

### **SUBMITTER INFORMATION**

**Name:** Te Tatau o Te Arawa Charitable Trust

**Iwi / Hapū:** Te Arawa

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Te Tatau o Te Arawa (Te Tatau) is an independent Charitable Trust working to achieve the **Sustainable Well-being of People, Culture and Place** within te rohe o Te Arawa.
2. We serve and represent Te Arawa whānui who mandated the establishment of the Trust in 2015 and determined that the Trust board be made up of elected members representing multiple Te Arawa sectors – rangatahi (youth), koeke (elders), Te Arawa land trusts and incorporations, hapū, iwi, and pan-Te Arawa entities.
3. Importantly Te Tatau was also mandated as the Te Arawa Partner to Rotorua Lakes Council (Council) to create and foster a high trust environment in order to achieve enhanced socio-economic and cultural prosperity for Te Arawa, for Māori and for the wider community in the Rotorua district.
4. We wish to speak to our Submission.

### **GENERAL POSITION**

5. Te Tatau appreciates the opportunity to submit on the the Long-term Plan (LTP).
6. We recognise the intent of the LTP is to determine the direction of work and projected budgets for Rotorua Lakes Council over the next 10 years.
7. This submission is made in alignment with the Te Arawa 2050 Vision, *Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora, Te Arawa E!*
8. Rotorua is central to the Te Arawa tribal rohe and it is important that any future development contributes to enhanced wellbeing outcomes for tangata whenua, whānau in need, and our community at large.
9. Te Tatau generally supports the proposed LTP within the context of the kōrero below.

### **LTP ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

10. We acknowledge the following opportunities that Te Tatau have had to engage with Council on the LTP at both a governance and operational level:
  - October 2023: As an action arising from the Te Arawa Partnership Agreement review, Te Tatau presented the Te Arawa 2050 Vision to Councillors; and the Mayor took the opportunity to provide a high-level overview of LTP priorities.
  - November 2023: Engagement occurred at a staff level with the RLC Manahautū re priorities as is further discussed in this submission.

- March 2024: Te Tatau staff and the Lakes and Rural Community Boards were invited to an information session with Council on the LTP. The consultation document was not available at this time and we asked for a copy of the iwi engagement plan and a list of priorities for Māori.
  - Friday 03 May: Presentation of the LTP by Mayor and Councillors.
11. While we appreciate these opportunities for engagement and the opportunity to submit on the Long-term Plan, our appreciation is limited noting that Council did not enable an appropriate level of participation by Te Tatau in workshops or discussions on priorities included in Council’s consultation document and the draft policy. This engagement is important to provide a Te Arawa perspective and input into the identification of priorities and impacts for Māori, Mana Whenua and Taura Here.
12. The November 2023 engagement process with the RLC Manahautū Te Arawa Partnerships (RLC Manahautū) was an opportunity for Te Tatau to identify key priorities for consideration by the Council in the development of the LTP and to provide feedback on other matters of significance. As part of this process, we were advised in writing that our whakaaro would be presented to Council and progressed operationally and within existing budgets as set out in the table below:

Te Tatau Request:	RLC Manahautū Response:
<b>Environmental Planning</b>	
As part of the Te Arawa Model for Housing, Te Tatau advised that they intend to work with iwi to prepare a Te Arawa Spatial Plan to identify commercial, economic, housing, and environmental opportunities that will also contribute to Council planning processes. We requested that Council resource an iwi-based planner to lead the Spatial Planning process (min 0.5 FTE).	Te Tatau have been invited to prepare a scoping report (with Council support) that develops the purpose and scope of the plan, defines the process/milestones/resourcing to develop the plan. This can be done this Financial Year. The scoping report can then be used to support funding applications.
<b>Te Arawa Housing / Mauri Ora Wellbeing compass:</b>	
That Council’s District Development team be resourced to provide Compass-embedded papakāinga design and development support and a dedicated papakāinga advisor. Te Tatau also ask that Council partner with Te Tatau on a papakāinga toolkit.	The District Development Team have provided support for papakainga include master planning, development advice, and infrastructure guidance/funding. A papakāinga toolkit is already included in Council’s operational planning, and Council will partner with Te Tatau on design and delivery.
<b>Embed Te Arawatanga</b>	
Finalise the Bilingual Rotorua (Reo Rua) joint strategy and Council’s implementation plan.	This can be progressed in this Financial Year within existing budgets.
Dedicate operational budget to Te Amorangi to enable Council to support Reo Rua initiatives (i.e. Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, Matariki, and other Reo Rua events).	
Dedicate operational budget for marae signage (consistent with Waka Kotahi signage).	This can be progressed within existing budgets.
Ensure that inner city renewals uphold a vibrant, cohesive Te Arawa cultural design approach [noting that Te Tatau are co-funding with a \$204k contribution to wayfinding].	

Support establishment of an iwi-based engagement mechanism

This can be discussed and developed in this Financial Year as part of the Engagement Framework that Council has identified as a priority KPI.

