

# Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Beach Management Plan

## Summary of Feedback



### General Overview

The Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Board carried out engagement with the community from 1 July 2019 for approximately twelve weeks, with the final engagement being held on 27 August 2019. Seven hui were conducted over this time, from Kaitāia through to Te Hapua.

Feedback was received through multiple channels and in addition to the engagement hui included letters, emails, and local kura and online feedback.

Over 1,500 responses were received from the community hui and school engagement. In excess of 200 people attended the various engagement hui.

Traffic, parking and access in relation to the beach management areas were the most common themes discussed at the community hui. Key themes are outlined below, together with snapshots of community feedback.

### Community Hui & Schools

#### Traffic, Parking, & Access

- Impacts of vehicles to the dune system;
- Vehicle, vehicle weight and speed restrictions;
- Promote driver education around the range of other users on beach.
- Beach accessways and their standard are a concern. Require maintenance and upkeep.
- Building a road behind sand dunes. Reducing beach access points.
- Understanding the status of beach as a road and highway.
- Vehicle impacts on kai gathering, and other flora and fauna.
- Access / traffic permits. Pay to enter the beach. Tourists and non-locals to pay; residents/ratepayers to access for free. Customary access.
- Impacts of commercial and larger vehicles to beach and kaimoana.
- Closure of beach to vehicles vs retained access for all vehicles.
- Safety issues for other walkers, horse riders.
- Helicopter use and landings.
- Role of NZTA, NZ Police and other Government agencies.
- Importance of Te Ara Wairua.

#### Fisheries

- Management of fishing stocks, from overfishing. Licensing and permits.
- Imposing 12-mile commercial fishing limit.
- Appreciation of the sea as a food basket.
- Limit on commercial fishing vs recreational fishing. Impacts of trawlers and long liners.
- MPI monitoring and fisheries presence.
- Spat collection and harvesting practices. Prefer hand gathering or other innovative methods.

- Education and research around spat and spat collection. Importance of spat to economy.
- Impacts to shellfish – toheroa, tuatua, pipi.
- Quota system, allocation, and management. Role of hapu and marae in quota system.
- Taiapure and customary fishing areas.
- Role of fisheries in economy, contribution to jobs and employment vs impacts to fishing stocks, recreational fishers.

#### Rubbish

- Rubbish/recycling collection points along beach.
- Residential and water based rubbish dumping. Price of dumping at approved facilities. Removal of refuse fees/charges.
- Education – take waste/rubbish with you.
- Organised annual beach cleans with increased marketing/advertising to increase participation.
- Impacts of plastic to sea life and to food chain.
- Waste management requirements for temporary events on beach.
- Limited co-ordination in terms of rubbish management along beach. Joining up of individuals/groups similar to landcare groups and their management of areas.

#### Monitoring

- Lack of wardens, kaitiaki rangers, officers (ie. MPI, Police, DoC) monitoring activities along beach. More patrolling required.
- Use technology – drones, cameras at access points.
- Use of rahui and other cultural practices.
- 0800 hotline, response crews or mandated groups with authority to act.
- Power of social media to communicate and highlight activities.
- Monitoring of specific species (pests, kaimoana) and vehicle use/access.

## Education

- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Beach Ambassadors.
- Website and Apps as tools.
- Educational notice boards and signage at beach entrances. Info kiosks along beach.
- Dos and don'ts for the beach.
- Links to education re: kaimoana, flora and fauna.
- Cultural history importance and understanding.
- Promotions and campaigns – educate people about the beach.

## Biodiversity

- Beach as a refuge for animals and plants.
- Vehicle impacts on unique habitats and biodiversity.
- Impacts to sea birds (eg. fairy tern, dotterel).
- Impact of plastics and rubbish to animal life.
- Planting of dunes and restoring dune lakes / wetlands as important habitats.
- Protection of taonga species.

## Kaitiakitanga

- Acknowledge kaitiaki role of whanau and voice of hapu.
- Restore traditional place names.
- Kaitiaki rangers.
- Maori history and protection of taonga.
- Use of rahui and installation of pou.

