Te Mahere Matua o Makorori
Makorori Master Plan

Draft for consultation

June 2023

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ko te hā
Ko te rā
Ko Tangaroa
Ko te mana
Ko te kotahitanga o ngā waka
Haumi e
Hui e
Tāiki e

Kōrero Whakatakinga
Foreword

The Hapū of Makorori have for generations maintained the valuable seaward resources delivered up by Tangaroa and his children.

The traditional story of Tangaroa and his children reflects this plan's commitment protecting the taonga that is and exists at Makorori. The story in short, is told:

While out fishing, Manuruhi, a man, son of Ruatepupuke, is taken by Tangaroa into the water and placed as a tekoteko on his house Huiteananui, for transgressing fishing lore.

Tangaroa's house has talking poupou inside and silent poupou outside. Ruatepupuke searches for his son and finds him atop the House, guarded by Hinematikotai, from whom he garners information in order to avenge the taking of his son.

He waits for the children of Tangaroa to return inside the House and while they sleep, he blocks any light from entering, so that they sleep in. He then sets the house alight.

In a panic the children of Tangaroa rush for the exit where Ruatepupuke waits outside and he strikes them as they emerge, each strike creating the different features of various marine species in the process – Tangaroa's children as we know them today.

He attempts to take the talking poupou from inside the House but is unable to, so instead retrieves the silent ones outside the House and returns to the surface.

Makorori is a connector of the children of Tangaroa, and those of Tūmatauenga. The abundant offshore and inshore reefs, white sand beach and surf breaks have been enjoyed for many generations.

This plan sets out to ensure this connection is enduring and sustainable.

Rārangi Kōrero
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Photos by Jordan Perry (Exposure), Xyst Limited and Gisborne Photo News

Part 1

Ngā Kupu Arataki
Introduction

Makorori is a natural taonga – a picturesque beach, hosting a range of recreation opportunities for visitors and locals alike. The emerald-blue ocean bordered by Pohutukawa cloaked dunes is an East Coast icon, and the beach and headlands are habitats for a range of sea life, birds, mammals and plant species.
Makorori has seen many changes in use and habitation, from the early fleets of waka departing to Te Toka-Ahuru/Ariel Reef, to what is today one of the region's most iconic and popular recreation destinations.

Throughout the long history of human interaction with Makorori Beach, a number of themes are consistent.

This has long been a place where people have travelled and come together, once leaving with kete full of kaimoana and a dose of sun and salt, now used similarly yet in a modern context.

There's also been a long history of managing human pressures on Makorori's natural resource to ensure that the beach continues to be a place of abundance for future generations.

This Master Plan is an aspirational long-term plan intended to inform the development, preservation, and use of this taonga over the next 30 years.

Why is a Master Plan for Makorori important?

In recent years the community has raised concern that what makes this a special place is rapidly changing. Makorori Beach has never been busier than it is today, and with more activity comes more pressure on the natural environment, particularly the dune system.

With our increasing population, and popularity of beach activities such as surfing, fishing, diving, walking and running, we expect this pressure to further increase, prompting us to plan for a sustainable future for Makorori.

Along with addressing these issues, we've identified a range of opportunities to make improvements that will benefit the environment, visitors and for the people who live here.

Makorori's unique geography, land ownership, high recreational value and historic use mean that the current (and potential future) issues at Makorori, and their potential solutions, are often interconnected and the responsibility of multiple agencies, private landowners and land managers with only some able to be directly addressed by council.

The Makorori Master Plan has been developed to:

- Articulate the community's vision for Makorori over the next 30 years
- Provide a coordinated 'road map' to help realise that vision
- Help us to understand Makorori, its history, values and what makes it special
- Assess existing conditions, issues and opportunities to help make evidence-led decisions
- Capture the community's aspiration for the restoration, development and use of the beach
- Provide a rationale for:
  - *Areas where values are to be protected and restored e.g. dune vegetation, wildlife views and vistas*
  - *Key access points and what type of connections are appropriate*
  - *Areas where types of activities may or may not occur, e.g. vehicle movements, self-contained camping, toilets and other recreation facility location*
- Support a coordinated approach to future use, environmental management and development decisions rather than responding to individual issues in isolation.

This document has been developed in partnership with Mana Whenua and community and is intended to be a shared vision and direction for the beach's protection, management and development. While many of the actions and responsibilities sit with Council, some projects may be led, or funded externally. This shared ownership gives certainty that identified projects complement the wider plan for the beach and empowers community to lead and advocate for the ongoing improvement and protection of the beach.

