



## Coast Care Update for the Pukehina Community

### June 2023

Kia ora koutou,

#### **Good news, we can now commence with some further dune restoration work.**

This is an email update to share the scope of works following a thorough beach assessment completed by Jim Dahm our coastal expert and Chris Pronk, Coast Care Officer. We thank you once again for your patience as we waited for the beach to sufficiently recover and our contractor to be free.

As we all know, there was a significant amount of damage caused by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, as well as some messy weather in April/May. We carried out the main emergency push up (between 159-221) in March to stabilise the worst hit areas where properties were most at risk, and at that time we also identified some other sections of beach that could benefit from push up and reshape work.

#### **Following the beach assessment Jim has advised that the following push up work will be completed, starting 15th June:**

*Undertaking repair work at the following sites commencing on Thursday June 15 2023. The work is a continuation of the dune repair following the severe damage caused by Cyclones Gabrielle and Hale and aggravated by other easterly wave events.*

- 75-89 Pukehina Parade
- 107-111 Pukehina Parade
- 141-145 Pukehina Parade
- 175-195 Pukehina Parade
- 199-229 Pukehina Parade
- 283-291 Pukehina Parade
- 323-343 Pukehina Parade.

*Jim noted that 'there may also be work to undertake in some other areas (reshape work) however these are not as critical as houses and property are less at risk. Some of these areas require reshaping and planting to widen the restored dunes landward to create wider and more sustainable dunes. Given the scale required this year, and limitations on plant availability, it is now not envisaged that any significant work of that nature will be practicable this year'.*

#### **Update for other areas of the beach:**

1. There are a number of areas that have lost a lot of dune but still have a large buffer between dune front and houses:
  - a. **Those that have planted inland over many years**, can feel confident that the plants will run down and help naturally re-establish the dune again over the next year. Please continue to keep the plantings free of weeds and give them some fertiliser ahead of rain to encourage runners, and call Chris if you'd like a second opinion.
  - b. **Those that have areas that need to be planted** (e.g., you'd like to come back further inland or start planting) can contact Chris Pronk (020 4116 2959) for a site visit to see what can be achieved this year.

2. These are **sections of the beach where the eroded dunes are generally a lot steeper and a number of properties would benefit from reshaping work**. This unfortunately will be unable to happen this year as there are not enough plants to cover the large scope of this work. There is also a huge amount of exotic weeds growing in rear dunes and conversations that need to happen with homeowners about planting back into sections to create wider dune buffers. We want to work towards this work next year and have secured 20,000 additional spinifex plants for 2024.

### **Health & Safety around the machinery on the beach:**

This time around we do not require any spotters as Readfields (our contractors) will be covering this job. **They have asked that no members of the public approach the machinery operators while working as this is a huge H&S risk**. We have given them their brief so please call Richard Glover on 027 212 3256 for any information/concerns as he will be liaising with Jim and our contractors.

### **Coming up:**

- We have recently made a funding application to see if we can action a large scale weed removal programme along the beach - fingers crossed!
- We would like to hold a community meeting about the Coast Care and Dune Restoration strategy for Pukehina. We'd love to share success stories of reshape and planting work, learn more from Jim Dahm and Chris Pronk about coastal erosion and approaches to help build resilient dune systems, and gather your thoughts and options moving forward. We will confirm this date shortly - looking to be in July.
- Community Planting Day at Motunau Park (419 Pukehina Parade, opp old pub) - Sunday 18th June 10am-12pm - see attached flyer it would be great to have lots of hands on deck!

If you have any questions regarding this update, or would like to assist, please email PRRA at [pukehinabra@gmail.com](mailto:pukehinabra@gmail.com) . Please remember that we are a volunteer committee doing our very best to arrange this work. 😊

We would also encourage more of our community to join the Association and support the work we are doing for our community - join up here: <https://www.pukehinabeach.co.nz/membership/>

Ka nui te mihi 😊

Esther & Richard

Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association

