



**Lake Rotoiti Community Association Incorporated**

Registered Charity CC11386

PDC Mourea RD4 Rotorua

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September 16, 2010

The Chairman  
Rotorua District Council

By email to [submissions@rdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@rdc.govt.nz)

Dear Sir,

**Pressure on Rotorua Lakes Submission**

Lake Rotoiti Community Association (LRCA) would like to take this opportunity of thanking The Community Board for the excellent investigative work that they have carried out in respect of this issue for all the Rotorua Lakes which resulted in the commissioning of APR Consultants. We also commend their excellent submission to RTALSG.

LRCA has considerable concerns with regard to aspects of the APR Consultants report:

**Car and Boat Trailer Parking Facilities**

**a) Ohau Channel Delta**

During the summer months and public holidays considerable pressure is put on the launching ramp at the Delta on Lake Rotoiti. It was noted that during the construction of the Ohau Channel Diversion Wall the area utilized as storage for the materials used to construct the wall were stored where the Delta launching ramp is and the launching facility was closed to the public. A large ditch had a substantial concrete pipe placed in it and vehicles were thus able to drive over the ditch and this effectively doubled the potential parking area. Upon completion of the construction of the wall this pipe was removed and the ditch reinstated.

The result of this exercise is that there is now insufficient parking for cars and trailers and during busy times there are cars and trailers parked along State Highway 33. Not only does this mean that this already very busy Highway is:

- dangerously narrowed
- without a turning lane so that cars with boats and trailers turn into the launching area in front of fast moving on-coming traffic
- compromised by people (often with young children) walking on the edge of the narrowed Highway to return to their vehicles. There are no footpaths in this area.

LRCA is very concerned that a serious accident is likely to take place before too long and would ask that serious consideration be given to extending the parking area of this heavily utilized launching ramp.

#### **b) Otaramarae**

In addition we wish to confirm that parking facilities at the Otaramarae launching ramp are inadequate and the very narrow rural road becomes clogged with cars and trailers making it extremely difficult to navigate.

#### **c) Hinehopu**

At Hinehopu although there is a parking area it is a distance from the boat ramp and LRCA believes that better signage at least is needed. Hinehopu does suffer from a lot of congestion over the summer period with a large number of boats waiting to be launched or removed from the water. Due to the shallowness of the water and the shortness of the jetty it is impossible to have a boat at the jetty and still have space to launch another.

#### **Public Toilets and Adequate Secure Rubbish and Recycle Facilities**

LRCA is concerned at the lack of public toilets at boat launching areas throughout the Rotorua Lakes. There has been a noted increase in the amount of human waste being deposited in these areas.

With respect to the Delta launching ramp, RDC is in the process of bringing sewer lines to the Whangamarino, Okere Falls and Otaramarae areas and LRCA would like to request that provision be made for Public Toilets at the Delta launching ramp. LRCA believes that the owners of the land should be paid an annual rental for the lease of their land required for the installation of such facilities.

Hinehopu also already has toilet blocks at each end of the Tamahea Street. However both are a long distance from the launching ramp. We would ask that signage clearly indicates the whereabouts of the toilet blocks.

LRCA fully supports the Community Board's suggestion that all launching facilities at all the Rotorua lakes should have adequate rubbish and recycle facilities and we would request that these be designed in such a way that they are secured from invasion by dogs, cats, possums and rats.

#### **Boat washing facilities**

LRCA is aware that many varieties of lakeweed are distributed throughout the Rotorua Lakes. We are also acutely aware that many holidaymakers and visitors like to visit more than one lake in a day. Without a facility at each public launching ramp to enable boat owners to clean the hulls of their craft before moving on to other lakes there is a very real danger that weed contamination will be quickly spread between the lakes. Were such facilities available, legislation could be put in place to penalize those people using the launching facilities who do not comply with the cleaning requirements.

There is no reason why water cannot be drawn from the lake to facilitate this service in areas where no RDC water supply is available. If a boat is washed immediately it is taken out of a particular lake and before it is trailed to another lake then the possibility of cross contamination is vastly reduced.

#### **Charging to launch a boat**

LRCA sees no reason why RDC could not recoup some of the costs involved in providing the facilities listed above by organizing a system whereby boat owners can purchase tickets (which would need to be displayed on the windscreen of the car) either on a daily, monthly or annual basis which would enable them to used

the Rotorua Lakes boat launching facilities. A scale of charges whereby a daily ticket is of greater cost than that of a monthly ticket and even more so than that of an annual ticket would encourage people towards the longer term tickets. It is recognized that fishing licences are available at various outlets throughout the region and LRCA sees no reason why such a ticketing system could be obtained at similar outlets.

Under such a system we would also request that residents/ratepayers around the lakes be issued with a 'pass' to use the ramps without charge.

LRCA recognizes that the instigation of such a system would need to ensure that boat owners did not attempt to avoid the launching ramps and launch their boats directly from beaches. Proposed legislation should ensure such reckless behavior was very severely penalized.

### **Freedom Camping**

LRCA strongly supports The Community Board's desire to introduce a permit system to allow freedom camping for adequately equipped campervans at suitable locations around the lake. Similarly we would highly recommend legislation that would allow freedom campers who are breaking the rules to be issued with on the spot infringement tickets; such tickets relating to the registration number of the vehicle breaking the law and the onus of collection of the fine on the organization hiring the vehicles. Good visible signage should be placed in areas where freedom camping is not allowed.

### **Launching Ramp Conditions and Maintenance**

#### **a) Gisborne Point**

LRCA has been advised that one of the launching ramps at Gisborne Point is in disrepair and very difficult to use.

#### **b) Otaramarae**

LRCA has also been advised that drainage adjacent to one of the launching ramps at Otaramarae causes heavy silting on the ramp and this makes it very difficult to use.

We would request regular checks and maintenance of all launching ramps in the Rotorua lakes area.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Prior  
Chair