

# Life's a Beach

A Coastal Education Resource Kit

## 6k Action to protect the coast Ōhiwa – what would you do?

Exploring management and action for coastal conservation

# Objectives for today

- To explore
  - What actions people have taken to protect the dunes.
  - What action you would take if you were in charge of looking after these areas?

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

# Ōhiwa – before



(Ref. Soil and Water Magazine Dec 1976)

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# Ōhiwa – before

- The photo of Ōhiwa Spit on the previous slide was taken in April 1976 looking west.
- It shows the disastrous effects of the severe coastal erosion.
- To stop the erosion, the Poverty Bay Catchment Board put in rail and brush protection during the summer of 1970. This was two metres seaward of the sand dunes.
- As the photograph shows, this protection was completely unsuccessful.
- The erosion, a combination of tidal and wave action, outflanked the protection and the dunes have since been destroyed.

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# Ōhiwa – before

- The house is one of the two that fell down the cliffs because of the combination of high spring tides and strong on-shore wind in Easter of 1976.
- Car bodies were thrown over the cliffs in another attempt to stop the natural erosive process.
- This method of ‘protectant’ is described by Mr Jeremy Gibb, geologist with the Ministry of Works and Development’s water and soil division, as being “completely ineffective”, because the cars simply sink into the sand.

# Ōhiwa – before

- Ōhiwa Spit was eroding at a rate of approximately eight metres a year – this is a very high rate of erosion by New Zealand standards.
- Mr Gibb estimates that the short life expectancy of the spit is probably only between 40 and 70 years.
- Note: This dune area was gazetted as a stock reserve in 1906 and grazed heavily. Some areas have been used as hay paddocks. The area was infested with lupins for some years before this erosion occurred.
- What would you do if you were in charge of protecting this area?

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# Ōhiwa – after





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**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.