.”</p> <p>It is important that waste is safely disposed of to reduce the risk of disease and to minimise aesthetic and environmental impacts of waste. However, Council should consider graduated rates based on property capital values for public health infrastructure and services, rather than a targeted rate, as discussed above. This ensures the cost of services is shared in an equitable way across the community.</p>	29	 
<p>How should we manage additional growth in our district? Lakes DHB supports Council’s approach to ensure that infrastructure grows with development to ensure the needs of the community are met. Identifying areas for new homes is important for addressing growth pressures. It is crucial for the future wellbeing of Rotorua that developments are serviced from the outset with infrastructure, such as reticulated services that are professionally designed and operated. The delivery of safe drinking water and wastewater services must also be a priority and the needs of the community for other sanitary services such as cemeteries, public toilets, storm water, and waste management (which includes waste minimisation) should be considered.</p> <p>However, Lakes DHB reiterates comments made in the submission to the Rotorua Lakes Council Spatial Plan which recommends Council also includes a provision to improve existing housing stock and amenities. Addressing capacity and supply issues for reticulated water and sewerage systems is essential. Individual onsite sewage systems are not suitable for growing communities. Improving existing housing stock must include fixing wastewater systems in all lakeside communities.</p> <p>Lakes DHB also recommends consideration be given to ensuring infrastructure and housing is age friendly and affordable. Urban design strategies that support and enhance wellbeing and sustainability, such as good public and active transport opportunities, recreational facilities, and access to health and other services should be used.</p>	34	
<p>Lakefront development Lakes DHB supports the improved amenity value and recreational opportunities proposed as part of the Lakefront Development. However, Lakes DHB does not have a view on how this work should be funded.</p> <p>As discussed above, public recreational spaces have many benefits to the health and wellbeing of the community, including promoting physical activity, improving mental wellbeing, increasing social interaction and improving connectedness with nature and culture.</p> <p>The proposed introduction of walking and cycling paths, development of a play space, and enhancement of cultural elements in particular will support the wellbeing of the</p>	44	

Topic and Comments	Page Ref	Key
<p>community.</p> <p>If the proposal progresses Lakes DHB encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to use design principles that consider the diverse needs of the community, such as age and abilities.</p>		
<p>Whakarewarewa Forest Development</p> <p>As discussed above, Lakes DHB also supports the improved amenity value and recreational opportunities proposed as part of the Whakarewarewa Forest Development. The development of trails, playgrounds and other facilities supports the wellbeing of the community. However, Lakes DHB does not have a view on how this work should be funded.</p> <p>If the proposal progresses Lakes DHB encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to use design principles that consider the diverse needs of the community, such age and abilities.</p>	46	
<p>Kuirau Park Development</p> <p>As discussed above, Lakes DHB also supports the improved amenity value and recreational opportunities proposed as part of the Kuirau Park Development. The construction of a children’s play area and other enhancements will support the wellbeing of the community. However, Lakes DHB does not have a view on how this work should be funded.</p> <p>If the proposal progresses Lakes DHB encourages Rotorua Lakes Council to use design principles that consider the diverse needs of the community, such age and abilities.</p>	48	
<p>Pensioner Housing</p> <p>Lakes DHB supports Option 1: “Transfer ownership of the units to an experienced Community Housing Provider (CHP)” with the understanding that the units will remain affordable and improve access to support services.</p> <p>As the New Zealand population ages and more New Zealanders struggle financially, demand by the elderly for affordable housing will increase. Lakes DHB acknowledges there is a preference from other councils for elderly housing to be delivered by third party providers. However, regardless of who provides pensioner housing, it is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum housing quality standard is prescribed • Ways to increase the availability of affordable housing are explored • Appropriate social support is available to residents. <p>Lakes DHB recommends that if the service is delivered by a third party, they should be an approved Community Housing Provider, as suggested in the consultation document.</p>	53	
<p>Distribution of general rates across ratepayer types</p> <p>Lakes DHB supports Option 3: “Retain: leave at 0.955 for the rural residential and at 1.76 for business.”</p> <p>As discussed above, rating can increase inequity by placing significant economic burden on individual communities and homeowners. It is recommended council utilises graduated rates based on property capital values to ensure costs are shared in an equitable way across ratepayers in the Rotorua district.</p>	73	

Topic and Comments	Page Ref	Key
<p>A full rating review will assist in determining what is the most equitable way to rate households.</p>		
<p>Fixed charge UAGC Lakes DHB supports Option 1: “Reduce the UAGC from \$570 to \$500. This moves a share from a fixed charge towards the capital value of a property.”</p> <p>As discussed above graduated rates based on property capital values ensures costs are shared in an equitable way across rate payers. Reducing the UAGC fixed charge and collecting those costs through a graduated rate based on property value helps ensure individuals are charged equitably.</p>	75	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Information and Oral Submissions

If Rotorua Lakes Council requires any further information on this submission, please contact Robyn Woods, Management Support Officer, Toi Te Ora Public Health who will direct any enquiry to the most appropriate person. Robyn's contact details are as follows:

Email: Robyn.Woods@bopdhb.govt.nz

Ph: 07 577 3769

Lakes DHB and Toi Te Ora thank Rotorua Lakes Council for the opportunity to provide feedback on its proposed long term plan, and confirm it wishes to present by way of oral submissions during the hearings later in 2018. We would appreciate being allocated an appropriate amount of time to cover the range of public health issues raised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Dunham', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ron Dunham

Chief Executive Officer

Lakes DHB