## Cultural Matters

- Land and beach based middens and their history.
- Wairua of beach. Te Ara Wairua.
- Cultural practices/local tikanga on beach – ie. no eating shellfish whilst on beach.
- Hapu management plans.
- Treaty Claims, Te Tiriti and customary title.
- Sites of cultural significance (land, beach and sea). Wahi tapu.
- Access to traditional sites.
- Spreading of ashes.

## Management

- Support for more controls on beach.
- Progress towards collective management considered a good thing.
- Plan requires teeth.
- Incorporate interests adjoining the beach.
- Management through zones vs a whole of beach approach.
- Board to be sole governing body and manage resource consents.
- Bylaws.

## Signs

- Impressive pou throughout beach.
- Less writing, more images.

- Speed signs.
- Signage at key points along the beach. Linked to access ways.
- Naming and signage of special areas and taonga species.
- Signage regarding rules on beach/sea, quotas, pollution.

## Dunes

- No bikes, horses, or vehicles on or behind dunes.
- Whanau, hapu, Iwi leading dune restoration.
- Impacts of erosion and disappearing dunes.
- Increase riparian planting and pingao.
- Establish beach groups to help manage dunes and other aspects of environment.

## Infrastructure

- Sewage discharges and leaks onto the beach.
- Appropriate toilet facilities with preference for eco-friendly use.
- Infrastructure around access points and ramps.
- Lack of rubbish facilities.
- Wheelchair access.
- Te Araroa Trail facilities.

## Tourism

- Tourist designated area. Limit whole of beach.
- Limit / ban freedom camping near/on the beach and campervans.
- Need appropriate facilities to accommodate tourism.
- Tourism activities and impacts on taonga / beach.
- Concern regarding profit not being returned to improve beach experience / quality.

## Forestry

- Impacts of forestry and forestry use on beach and kaimoana.
- Replace pines with coastal plants and natives.
- Pig hunting on the beach near forestry.
- Use of forestry income to support beach management.
- Effect of operations, harvesting and encroachment onto dunes.

## Health & Safety

- Safety of people on the beach - especially children.
- Concerns over vehicle speed and impacts to safety.
- Rescue facilities and emergency services. Surf rescue.
- Keeping tourists safe.

## Consultation

- Concerns were raised over consultation process.
- Further engagement opportunities were outlined ie discussions with Bluff Campground Trustees.

- Inclusion of whanau throughout the process.
- Government agencies such as DoC also need to listen to concerns.

## Water

- Concern over freshwater streams being depleted along the beach.
- Freshwater management.
- Lack of access to potable water along the beach, especially for Te Araroa Trail.
- Water quality is of concern. Toxins, sprays, and other hazardous substances.

## Funding

- Resourcing and income generation opportunities - levies, profits of commercial activities, sponsorship, user pays, concessions.
- Cover costs of initiatives – toilets, signs, other activities.

## Sustainability

- Economy vs focus on land and sea. Kai vs \$\$.
- Seasonal gathering and resource replenishment.
- Sustainable cultural practices and harvesting.
- Beach a lifeline for families. Sustaining resource into the future.

## Temporary Events

- Impacts of events – rubbish, impact on fisheries, increased traffic.
- Events vs existing uses. Ensure compatibility.
- Events require management.

## Research

- Government to fund health check of the beach management area.
- Effects of depleted streams leading to the beach. Requires investigation.
- Survey data at vehicle access points.
- Forestry and land use issues affecting beach and water.
- Spat collection and process.
- Need more implementation, not research.
- Science and matauranga used as well as history.

## Hazardous Substances & Activities

- Prohibit oil drilling and mineral extraction / mining.
- Boards position on such matters.
- Ahipara landfill seepage/leachate.
- Oil spills/fuel on beach.
- Strategic plan Te Hiku wide needed.
- Fertilisers, pesticides and septic tanks.
- Diesel and petrol from vehicles.
- No GMOs.

## Recreation

- Creation of recreational areas on adjacent land.
- Te Araroa Trail – 2,500 walked beach last season.
- Windsurfing, blow-karts, parasailing.
- Recreational space suitable for bikers.

## Whales

- Iwi, DOC, and Project Jonah korero.
- Whale stranding protocol.
- Cross jurisdictional issues.
- Leaving whales on coast they land at.

## Climate Change & Global Warming

- Rising sea levels.
- Interference with private property.
- Plan to have positive effect on climate change.

