



# Living on a sand castle

*A guide for coastal residents*

## Getting involved in restoration

About 1,200 coastal residents like you are members of a programme called Coast Care. This is a partnership between local communities and local government agencies in the Bay of Plenty to restore and protect dunes, both for their biodiversity value and their role as a natural buffer from the hazards of the sea.

We do things like:

- weed and rabbit control
- planting of native dune plants
- beach clean-ups
- temporary fencing and fertiliser application.

We'd love it if you joined us. Help us set objectives for your area's dunes and then work with like-minded locals to improve the dunes for everybody.

## For further information contact:

**Coast Care Coordinator**  
**Bay of Plenty Regional Council**  
Phone: 0800 884 880  
Email: [coastcare@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:coastcare@boprc.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz)

## Or contact your local city or district council:

**Tauranga City Council** - 07 577 7000

**Whakatāne District Council** - 07 306 0500

**Western Bay of Plenty District Council** - 07 571 8008

**Ōpōtiki District Council** - 07 315 3030



**The Bay of Plenty is famous for its beaches. We're fortunate to have 156 km 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, kaimoana, 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 most beaches along our coast there are officially recognised and sign-posted beach access ways marked with a blue post. All beach goers are encouraged to use the official access ways to reduce erosion and plant destruction.

To keep vegetation healthy and intact vehicles should be kept off the dunes. Vehicle use is restricted along most of the coastline. Check with your local district or city council for the bylaws in place in your area.



### *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 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 Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Coast Care Coordinator and ask for a copy of our guide "Backyard Buffers" or download a copy from [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.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, moths, 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.