

I have lived at Waihi Beach all my life apart from 4 years away as a student. My beach access is the northern end of the start of the Shaw Road rock revetment. I go down to the beach twice daily so I can't fail to see what doesn't work and what does. It should be noted that dune restoration can be distressing to novice volunteers and outsiders who understandably don't appreciate the vicissitudes of nature when erosion occurs. When I informally put in a few plants at 41, 39, & 37 Shaw Road I was aware of end effects {flanking}. We would submit that refraction and aberrant effects of the wall cannot be sufficiently mitigated at the southern end of The Loop.

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

To better interpret the policies they have to be read against the Objectives, especially Objectives 1 & 5 {see attachment 1} – including “Coastal hazard risks are managed increasingly by locating or relocating development away from risk areas, protecting or restoring natural defences and discouraging recourse to hard protection structures.

BOPPRC Issues and Objectives for the Coastal Environment

2.6 Coastal hazards Objective 22 & 23

Speaks of enhancing the “natural” biological {i.e. using adaptogenic plants, principally spinifex and pingao which recolonise cut back foredune}_+ physical processes which occur in the coastal environment. The rock revetment proposed is clearly not a natural defence and the wall is conceded as for the most part if not permanently exposed.

Thames Coromandel District Council has confirmed what is and is not “regionally significant infrastructure” and this is not.

The Waihi Beach Seawall Additional Seawall
Compressed Image from Isthmus Group (per
email of 8th August)

Proposed - page 4 image and
Proposed Post Weather event ^{waves} ~~illustrates~~
truncation of the dune system.

There are no examples on Waihi Beach of
Spinifex successfully growing over rock to create
a foredune.

The southern end of Shew Road would be
the closest approximation of an attempt though
the spinifex there is highly unlikely ever to
reach the beach.

Through Coast Care we planted a small
section of sand filled rock, sand which was
deposited there.

This didn't succeed.

Where there are rocks water will naturally
find the point of least resistance thus
eroding the sand.

SAND FROM THE STREAM ENTIRARCH

I often rang Council to advise that the
stream was blocked (Now there is a
camera on the bridge) Seeing the situation
driving past I would go down via Glen
Isle Place to confirm.

I also often checked the datum post
which was there.

In all that time I never noticed
alarming setback. Nothing in fact different
from what we are used to elsewhere.

The GIPS proposal will lead to a flat beach i.e. one with **no** natural slope, prone to stay a wet beach for long periods {as evident in Southern Shaw Road}. We have written about the common pattern of sand movement whereas a rock wall truncates this process and causes scour to the wall. We invariably see a “wet beach” in southern Shaw Road over 2 hours either side of high tide and inhibiting access and amenity values. We see no reason such would not happen at Glen Isla. Issue 29 of the RCEP recognises dunes are not static.

RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN + INNER HARBOUR + COASTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

We also note the claim that the beach is already highly modified and note the {present} wall creates all the effects the NZCPS demands to be avoided {policies 13, 18, 19}

We have quoted from the BOPRC booklet “A helping hand” which describes a properly functioning sandy beach system.

We also question how and why WBOPDC has undertaken to take over responsibility for maintenance of the wall.

SAND FROM THE STREAM ENTRANCE

Although there is sufficient sand from this source sand pushups from further down the beach could even be considered.

COASTAL RESTORATION TRUST HANDBOOK

Re storm cut erosion reads further “In summary with storm cut erosion and recovery the shoreline is simply fluctuating backwards and forwards over time” and “where we are able to keep existing dunes intact or modify our use of the coastal environment to regain sand dune buffers lost by previous development there is little doubt that we will be better protected from future climate change impact than otherwise”.

RESERVES – Comparison

Comparing Tauranga City Council's LAND POLICY 2022 to WBOPDC approach is illuminating.

The Tauranga Council Land Policy purpose is to establish a consistent approach and clear expectations.

Principles are

[3.1] Community benefit

[3.2] Environment. Council recognises and protects the environmental values associated with Council land.

