



Coast Care Update for the Pukehina Community November 2023

Kia ora koutou,

Cyclone Lola hit the beach late October and caused some more damage in two main areas of the beach that were most affected from the Cyclone Hale and Gabrielle earlier this year. Some of the push up sites from June were unaffected and there is good sand build up in these areas. Other areas of the beach that people worked hard to plant are also looking great.

Repair work required:

We have had the beach assessed by our coastal expert Jim Dham and signed off by Ngati Whakahemo and Bay of Plenty Regional Council and will commence the last push up works for the year starting from the 4th or 11th Dec - 20th (weather and tide dependant).

Following the beach assessment Jim has advised that the following push up work will be completed:

The Pukehina Residents and Ratepayers Association (PRRA) advises that further dune repair work will be conducted commencing in the weeks of either Monday 4 or 11 December 2023. The work will be conducted in accordance with the Resource Consent No. 68165 (CC.01,CC.03, CC.04 & LC.01) they hold for this work.

Beach recovery is not yet sufficient to complete the full repair of erosion during 2023. However, the recent additional erosion during Cyclone Lola (end of October 2023) necessitates urgent repair in the worst affected areas to provide a buffer in case of further storms. It is hoped that the desired full repair can finally be undertaken in autumn 2024.

The proposed work is in the following areas:

141-165 Pukehina Parade (230m): *Parts of this area were repaired earlier this year but there has been further damage in the recent events (Figure 1)*

203-233 Pukehina Parade (270m): *Much of this length was included in the earlier 2023 work. However, only limited (and in some cases, no) repair was possible due to inadequate beach recovery. The area has since been severely eroded – similar to the worst previous known events (Figure 2).*

325 and 327 Pukehina Parade (30m): *Limited length of erosion to the north of Midway Park (Figure 3), which occurred during the recent event.*

339 to 341 Pukehina Parade (30m): *Localised dune erosion (Figure 4) noted (but not addressed) in the earlier 2023 work. This erosion has now been aggravated by the recent storm event.*

401 to 489 Pukehina Parade (490m): *An extensive length of erosion (Figure 5) which occurred in the recent event.*

Objective of Proposed Dune Repair Work

The key objective of the proposed dune repair is simply to reinstate the eroded dune in front of the most damaged properties and dwellings. As per earlier work, the push-up repair simply provides a sacrificial dune to mitigate future erosion. It is not a permanent solution to the erosion hazard

but “buys time” for the adaptive transition required and avoids the need for hard protection works. Beach recovery in many areas is still relatively limited and this will limit the scope of the work. However, it is desired to remediate the worst eroded areas as much as practicable in case of a storm event over summer. It is hoped that with the predicted lengthy El Nino summer, sufficient beach recovery will occur to enable the final repair work will be able to be completed in autumn 2024.

Debris

As with the events earlier in the year, the recent erosion has also exposed further debris from historic/legacy structures – including tyres, rocks, concrete, timber and even steel beam (e.g., see bottom photo in Figure 2). These materials will be removed from the beach, temporarily stock-piled on Midway Reserve and then removed off-site to appropriate disposal (either clean fill or landfill as appropriate) towards the end of the works.

Planting

No planting of the reinstated dune will be undertaken as it is a sacrificial feature that may be lost to erosion. In addition, the works are being undertaken outside of planting season. PRRA will consult with bay of Plenty Coastcare with a view to appropriate planting in the 2024 planting season. In most cases, this work will be limited to planting landward of the push-up to reduce risk of plant loss in the event of future erosion. Spinifex extends stolons seaward quite rapidly and past planting PRRA and Coastcare have conducted has extended over the push-up and down to the toe of the reinstated dune within 1.5-2 years.

Contractor and Supervision

The dune reinstatement work will be undertaken by Readfields Ltd of 56 Conway Road, Paengaroa.

Update for other areas of the beach:

1. There are a number of areas that have lost some dune this year, 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 next 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**. We will revisit this in 2024 and assess how many plants are available thru CoastCare to cover the large scope of this work. There is 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.

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 in 2024:

- A community meeting about the Coast Care and Dune Restoration strategy for Pukehina. An opportunity 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.

If you have any questions regarding this update, or would like to assist, please email PRRA at pukehinabra@gmail.com .

We would encourage more of our community to join the Association and support the work we are doing for our community. It's only \$30 to keep updated and help support the work we are doing for the community: <https://www.pukehinabeach.co.nz/membership/>

Lastly, please remember that we are a volunteer committee doing our very best to arrange this work. There is significant assessment, contact with local authorities and iwi, as well as site visits, communications, reports etc that need to be compiled ahead of any mahi starting. We would welcome more people to help with this huge scope of work, especially if you are in an area that is requiring/been the recipient of repair work.

Ka nui te mihi ☺

Esther & Richard

Pukehina Residents' and Ratepayers' Association

