



22 November 2024

OIAD-1343

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 24 October 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) from the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry):

In the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group meeting dated 15th June 2018 it stated;

8.5 Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group Terms of Reference Review

Key Points;

- MfE to provide advice regarding process to amend the membership and Terms of Reference and any affect it may have on the funding Deed.*
- Further inclusion of scope for the Strategy Group included: climate change impacts, lake related biosecurity matters, fisheries bylaw enforcement, Lake Tarawera as a Deed funded lake.*

1. What was the Ministry for Environment's advice regarding the Terms of Reference and any affect it may have on the funding Deed with Lake Tarawera as a Deed funded lake?

On 27th March 2008, Prime Minister Helen Clark made an announcement of Major Government Funding for Restoration Project for Rotorua Lakes.

The commitment was \$72.1M over ten years to see the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme implemented.

The protection and restoration action programme includes measures to address the different sources of nutrients entering those four priority lakes.

One of the key components was;

- Construction or extension of sewerage works to pick up waste from un-sewered lakeside communities around Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Okareka.*

2. Could MfE please provide a schedule including dates of payments, amount of payments, and entity the payments were made to for the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme commitment of \$72.1M?

3. Were any of the payments made for the intention or purpose of construction or extension of sewerage works to pick up waste from un-sewered communities from the Rotorua Lakes Protection and Restoration Programme commitment of \$72.1M? If so, how much was paid, and which lakes' sewerage works were contributed to from the fund?

I am refusing Question 1 under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

In 2018, Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group (RTALSG) members requested a review of the RTALSG Agreement and Terms of Reference (ToR) to amend the membership to make provision for a non-voting Independent Chairperson. The Ministry reviewed the amendments and did not provide advice on the matter. The RTALSG resolved to have staff from Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC), Bay Of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC), and Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) bring back advice for discussion.

Amendments to the ToR only require consensus of all three parties under the Te Arawa Lakes Deed of Settlement. This does not include the Crown.

As noted in the June 2018 RTALSG minutes it was resolved that the three partners (RLC, BOPRC, and TALT) would undertake a further review of the ToR to reflect the need to respond to changes in the governance structure and changing environmental priorities, and bring back to the Strategy Group for discussion (refer to item 8.5 and resolved item 6). At the following RTALSG meeting held in November 2018, the three partners presented their report, and the recommendations were carried by the Strategy Group. You can find the minutes of the meeting here: <https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3890783/content>.

In response to Question 2, I have provided you with a schedule of Crown contribution payments made to BOPRC in line with respective annual work programme interventions.

The answer to Question 3 can be found in the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Reports from 2009-2010 to 2023-2024. I am releasing the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 reports to you in full. These are comprised of one report each from BOPRC and RLC for each year. I am refusing the remaining 13 reports under section 18(d) of the Act as they are already publicly available. The links to these reports are provided in the document schedule below.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Lorena Stephen

General Manager – Partnerships and Investments

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Document schedule

Title	Decision	Grounds	Link
Schedule of Crown contribution payments	Released in full		
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Reports 2009-2010	Released in full		
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Reports 2010-2011	Released in full		
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2011-2012	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/299
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2012-2013	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/403
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2013-2014	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1368
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2014-2015	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1370
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2015-2016	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1575
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2016-2017	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1626
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2017-2018	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1689
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2018-2019	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1760
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2019-2020	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/1843
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2020-2021	Refused in full	18(d)	https://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/Purongo_a-tau_Annual_Report_2020-21.pdf
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2021-2022	Refused in full	18(d)	https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2022/09/RTAL_20220930_AGN_3495_AT.PDF Page 30
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2022-2023	Refused in full	18(d)	https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2023/09/RTAL_20230922_AGN_3641_AT.PDF Page 46
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Annual Report 2023-2024	Refused in full	18(d)	https://infocouncil.boprc.govt.nz/Open/2024/09/RTAL_20240920_AGN_3758_AT.PDF Page 42