

COASTAL ACTION PLAN

24 August 2022

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Coastal.Plan@whanganui.govt.nz



Firstly, a thank you

Thank you to everyone who completed the Coastal Action Plan survey. This closed on Sunday, 31 July and we received over 505 responses.

We would like to thank those who took part in the community conversations in June and also thank the wider Whanganui community for sharing their values of the coast and their aspirations about what they want to see from this space.

Earlier this month, council staff reported back to elected members. Elected members were pleased with the progress made and are excited for the next steps. You can watch the meeting [here](#). The item on the coastal action plan begins around 1hr 59min. You can also download the full survey results [here](#) to learn more about what the community said.



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Takeaways from the survey

We received feedback from residents of all suburbs in Whanganui and beyond, showing that the coast and our beaches are highly valued by our entire community.

You may have noticed our survey asked questions about more than just amenity value as we wanted to see how our community connects with the coast, and how we can create something better in this space than we already have.

We found that people get their physical, emotional and social needs met in our coastal spaces, while also giving back – whether it be attending planting events or picking up rubbish, swimming or enjoying the sunset with family and friends.

Some suggestions for creating abundance in our coastal areas are creating a diverse coastal forest, healthy dune systems, healthy kaimoana, and a safe place for everyone. A socially, culturally and environmentally rich and diverse area that is accessible to all of Whanganui and beyond.

In Castlecliff respondents said the North Mole is the area they visit the most often, and the most common issues raised were rubbish, vehicles on the dunes and beach and dogs. In Kai Iwi the most frequented area is the coast between the Kai Iwi stream and the Mowhanau embayment and the biggest issues at Kai Iwi were erosion, poor stream quality, vehicles, and driftwood.

These issues will be addressed, and solutions will be incorporated into our management strategies. The community has also brought forward some additional management options which we are exploring and, where required, we are seeking further technical advice.



Next steps

We are dedicated to the process of working closely with hapū and the community to develop this plan. Implementation activities will be community-led wherever possible.

Our next steps for this work include:

- Meeting with key community groups to discuss survey responses, feedback and next steps
- Reviewing the national adaptation plan and meeting with government officials
- Seeking costing, engineering, and ecological advice for potential management options
- Community-based resource mapping of current and past social, environmental and cultural resources, to inform spatial design of the selected coastal management options
- Drafting the coastal action plan.

A note from Rebecca Dobbin

I am excited to share that I will be moving to Whakatāne District Council to take on a role as a strategic advisor working on its Climate Change programme. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Whanganui community on this plan. I would like to thank the Pearsons for their support throughout this work. I would also like to thank Kate Quigley who provided the three large beautiful images in this newsletter.

*Thank you Rebecca for all your hard work and dedication in getting us to the point we are now.
We wish you all the best.*

The Coastal Action Plan Team