ENCROACHMENT INTO COASTAL RESERVES [Tauranga CC]

12.2 The Councils Key objective of maintaining the natural dune environment in perpetuity of the coastal reserve is paramount

12.5 Highest priority for removal of encroachments A Coast Care Contractor said TCC told a community group their community garden had to be removed.

Mount Maunganui is consistently rated among the top NZ beaches. Clearly they recognise its amenity value.

ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Their applicants claim that profiles at The Loop, although modified by rock armour, that beach levels are similar to further south where there is no protection, stating it is an important point contrary to the often repeated narrative that rock protection works destroy beaches. Similarly further along Shaw Road although beach levels do fluctuate from time to time there is no indication that the existing rock revetment has caused any new permanent loss of beach.

We totally dispute this. It is seen daily before and after high tide with “coastal squeeze” from the Southern end of Shaw Road to beyond 67 Shaw Road {worst point} to Brewer Park.

COASTAL CARE SIGNAGE

Wording is so apt.

No plants no dunes.

Plants protect dunes.

No dunes no beach.

TOE SCOUR

The applicant report states “undesirable effects may include toe scour and overtopping both of which can be remedied by the judicious addition of rocks”.

An alarming admission of likely further and future encroachment onto the beach.

WHANGAMATA

Whangamata has, post cyclone re-established virtually all previously eroded areas to an extent of 700m. Like Mount Maunganui they prioritise their beach as they appreciate its significance. From beach access 12 at Whangamata there is approximately 27m of dune from the nearest boundary. This compares to 28m measured from the property fence of 11 Glen Isla Place to the Spinifex edge.

MITIGATION

Our group of volunteers worked weekly in the past from March to October and often beyond while the Coast Care Co tractor would take our bags of weeds to Maleme Street Transfer Station. Similarly Seaforth Road Reserve was sprayed out by contractors and planted by volunteers.

CONCLUSION

The GIPS proposal is based on a premature approach to something which is unknown and based on projections which will create adverse effects on beach amenity.

Objectives

Objective 1

To safeguard the integrity, form, functioning and resilience of the coastal environment and sustain its ecosystems, including marine and intertidal areas, estuaries, dunes and land, by:

- maintaining or enhancing natural biological and physical processes in the coastal environment and recognising their dynamic, complex and interdependent nature;
- protecting representative or significant natural ecosystems and sites of biological importance and maintaining the diversity of New Zealand's indigenous coastal flora and fauna; and
- maintaining coastal water quality, and enhancing it where it has deteriorated from what would otherwise be its natural condition, with significant adverse effects on ecology and habitat, because of discharges associated with human activity.

Objective 2

To preserve the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values through:

- recognising the characteristics and qualities that contribute to natural character, natural features and landscape values and their location and distribution;
- identifying those areas where various forms of subdivision, use, and development would be inappropriate and protecting them from such activities; and
- encouraging restoration of the coastal environment.

Objective 3

To take account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki and provide for tangata whenua involvement in management of the coastal environment by:

- recognising the ongoing and enduring relationship of tangata whenua over their lands, rohe and resources;
- promoting meaningful relationships and interactions between tangata whenua and persons exercising functions and powers under the Act;
- incorporating mātauranga Māori into sustainable management practices; and
- recognising and protecting characteristics of the coastal environment that are of special value to tangata whenua.

Objective 4

To maintain and enhance the public open space qualities and recreation opportunities of the coastal environment by:

- recognising that the coastal marine area is an extensive area of public space for the public to use and enjoy;
- maintaining and enhancing public walking access to and along the coastal marine area without charge, and where there are exceptional reasons that mean this is not practicable providing alternative linking access close to the coastal marine area; and
- recognising the potential for coastal processes, including those likely to be affected by climate change, to restrict access to the coastal environment and the need to ensure that public access is maintained even when the coastal marine area advances inland.



Objective 5

To ensure that coastal hazard risks taking account of climate change, are managed by:

- locating new development away from areas prone to such risks;
- considering responses, including managed retreat, for existing development in this situation; and
- protecting or restoring natural defences to coastal hazards.