How this Master Plan has been developed

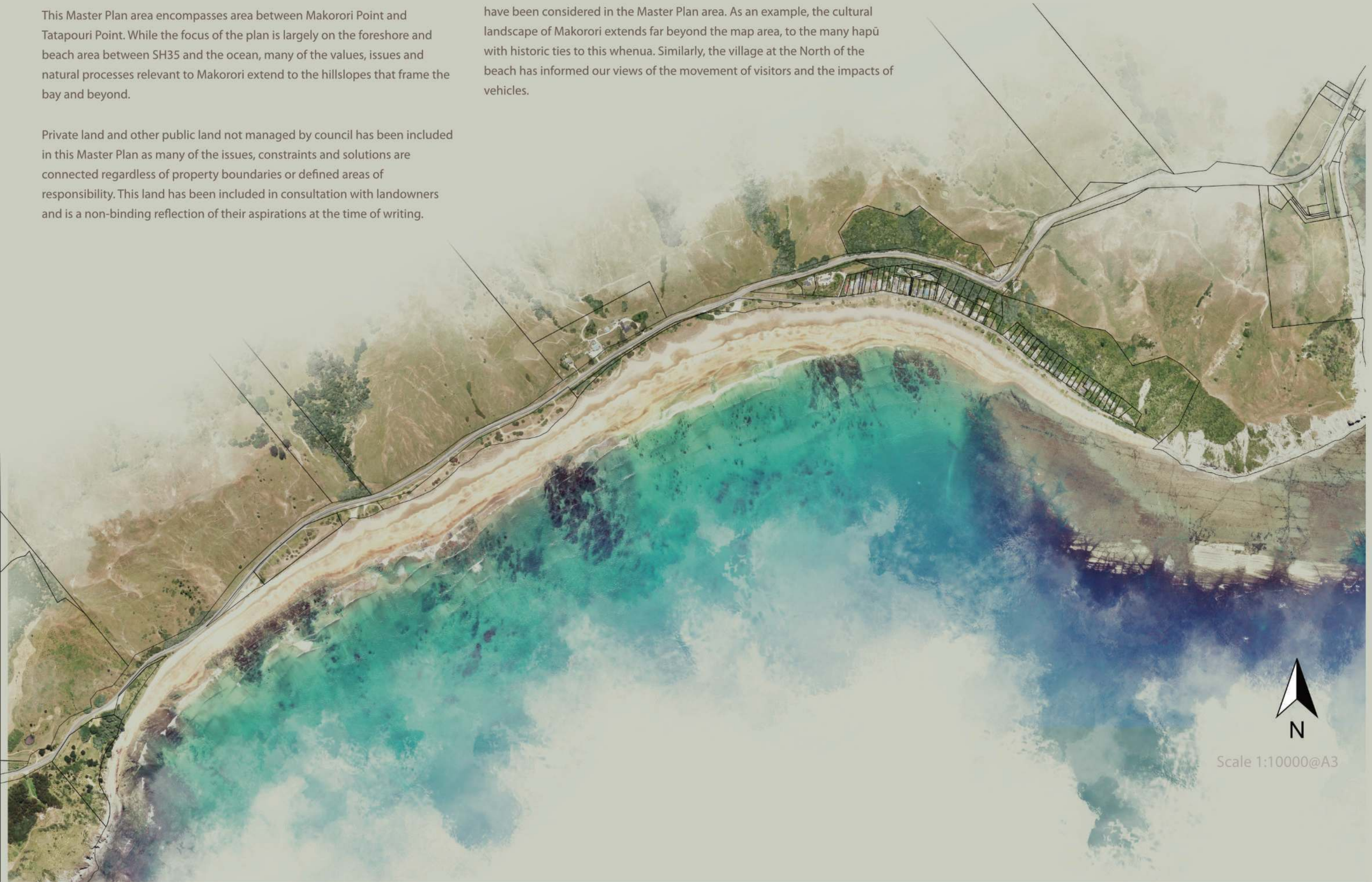
To prepare the plan we have undertaken a range of pre-engagement activities including working with mana whenua, meeting with landowners, residents and other key stakeholders. We have sought advice from subject matter experts such as ecologists, transport planners and had input from other agencies responsible for managing land, the environment, and activities at Makorori.

Master Plan Area

This Master Plan area encompasses area between Makorori Point and Tatapouri Point. While the focus of the plan is largely on the foreshore and beach area between SH35 and the ocean, many of the values, issues and natural processes relevant to Makorori extend to the hillslopes that frame the bay and beyond.

Private land and other public land not managed by council has been included in this Master Plan as many of the issues, constraints and solutions are connected regardless of property boundaries or defined areas of responsibility. This land has been included in consultation with landowners and is a non-binding reflection of their aspirations at the time of writing.

While the Master Plan area is from Makorori Point to Tatapouri Point, and from the road to the high water mark, the context of the site and what surrounds it influences what is possible within the site and has effects and benefits that have been considered in the Master Plan area. As an example, the cultural landscape of Makorori extends far beyond the map area, to the many hapū with historic ties to this whenua. Similarly, the village at the North of the beach has informed our views of the movement of visitors and the impacts of vehicles.



Part 2

He Whakamārama mō Makorori

Understanding Makorori

8
Recognised surf breaks

40ha
of Tatapouri reef

2
Surf breaks of national importance

170+
Surfable days every year

3.5km
of beach

7ha
of Esplanade reserve

Ngā Wāhi me ngā Piringa Kōrero

Location and Context

Makorori Beach and foreshore area is located approximately 10km east of Gisborne's CBD, accessed by State Highway 35. It is a long narrow foreshore with around 2km of road frontage to SH35 and a further 1km along Makorori Beach Road. It faces Southeast, and is the closest landmark to Te Toka Ahuru/Ariel Reef, some 15km offshore.

Land Status and Ownership

Who owns and manages land at Makorori?

One unique aspect of Makorori Beach is the mixed ownership and management of the beachfront land adjacent to SH35. The area contains council-owned reserve land, unformed legal road, beach and privately owned land parcels.

Gisborne District Council

Council manages parcels of local purpose, esplanade and recreation reserve land as well as both formed and unformed legal road along Beach Road.

Waka Kotahi - New Zealand Transport Agency

Waka Kotahi is responsible for management of SH35 as well as adjoining unformed legal road within the state highway Road corridor.

Private land owners

Approximately 4.8ha of land on the seaward side of SH35 between Makorori Point and Beach Road is held in private ownership.

Land beyond the Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)

Below the MHWS (also known as the wet part of the beach) the land is administered by the Department of Conservation. The mana of ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou to protect and manage natural and physical resources, and the spiritual identity of their rohe moana is also recognised through the Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act (2019).

It should be noted that this plan does not extend landward of the highway, or into the takutai moana.

Car park
Car park
Car park
Car park
Existing toilet
Makorori village
Playground
Northerns surf break
Farmhouse surf break
Tatapouri Reef
Creeks surf break
Red Bus surf break
Centres surf break
Makorori Point surf break
N
KEY
Private land
Public land

Rārangi wā Hītori
History Timeline

Land at Makorori in customary ownership by Māori

Makorori and the reefs including Te Toka Ahuru (Aerial Reef) are the fishing place for Rakaiatane and Hinehaeretaua, Te Aitanga ā Māhaki and Ngāti Konohi

1870s

Kaiti and Pouawa blocks surveyed and native bush on the coast was cleared and burnt for pastoral farming

Maori land owners without the means to raise capital to break in the land are persuaded to lease large parts of their land to the early European flock holders

1890s

Native Land Court gives title of the 19,200 ACRE POUAWA BLOCK 19, to– Hineiteao, Rakaiatane, and Hirakau and their hapū

Land subdivided to create Makorori Village

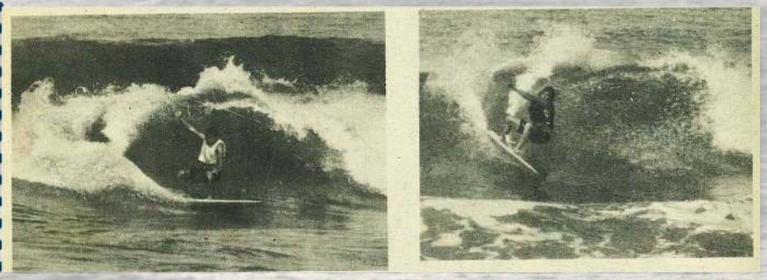
1930s

SH35 constructed through Makorori

1940s

Gisborne Motocycle Sports Club hold inaugural beach races

1954



Surfing arrives in Gisborne and shortly after Makorori Point is surfed for the first time on stand-up surfboards.

