

# Managing Callala Beach's Sand Dunes

## Fact sheet

### Callala Beach

Callala Beach is the longest beach in Jervis Bay and is a popular spot for locals and visitors to swim and enjoy the beach. Callala Beach township adjoins the northern half of the beach, and development has resulted in reshaping of the natural dunes in some locations. While not being immediately exposed to coastal processes and being afforded some protection from being within Jervis Bay, the beach can still be exposed to storms approaching from the south-easterly direction.

Unfortunately, Callala Beach's dunes have become devoid of vegetation over time. This has been largely from historical clearing for urban development, with ongoing impacts caused by informal beach access tracks and garden vegetation encroaching into native dune vegetation. Removal of vegetation degrades the dunes and the natural coastal resilience they provide. This makes properties behind the dunes more vulnerable to erosion and damage from storms.



*Dune system at Callala Beach, October 2021.*

### How does Council manage Callala 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 Callala Beach's dunes and beach:

- Dune vegetation management, including fencing to control access, weeding and revegetation using 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 areas.
- [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 system at Callala Beach, October 2021.*



### Find out more

[getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/foreshore-protection-management](https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/foreshore-protection-management)  
Or search “**Foreshore**” on our website.

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