

# Meeting Minutes

**Subject** Community Liaison Group Meeting (Rotorua Contracted Emergency Housing)

**Venue** The Arts Village (Studio 2)  
1240 Hinemaru Street, Rotorua

**Date** 13 May 2025

**Chair** Rachel Dimery

**Time** 6:00 – 6.44pm

## Attendees

Ash Hackett (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)  
Jono Fraser (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)  
Jenny Peace (Restore Rotorua)  
Bryce Smart (Rotovegas Motel)  
Jean-Paul Gaston (JP) (RLC)  
Frank Liu (Ascot Fenton Motel)  
Emily Telfer (Community representative)  
Kent Breeze (Rydges - Hotels/Tourism representative)  
Dianna Raukawa Doughty (Community representative)  
Kim McGrath (Minute taker) (RLC)

## Apologies

Paul Romanes (Community representative)  
Jordon Robertson (Te Pokapū – Te Hau ki te Kāinga)

## 1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone. Emily opened the meeting with a karakia.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies noted.

## 3. Update requested by Restore Rotorua on Aywon Motel – is it still being vacated by June 2025 and does it have a sinking lid policy?

Jenny: Advised she had had a meeting with Lyall and Will last year, at a time when Aywon was full of transitional housing. Will had told her that HUD were using a 'sinking lid' policy and that Aywon would be vacated by June. Jenny has driven past and it still looks very busy. She queried whether Aywon was still being used for transitional.

Jono: Advised that Aywon was on track to exit transitional housing by 30 June and is currently less than half occupied. Referrals were ceased at the end of January.

Jenny: Queried why Aywon did not have to have a consent.

Jono: The consented motels were specific to a programme of work for emergency housing. Transitional housing is different as it's mainly short term, and the use is not a consenting matter through councils. Jono confirmed that HUD is trying to get out of all motels around the country, both contracted emergency housing and transitional housing.

Jenny: Queried how long the average length of stay in transitional housing motels is.

Ash: Offered to find out this information and will provide it to Rachel to circulate to CLG members.

**ACTION:** Ash will find out how long the average length of stay in transitional housing motels is, and to forward to Rachel to circulate to CLG members.

## 4. Discuss results of the compliance monitoring by Rotorua Lakes Council (condition 28(a)(iii))

Rachel had circulated the last compliance monitoring report following the 25 February 2025 meeting. The next compliance report is due in June. This will be sent out when it is available.

There were no questions regarding the current compliance monitoring report.

## 5. Discuss report from MHUD on the exit strategy and implementation of the exit strategy (conditions 28(a)(iv) and (vi))

The exit strategy was circulated to the CLG after the 25 February meeting. This report was for the quarter to the end of March. Exiting of the motels remains on track to be completed by the times stipulated in the resource consents. Household numbers had reduced from 93 to 69.

HUD notified Council today that Alpin was fully exited, which is ahead of the resource consent timing.

Notice to exit has been issued to Pohutu (30 June) and Geneva (31 July). Occupancy for Pohutu and Geneva is down to 36% and 14% respectively.

This will leave Lake Rotorua, Ascot and RotoVegas remaining. Referrals will stop to these motels by 15 June.

Jono commented that Rotorua's massive build programme has certainly helped to exit the motels.

Dianna: Queried where most of the Apollo and Alpin tenants have moved to.

Jono: Advised that this is listed on the bottom of the exit strategy document.

## **6. Discuss feedback on effectiveness of Site Management Plans and conditions (condition 28(a)(v))**

JP confirmed that RLC has not received any complaints regarding the remaining motels. He reminded everyone that complaints should be lodged with RLC to be investigated.

## **7. Other business**

Jono: Asked that the date of next meeting of RLC/HUD/community rep (condition 27) be arranged after this meeting while everyone was in the same room.

Dianna: Queried how many motels MSD were using.

JP: Advised there were two.

Jono: Advised the CLG that usually when HUD get queries (media etc) around where emergency or transitional housing motels are located HUD do not release this information for the privacy of the people staying there.

Dianna: Advised that she has noticed a big improvement in Whakarewarewa since Alpin and Apollo were exited. It's nice to see families coming back into the motels.

Jono: Received the same feedback from Denise at Te Puia.

Rachel: Asked that the RLC/HUD/community rep meeting (condition 27), generally held online, have minutes taken which can then be circulated to the wider group.

Ash: Advised that she had taken some minutes from the last meeting. She will circulate these to the attendees first to check, and then send to Rachel for circulating to the wider CLG.

**ACTION:** Ash to circulate the minutes of the RLC/HUD/community rep meeting to the attendees first to check, and then send to Rachel for circulating to the wider CLG.

Emily: Advised the Victoria area has improved massively from what it was like in 2020/2021 when she moved there. There are no longer weekly visits by police or ambulance.

## **8. Next meeting date**

It was agreed that next meeting would be set for Tuesday 16 September.

**ACTION:** Rachel to confirm venue availability for 16 September and send meeting invites.

Emily closed the meeting with a karakia.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action	Person responsible
Find out how long the average length of stay in transitional housing motels is, and forward to Rachel to circulate to CLG members.	Ash - HUD
Circulate the minutes of the RLC/HUD/community rep meeting (condition 27) to the attendees first to check, and then send to Rachel for circulating to the wider CLG.	Ash - HUD
Confirm venue availability for 16 September and send meeting invites.	Rachel