

# Proposed Horowhenua Beach Bylaw

Council Workshop 25 October 2023



**Horowhenua**  
2040 Vision

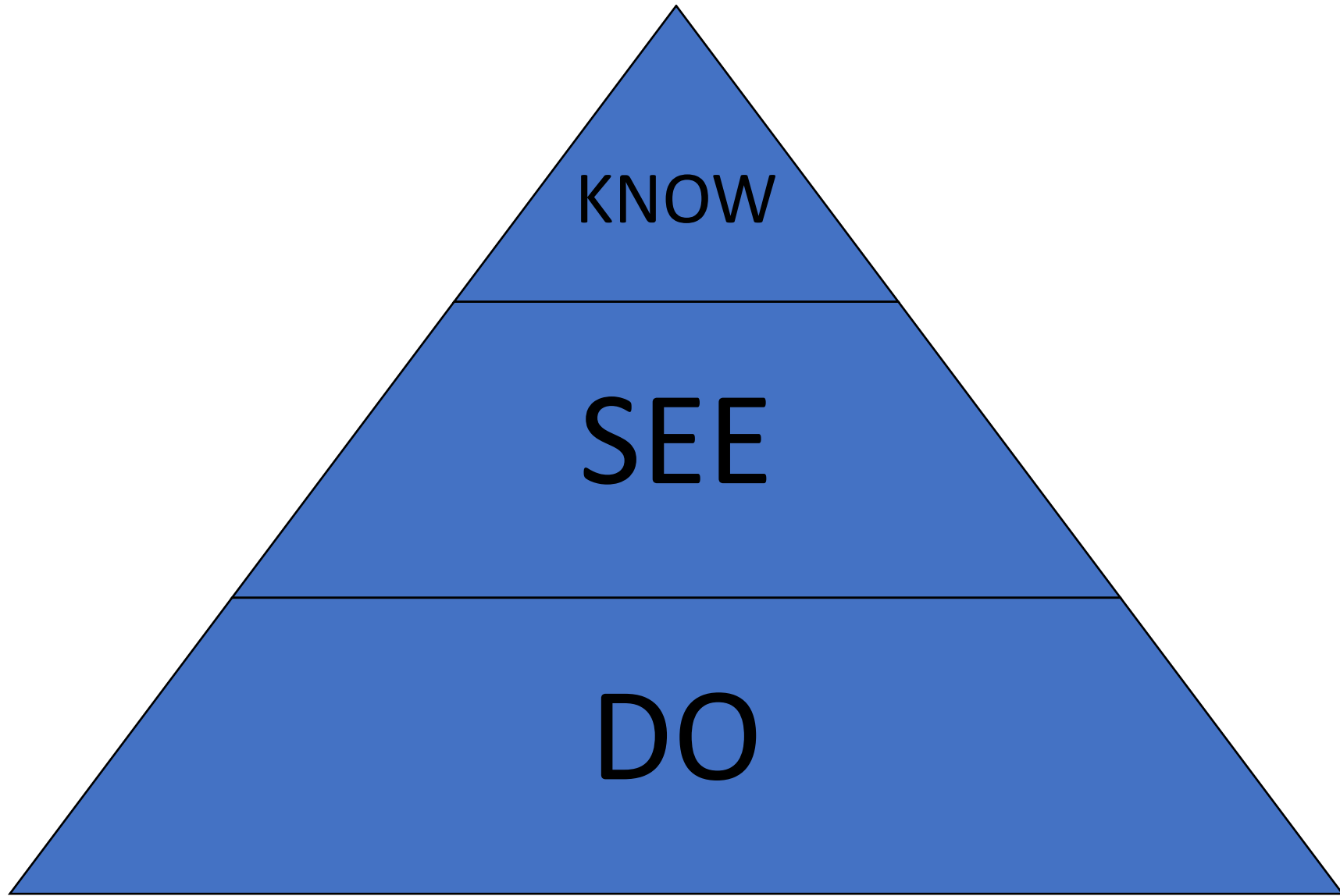


# Purpose of Presentation

- **What are we here for today**
  - Officers are requesting council guidance regarding formulating a Beach Bylaw for the Horowhenua
  - The presentation contains key questions that will help Officers shape the consultation with our Iwi partners, Stakeholders and residents, as well as the final bylaw document.
- **What do we want from today's briefing or workshop**
  - The presentation is to inform Councillors about the process, as well as seek guidance on how the beach bylaw can be shaped given the diversity of our coastal communities in the Horowhenua.