Objective 6

To enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, through subdivision, use, and development, recognising that:

- the protection of the values of the coastal environment does not preclude use and development in appropriate places and forms, and within appropriate limits;
- some uses and developments which depend upon the use of natural and physical resources in the coastal environment are important to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- functionally some uses and developments can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area;
- the coastal environment contains renewable energy resources of significant value;
- the protection of habitats of living marine resources contributes to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities;
- the potential to protect, use, and develop natural and physical resources in the coastal marine area should not be compromised by activities on land;
- the proportion of the coastal marine area under any formal protection is small and therefore management under the Act is an important means by which the natural resources of the coastal marine area can be protected; and
- historic heritage in the coastal environment is extensive but not fully known, and vulnerable to loss or damage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development.

Objective 7

To ensure that management of the coastal environment recognises and provides for New Zealand's international obligations regarding the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area.

The Bay of Plenty is famous for its beaches. We're fortunate to have 156km of sandy coastline to enjoy between Waihi Beach and East Cape. Chances are you live here because you love the beach for one reason or another - be it views, fishing, kai moana, relaxation or just the feeling of being part of a natural landscape.

Living on the coast brings plenty of benefits, but there are some things you should know and do to keep our beach and dunes in good condition for future generations. This is a guide to help you choose dune-friendly ways of living.

Living beside a reserve

Coastal reserves are set aside to protect native plants and animals and to protect coastal properties from hazards of the sea. They are also for the public's enjoyment and use. If you live beside a reserve it's important to know that these areas are **not extensions of your backyard**. It is your responsibility to keep any land development, contouring, walls, mown grass, gardens, trampolines, decks etc within the boundaries of your own land. Treat the reserve with the same respect you would give any other neighbour's land.

Accessing the beach

Getting down to the beach is important. At Waihi Beach there are 45 officially recognised and sign-posted beach access ways marked with a numbered blue post. All beachgoers are encouraged to use the official access ways so we don't end up with erosion and plant destruction from multiple walkways and staircases. Currently there are many informal beach access points from beachfront properties. Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty would like to reduce the number of individual access ways and are working with affected residents to find suitable solutions. Vehicles, including quad bikes, are not permitted on the coastal reserves or the foreshore.



Sand level datum post at Waihi Beach surf club.

Coast Care contractor Maria Corbett at the north end of Waihi Beach.

Gardening and plant choice

As you may already know, getting plants to grow in the sand is not easy. Most plants die due to the dry sandy soil or the exposure to salt spray. You can help maintain the dune ecosystem and increase your success rate by choosing plants native to the Bay of Plenty coast. These plants are well adapted to the conditions. For more on plant choice call Environment Bay of Plenty's Coast Care Coordinator Pim de Monchy and ask for a copy of our guide "Backyard Buffers," or download a copy from www.envbop.govt.nz

What to do with your green waste

Mowing lawns and weeding or pruning the garden produces large quantities of green waste. It might be easy to dump your green waste in the reserve, but it is illegal and not acceptable. Dumping of green waste causes problems such as increased weed invasion, changing fertility rates and damage to native plants. In extreme cases exotic plants and weeds introduced from garden waste can take over large areas of reserve. Make sure you dispose of your green waste correctly,

Pets, pests and wildlife

The beach and dunes provide a home for native wildlife such as skinks, geckos, butterflies, beetles, oystercatchers, dotterels, and gulls. In some cases these species are under threat from predators such as rats, stoats, cats and dogs. It's up to you whether you choose to have a cat or dog, but you should be aware that these pets can pose a risk to some of the dunes' inhabitants.

Protection from hazards

In the 1950s and 1960s it was common for the dunes to be bulldozed to provide a building platform and a better view, and for baches to be built very close to the high tide line. Those days are over now. Today we understand more about the dynamic nature of dunes, and the role they play in protecting land and infrastructure from coastal hazards such as tsunami and storm surges. It is important not to change the contour of dunes in any way, and to keep housing and infrastructure a safe distance inland from the sea.