
Session One

SESSION CHAIR - John Green, Chair, LakesWater Quality Society

THE DAY AHEAD

Warren Webber

With a professional background in agriculture and veterinary science, and a decade of participation in water quality issues for the Rotorua Lakes catchments, Warren brings an intense personal, but non-vested interest, to issues of nutrient management on the land and in our waterways. Conference management (international and domestic) helps to pay the bills, but voluntary community interests take up much of his time. As an appointee to the Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG) which considers land management and land use change policy issues on behalf of the Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group, he is closely involved with the challenges of nutrient allocation and incentives for change.

It is my job to give an indication of where we are heading in today's programme. During the day I will also facilitate discussion in the two workshop sessions. We are videoing the sessions and all questions and comments will be recorded, both in writing and on audio.

Why are we having this Symposium?

The Rotorua District Council District Plan (PDR) introduces Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) for the first time in this district. The LakesWater Quality Society has been advocating for this since 2008 and our aspiration is that over the next 10 to 20 years an extra \$20m incentive can be added to help farmers reduce nutrients. TDRs are a simple concept, but the devil is in the detail. The intent of this symposium is to bring greater community understanding to the detail and to explore the opportunities that TDRs can bring.

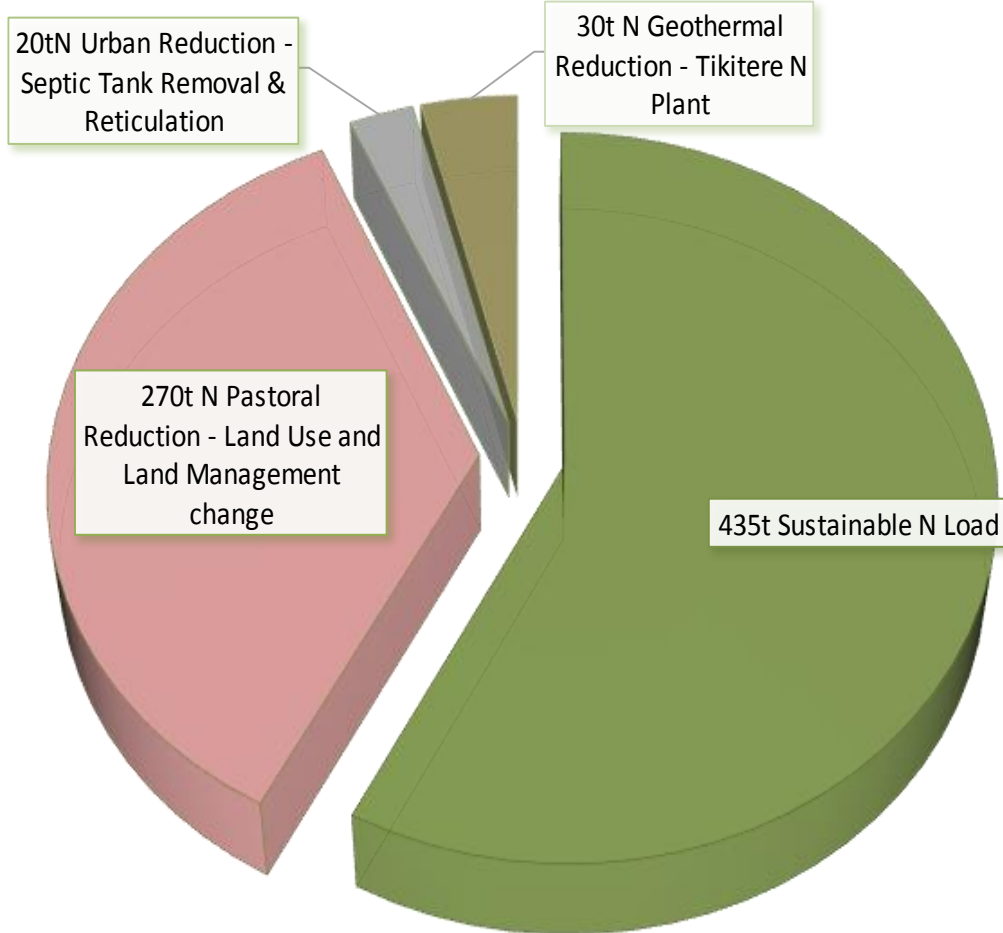
What is the context of this?