13. We have not received formal confirmation on the above points following presentation to Council and they do not appear to be reflected in the LTP consultation document. As such, we have reiterated our key priorities throughout this submission.
14. The exclusion of our priorities and feedback into the development of the Long-term Plan, combined with the lack of identification of implications for Te Arawa in the consultation document itself is concerning.
15. We requested a list of implications and priorities for Māori, together with a copy of the iwi engagement plan for the LTP on several occasions and have not received these despite several requests.
16. As good partners to Council, we will however continue to work with Council to resolve the issue of partnership, and support Council to reconcile any issues raised by Te Arawa whānui (and the wider community) in this consultation process.
17. Notwithstanding the in-house engagement capability of Council, we see an opportunity to enable the establishment of an iwi-based mechanism of engagement that supports the iwi for our own kaupapa and can be drawn upon to support Council engagement. We suggest that resource be allocated to trial this.

#### **CHANGES TO RATES CHARGES ON VACANT LAND**

18. We would like to take this opportunity to express our view on the changes to rates charges which will affect our iwi.
19. The LTP proposes the removal of rates discounts for vacant land to incentivise landowners to develop the land or sell it if they have no intention of developing it.
20. We were advised in a briefing on the LTP with RLC Councillors and their Executive Team, that Māori owned vacant land should not be affected by the changes, and that there is a remission process available if a Māori land block is affected.
21. The development of Māori land is complex with issues such as multiple ownership, reservations, wāhi tapū, being land locked, non-use of RLC services and a lack of income being generated from the properties. As such, whenua Māori should not be treated the same as general title properties in the application of any proposed rates increase.
22. We do not support the LTP proposal for an increase in rates charges on vacant land where that land is whenua Māori, or Māori owned general title land.

#### **MĀORI ROADLINES & UNFORMED ROADS**

23. The LTP proposes that funding cease for the budget allocated to enable whenua Māori owners to transition paper roads by sharing costs and benefits with Council.
24. The absence of this funding will require either a case-by-case proposal to Council or for these costs to sit with landowners.

25. As previously discussed, we have not been provided with a list of priorities and implications of the LTP for Māori, and therefore we are unable to provide a fully informed decision on the proposed budget cut.
26. We ask for further engagement around what this means for Te Arawa uri and are keen to look at solutions alongside Council, in consultation with whānau, hapū and iwi.
27. However, Te Tatau are committed to developing a spatial plan that identifies feasible commercial/economic, housing/papakāinga and environmental resilience opportunities across whenua within the Rotorua district and the Te Arawa rohe which will consider any roading requirements.
28. Council can partner with Te Tatau to unlock these opportunities by providing support to engage an Iwi-based planner (min 0.5 FTE). This could be resourced by secondment or a new hire if appropriate resource is unavailable in-house. Te Tatau have a list of potential candidates for this position.

### **THE FUTURE FOR PENSIONER HOUSING**

29. Te Tatau do not support RLC's preferred option to lease their existing pensioner housing stock to a community provider.
30. Te Tatau support Option 1, to maintain the current delivery model (status quo).
31. We suggest that the pensioner housing be included as part of a collective strategy to manage the historical shortfall, current and future demand for housing in Rotorua.
32. We also suggest that RLC engage with iwi and Rotorua Housing Accord partners to investigate solutions including any funding arrangements to bring the properties up to healthy home standards and develop an appropriate property management regime.

### **BUILDING OUR REPUTATION AND OUR ECONOMY**

33. Te Tatau support the development of a plan to promote Rotorua and rebuild the city's reputation.
34. Embedding Te Arawatanga into Rotorua would support this plan as it contributes to economic development, tourism, arts, and the cultural priorities of Council.
35. We suggest that Council consider the following recommendations:
  - That the Te Amorangi Team have an operational budget to support Council and joint activities under the Bilingual Rotorua Initiative and rautaki reorua for Rotorua (e.g., matching funding for reorua events held in Rotorua).
  - That funding be allocated for marae signage that is consistent with those installed at Rotoiti as part of LTNZ upgrades.

### **INNERCITY IMPROVEMENTS**

36. The consultation document states that work has already been done with key stakeholders like iwi and the business community; and that a draft master plan is being developed.
37. Te Tatau would like a copy of the engagement plan for this project and ask to be involved in the development of the master plan.

38. We have recently appreciated the opportunity to work with Council on the wayfinding project for the Rotorua CBD and welcome ongoing involvement in this space noting our funding contribution of \$204,000.00 to this kaupapa.

#### **TE ARAWA 2050 VISION & MAURI ORA COMPASS**

39. We acknowledge the incorporation of the Te Arawa 2050 Vision and the 'Mauri Ora Compass' as key documents which underpin the FDS, and we would like to see these further embedded in the LTP.
40. Working toward Mana Whenua Aspirations is identified as a key element of the LTP Vision. We would like to remind Council that the Te Arawa Vision was developed over an 18-month period and captures the values and aspirations of Te Arawa iwi as mana whenua in this rohe.
41. The Mauri Ora Compass (developed with AUT and the University of Canterbury) draws on Te Arawa mātauranga and is informed by working, international models of best practice in urban development and design providing cultural, social, and environmental wellbeing indices for the planning and building of homes and neighbourhoods.
42. It is our expectation that the LTP is guided by the Vision and the 'Mauri Ora Compass', in conjunction with iwi and hapū co-design and partnership.

**Date of Submission: 10 May 2024**