1959

Makorori has a popular summer camping destination

1970's

Eco award given to environmental group Session for massive Makorori Beach cleanup

1974

1960s

By the late 1960's Makorori Village is well established

1960s

Local and foreign surfers set up a feral camp in the trees hidden from Highway 35 at Makorori Point

2008

Gisborne District Council purchases 2 parcels of private land and develops car parks adjacent to Red Bus and creeks surf breaks

2010

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement identifies Makorori Point and Centres surf breaks as Surf Breaks of National Significance

Ngā Taonga Ahurea
Cultural Heritage

In the 1890s, the then Native Land Court gave the title of the POUAWA BLOCK 19,200 ACRES, of which Makorori is inside, to the following Ancestors – Hineiteao, Rakaiatane, and Hirakau along with their hapū members. Those descendants now inhabit the lands of Makorori and further north to Pouawa.

Makorori hapū known as Hinehaeretaua (Rakaiatane's elder sister), Rakaiatane and Konohi built and maintained Pa, Panehu, Waiwhakata and Pukaingakakaho from Makorori Headland to Tatapouri Headland.

The hapu of Makorori maintained the valuable seaward resources delivered up by Tangaroa and his children. The traditional story of Tangaroa and his children, is told as following, in short, while out fishing, Manuruhi, a man, son of Ruatepupuke, is taken by Tangaroa into the water and placed as a tekoteko on his house Huiteananui, for transgressing fishing lore. Tangaroa's house has talking poupou inside and silent poupou outside. Ruatepupuke searches for his son and finds him atop of the House, guarded by Hinematikotai, from whom he garners information in order to avenge the taking of his son. He waits for the children of Tangaroa to return inside the House and while they sleep he blocks any light from entering and they sleep in. He then sets the house alight. In a panic the children of Tangaroa rush for the exit where Ruatepupuke waits outside and he strikes them as they emerge, thereby creating the different features of various marine species in the process. He attempts to take the talking poupou from inside the House but is unable to, so instead retrieves the silent ones outside the House and returns to the surface.

Over time Makorori and the reefs including Te Toka Ahuru (Aerial Reef) became the fishing place for all hapū inland and seaward, that is Te Aitanga A Māhaki, Ngati Konohi, Rakaiatane and Hinehaeretaua, after their hapū wars, that resulted in marriage between Māhaki and Rakaiatane descendants.

Hapū elders often spoke of the hapū fishing fleet that went to sea from Makorori, from August to October to fish Tangaroa's children on Te Toka Ahuru. Following the Ruatepupuke tradition, 40 waka would travel out, 38 were for whānau of hapū and two were for those who rested while the fleet was fishing night and day. Upon their return, the fleet would rest, using the maka-o-riri aloe vera plant on their sunburn, and preparing their catches of fish by hangi smoke pits to travel west inland and north to Pouawa and Whāngarā.

Today at the northern Makorori beach the hangi pits that many folk have exposed on their building sites, are identified and protected as our historical reference of the fishing practice detailed above.

The only lands still in the ownership of hapū are Hinehaeretaua's descendants at the southern end of Makorori, where the surfing wave is nationally recognised.

(Source: N. Searancke Trustee/Chairperson Hinehaeretaua Whānau/Hapū 2023)

Maka-o-Riri Native Aloe

It's understood that the native aloe that the beach is named after no longer exists on the Southern bluffs of Tatapouri Point. The nearest known plant of similar species is the native Ice Plant, Horokaka, which grows on rocky outcrops and cliffs - its nearest known present location is on Tuaheni Point, at the South end of Wainui Beach. It's a succulent, slow growing and is one of the native plants that was known to be used for sunburn on this coast.

It's likely that the Horokaka is at least closely related to the aloe which was once used by returning fishers to cure sun exposure upon returning from sea.

Key Opportunities

- Name the various stopping points along the beach after significant tīpuna and pā sites, as directed by hapū
- Foster place-based learning through signage that shares the history and significance of Makorori to Mana Whenua
- Formalise Pānehu - historic pā site, on the southern entrance to Makorori Beach through storyboards and signage
- Return a native aloe to the beach through amenity plantings of Horokaka, to reference the historical use of native aloe
- Formalise the relationship between Council and hapū in the management of Makorori Beach

Key Constraints

- All identified opportunities could only be delivered in partnership with hapū

Naming of significant sites

In the development of this plan, a key aspiration of mana whenua was to honour the history of beach through the use of names of tīpuna and pā to name a range of historic and modern day sites.

Council has previously committed to this through the purchase of the car park land colloquially known as Red Bus'. This plan seeks to honour that commitment, and the below names have been proposed for key visitor sites along the beach. They would be accompanied by signage about the place and name.

Pānehu

This site is an historic pā site of Hinehaeretaua, and the intent is to name the car park after the pā, as well as install signage that shares its history.