# What is the question we are asking?

- The key questions that Officers seek guidance on are listed on slide 7 of this presentation, and a collective view will be needed at the end of this session that will shape how the bylaw consultation is progressed.



# Background

- The Horowhenua district includes approximately 35 kilometres of coastline, from Waikawa Beach in the south, through to just north of Foxton Beach;
- This incorporates 3 sizable coastal townships, being Foxton Beach, Waitārere Beach and Waikawa Beach, as well as 3 other smaller coastal settlements and spaces, such as Hōkio Beach, Kuku Beach and Ōhau;
- These coastal areas are subject to considerable recreation-driven pressures by both Horowhenua residents, and visitors to our district.

# Current issues that a Beach Bylaw seeks to address

- Lack of management and control of all recreation activities within these coastal areas;
- Behavioural issues with vehicles on beaches (be it cars, four wheeled drive vehicles, quad bikes and motorbikes);
- Providing a framework and set of rules that provide certainty about what can or can't be done in these coastal zones, this is for both Horowhenua residents but also visitors to our district;
- Setting out an enforcement framework that allows appropriate management of the coast to be controlled.

# Key strategic decisions to shape a Beach Bylaw in Horowhenua

- In producing a draft Beach Bylaw to take for consultation with iwi partners, key stakeholders and the public, the key decisions will be:
  - Whether to create distinct beach access zones consistently throughout the whole of our coastline, which will include an enforcement framework;
  - Whether to seek views which put in place tailored solutions which are distinct to specific coastal communities wishes, and terrain. For example, at Waikawa, there may well be a view to decide on a very different management approach than Waitārere Beach – which is an expansive flat beach with a culture of surfcasting right along it;
  - How we deal with motor vehicles, quad and motorbikes in these coastal zones (excluding completely, excluding from dunes only etc.), which will most definitely be shaped by the appetite for either a) or b);
  - The extent of other activities that currently do (or could) occur on the coast that should be included within this beach bylaw (see next slide).



# Decision on what is included in this Beach Bylaw

We have broken this out into four broad categories:

- **Vehicles**

- Authorised vehicle access ways (provide list in bylaw)
- Prohibited driving areas (for example dunes, or some Beach Bylaw's prohibit motorcycles from the beach entirely)
- Permitted driving areas
- Conditions for driving (speed limits/safety)

- **Parking**

- Prohibited parking areas
- Authorised disability parking areas
- Conditions for parking



# Decision on what is included in this Beach Bylaw *(cont'd)*

- **Beach activities**

- Boat launching and retrieval sites
- Boat and watercraft launching
- Fishing (including longline fishing – where some areas have distinct zones for this)
- Kite surfing
- Aircraft and hovercraft
- Hang gliders/Para gliders
- Land yachts
- Horses/Stock (zones of exclusion for some parts of the beach for horses?)
- Hiring of craft/Trading on the beach
- Special events (non-commercial)



# Included in this Beach Bylaw (*cont'd*)

**Operational matters** to be included in the Beach Bylaw, to provide clarity in this beach environment over the long term:

- Appropriate behaviour
- Litter and greenwaste
- Beach preservation
- Coastal protection works
- Life saving activity
- Harvesting

# Detail regarding individual sections of the Horowhenua coast

- The following slides detail some key points about the five distinct areas of coast that will be listed in the Beach Bylaw, being:
  - Waikawa Beach
  - Kuku Beach/Ōhau
  - Hōkio Beach
  - Waitārere Beach
  - Foxton Beach
- This will be useful in assessing the overall strategic approach, and subsequent key decisions that will shape the final Beach Bylaw.

