

Long-term Plan toolkit

Have your say

On the future of sport, recreation, and play in the Rotorua Lakes

What is the Long-term Plan?

The Long-term Plan (LTP) serves as the district's roadmap for the next decade. It sets out the various activities, services, and investments the Council intends to undertake or suggest for the forthcoming years.

Rotorua Lakes Council reviews its LTP every three years, with ongoing public consultation to gather input on the proposed plans. This consultation period, which is currently underway, provides individuals and organisations with the chance to express their opinions on the Council's proposed actions, including funding allocations for play, active recreation, and sport infrastructure.

Key dates



6 May 2024
Submissions close



23 April - 5pm - 6pm
Convo with a Councillor -
Q+A about the draft LTP at
RLC – Civic Centre



26 April - 11am - 12pm
Pop up information event -
Lakefront playground



30 June 2024
LTP adopted by Council

What's being proposed for the sport, recreation, and play sector?

Rotorua Lakes Council plays a crucial role in supporting and investing in play, recreation, and sport facilities. We greatly value this support and, as a sector, rely on Council's investment to enable many of the great physical activity options available to all of us across the district.

In the current fiscal environment maintaining and developing fit-for-purpose sport, recreation and play facilities is a major challenge. That challenge is reflected in Council's Draft LTP, with a clear effort to balance cost with community need.

However, **significant developments, projects and strategies need to be considered** in order to meet health and safety standards, meet existing and growing demand, provide high quality recreation activities for the community and to generate economic benefits for the wider district.

Rotorua Lakes Council's Draft LTP impacts several key projects and areas within the play, active recreation and sport sector including the aquatic centre, skatepark, indoor courts, pathways and cycleways.

What's missing in the Draft LTP?

The draft is currently missing two key opportunities for our sector:

- The Draft LTP appears to fall short in its proposed investment towards sports and recreation infrastructure, especially concerning indoor sports and Waka Ama facilities. Supply and demand surveys show us there is a deficit of indoor court provision in Rotorua. Council has an optimal opportunity in this Long-term Plan to address these current limitations, and the future needs of a growing population, by investing in indoor and outdoor sport and recreation infrastructure.
- Pārekareka: Rotorua Play Active Recreation and Sport Strategy. This newly developed strategy by Rotorua Lakes Council is key in activating the aspirations of the community for play, active recreation and sport. However, there is no mention or investment connected to this strategy within the draft LTP.

Given their importance to our sector, these may be something you wish to consider for your submission.

What projects and programmes will no longer go ahead under the Draft LTP?

Rotorua Skate Park Redevelopment

Council is proposing to no longer proceed with the skate park and pump track development at Kuirau Park.

In 2018, Council committed to providing funding for design of a skatepark and pump track in Kuirau Park, and initial seed funding for the development. It was recognised that the current inner city skatepark at Sheaf Park is in poor condition and has been reduced in size as aged equipment has been removed. However, under funding stressors, Council is now proposing to no longer proceed with the project. This will result in \$1.9m less borrowing across years one and two of the plan, but have very little impact on rates as cancelling the project will save 0.01% in ratepayer funding.

(See page 21 of the LTP for a complete breakdown of the options).

Walking and cycling improvements

Council is proposing to remove \$3.526m over 10 years toward walking and cycling improvements across the city (NZTA fund \$4.674 for a total \$8.2m).

This programme was dedicated to creating a shared pedestrian, mobility and cycling paths network to encourage more people to use alternative means of travel. The programme was in response to feedback from the community that walking, cycling and using mobility devices was unsafe due to vehicle-dominated roads.

The programme has created roughly 60km of new wider shared paths targeting main corridors to schools and/or community activity centres.

Council is proposing a complete removal of the programme, meaning no new shared paths will be created and the current network of paths will be maintained as they currently are.

[\(See page 23 of the LTP for a complete breakdown of the options\).](#)

What else?

Aquatic Centre Revitalisation

To continue the Aquatic Centre Revitalisation project which began in 2020 three options are proposed for Stage 3 of the redevelopment programme.

Option 1

Commence Stage 3 works - \$3.0m

Replacing aquaplay and spa facilities at the centre. Council will need to borrow \$0.5 million, increasing debt per ratepayer by \$15.81 over ten years. Remaining \$2.5m will come from the remaining Better Off Funding.

Option 2

Partner with external provider to add hydrosides now - \$9.5m

In addition to replacing aquaplay and spa facilities this option would also see the addition of hydrosides. This could be delivered in Years 1 and 2 or be pushed out further. This option is dependent on securing external funding sources. Council's contribution would need to be about \$4.6m. Another \$2.5m in remaining Better Off funding and external funding sources of around \$2.4m would also be needed.

Option 3

Full Stage 3 - \$16.5m

This option would add even more to the recreational offerings. As well as the aquaplay, spa and hydrosides, it would also include a learn-to-swim pool, a bombing pool and family spa which could be delivered in years 3 to 5 of the LTP. This option would have the potential to increase the centre's revenue. This is dependent on attracting more external funding and would require a bigger contribution from Council, about \$8.1m

[\(See pages 14-15 of the LTP for a complete breakdown of the options\).](#)

Key takeaways

What are the crucial components of this LTP to you, a member of our play, active recreation, and sport sector?

