Annual Report

On Trust operations

Financial Year Ended 30 June 2025

1.0 Background

1.1 In February 2007 the Crown, Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council signed an agreement to contribute to a joint public fund to be used to undertake strategies and actions to reduce the amount of nitrogen from entering the Lake Taupō catchment. This saw the establishment of the Lake Taupō Protection Trust in 2007 to administer an $80 million fund with the purpose of maintaining water quality in Lake Taupō through a reduction in the manageable nitrogen levels entering Lake Taupō by 20%.

1.2 The funds have been used to encourage and assist land use change, to purchase land/nitrogen in the Lake Taupō catchment and to fund any other initiatives that assisted landowners to reduce the nitrogen impact of their activities on Lake Taupō.

1.3 A key activity undertaken by the Trust had been to enter into 27 contractual agreements with landowners (nitrogen reduction agreements). These agreements have a term of 999 years and require ongoing monitoring and contractual oversight to ensure that the terms and conditions of the contracts are adhered to and the investment made by the funding partners is protected.

1.4 The agreements provided for the purchase of landowner nitrogen allowances and for changes in land use. The Trust entered into the final nitrogen reduction agreement in 2015. Over the 2015 - 2018 period the Trust completed the remaining annual nitrogen reduction and on farm nitrogen reductions were achieved.

1.5 The Trust now focuses on monitoring landowner compliance with the agreements.

1.6 On 30 June 2023 Taupō District Council became the sole Trustee of the Trust and continues to monitor landowner compliance with the support of Waikato Regional Council.

2.0 Trust operations

Nitrogen Reduction Agreement Monitoring

The nitrogen reduction agreements have continued to be monitored for compliance throughout the year. Waikato Regional Council confirmed to the Trust that all contracted landowner's onsite operations achieved compliance with their allowable nitrogen discharge for the year.

Enquiries

The Trust has a dedicated inbox and phone number. In the 2024-25 financial year, the Trust received 20 queries made up of 17 emails and 3 phone calls.

3.0 Council Controlled Organisation exemption

3.1 On 27 February 2024 Taupō District Council resolved to exempt the Trust from the Council Controlled Organisation reporting requirements due to the limited nature and scope of the Trusts activities.

3.2 The Trust no longer requires a Trust specific annual audit saving about $30,000 a year in audit fees. Audits are now completed as part of the wider Council audit.

3.3 The Trust is no longer required to produce an annual Statement of Intent.

4.0 Variation of Trust Deed

The Trust Deed has been varied to provide for the making of decisions by the sole Trustee, Taupō District Council, without the need for approval from Waikato Regional Council and the Ministry for the Environment.

Project Exit Agreement

A Project Exit Agreement was signed by the parties acknowledging that Taupō District Council will administer the operations of the Trust and the Waikato Regional Council and the Ministry for the Environment will no longer contribute funds to the Trust.

5.0 Financial position

The Trust operated on residual funds with income from interest earned from term deposit activities.

6.0 Looking ahead

The Trust will continue to:

- Focus on ongoing compliance with nitrogen reduction agreements
- Process nitrogen reduction variation requests

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the year ended 30 June 2025

	LTPT	
	Actual 2025 $	Actual 2024 $
Revenue		
Finance revenue	39,351	20,199
Other revenue	-	-
Total revenue	**39,351**	20,199
Expenses		
Depreciation	566	-
Accounting & Advisory	-	9,747
Bank Fees	0	12
Other Expenses	985	44
ACC Levy	-	266
Legal Fees	1,004	1,450
Monitoring Plan Expenses	-	2,103
Computer Expenses	-	342
Insurance	-	5,599
Telephone	-	41
Total expenses	**2,555**	19,605
Surplus/(deficit)	**36,797**	594

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2025

	LTPT	
	Actual 2025 $	Actual 2024 $
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	30,901	21,538
Other financial assets	748,000	720,000
Trade and other receivables	491	491
Total current assets	**779,391**	742,029
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	-	566
Total non current assets	-	566
Total assets	**779,391**	742,595
Net assets (assets minus liabilities)	**779,391**	742,595
Equity		
Retained earnings	779,381	742,585
Trust Capital	10	10
Total equity	**779,391**	742,595

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How can I find out more?

If you would like to find out more information, please visit https://protectinglakeTaupō.nz/the-trust/ or email ltpt@taupō.govt.nz