Hinehaeretaua

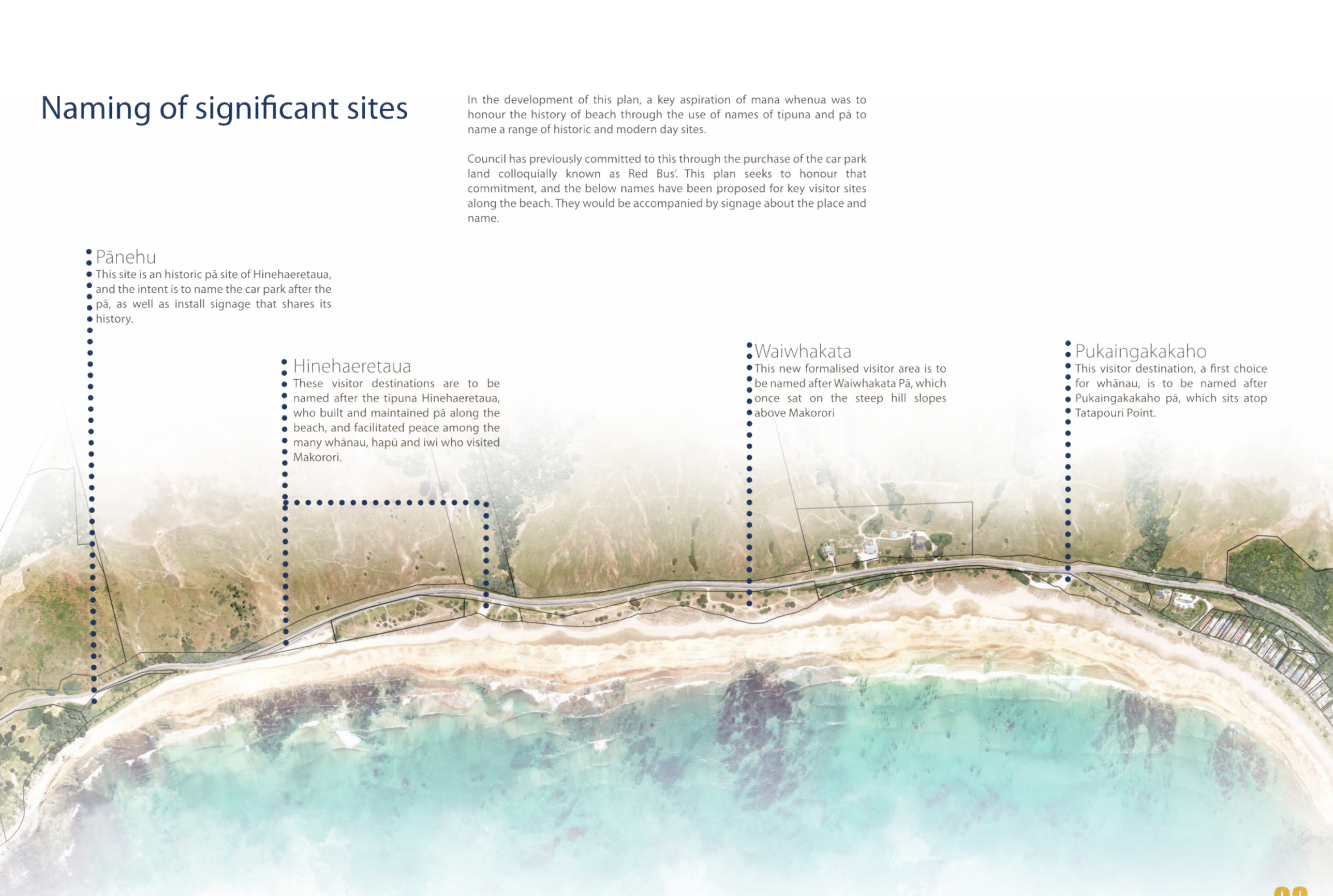
These visitor destinations are to be named after the tīpuna Hinehaeretaua, who built and maintained pā along the beach, and facilitated peace among the many whānau, hapū and iwi who visited Makorori.

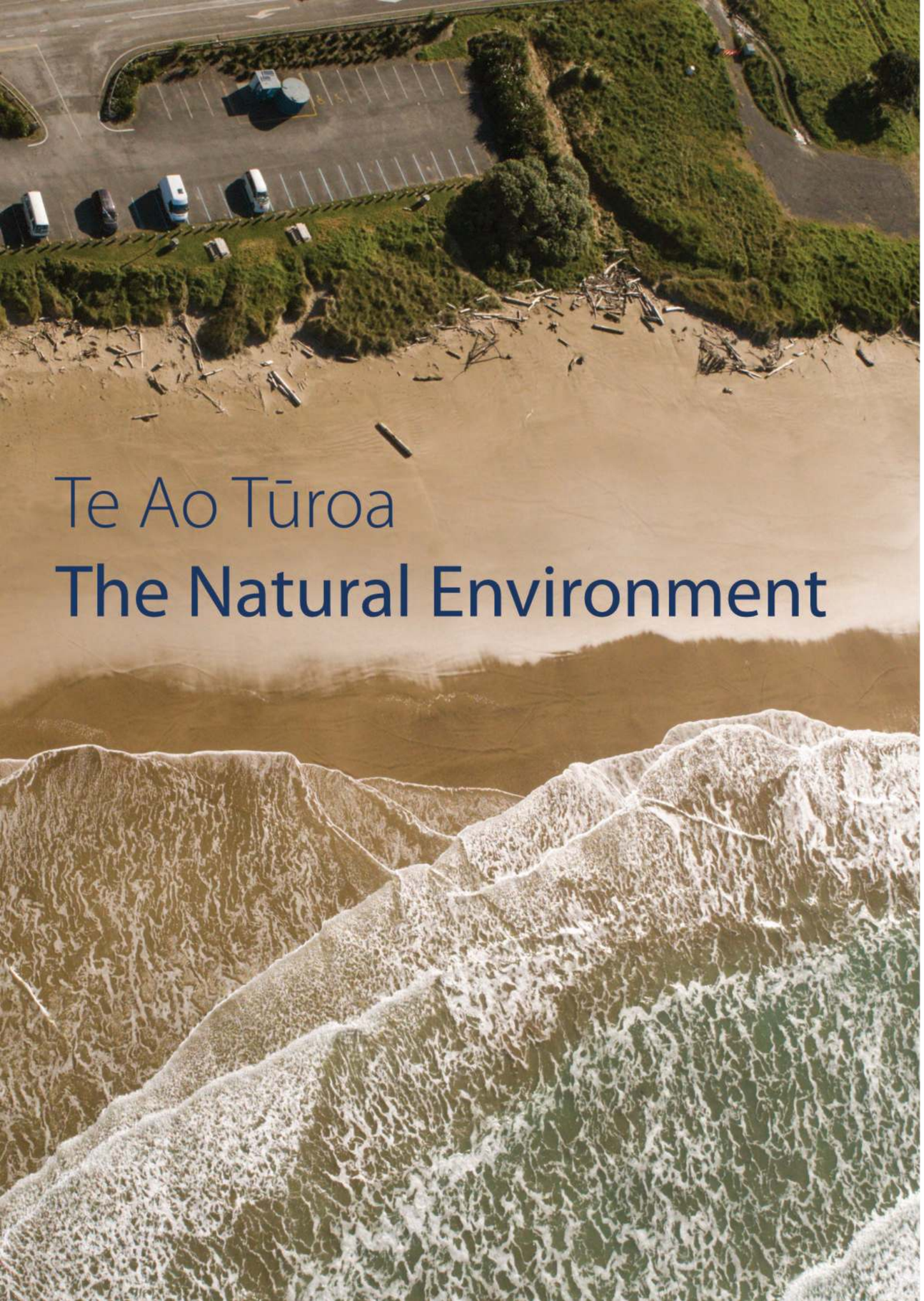
Waiwhakata

This new formalised visitor area is to be named after Waiwhakata Pā, which once sat on the steep hill slopes above Makorori

Pukaingakakaho

This visitor destination, a first choice for whānau, is to be named after Pukaingakakaho pā, which sits atop Tatapouri Point.





