



**Chairman**

John Green, Phone 07 362 4204

**Secretary**

Ann Green, Phone 07 362 4204

53 Te Akau Road, RD4, Rotorua 3074

**Treasurer**

Brentleigh Bond, Phone 07 362 4700

**Website**

[www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz](http://www.lakeswaterquality.co.nz)

5 May 2010

The Chief Executive  
Rotorua District Council  
Private Bag 3029  
ROTORUA

**SUBMISSION TO THE RDC DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010 - 2011**

**Introduction:**

Lakes Water Quality Society Inc. has actively participated in the Submission process over a number of years. It has 406 members and has been active for some 40 years. The Society has run six symposiums and gained national recognition.

**Recognition of the Importance of our District Lakes:**

- We are pleased Council recognises the importance of restoring our lakes.
- We commend Council for the sewerage schemes already constructed or in the process of construction.

**Land Use Change:**

- The Draft Regional Policy Statement and most of your own policy statements all require the restoration of the lakes and recognise the requirements of land use change. We are surprised that given the importance of land use change around all our lakes, and in particular Lakes Rotorua and Okareka, the Annual Plan has not given due emphasis to this very important strategic initiative and how it will be achieved. The significance of this land use change from an environmental, social and economic perspective can not be understated.
- Our Society believes that Lake Rotorua can be restored while most farming continues and the economy of the District significantly improves. Knowledge to achieve this is already available. Wise leadership is required from RDC.
- We assume appropriate funding is in place under Planning and Implementation Policy. We seek assurance that adequate funding is available in the 2010/2011 Year.
- A presentation dealing with this issue is attached.

**Consented Farming Activity:**

- The Draft RPS gives particular emphasis to achieving nutrient discharges from land so that the target lake TLIs are achieved. Our analysis is that most farming can be retained providing nutrient discharges are reduced to what is already being easily achieved without inducement on a number of Waikato farms.

- Under the District Scheme currently under review, Council has the authority to permit activities or require them to be controlled or consented. In the Rotorua Catchment farming should be a consented activity to ensure “best farming practices” are adopted.

### **Lake Front Development:**

- The Draft Annual Plan indicates that the Council is progressing with Stage 1 of the proposed Rotorua Lakeside redevelopment. We commend Council for this initiative but continue to emphasise to Council the risk associated with deteriorating water quality and associated blue green algae blooms.
- The most rapid improvement to lake water quality will be achieved by in-stream and lake treatments. While these responsibilities, in the main, rest with EBOP, RDC needs to proactively pursue these policies.
- The Council, in association with its strategic partners needs to improve the quality of the lakes and fresh water. In so doing, Council will minimise the risk to business and assist in ensuring the success of the Lake Front development!

### **Conclusion:**

- Many of the keys for the restoration of the lakes are your responsibilities, these are -
  1. Continue to implement all planned sewerage schemes around all lake settlements. The Lake Tarawera sewerage scheme should be commenced and completed within the next five years
  2. Within the Lake Rotorua Caldera allow the creation of rural residential properties, these subdivisions enabled by a commitment to reduce nutrients discharged from the land
  3. Require all farming to be a consented activity within the lake catchments, utilising best farming practices to minimise nutrient leaching and runoff
  4. Ensure that Lake Action Plans are completed and adopted by 2010/11 for all twelve lakes and are dynamic working documents which the community can use as its benchmark and guidance for Council action
  5. Encourage and promote the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes District as a unique pristine environment to live and recreate in

We again acknowledge the work and achievements of RDC in their actions to date to improve the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes' water quality. Rotorua is undoubtedly the great challenge to restore and we encourage RDC to take the hard decisions and leadership necessary to “clean” it up.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

John Green  
**CHAIRMAN**