# Waikawa Beach

- Approximately 5km of relatively flat beach (from the boundary with Kāpiti Coast District Council to the south, through to north of the Waikawa settlement), with some dune hills in closer proximity to the Waikawa Stream mouth.
- There is less of a culture of beach recreation on this part of the coast, with the following points being applicable:
  - There is one vehicle entrance onto the beach only (see points 1 on map), being on privately –owned land at the end of Manga Pirau Street, Waikawa Beach. Over the past few years maintaining this existing Waikawa Beach vehicle access has been an ongoing challenge due to bank erosion from the adjacent Waikawa Stream and storm events;
  - Discussions have been occurring in recent months to look at vehicle access options within Waikawa, with a report being taken to Council on 10 October 2023. It was resolved for Officers through the CE to consult further on this matter, however with two variations of the existing vehicles access (see point 1 on map), or the option of no vehicle access at all;
  - The mouth of the Waikawa Stream frequently shifts in a southward direction due to the combined effects of wind and high tides. This shifting course has caused erosion underneath the vehicular access point, resulting in several instances where local residents have been unable to access the beach with their vehicles;
  - Although there is a culture of utilising vehicles to access more remote parts of the coast around Waikawa Beach, it is at a level for less than other busy beaches such as Waitārere Beach and Foxton Beach;
  - No coastal areas close adjacent or close to Waikawa Beach that are distinctly used for sunbathing or swimming (as opposed to 2 other beaches being Waitārere and Foxton Beach), and no formal area with lifesaving activity (lifeguard patrolled area).





# Kuku Beach/Ohau

- Approximately 5km of relatively flat beach.
- Recreation definitely occurs on this part of the coast, however at far lesser levels than busy beaches like Waitārere Beach and Foxton Beach. The following points are applicable:
  - No defined area of sunbathing/swimming, nor any lifesaving/lifeguarding areas;
  - There is only one vehicle entrance onto the beach (see point 1 on map), but it should also be noted that this is over private land and key access only.



# Hōkio Beach

- Approximately 5.5km of relatively flat beach.
- Recreation definitely occurs on this part of the coast, however at far lesser levels than busy beaches like Waitārere Beach and Foxton Beach. The following points are applicable:
  - No defined area of sunbathing/swimming, nor any lifesaving/lifeguarding areas;
  - There is only one vehicle entrance onto the beach (see point 1 on map), at Tawhiti Street.



# Waitārere Beach

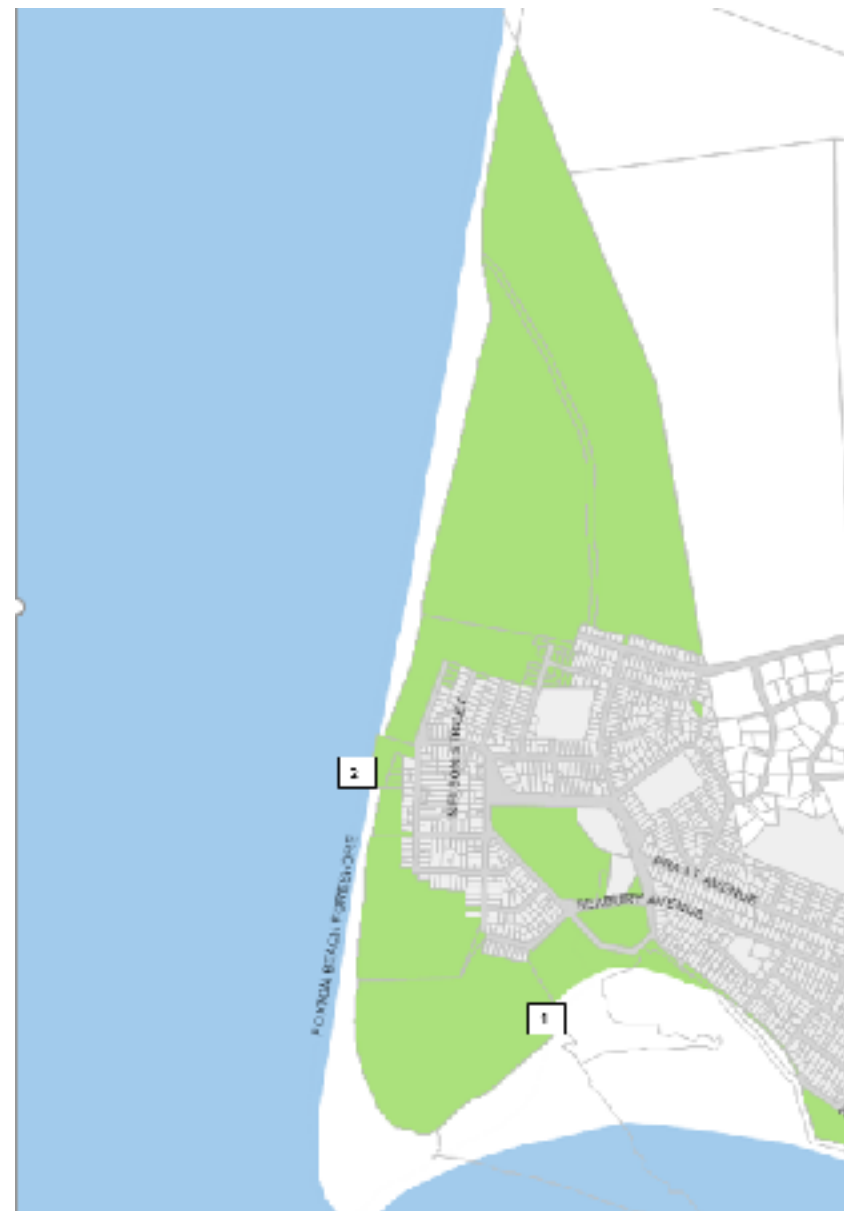
- Approximately 11km of flat beach (from Hōkio Beach in the south to the Manawatū River in the north).
- A culture of beach recreation on this part of the coast, with the following points being applicable:
  - an area of approximately 150-200 metres immediately to the south of the Waitārere Beach Road entrance (see point 1 on map) is a main focus for sunbathing swimming by families (lifeguards operate there in summer);
  - There are two vehicle entrances onto the beach (see points 1 & 2 on map), being Waitārere Beach Road and Windsor Street;
  - Vehicles heading north from entrance 1 frequently have to ford the Wairarawa Stream which flows to the sea at this point (see point 3 on map);
  - A significant culture of utilising vehicles to access more remote parts of Waitārere Beach (both north and south) for family picnics/ swimming, and fishing;
  - This is an accreting beach, so the dunes are growing. There is a good coverage of foredune plants (mainly native spinifex) as well as a good foredune profile (1:5 is common). It is very rare for vehicles to drive on these dunes on the beach expanse to the housing, but does occur on parts of the beach both north and south (particularly in dune low points to the north of the township).