Te Ao Tūroa
The Natural Environment

Steep hill slopes, dunes, riparian areas, beach and reef contribute to the range of landscapes, land forms, habitats and vegetation areas that make up Makorori's unique natural environment. Although many of these features have been heavily modified over time they all still add to its character and recreational opportunities that remain a major draw card for locals and visitors alike.

What we know:

Dune System

The Makorori dune system has had significant human modification over the last 100 years in the form of vegetation clearance, vehicles, trampling by people, stock grazing, rubbish dumping, mowing and exotic plant invasion. Makorori functions predominantly as a closed system, meaning that sand is eroded, transported and deposited within the bay without significant movement of sand inward or outward.

Prior to the construction of SH35, Makorori Beach Road and residential housing, the back dune area is likely to have extended to the base of the hill slopes that surround the bay. However, the last 100 years have seen significant modification to the dune system. Through vegetation clearance, vehicles, trampling by people, stock grazing, rubbish dumping, mowing and exotic plant invasion, the result is a narrower, flatter rear dune which has lost many of its sand capturing functions.

The dunes along the beach are most extensive in the central part of beach and there has been a growth of the dunes since the late 1980's . This is likely due to exclusion of stock from the dunes allowing sand dune building species such as spinifex (previously browsed by cattle) to be able to collect the sand which helps repair erosion. However, some areas with less spinifex have subsided.

The profile of the fore dunes along Makorori Beach road is much lower but more intact than along SH35. They include a greater proportion of indigenous sand binding species. Significant infestations of exotic garden escape weeds and numerous pedestrian access ways to the beach. The back dunes in front of the houses are narrow, highly modified and maintained as parkland.

Generally, across the dune system dune plants are sparse and are affected by invasive weedy species in many areas. Unmanaged vehicle access throughout the dunes over a long period of has had a significant impact on dune health and function. Dumping of garden waste presents a significant challenge to the health of the dune system, as invasive species out compete beneficial sand binders. This tends to be focused around the Pōhutukawa clumps including evidence of garden dumping such as grass clippings, agapanthus, yucca, arum and madeira vine.

SH35 fore dune permanent vehicle tracks

The Creek weed infested stream channel and margins

Household rubbish in the dunes along SH35

Weedy fordune along Makorori Beach Rd

Vehicle damage in back dune along SH35

SH35 fore dune weed and vehicle damaged

Vehicle damage on private property

Hill Slopes

At the northern end of the beach is an area of around 9 hectares of diverse coastal vegetation. The upper slopes are dominated by regenerating indigenous vegetation and on the lower slopes indigenous vegetation is more likely to have been planted and naturalised. Wilding pines and macrocarpa are present behind the houses on Makorori Beach Road along with range of garden species invading the same area.

The main threats to the hillslopes are the invasion of weeds. Pampas and cotoneaster are scattered through vegetated areas while Kikuyu dominates open areas. Weeds such as stinking iris, euphorbia sp, pampas, silver poplar, convolvulus and nasturtium are present on the southern hillslopes also.

Riparian Areas

A number of small streams enter the main beach through culverts under SH35 creating a more a of a channelised profile through the dunes. The riparian areas of these streams are not very extensive and quantity and quality of indigenous riparian species present is low.

Weed species dominate riparian areas along SH35 and include blue morning glory, giant reed, Tamerisk and cape ivy. A particular focus on the riparian area near The Creek car park is required to ensure weeds such as blue morning glory and cape ivy are controlled before they spread further in the dunes

Along Makorori Beach Road tradescantia, velvet groundsel, giant reed, coral tree and willow are all present along stream margins.

Flora

Currently native dune vegetation is sparse with scattered planted generally limited to Pōhutukawa, ngaio and coastal flax. Much of the existing vegetation along Makorori's foreshore is likely not original. For example, Pōhutukawa has been planted and ngaio is likely to be the Tasmanian variety. Some taupata regeneration is present underneath Pōhutukawa clumps in the back dune and spinifex and wiwi in the fore dune.

