

Managing Culburra Beach's Sand Dunes

Fact sheet

Culburra Beach

Culburra Beach is one of Shoalhaven's most popular beaches, and is a surfing, fishing and holidaying destination. There are tall, vegetated dunes behind the three-and-a-half-kilometre long beach, and properties located directly behind the dunes.

Over time, the dunes have experienced erosion due to strong waves and wind from storms. There have also been cases of vegetation vandalism. Removal of native vegetation degrades the dunes, reducing their shoreline protection functions. This makes properties and roads behind the dunes more vulnerable to erosion and damage from storms. Dunes are also impacted by the prevalence of informal beach access tracks and encroachment of garden vegetation.



Culburra Beach, October 2021

How does Council manage Culburra Beach's sand dunes?

Council strategically manages sand dunes and occupying native vegetation by using both 'soft' and 'hard' solutions. Soft techniques such as beach scraping or Nature Assisted Beach Enhancement (NABE) to help manage erosion and enhance the natural resilience of the coast with lower costs and lower environmental impacts. Hard engineering solutions, such as groynes or rock walls, may have a higher impact on beach amenity, the surrounding environment and require a more detailed environmental due diligence process. These structures are only implemented when necessary and designed using modern and environmentally conscious coastal engineering techniques.

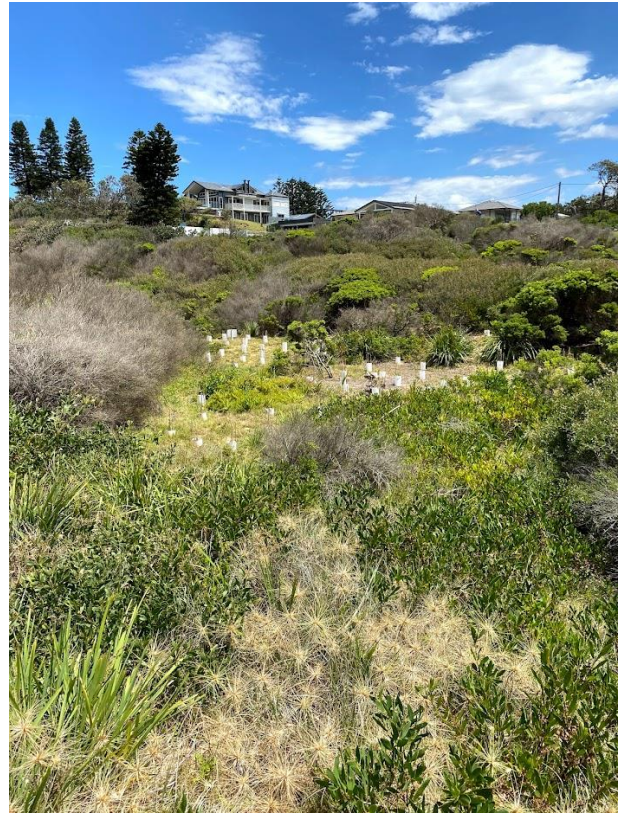
Council is currently undertaking the following actions to manage Culburra Beach's dunes and beach:

- Dune vegetation management, including fencing to control access, weed control and revegetation using locally endemic native species.
- After storms, Council may assist dunes in their natural recovery by undertaking NABE or beach scraping. NABE is a simple, low-cost method to raise low points in dunes and help accelerate natural beach recovery. It involves moving sand from the lower part of the beach onto the higher part of the beach to help protect dunes from erosion in the short-term and expedites a dunes natural recovery process.

How can I take care of sand dunes?

With over 85% of the population living within 50 kilometres of the Australian coastline, human activities can have a major impact on dune systems. Everyone can contribute to dune protection and the health of our shorelines by:

- Using the formal beach access tracks maintained by Council instead of informal accessways.
- Do not mow, prune or landscape coastal vegetation area.
- [Disposing of garden waste](#) in red-lid bins to avoid spreading weeds. Council offers [green waste collection services](#) for excess amounts of garden waste.
- Disposing of plastics and litter in bins to leave our coastal spaces pristine. You can [report littering](#) or [illegal dumping](#) to the NSW EPA.
- Staying clear of nesting shore bird areas.
- Walking your dog in designated off-leash areas only, avoiding areas designated as prohibited.
- Joining a [local community Bushcare Program](#) to protect and plant native coastal vegetation.
- [Reporting vegetation vandalism](#).



Dune revegetation Culburra Beach, November 2020



Find out more

getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/foreshore-protection-management

[foreshore-protection-management](https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/foreshore-protection-management)

Or search “**Foreshore**” on our website.

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The preparation of this material has been supported by funding from the NSW Government's Coastal Management Program (Coastal and Estuary Grant).