

**Chamber Survey December 2007
Issues related to the District Plan Review**

Section 1 - The Working Environment

What is working well and what would you like encouraged?

- I would like to see the continued free parking for the outskirts of town. This is utilized by workers mainly Monday to Friday. The parking meters around town are one of the most expensive I have experienced and to be charging workers who choose to walk the distance to their office is disgusting.
- The working environment has grown out of the old plan.
- Encouragement needs to be given to the development of several business areas throughout the current township
- Good controls in place to ensure that business development is in keeping with the needs of the environment & community.
- Good levels of consultation.
- Revitalisation of existing buildings is working well. The upgrade and utilisation of the old Deka building is well overdue. The activity the shops in this area will bring will assist in adding life to the CBD.
- Mostly fine

What changes would you like made? What additional issues would you like considered?

- Designation of industrial area in the Waipa Valley, and around the airport, to encourage global export opportunities from Rotorua International Airport expansion
- More & more people, with the use of technology, are running businesses from their home, or a combination of home & business premises. The 'zoning' system doesn't really cater for this. More 'thinking outside the square' required to accommodate the changing ways people are working.
- More 'good quality' office space required in CBD.
- The current state of repair of some buildings is shocking.
- Review of parking in the CBD.
- There has been an increase in utilisation of empty buildings by church and community groups with no consideration given for parking. As retailers this severely affects us as customers cannot park within certain areas on given days. This is very noticeable on a Sunday with the utilisation of different buildings (formerly office space) by church groups.
- In line with the above, Council needs to be quite clear on what is a suitable designated use for the buildings in the city.
- Ring fencing the commercial and being tougher on home use commercial activities pervading into main thoroughfares such as Old Taupo Rd and also main road industrial kept as industrial and service commercial not bulk retail.

Section 2 - The Living Environment

What is working well and what would you like encouraged?

- Not liking the one yellow line at Stop signs along with the one white line at Give Ways. The visual impact has gone
- Lot sizes are good, multiunit developments should be progressively encouraged closer to the CBD.
- Ensure that large reserve spaces and right of ways are developed in new subdivisions to make a linked trail system through new subdivisions away from major roads.
- Plenty of open space in city centre with pleasant parks & green areas providing recreation areas for those without their own garden.
- Low density accommodation is pleasant for occupants. I think high density housing & apartment blocks are disastrous for the occupants & the community & should be avoided at all costs.
- The current building sizes and areas are fine. We don't want any more high rise buildings but better utilisation of existing ones.
- Shared occupancy between residential/commercial should be encouraged.
- Generally the residential zones work well

What changes would you like made? What additional issues would you like considered?

- I would like to see the lines re-painted on the roads by Pack N Save and Valentines. As people turn from Te Ngae road etc it is mayhem once again. The lines seemed to keep people in their space and sane.
- An improved recycling programme. Ours is a disgrace. When a town like Whangamata and we can't.
- Improved clean-ups of our public areas, and raised awareness of the amount of rubbish that is dumped in our streams, recreational and riparian areas.
- More consideration for changing lifestyles and achieving the harmonious blending of the working and living environments.
- Need to deal with the idea that in future, the role of the city centre will change - more people will live & work in the suburbs & rural areas & the city centre will become a focal point for resources, retail, socialising rather than workplace.
- Encouragement of living in the city would be great. I have had experience in living in downtown Sydney and New York and the ability to walk to restaurants and be involved in the city on a daily basis adds to creation of a vibrant city.
- For this to be effective in Rotorua, the current increasing trend of anti-social behaviour in the CBD including tagging needs to be addressed.

Section 3 - THE CBD – The City Centre

What is working well and what would you like encouraged?

- I get frustrated with the City Focus. It encourages people to group and often they are not people who leave you feeling comfortable. Often teenagers hollering at each other etc.
- Conceptualising and bringing to a reality the redevelopment of the lakefront. This area is an untapped jewel in our crown.
- Excellent parks & gardens & cleanliness.
- The Street works really well and should be encouraged further along Tutanekai Street. Whilst Rotorua doesn't have the climate for all year outdoor dining, the outdoor concept should be encouraged.
- Grouping like activities works well.
- Apartment housing in commercial areas will always encounter noise so how this issue is addressed is uncertain but the city needs the CBD to thrive and residents can't be in a position to hold businesses to ransom over noise levels.
- Pavement seating in the Street works well

What changes would you like made? What additional issues would you like considered?