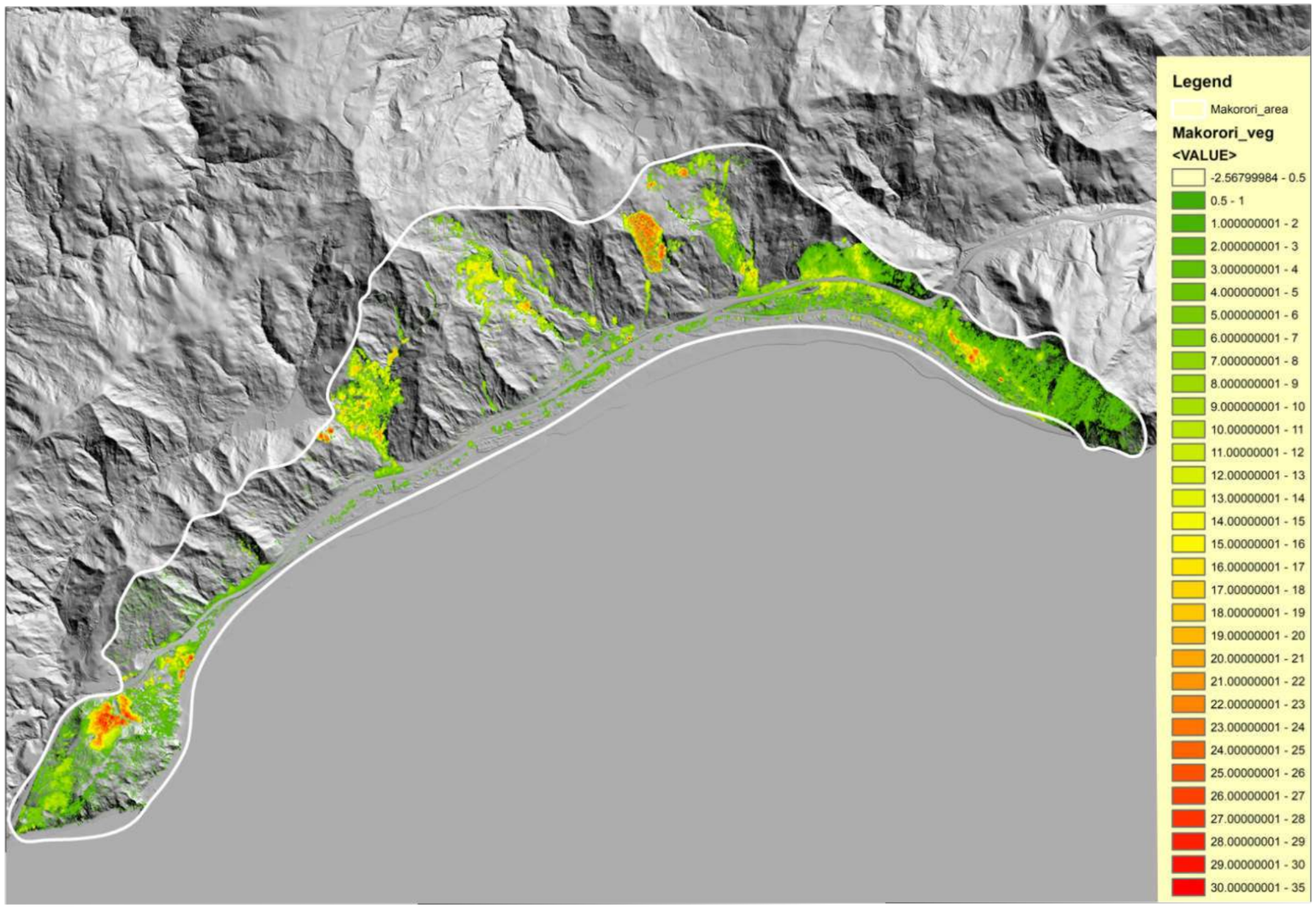
There has been a significant loss of habitat for native plants and animals over time at Makorori due to the impact of vehicles, recreational activity, stock, pests and weeds. Weeds have established through multiple sources including horses, stock, vehicles, garden escape and green waste dumping.

The fore dune dunes are the most urgent areas for management with a priority on weed control and restricting vehicle access to help protect existing natural values along with infill (re)planting of spinifex to fast-track fore dune restoration along with planting of tauhinu and wiwi on cusp between fore dunes and back dunes.

The highest priority weeds for control in the fore dunes include pampas, South African ice plant, agapanthus, macadamia nut and pink ragwort. in the back dunes priorities for control include agapanthus, madeira vine, silver poplar.

Myrtle rust poses a threat to the iconic seaside Pōhutukawa at Makorori. While the long-term impact of the disease in New Zealand's climate remains somewhat uncertain, other hardy coastal plants such as flax, Tōtara, Karaka and Ngaio should be planted to mitigate the impact of the potential loss of Pōhutukawa to Myrtle rust.

Vegetation at Makorori:



Existing Indigenous Vegetation

- **Shore bindweed** *Calystegia soldanella*
- **Wiwi** *Juncus edgariae*
- **Spinifex** *Spinifex sericeus*
- **Pohuehue** *Calystegia sepium*

Existing Exotic Vegetation

- **Maccadamia nut** *Macadamia integrifolia / M. tetraphylla*
- **Marram grass** *Ammophila arenaria*
- **Pink ragwort** *Senecio glastifolius*
- **Haretail** *Lagurus ovatus*
- **African Iceplant** *Carpobrotus edulis*
- **Pampas** *Cortaderia selloana*
- **Agapanthus** *Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis*

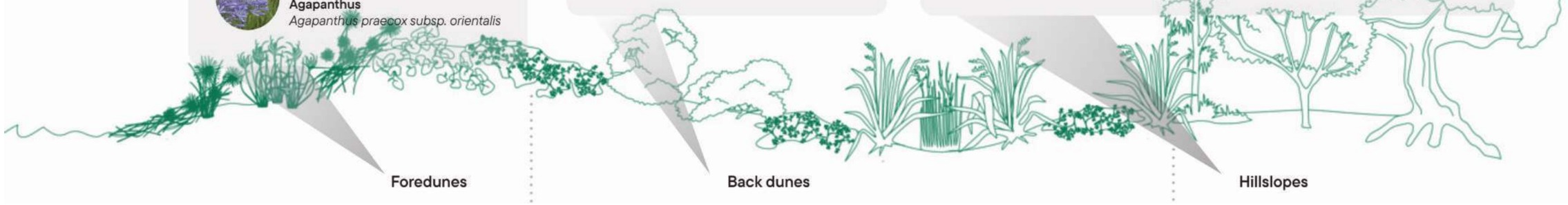
Foredunes

- **Kawakawa** *Piper excelsum subsp. excelsum*
- **Pohutukawa** *Metrosideros excelsa*
- **Ngaio** *Myoporum laetum*
- **Madeira vine** *Anredera cordifolia*
- **Wild ginger** *Hedychium gardnerianum*
- **Bear's breeches** *Acanthus mollis*
- **Kikuyu grass** *Cenchrus clandestinus*
- **Yucca gloriosa** *Yucca gloriosa*
- **Norfolk pines** *Araucaria heterophylla*
- **Cape ivy** *Senecio angulatus*

Back dunes

- **Kawakawa** *Piper excelsum subsp. excelsum*
- **Coastal five finger** *Pseudopanax arboreus*
- **Coastal flax** *Phormium tenax*
- **Swamp flax** *Phormium tenax*
- **Karo** *Pittosporum crassifolium*
- **Ngaio** *Myoporum laetum*
- **Pines** *Pinus contorta*
- **Macrocarpa** *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa Hartw.*
- **Contoneaster** *Contoneaster spp.*
- **Silver poplar** *Populus alba*
- **Taupata** *Coprosma repens*
- **Whau** *Entelea arborescens*
- **Kohekohe** *Didymocheton spectabilis*
- **Raukumara** *Brachyglottis perdicioides*
- **Wairoa koromiko** *Veronica tairawhiti*
- **Houpara** *Pseudopanax lessonii*
- **Stinking iris** *Iris foetidissima*
- **Convolvulous** *Convolvulous spp.*
- **Pampas** *Cortaderia selloana*

Hillslopes



Fauna

Once, the dunes would have been home to a range of native fauna including the Kororā/ Little blue penguin. However today, the presence of dogs make the dune system an unsafe nesting environment. The dunes contain common native dune animal species including Common Skink, the native copper butterfly and possibly the Katipo spider.