## Animal & Pest Control

- Managing cats, stoats, rats.
- *Mollmoss* and *Pyura*.
- Uncontrolled dogs and horses.
- Specific areas where dogs can be on beach.

## Zoning

- Designated places for motorbikes, horses.
- Safe zones and exclusion zones.

## Board

- All Iwi being at the table.
- Korero required with Parengarenga A.
- No female / youth on Board.

## Digital Connectivity

- No cellphone coverage and lack of reception.
- Need to use / make most of digital technology.

## Crime and Drugs & Alcohol

- Theft.
- Drug and alcohol free beach.

## Key Themes – Letters

### Management

- Concerns about Iwi management of 90 Mile Beach and preference for management to retain in Ministry of Fisheries hands.
- Support for rules which manage rubbish, safe driving, and responsible speed limits.
- Ability to place rahui over coastal areas of interest.
- Inclusion of a disputes process between beach users.

### Fisheries

- Impacts on shellfish.
- Responsible fish / shellfish gathering.
- Spat collection and mechanical harvesting – specific rules and requirements associated with collection methods (code of conduct/resource consent).

## Traffic, Parking, & Access

- Impacts of motor-bikes.
- Open and free access for reasonable use, connection and enjoyment of beach.
- Protect access to known customary fishing areas.

## Cultural

- Protection and observation of cultural, spiritual and customary practices of tangata whenua.

## Funding

- Funds from resource consents to Board - used for operations and scientific/environmental research.

## Online Feedback via Website

### Cultural

- Importance of karakia and mihimihi.
- Whakapapa and history, whakatauki, waiata, moteatea, pao, Kaitiakitanga practices, rahui, kawa and tikanga all important components.
- Drivers need to be educated about the cultural significance of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē.
- Importance of place names and korero about beach.
- Seasonal gathering of kai.

### Management

- Permits per vehicle to access beach, managed by local Iwi. Funding used to maintain beach.
- DoC management plans working alongside Iwi, schools, clubs and committees.
- Watercare plan for rivers and streams that feed into the beach.

## Traffic, Parking, & Access

- Vehicles have weakened dunes and compromised bird nesting sites.
- Vehicles are a hazard and noise nuisance for beach users.
- Enable and celebrate public access to the beach but identify no-go areas (ie. for nesting dotterels).
- Cars to be removed from beach as a hazard to local bird life. Only allow people and animals on beach. Access by foot only.
- Review classification of highway.
- Access and vehicle use impacts kaimoana.
- Restrict vehicle use to locals only and during certain seasons. No vehicle traffic during summer.
- Speed restrictions for the beach.
- Restrictions on motor cross / 4WD clubs, with certain areas demarcated for these uses.
- Limit heavy vehicles such as buses.
- Set up an inland dirt/bike track to get cars/bikes off beach.

## Biodiversity

- Dotterel impacted by vehicles, horses and dogs.
- Ongoing protection measures to conserve indigenous flora and fauna, both marine and terrestrial.
- Depletion of kaimoana, tuatua, toheroa, tuna whakaeke, patiki, native wildlife and native plants.
- Create more wildlife protection zones.

## Dunes

- Continued planting of spinifex and pingao in sensitive environments.
- Restoration of dunes as best natural defense against climate change.
- More planting programmes and fence dunes.

## Rubbish

- Discourage rubbish dumping.
- Regular beach cleans required.
- Fines for dumping rubbish.
- Problem of plastic and other non-biodegradable waste.

## Signs

- Signs explaining biology, rarity and dangers for flora/fauna on beach.
- Signs with rules explaining expected beach etiquette.

## Climate Change

- Research into how the area can be affected by climate change – possible protections and mitigation measures for areas of critical value.
- Value of coastal dune system in climate change mitigation.

## Fisheries

- Mapping of no-go areas for shellfish gathering.
- Specific areas for use of long-lines.
- Strict limits to commercial takes.

## Monitoring

- Irresponsible vehicle use can only be monitored via surveillance.
- Public reporting bad behavior.
- Paid patrol around beach and the use of technology to monitor issues.
- Lack of monitoring for mussel spat collection.

## Education

- Use education as tool to prevent issues. Incorporate beach into educational plans and involve schools / students.
- Education points for beach users including MPI officer patrols.
- Setting up of an archive centre about the beach.