- Like the events that occur down the Street for example. Awesome atmosphere and well organised.
- Parking needs to be revamped.
- Encourage a 'walking CBD' at least 1 if not 2 pedestrian only streets in the CBD in the next 10 years.
- Recycling in the CBD for tourists and shoppers. replacement of generic garbage bins with recycle units.
- Pedestrian only areas, with free parking.
- CBD should be a pleasant focal point for people to meet, socialise & shop. This would include more outdoor seating at cafe's and pavement areas.
- More care should be taken of old buildings and history & heritage conserved.
- New buildings should be in keeping with the 'feel' of Heritage buildings such as the Museum, Old Post Office & Blue Baths.
- Additional outdoor seating, more parking, etc.
- Get started on the revitalisation strategy - stop talking take action.
- Faster action on developing a viable service lane network in the main blocks to keep service vehicles off the main streets and disrupting flow and parking.
- Better provision for all day car parks.

- Make some strategic traffic flow changes especially on Tutaneikai St and access into Rotorua Central to improve traffic flow and encourage cars to not use the CBD as a thoroughfare purely for parking.
- Encourage people to use ring routes around the CBD

Section 4 - The Physical Environment of Rotorua

What is working well and what would you like encouraged?

- Lake Water Quality efforts are progressing well
- The outdoor recreational opportunities offered by the lakes & forests and the sporting events and tourists these attract.
- We have a lot to be thankful for with the current surrounds.
- Low utilisation of recreation by locals should be encouraged rather than the commercialisation to make money i.e. Redwood Grove/Whaka Forest should remain free for the use by locals and not turned into a money making venture by mountain-biking groups.
- Also, the use of the Redwoods by Tour Groups who congest and litter the paths with tour groups should not be encouraged. There should be designated areas where the tourists can be taken to have their photo taken without impacting on the use of the Redwoods by the locals.
- Short term financial gain by Tour Drivers shouldn't be allowed to negatively impact on locals.

What changes would you like made? What additional issues would you like considered?

- Cycling routes.
- Enlargement of major arterials being given priority (i.e. not in the next 10 years, but the next 5 years)
- Potential to turn Whaka forest into a recreational forest, or a managed recreational area for the country.
- More areas opened up to the public & more tramping & walking tracks e.g. Tarawera.
- Ensuring resources like the Redwoods are under public control.
- Lake Water Quality is an urgent and vital issue.
- Farmers should be given incentives and encouraged to retire their land to bush & reserves/recreation areas, rather than expecting rural householders to pay \$30k per property for sewerage schemes when household sewerage contributes only a tiny fraction of pollution compared to farming.
- Lake water quality needs to be improved as does the lake surrounds.
- Address a lot of the empty areas - it is a huge pity that Kuirau Park is not the active place it once was. Why can't this area be better utilised.
- Greater demand for housing and lifestyle blocks will happen.
- Consideration of the effects on the environment need to be maintained and consistent

Section 5 - Is there enough industrial and/or commercial land and is it in the right places?

Less commercial and industrial land will be needed as people change their lifestyles and the economy becomes more global.

Distinct shortage of industrial land

Section 6 - What development opportunities are needed near the airport?

Export centre, shipping and courier space, light industrial space, typical to most airports in the world.

Sufficient at the moment

Section 7 - Do you have any other issues you would like to raise?

Walkways that join peoples properties are disgusting and messy. It is all very well having nice gardens in the city but what about maintaining the walkways and keeping them clean and trimmed?

A fairer rating system for motels, hotels, lodges, B&Bs. Presently inconsistent and even with the capitals rating system proposed it may still not be fair against levels of occupancy. Perhaps consideration should be put on occupancy, beds, people and impact on council facilities.

Development of Cycle-ways to and from the CBD and the redwoods