A Shag colony exists southern end of the beach, various other sea birds such as terns, gulls and dotterels are often present at Makorori but don't nest due to dogs and other predators such as cats, rats, mustelids and impacts from vehicles.

A small seasonal New Zealand fur seal colony exists at the Tatapouri headland (approx. 30 during winter 2021), the exact number varies year to year and location varies due to erosion.

Key Opportunities

- Strategic weed control to ensure scattered infestations are controlled
- Restrict vehicle access to provide an opportunity for damaged and vulnerable dunes to recover and encourage the return of various native wildlife to the Makorori foreshore area Strategically cluster plantings or vegetation sequences that correlate with vehicle exclusion areas
- Reintroduce range of threatened plants which don't currently exist in the dunes
- Introduce a programme of dune monitoring and restoration including bench marking for natural dune movement, community-led dune restoration annual planting, weed-control & maintenance
- Introduce beach access markers and low dune fencing to guide beach users to dedicated access ways
- Improve public understanding of dune damage and importance of restoration initiatives
- Restore riparian areas including in-stream features such as boulders and reeds to slow water velocity

Key Constraints

- Lack of detailed restoration planning and understanding of site-specific priorities and options
- Cost of large scale of restoration and weed control required
- Existing patterns of use of vehicles accessing the dune areas and the beach
- Scale and extent of existing weed infestations
- Impact of pests such as rabbits on how well restoration might go and difficulty preventing reinvasion due to the long linear nature of the site
- Increasing risk of coastal erosion and land instability
- Critical and busy nature of State Highway 35, that borders the site

Existing Indigenous Fauna

Tara iti/fairy tern
Sternula nereis/davisae

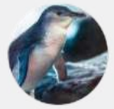
Karuhiruhi/pied shag
Phalacrocorax varius/varius

Karoro/black-backed gull
Larus dominicanus dominicanus

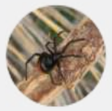
Tarapuka/black-billed gull
Larus bulleri

Tarapunga/red-billed gull
Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus

Common skink
Oligosoma polychroma



Little penguin | Kororā
Eudyptula minor

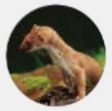


Katapo spider
Latrodectus katipo

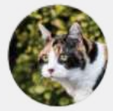
New Zealand Fur Seal
Arctocephalus forsteri

Common Copper / Pepe Para Riki
Lycaena salustius

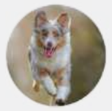
Existing Threats and Pest



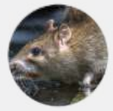
Mustelids
Mustelidae



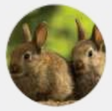
Cats



Dogs



Rats



Rabbits

Ngā Mahi Tākaro
Recreation

Makorori Beach is one of Tairāwhiti's most popular recreation destinations. Located approximately 10km from the Gisborne CBD, Makorori plays an important role in the wider Gisborne open space network providing for a wide range of recreation activities in the one location.

What we know:

Since early human interaction with the beach, Makorori has been a significant site for people connecting with the moana. Both the inshore Makorori reef and the offshore Ariel Reef have been important sources of kaimoana, their abundance sustaining a number of Hapū who frequented the beach.

While modern sea craft makes it easier for people to launch at boat ramps further afield and access the plentiful offshore reefs, some do still launch boats in the lee of Makorori Reef, accessed off Beach Road. Makorori Reef is a popular recreational inshore diving location, known for its shallow rock pools and diverse sea life.

Today, surfing is one of the primary recreational activities at Makorori and since the early 1960's Makorori has been regarded as one of New Zealand's premier surf destinations due to several high-quality consistent surf breaks located along the length of the beach. The southern part of the beach has some of the most consistent surf conditions in Gisborne, having hosted countless competitions, including the National Championships

Motorcycle racing is also a longstanding activity at the beach, due to its flat, hard sand. Gisborne Motorcycle Sports Club has been holding an annual beach race series at Makorori since 1954.

One challenge is that four-wheel driving in the dunes has become an increasingly popular activity, which is rapidly degrading the dunes.

Another challenge is the increasing conflict between recreational uses of the beach, as it becomes a more popular destination.

Makorori has always been popular camping location and was common in the dunes in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Camping is still popular although now restricted to 8 dedicated spaces for certified self-contained vehicles at Red Bus car park.

Makorori is popular for a range of other informal recreation activities and is well visited by picnickers, walkers, surfers, horse riders and beach goers. The beach is one of the largest off-leash dog exercise areas in the wider Gisborne area.

Visitor facilities are limited and have been introduced in an ad-hoc manner over time. Currently there are 27 visitor facilities of varying age and condition. They include play equipment picnic tables, seats, toilets, bins and access stairs with many requiring renewals.

Surf Breaks of National Significance

Makorori Point and Centres surf breaks are two of only seventeen identified surf breaks of national significance for surfing in Schedule 1 of The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS). Alongside four identified, protected surf breaks at Wainui Beach, this is the highest density of protected surf breaks in the country. The NZCPS requires protection of surf breaks of national significance by ensuring that activities in the coastal environment do not adversely affect the surf breaks. Adverse effects or other activities on access to and use and enjoyment of the surf breaks have to be avoided. The Coastal Policy statement reinforces the significant value of surf at Makorori to surfers.

Key Opportunities

- Upgrade/renew visitor facilities
- Replace existing toilets with environmentally sustainable facilities
- Provide additional or temporary toilet facilities at high use locations during the peak summer season.
- Develop a variety of recreation spaces for different informal visitor experiences. For example, a destination park style area adjoining Northerns car park and more unstructured parking/ recreation area(s) between Creek and Northern car parks

Key Constraints

- High cost of servicing semi-remote toilet facilities
- Limited information relating to level of existing use and demand for visitor facilities
- Impacts of the harsh coastal environment on built structures
- The topography, location and usability of reserve land area to accommodate growing recreational use
- There is a limit to the number of visitors that the beach can hold, before the quality of experience is impacted

Surfers at Makorori Point

Makorori Beach Road Playground

Northerns car park picnic area

Makorori Village trampoline

Makorori Village skate ramp

Makorori Village soccer net

Makorori Beach race competitor

Te Tomonga me te Horapa
Access and Circulation

The majority of access to Makorori beach and foreshore area has been informally developed over time with little restriction or co-ordination. Access is characterised by a range of both formal and informal car parking areas along the foreshores dune areas adjacent to SH35 and pedestrian walkways that provide convenient access to the beaches most popular surf breaks.