# Foxton Beach

- Approximately 9km of relatively flat beach, from the Manawatū Estuary in the south, to the HDC boundary with Manawatū District Council in the north;
- Significant wide dune areas, particularly in the south part of this beach ('dune garden' area) and north of the Surf Lifesaving Club building – which are subject to poor vehicular behaviour (four wheeled drives, motorbikes and quads);
- Foxton Beach is another of our coastal towns like Waitārere Beach that swell in numbers over the holiday periods. This increases the demands on this coastal space considerably.
- A culture of beach recreation on this part of the coast, with the following points being applicable:
  - An area of approximately 170 metres immediately adjacent to the Foxton Beach Foreshore Reserve carpark is a main focus for sunbathing/swimming by families (lifeguards operate there in summer);
  - There are two vehicle entrances onto the beach (see points 1 & 2 on map), being from the Foxton Beach Foreshore Reserve carpark (2), and Pinewood Road (see point 1 on map). The majority of the volume of vehicle traffic onto Foxton Beach is through Pinewood Road;
  - This dune system of the beach is relatively stable in some areas, but given large parts of this beach system are part of a parabolic dune system, these are highly mobile, and unfortunately build up of these large dunes can be attractive to people driving off-road vehicles
  - There is a good coverage of foredune plants (mainly native spinifex) as well as a good foredune profile (1:5 is common).



# Process from here

1. The draft Beach Bylaw consultation document to be included in a report to Council on 22 November 2023, where we will be seeking Council endorsement of the key decisions we are seeking from Iwi partners, stakeholders and the community.
2. Following the Council endorsement of the consultation package:
  - Undertake consultation with our Iwi partners
  - Undertake consultation with key stakeholders and the public
3. Undertake a subsequent workshop with Councillors for late January/February 2024, to present the findings of the consultation.
4. Finish drafting the Beach Bylaw document, and take to Council for adoption via a report in March 2024.

Note: the timeframes noted above after the 22 November 2023 Council meeting are indicative only, and will be review as the process evolves.

# Discussion...



# Wrap up

- Questions that have arisen at this workshop that Officers seek guidance on that will shape the consultation approach:
  - Whether to create distinct beach access zones consistently throughout the whole of our coastline?
  - Whether to seek views which put in place tailored solutions which are distinct to specific coastal communities wishes, and terrain?
  - How we deal with motor vehicles, quad and motorbikes in these coastal zones (excluding completely, excluding from dunes only etc)?
  - The extent of other activities that currently do (or could) occur on the coast that should be included within this beach bylaw?