



## Factsheet

# Main and Clarkes Beach Dune Recovery Project

In November 2022, work will start on rebuilding the sand dunes between Main Beach and Clarkes Beach at Byron Bay.

Two diggers will be working on the beach for approximately seven days, moving, or scraping sand from the tidal zone up the beach to the dunes between the Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club and the Beach Byron Café at Clarkes Beach.

Once the sand is in place the dune area will be planted with native vegetation appropriate to the area and fenced to allow the plants to establish.

Pedestrian access paths to the beach will be replaced. Although the number of accessways will be reduced to protect the dunes.

## Temporary Beach Closure

For public safety, some parts of Main Beach and Clarkes Beach will be closed to the public while the diggers are working.

People will be able to see where the diggers are working and avoid the area. Staff will be onsite and will provide directions if necessary.

The project is expected to take approximately seven days.

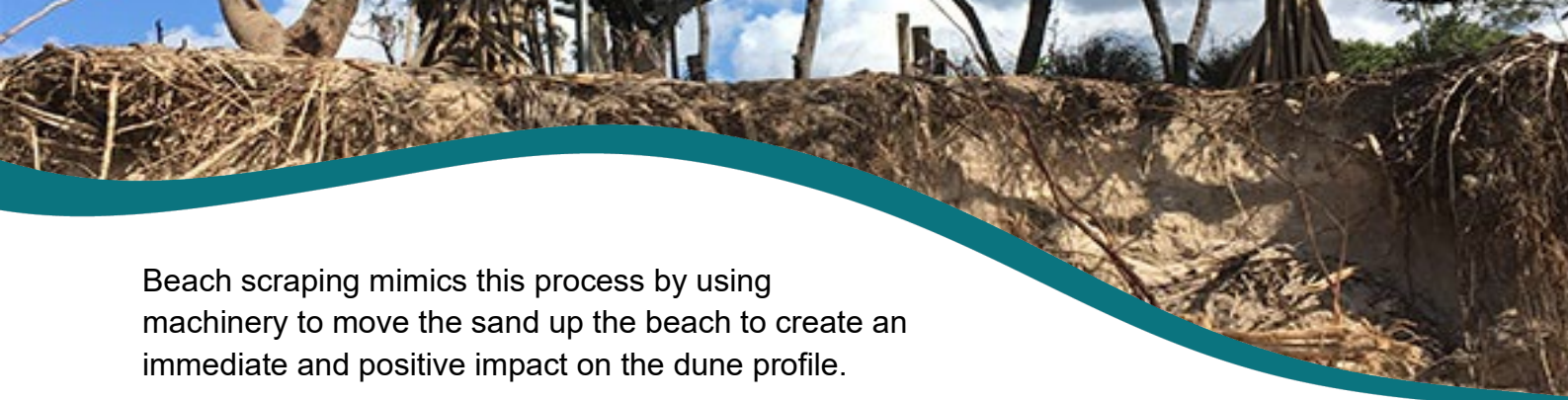
## Beach Scraping

This process of moving sand from one part of the beach to another part of the beach is called beach scraping, sand harvesting or nature assisted beach enhancement.

It has been successfully done in other parts of NSW, including at New Brighton and South Golden Beach in the Byron Shire.

Beach scraping is a proven, low-risk, and cost-effective management strategy to rebuild dunes that have been damaged by erosion.

Essentially, it is fast-tracking natural processes. Large amounts of sand have built up in the bay area and over many months, waves and wind would eventually push this sand up the beach to reform the dunes.



Beach scraping mimics this process by using machinery to move the sand up the beach to create an immediate and positive impact on the dune profile.

Because the sand is being taken from the tidal zone, this area will be flatter, and sand should continue to build up at a faster rate.

## Environmental Impacts

Because beach scraping mimics a natural process, and with appropriate control measures in place, this work is scientifically regarded as having minimal to no negative impact on the beach, marine environment, or neighbouring beaches.

Control measures include

- shallow excavation (limit beach scrape depth to 20cm),
- timing of work to avoid turtle breeding season, and
- avoidance of any bird nests in the dunes.

It will also

- protect the dunes from future weather events,
- create dune habitat for plants and animals, and
- help protect cultural objects that may be buried in the dunes.

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been completed and approvals are pending from DPI Fisheries and DPI Marine Parks.

## Other beach scraping projects in the Byron Shire

Council has completed beach scraping projects at South Golden Beach and New Brighton. The dunes are currently in very good conditions with a terrific covering of native vegetation.

## Funding

The \$170,000 project is jointly funded by Council and the NSW Government through its Coastal and Estuary Grants Program.

## More information

- [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Main-and-Clarkes-Beach-Dune-Recovery-Project](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Main-and-Clarkes-Beach-Dune-Recovery-Project)
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