
Submission to BOPRC Annual Plan 2016-17.

11/5/2016

We take this opportunity to outline our objectives over the year and ask that you have consideration to how these are best achieved and what financial allocation will be required.

1. Acknowledgement

- ◆ We very much value our working relationship with Council and staff and seek to strengthen that.
- ◆ We are actively supporting Rule 10, the Endothall Consent, The Ohau diversion Wall Consent, The Greater Tarawera Restoration Plan, sewerage initiatives across the Lakes including the Rotorua City upgrade.
- ◆ Your support of our initiatives is appreciated.

2. Catfish Te Weta Bay

- ◆ Our Society views this as extremely serious and everything should be done to eliminate them from our lake, if this cannot be achieved then a strong containment programme is required.
- ◆ Failure will see the spread of Catfish into the rest of Lake Rotoiti and Lake Rotorua, this will result in competition with trout for food including Koura, an increase in water turbidity, and a decline in our reputation. The cheapest cost is the first opportunity we have at eradication and control.
- ◆ We do appreciate the updates and reporting from Greg Corbett
- ◆ Their establishment highlights the vulnerability of our lakes to pest and weed incursion. We have failed on a number of accounts and a much stronger plan is required. In the Waikato there are any number of dreadful pests and weeds that must be kept out. As lead agency you are required to adequately fund this.

3. Endothall Spray

- ◆ The current consenting process is fully supported and hopefully will enable use this year.
- ◆ We do support the application but believe the consent should include helicopter application. There are many places that are uninhabited that will require

spraying and this should be done in the most cost effective way possible e.g. Te Arero Bay and Wairau Bay.

- ◆ The use of Endothall at low rates has proven to be successful in other regions and we see this as the best way of significantly reducing the overall cost of application. We understand that you are required to apply the chemicals at label rates even if this is grossly excessive. We seek your advice on how to overcome this.
- ◆ Adequate funding will be required to give effect to improved weed control. We are happy to support application for funding from LINZ.

4. Weed and Pest Plans

- ◆ We understand that an overall weed plan is currently being prepared and we support this.
- ◆ Ultimately we look to have weed and pest plans individualised for each lake.
- ◆ The lakes have seen significant incursion of weeds and now catfish since the millennium. Such deterioration reflects badly on our Society and your Council. A lot stronger containment and eradication programme is required. These plans need to include the following:
 - ◇ Limitation to areas of launch and where practicable these to be cordoned to contain weed introduction or export.
 - ◇ Programmes for eradication or control of all introduced lake weeds across all our lakes.
 - ◇ Over a 10 year period we need to plan to eradicate/control of problem weeds from our lakes.
- Pest control awareness needs to be heightened and a public awareness programme is required. At the last Symposium NIWA explored how Citizen Science could assist.
- We still have a number of a lakes above their targeted TLI and Lake Rotoiti failing to see reoxygenation of its subliminal waters. Professor David Hamilton considers this in part is due to the oxygen demands of decaying biomass associated with the vast weedbeds that have established around the periphery of the lakes and across many of the shallower bays. We need to prove this to allow appropriate response.

5. Lake Rotoiti

- ◆ There is pressure from all residential areas to reduce the incidence of hornwort and Lagarosiphon, it has become a major detractor to the lake. We appreciate the recent spraying of Okawa and Te Weta Bays.
- ◆ We strongly support the re consenting of the Ohau Diversion Wall. Failure to achieve this would jeopardise our lake unless Alum treatment can be guaranteed for 50 years.
- ◆ LWQS will be vigilant in monitoring the maintenance to the Wall and require Council to properly maintain it.

6. Lake Rotorua

- ◆ StAG
 - ◇ This has been a successful collaborative approach to a very difficult problem.
 - ◇ We have filed a supportive submission for Rule 10.
 - ◇ We will support the science accord.
- ◆ We support the City Sewerage upgrade and the withdrawal from the forest.
- ◆ Concern is being expressed about build-up of weed around stream mouths and the problems this is presenting to fly fishing these areas.

7. Lake Tarawera Restoration Plan

- ◆ We are strongly supportive of sewerage for Lake Tarawera, it is the first action point on the Restoration Plan.
- ◆ There are concerns about increasing faecal coliforms, being present along the lake front associated with residential areas, many draw their drinking water from the lake.
- ◆ We remain concerned about phosphorus and erosion from bush and forestry blocks. The current model uses national averages and we believe this is inappropriate for these lakes. Further scientific work needs to be undertaken to provide more conclusive evidence.
- ◆ Wallabies remain a concern and a watching brief from LWQS.
- ◆ We strongly advocate for the appointment of an independent chair for the Restoration Plan, buy into the programme will only be achieved through stakeholder involvement.

8. Lake Okareka

- ◆ This lake remains stubbornly above its TLI.
- ◆ It is thus appropriate to re-visit the science of the lake situation and Action Plan
- ◆ Funding is available for further nitrogen purchase through land retirement, we urge the completion of this programme if the science still supports it.
- ◆ We are hopeful the Hornwort has been eradicated.
- ◆ Lagarosiphon management may assist in water quality restoration.

9. Lakes Rotoma/Eastern Rotoiti

- ◆ We acknowledge and thank you for funding enabling sewerage. We see this a critical step forward, especially for lake Rotoma.

10. Lake Rotoma

- ◆ We have concern over the vehicle access to the northern end of the lake. If allowed access needs to be through a cordon.

11. Lake Rotoehu

- ◆ We question the current weed harvesting programme and consider weed spraying options should be investigated. The principle of harvesting weed to reduce nutrients to achieve the budget may be flawed if these nutrients are being extracted from the sediments rather than lake inflows. A review of what is being done is appropriate.
- ◆ Access to this lake needs to be restricted and cordons installed to prevent the export of weeds to other lakes.
- ◆ Sewerage is needed to deal with domestic sources of N and P, and we support the use of any funds that may become available to support this sewerage.

12. Okataina

- ◆ Hornwort, now confined, needs to be eliminated.
- ◆ Lagarosiphon needs controlling.
- ◆ We have a watching brief on Wallabies.

Don Atkinson

Chair, LWQS

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