

Lake Rotomā

INFOSHEET 7, DECEMBER 2017

This information sheet has been prepared for Te Arawa whānau to summarise information about:

- *research and monitoring occurring on Lake Rotomā.*
- *projects occurring on, and adjacent to Lake Rotomā, particularly efforts to reduce the impacts of land use on lake water quality.*

It will be reviewed and updated annually.

NAME MEANING

Lake Rotomā means "lake of exceptionally clear water".

IWI

Ngāti Tamateatutahi, Ngāti Kawiti, Ngāti Makino, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa ki Kawerau.

AT A GLANCE

Lake size:	1110 ha
Catchment area:	2810 ha
Elevation:	316 m
Average depth:	37 m
Deepest point:	83 m

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

The Regional Council carries out regular monitoring of Lake Rotomā. This includes:

- **Swimming water quality** – One site measured from October to June. Any health warnings are posted on the Regional Council and Toi Te Ora Public Health websites.
- **Scientific** – One site measured monthly for clarity, algae, phosphorous and nitrogen. Result articulated as an annual Trophic Level Index or TLI.

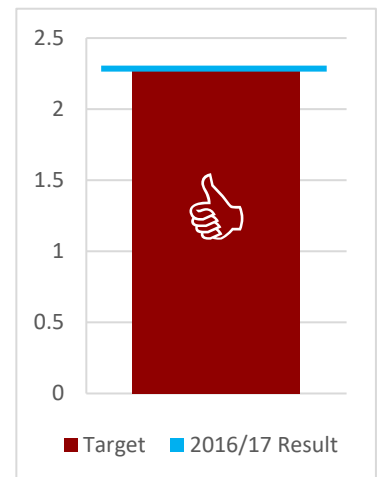
Monitoring Sites
Source: LAWA website



WATER QUALITY STATUS

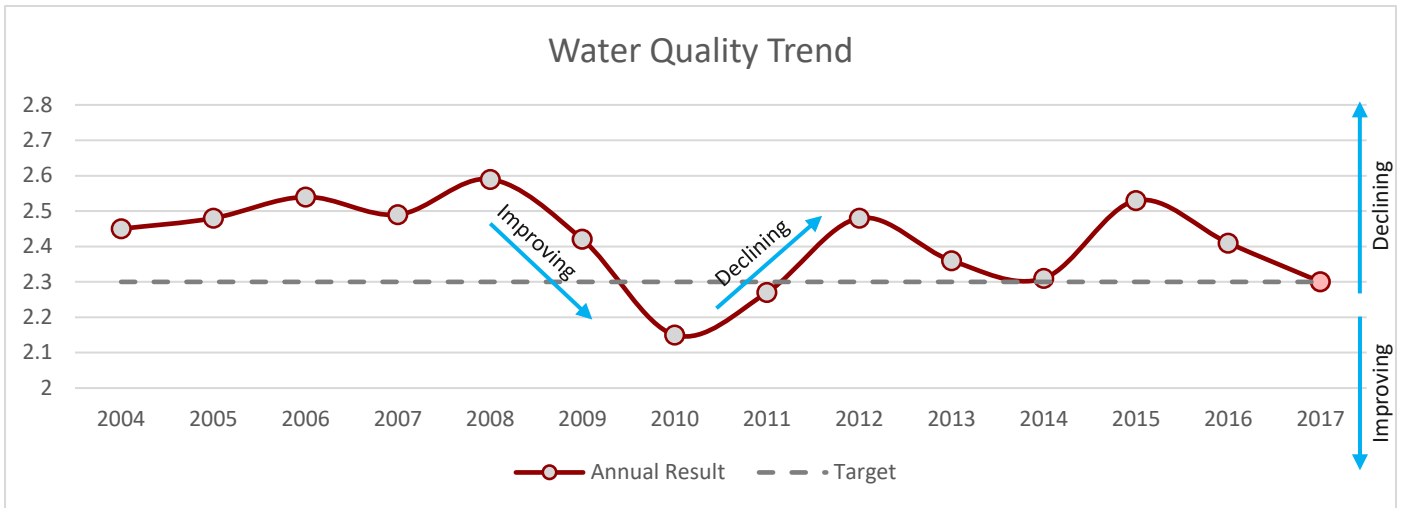
The Trophic Level Index (TLI) is used to give an overall picture of the health of Lake Rotomā.

TLI target met. For the 2016/17 year, the TLI was 2.3, which equalled the target TLI.



WATER QUALITY TREND

Water quality has fluctuated over the last 13 years. It has improved since 2009 with Lake Rotomā meeting its target in 2011, 2014 and 2017.



RESEARCH

Includes, but is not limited to:

Taonga fish species research, NIWA, 2007

- Koaro extinct in this lake
- Kākahi, tuna and kōura were present

TE ARAWA MONITORING

Te Arawa Lakes Trust is embarking on a project to measure and monitor the cultural health of Lake Rotomā using indicators that are more meaningful to us. This may be based on the following:

- Can I swim here?
- Can I gather food here?

This project will be piloted within the Lake Tarawera Catchment.

We will also continue working with Dr Ian Kusabs who monitors kōura populations in our lakes using tau (bracken fern bundles).

LAKE ACTION PLANS

Lake Rotomā Action Plan 2009 - This Plan comprises nine actions to improve the water quality in Lake Rotomā. It includes projects and actions for the regional council, district council and catchment landowners.

<http://www.rotorualakes.co.nz/vdb/document/75>

ACTION PLAN PROJECTS

Includes, but is not limited to:

Project	Status
Sewerage reticulation is proposed via a combined scheme for Rotomā and East Rotoiti (Gisborne Point and Hinehopu).	In progress
New Regional Council rules in place for septic tank discharges and other types of onsite wastewater treatment systems within lakes catchments.	Completed

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

- www.tearawa.iwi.nz
- www.rotorualakes.co.nz
- www.lawa.org.nz

Te Arawa Lakes Trust
Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes Programme
Land Air Water Aotearoa