



Coast Care Update for the Pukehina Community June 2022

Kia ora koutou! The 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. Coast Care Bay of Plenty works with our community to remove weeds from the reserve strip and dunes, and plant spinifex and pingao. It is recommended to have at least 10-15m of healthy native dune grasses growing in front of beachfront properties and reserves.

The Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association (PRRA) hold a resource consent through Bay of Plenty Regional Council to do remedial work on the beach in the event of significant erosion. All ratepayers in our area contribute to 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. We thank everyone for their contributions to this fund over many years, to ensure we can all access the coastline and help repair and nourish it when needed.



Where are we at with remedial works?

There are two types of work/mahi we are currently undertaking under the guidance of a coastal expert, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and our local hapū Ngati Whakahemo.

- 1) Push up of sand in areas where the beach does not repair after erosion events
- 2) Re-shaping work to limit the angle of the dune and create a more resilient dune for the long-term.

With both areas of mahi, spinifex and pingao are planted along the top edge and landward of the dune, helping over time to stabilise and catch sand, and build more dune area.

As a reminder of where we have come from:

- **In September 2020** we had a large storm event that resulted in significant erosion in areas of Pukehina Beach. We consulted with homeowners, Council, Ngati Whakahemo and the Coast Care team, and got advice from Coastal expert Jim Dahm in order to look at mitigation measures for the beach and affected properties.
- **In November 2020** we actioned our resource consent and did a push up of sand to reinstate the eroded dune in the worst affected areas

- **During May-Aug 2021** we did further planning and consultation work at the reshaping of a number of steep dune faces, behind the push-up
- **In September 2021** we completed part one of this stage of mahi: the reshaping of steep dune faces (this included a significant amount of exotic weed removal)
- **In Oct and Nov 2021** homeowners, community members and school groups completed planting of the reshaped area. **8000 plants were planted in the reshape area and 6000 additional plants put in at other beachfront properties to continue great planting efforts!**
- **In Jan 2021** we planned to complete part 2 of the 2021 mahi but high tide beach conditions and cyclones prevented this from happening. Luckily these events had long period waves and we ended up with sand accumulation in many areas.
- **April 2022:** Completed part 2 remedial works with a push-up in front of key areas of the beach. These works form a sacrificial dune that will protect the reshaped areas until plant growth is sufficient.
- **May 2022 onwards:** Continue to promote and support Coast Care and everyone who is weeding and planting 😊 Encourage more home owners to restore and regenerate dune area. Monitor any new erosion events.

Photos to share progress and document what happens over time:





Photos following the April 2022 actions:

The removal of weeds and the reshaped dune areas along the beach are looking amazing. The plant growth in most areas is significant with the wet weather in October and November 2021 and great planting techniques from the community helping here!

The recent push up will provide additional protection to these reshaped areas giving them the best chance to recover. If we get another large storm some of this recent push up may get taken but the purpose of this is to be a sacrificial dune.





Dune planting season is here

If you've already begun restoring an area or you planted with the reshape/push up work in 2021, **please continue to check for weeds and remove these** (Chris can provide bags). If you have gaps, you may be able to order some more plants for this season. We mihi to everyone who has made great efforts over many years, we have some amazing examples of healthy dune areas 😊



There are still places on our stretch of coast that would benefit from spinifex & pingao planting. Please call Chris on 0800 884 881 extn 8801 or email chris@coastcare.co.nz to discuss plans for restoring a dune area. Chris provides bags for weeds removal (they are collected from the roadside at regular intervals) and will advise on number and location of plants. This is Chris's last season with Coast Care so we'd like to mihi to him for his passion, skill, experience and help in our community.

If you have any questions regarding this update, or would like to join our Coast Care subcommittee, please email PRRA at pukehinabra@gmail.com

We'd love some more hands on deck!
Ka nui te mihi 😊
The Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association