
FOREWORD - ROTORUA LAKES SYMPOSIUM 2013

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The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes programme is now at a critical phase where nutrient budgets are to be established for landowners across the catchment of Lake Rotorua. The challenge is to reduce the existing nutrient load to the lake by over 43% by 2032.

Our challenge as a community is to achieve these nutrient reductions yet retain and encourage the productive capacity of the agricultural sector. We need as many tools as possible to create enough incentive to achieve these goals.

Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) are one of the tools LWQS are promoting to be included in the District Plan. They have been used elsewhere in New Zealand with mixed success but never before to achieve nutrient reductions in a catchment. This is a first, and an exciting new dimension to leverage off community interest to achieve a community outcome.

The purpose of a TDR is nutrient reduction which is leveraged by sub division: it is a right to sub divide gained by reducing nutrient flows to the lake, and therefore achieving an environmental benefit for the greater catchment.

The subject is complicated. This symposium was an opportunity to hear the background, debate the issues, and acquire an understanding of the principles. It will help an informed decision over whether TDRs should be used in the Rotorua catchment.

On behalf of LWQS, I extend our sincere thanks to all those speakers who prepared and presented papers. The voluntary time and energy required to produce such informed opinions is substantial and much appreciated. Thank you also to Mayor Kevin Winters and Cr Lyall Thurston for chairing sessions.

I also would like to thank Rotorua District Council for their support, the use of the Council chambers and for catering.