- There is inadequate proposed investment or planning for key sport, recreation, and play infrastructure in the LTP, especially regarding the identified needs for indoor sports and Waka Ama facilities.
- There is no mention of investment towards the activation of the Pārekareka Rotorua Play Active Recreation and Sport Strategy recently developed by Rotorua Lakes Council.
- Council investment enables many of the physical activity options available to all of us across the district.
- Work on the Kuirau Park skate/pump track redevelopment will cease.
- No new shared cycling, walking, and mobility-use pathways will be created.
- The LTP proposes three options for the Aquatic Centre Revitalisation. The first option (Council's preferred) involves replacing just the aquaplay and spa facilities. Option 2 includes replacing aquaplay and spa facilities and the addition of hydrosides. Option 3 proposes all of the above plus the addition of a learn-to-swim pool which would have the potential to increase the centre's revenue.



Why should I make a submission?

Writing a submission for a Council's LTP allows you to voice your opinions and suggestions regarding the direction and priorities of your local government.

Councils are major providers of sport, play, and recreation facilities – without them, much of what happens in our sector wouldn't be possible. Draft LTPs are an opportunity to make a submission on what Council plans to do over the next 10 years to support quality physical activity opportunities through the provision of fit-for-purpose facilities and spaces.

This is your chance to participate in the decision-making process, influence policy, and advocate for issues that matter to you and your community.

Your submission can help shape the future development, services, and projects in your area.

Highlighting the value of play, active recreation and sport, and the benefits it can have on individual, social and community wellbeing is one way we can influence decision-making processes.

Sport Bay of Plenty encourages all members of our sector to have a say and make a submission. You can submit as an individual, as a club or organisation, or both. The more submissions we can achieve, the more likely it is our collective voice can be heard.

How do I make a submission?

Visit

letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz

To have your say online
before 6 May 2024

Making a submission is easy and can be done online or via email/post.

- **Online:** www.letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz
- **Email:** letstalk@rotorualc.nz
- **Post:** Rotorua Lakes Council, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua 3010
- **Drop off:** To the Council offices
- or **Phone:** 07 348 4199 (8am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Key messages to consider in your submission

Long-term planning and investment

Stress the importance of taking a long-term perspective in planning and investing in sport, recreation, and play infrastructure. Advocate for strategic planning processes that consider future population growth, demographic trends, and evolving community needs to ensure sustainable development over time.

Acknowledge Council's support

Acknowledge the critical support and investment Rotorua Lakes Council offers to support sport, recreation, and play in the Central Bay. Without this support, many in our community would not have the great opportunities to participate.

Investment in facilities

Advocate for continued investment in high-quality sport facilities across the District to meet the growing needs of the community. This includes upgrading existing facilities and developing new ones to cater to diverse sporting activities.

Importance to community

Demonstrate how sport, recreation, and play facilities host a myriad of events that help to enhance community engagement and belonging. These facilities serve as vital community hubs, foster social cohesion and promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Youth engagement and development

Highlight the importance of supporting a range of physical activity opportunities for young people. When making decisions regarding the provision of play, active recreation and sport we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to understand and support the wants and needs of young people.

Acknowledge Council's challenges

Acknowledge the challenges Council is facing, including a tough fiscal environment and many demands. These demands are not an 'either/or' situation, however, and investing in our people and the community's wellbeing must remain a priority.

Health and wellbeing

Remind council that sport, active recreation,¹ and play create happier, healthier people and better-connected communities. Active New Zealanders are 59% more likely have the highest level of wellbeing, with positive impacts on physical, mental and social indicators.

Economic benefits

Highlight the potential of sport and recreation to stimulate economic growth. Activities and events in our region can attract large numbers from within and outside of the district. Having fit-for-purpose spaces and places, and maintaining great natural assets, can enhance our local economy.

Environmental sustainability

Urge the council to prioritise environmental sustainability in the planning and development of sport facilities. This may include incorporating eco-friendly design principles, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, and preserving green spaces for outdoor activities.

Accessibility and inclusivity

Emphasise the importance of ensuring that physical activity opportunities are accessible and inclusive for all residents, regardless of age, ability, or socioeconomic background. This may involve initiatives such as improving accessibility in existing facilities and providing programs for disadvantaged communities.

¹ Sport NZ. The Value of Sport and Active Recreation to New Zealanders [2017].

Tips for writing a submission

Writing a **clear** and **succinct** submission for the Long-term Plan is essential.

The Council will receive several submissions. In order to cut through the noise - the most effective submissions are clear, short, and to the point.

Provide quantifiable evidence and examples to support your argument:

- Example: "Over the past five years, our club has seen a 50% increase in membership, resulting in overcrowded courts during peak hours. This growth highlights the urgent need for court upgrades."

Emphasise how your proposal will benefit the wider community or specific demographics:

- Example: "Our tennis club serves as a hub for social interaction and community bonding. Better courts will offer residents of all ages, including seniors and youth, a safe and enjoyable space for recreational activities and tournaments."

Clearly state your concern or topic:

- Example: "Our tennis club requires additional funding to improve court facilities, as current conditions hinder player experience and limit community engagement."

Outline the benefits of your proposal to the area, relevant sectors, and community:

- Example: "Enhancing our tennis courts will not only attract more players but also boost local sports tourism, benefitting nearby businesses. Additionally, improved facilities will encourage youth participation, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle."

Clearly articulate the action you want the Council to take in response to your submission:

- Example: "We urge the Council to allocate additional funding to upgrade our tennis courts in the upcoming Long-term Plan. This investment will not only benefit our club but also contribute to the overall well-being and vitality of our community."



Have your say on the
Rotorua Lakes Council's Long-term Plan
before 6 May 2024.

Find out more: letstalk.rotorualakescouncil.nz