In 2011 the discharge of nitrogen to Lake Rotorua was 755 tonnes. 526 tonnes of that came from pastoral farming, which is just a shade over 70%. The sustainable load has been identified as 435tN/yr for the lake and 256tN/yr for pastoral farming. This means that a 51% reduction is required from pastoral agriculture if we are to meet our nutrient targets for the lake. In 2013 the Regional Policy Statement from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council now requires that the sustainable load of 434 tonnes per year be reached by 2032 with 70% of that target to be reached within 10 years, by 2022.

Slide 1 gives the same information in diagrammatic format. The green is the sustainable load to the lake, the pink is what needs to be removed from pastoral agriculture and the smaller segments are what will accrue from geothermal reductions, particularly the nitrogen removal plant at Tikitere, and the urban

reduction through septic tank removal and sewerage reticulation. So it is a fairly big chunk that has to come out.

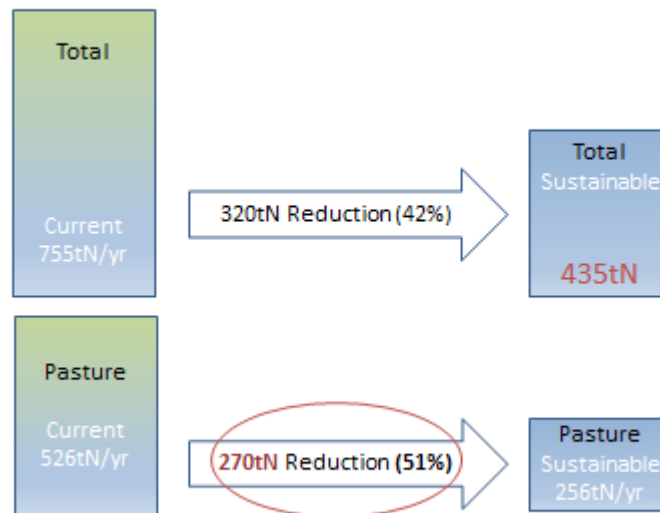
CURRENT LOAD 755TN MUST REDUCE TO 435TN



Slide 2 gives the same message. 755tN/yr is going into the lake now, and when the work is done, it needs to drop by 320tN/yr to get our 435 tonne per year load. The pasture component, 526 tonnes currently, needs to be reduced by 270tN/yr to get to 256tN/yr. This is the context that we are working in and we hope that TDRs will bring another tool to assist the process.

A lot of work is going on in the Stakeholder Advisory Group (StAG Group), a team with about 15 people who are community appointees. The StAG group reports to the Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group, which in itself is a body made up of three entities – the Te Arawa Lakes Trust, the Rotorua District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. The StAG Group is assisting to develop allocations and incentives; how we allocate the sustainable load and incentivise that change.

Target = 435t Sustainable Load to lake



Slide 2

Allocations are how the sustainable load of 256tN/yr is allocated to the farmers; what is going to be their share?

Incentives are payments for N 'purchased' from farmers to achieve those leaching reductions.

Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) for property are simply an extra incentive. We believe that it will be most usefully applied in an additive way, on top of any other incentives that are provided through the Regional Council or other means. The same kilogram of nitrogen can attract both base incentive funding from the Regional Council and qualify for TDRs.

What is a TDR?

A TDR is simply the right to subdivide one extra lot in a defined subdivisible zone. That zone is called the recipient zone and later in the day we will look closely at the extent of this recipient zone.

How will TDRs be created?

They will be earned by farmers, who are described as 'donors' for any qualifying N leaching reductions. Later we will look at the extent of the donor zone, what farms are able to be donors and what N reductions will qualify for TDR allocations.

So I have already raised a number of questions – What is a TDR? What will be the recipient zone? What will be the donor zone? Which N reductions will qualify? There are many more questions that we will address during the day.

We will debate and discuss, and together suggest some answers.