

PUKEHINA BEACH RATEPAYERS' & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Coast Care Storm Erosion Update August 2021

Kia ora koutou,

We hope that everyone is safe and well at this time. This pānui/newsletter is to share an update with residents and homeowners in Pukehina about the next steps in the process of dune restoration on our beach.

In September 2020 we had a large storm event that resulted in quite significant erosion along some areas of Pukehina Beach. We consulted with homeowners, Council and the CoastCare team, and got advice from Coastal expert Jim Dham in order to look at mitigation measures for the beach and affected properties.

In November 2020 we actioned the resource consent that we, Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association hold¹, and did a push up of sand to **reinstate the eroded dune** in the worst affected areas (71-89, 151-207, 283-329 and 379-381 Pukehina Parade). This work was completed by Readfields Ltd from Paengaroa and involved pushing up accumulated sand from below the low tide mark up to the toe of the dune, and re-distributing this to create a sloped frontage.



This was a **sacrificial dune** in the event of any more larger storm events over the summer and winter period. Further planning and consultation work was also required as a number of areas required a **reshape of the steep dune face behind the push-up**. This work was estimated to occur this autumn.

As you will know we have had a particularly rough winter on the beach with this la Nina weather pattern bringing a lot of storms and big seas. We have been unable to do any of the proposed further work as we wait for the beach to stabilise. We have however been planning, so here's the update.

The work required on our beach between September and December will be focused in three different parts. All require assessment and confirmation before we can begin:

1) Reshaping existing dunes to widen them landward.

Approximately 27 properties have agreed to reshape work in earlier discussions with Jim Dham and will get emails from Jim over the next 2 days to confirm the details of this work. Please look over these details carefully and confirm or revise as required – we will only do work you agree to.

Some of you have also indicated you wish to be present when the work is conducted. Please liaise with Jim (0274 718 219 or jdahm@xtra.co.nz) on this as you get your details.

¹ Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association hold a resource consent through Bay of Plenty Regional Council to do remedial work on the beach in the event of erosion. All ratepayers pay into a targeted rate held by Western BOP District Council to fund this work. Properties on the beachfront pay \$46.02 and those on the inland side of Pukehina Parade pay \$8.23 per year.

Those of you who have not had discussions with Jim but would like to widen the dune fronting your property, please contact Jim asap and we will try to include you in the upcoming work.

Proposed process:

- The vegetation will be sprayed and dead prior to earthworks.
- Earthworks will largely be limited to removing the dead vegetation back to clean sand for planting.
- The areas will then be densely planted. However, in those areas with very high dunes and existing steep faces, there will also be reshaping earthworks to achieve a more gradual slope and this will be covered in the details you get from Jim.

The purpose of the re-shaping work is to limit the angle of the dune and create a more resilient dune for the long-term. The reshaping works this year will largely be independent of tides. We are aiming to get the clearance work done mid to late September to give homeowners and CoastCare time to organise the planting that will need to be finished by Labour Weekend at the latest.

CoastCare are holding plants assigned to the reshape areas first and then weed free areas at least 1m behind the **sacrificial dune**. There are unlikely to be any plants left this season for properties outside of these areas.

To help protect your property from storm events it is recommended to have **at least** 10-15m of healthy native dune grasses growing in front of your property. You can take steps to remove lawn back into your property and plant with native sand binding species, Spinifex and Pingao. By using our ratepayer resource consent, we can remove weeds mechanically rather than having to hand weed.



Actions for homeowners who require dune reshaping work:

- If you have had a visit from Jim and have agreed to a **re-shape** (behind the push up), please confirm or revise details with us when you hear from Jim reply to his email and cc in CoastCare – details below).
- If you were unsure of converting some of your section to dune but would now like to have this work done, please contact us for a site visit. (Reply to this email and cc in Jim and CoastCare – details below).
- NB: The team on the PRRA will be taking photos of all areas (when we move to Alert Level 2) to get a current situation update.

2) Additional temporary dune repair using sand pushed up from the beach – i.e., the push up work done in 2020.

Actions for homeowners following 2020 push up:

If the area in front of your property is the right slope and doesn't require any reshape work then we need to confirm if the sand is still there from 2020 push up and assess 1) does it require another repair and/or 2) can the top of it be planted.

- a) If the area does require another repair, we will arrange this as soon as sufficient beach width has recovered. This work needs a good width of dry beach at high tide. If possible, we will do some repair at the same time as the reshape work is happening on the beach. Otherwise, we will schedule it in for later in the year once the beach has better recovered.
NB: The team on the PRRA will be taking photos of all areas (when we move to Alert Level 2) to get a current situation update.
- b) If there is space to plant and the area is not covered in invasive weeds, the top of these dune areas can be planted with 1-2 rows of spinifex. Please note we are not planting **on** the push up but 1m above it, allowing the runners of the spinifex to move down and cover the push up over time. This is due to the push up being susceptible to erosion and likely loss of plants before they establish.
- c) Chris and Tania from Coast Care can provide plants and fertiliser for this work, as well as green waste bags if you have a few weeds you need to hand remove first. Please get in touch with them if you think your area is good to go now.



Please note: For reshape or push up work: if your property is next to a beach access you need to use this accessway rather than create a new one down the front of the dune face. Council and DOC also encourage people to share walkways to the beach, make them angled, and ensure there are no new hard structures created (unless you have obtained a resource consent for these. See recent flier from BOPRC on the left).

3) New erosion events from the 2021 winter

If you are concerned about any **NEW** erosion in your area of the beach (outside of the zones from the 2020 push up) please get in touch and we will arrange a site visit. There may be some reshaping work required if the banks are particularly steep or it may require a small push up before some planting above it in 2022.



A great planting season so far!

Finally, a big mihi/thank you to all homeowners, residents and wider community who have done such a fantastic job of weeding and planting in other areas of the beach this year. Chris and Tania of CoastCare have picked up more than four tonnes of invasive plants removed by the community, and delivered 6000 spinifex and pingao to be planted by volunteers outside the push up area of the beach.

CoastCare and Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society have had Te Puke Intermediate, Te Puke Primary, Te Puke High and Paengaroa School out also helping to restore the dunes for people who need an extra hand.



They also did an amazing job reinstating the fence around the dotterel breeding ground at Pukehina Spit after a lot of sand was lost there too. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou! We appreciate the efforts and action of our community, and wider community too! The beach is here for everyone to enjoy so it's great to see so many people involved in good action.



Dunes are the backbone of our beaches. We will never stop the natural erosion that occurs in this dynamic environment, however, native sand-binding plants like spinifex & pingao help build and stabilise dunes, as well as providing habitat for native species like the skink.

If you have any questions, please email PRRA at pukehinabra@gmail.com or Jim Dahm jdahm@xtra.co.nz or Chris Ward Coast Care on coastcare.west@boprc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi ☺

