

5e Current issue case study – vehicles

Exploring positive and negative impacts on dune systems

Objectives for today

- Today we will look at
 - Some of the negative impacts of vehicle use on dune systems



Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

Vehicles on the dunes



- Numbers of vehicles on our beaches and dunes are decreasing due to public awareness.
- Why do **you** think vehicles on sand dunes could be a problem?

Working together to care for our coast - Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

Impact of vehicles on sand dunes

- Vehicles driven on sand dunes:
 - Destroy dune vegetation.
 - Make dunes less stable.
 - Increase dune vulnerability to storm damage.
 - Destroy native bird nests and eggs.



Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

How vehicles impact on sand dunes

- Vehicles cause plant disturbance.
- Sand becomes exposed.
- Exposed sand quickly dries out and is blown away by wind.
- Elongated gullies are formed on dune crests.
- Sides of gullies become over steep.
- Roots of adjacent plants are exposed and plants die.



Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

How vehicles impact on sand dunes

- More wind erosion occurs.
- Soon a small damaged area becomes a large damaged area!
- Sand dunes migrate inland.
- Beach profile becomes degraded.



Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

Have vehicles always been a problem on sand dunes?

- Vehicle use on the dunes is still a problem in parts of the Eastern Bay of Plenty.
- What reasons can you think of for why vehicles damaging dunes was less of a problem 50 years ago?



Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

Controlling the impact of vehicles on sand dunes

- Special vehicle access ways can be created to:
 - Prevent erosion.
 - Stop vehicles from getting stuck in the sand.
- Permits can be issued
 - Tauranga District Council issues permits for quad bike use along Pāpāmoa Beach.



Read the article on the following slide and discuss how you think vehicles should be managed on the dunes.

Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai

MOVES TO STOP VEHICLES DAMAGING DUNES

Uncontrolled vehicles are still damaging fragile sand dunes in the Bay of Plenty – but hopefully not for too much longer.

Environment Bay of Plenty is working with coastal city and district councils and the Department of Conservation to find ways to stop people driving on coastal dunes and damaging them.

At the moment, different councils have different rules for vehicle use in the coastal environment. Various parts of the coastal strip also have different landowners, which makes the situation even more complex.

Because of this, Environment Bay of Plenty is advocating a coordinated, three-pronged approach to the problem. It will involve community education, creating physical barriers to unofficial vehicle access and promoting the use of authorised access points instead, and gradual changes to regulations.

Senior coastal planner Aileen Lawrie told the regional council's strategic policy meeting that several coastal councils are working together to review their bylaws controlling vehicles on beaches next year to make them more consistent with other districts. Changes are also proposed for Environment Bay of Plenty's Regional Coastal Environment Plan, though these are unlikely to begin until 2007.

Regional and district council staff will talk to various groups this summer to see what people think about ways to reduce the effects of vehicles on the coast.

Environment Bay of Plenty's move follows reports earlier this year of increasing numbers of vehicles being driven on beaches and dunes. As well as creating safety concerns, some vehicles are badly damaging the coastal dunes and associated ecology. They are causing erosion and increasing the risk of storm damage.

Committee chairman Bryan Riesterer says many people are aware the dune environment is not suitable for vehicle use but a minority of locals and visitors "simply do not care and are repeat offenders".

"They believe they have a right to use their vehicles in the dunes and ignore the im-

pact they are having on them. Remember, it is the first vehicle that does the most damage."

Environment Bay of Plenty staff offer the following advice:

- In urban areas, only use official access points to launch or retrieve recreational boats or gear
- In areas without road access or official access, take the shortest route along the hard beach (the foreshore) to where you want to go
- Don't drive at all on the dunes or estuaries
- If you want to drive outside these guidelines, contact your local council for permission.





For more information contact:

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

- 5 Quay Street, Whakatāne
- 1125 Arawa Street, Rotorua
- 6 Rata Street, Mount Maunganui

Post: P O Box 364, Whakatāne

Phone: 0800 884 880

Fax: 0800 884 882

Pollution Hotline: 0800 884 883

Email: info@boprc.govt.nz

Website: www.boprc.govt.nz

Working together to care for our coast – Kia ngatahi te tiaki takutai



Bay of Plenty Regional Council in partnership with Tauranga City Council; Whakatane, Western Bay of Plenty, and Opotiki District Councils; and the Department of Conservation.