What we know:

SH35 Access

There are four formal car parking areas between Makorori Point and Makorori Beach Road including Makorori Point, Red Bus, The Creek and Northern car park. There are 17 other informal access points off SH35 into the foreshore area. In the 1.5km of dune system between Red Bus car park and Northern car park there is approximately 2.8km of informal vehicle tracks and at least 16 informal vehicle access ways onto the beach.

The increase in SH35 traffic, particularly logging trucks, has amplified the safety risk for vehicle access to and from foreshore car parking areas. Red Bus and Northern car parking areas are currently the only parking areas supported by right hand turning bays on SH35.

Red Bus car park is the only sealed and marked car park and is often heavily used given its proximity to a number of high-quality surf breaks. 8 dedicated self-contained camping spaces are located in the Red Bus car park, reducing parking spaces for surfers and other day visitors, most notably when the surf is favourable.

Makorori Beach Road

Along Makorori Beach Road there are currently at least 18 pedestrian and 5 vehicle access ways through the fore dunes to the beach. The narrow residential street experiences parking and traffic congestion in summer, due to limited off street parking on residential properties and high numbers of vehicles accessing the reef, or picnicking at the more kid-friendly northern end of the beach.

The angle that Makorori Beach Road adjoins SH35 limits visibility for vehicles joining SH35 as a result some people exit Makorori Beach Road onto SH35 via the Northern car park to avoid a potential safety issue.

Pedestrian Access

Access through the fore dunes between car parking areas and the beach is generally informal with the exception of two narrow timber staircases at Red Bus car park.

There is a desire from the community to establish a walking connection between Wainui and Makorori Beach. A potential future connection between Lysnar Reserve and Makorori point car park could be created along existing road reserve adjacent to SH35 or over the Makorori Headland via private land.

The existing informal access predominantly used by surfers from Makorori Point car park to the beach below is located on private land and does not meet safe public walkway standards.

Re-occuring potholes in the Northerns car park

Vehicle beach access at Northerns car park

Key Opportunities

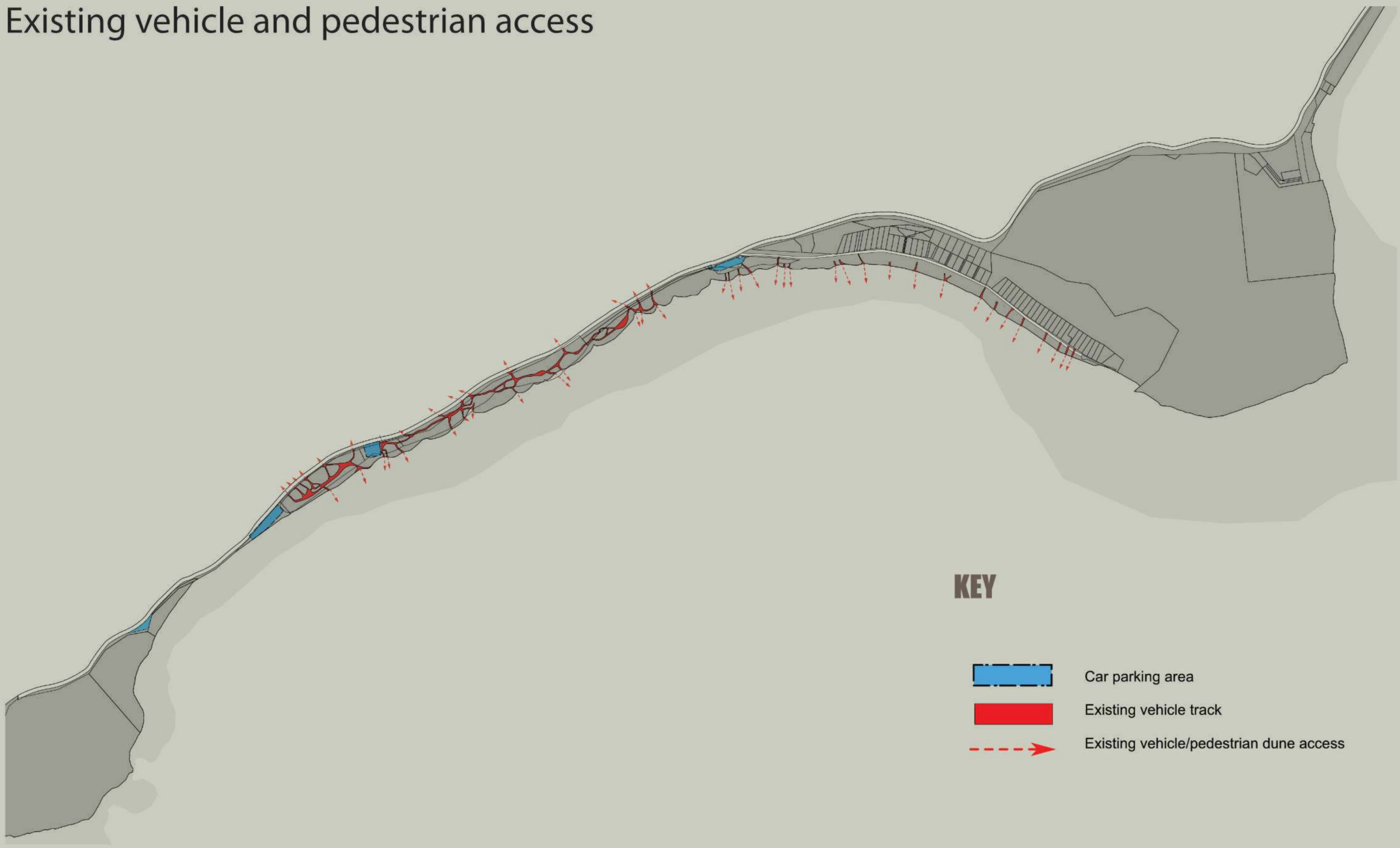
- Dedicate car parking areas and rationalise and restrict access to Makorori foreshore from SH35.
- Develop a walking connection between Lysnar Reserve and Makorori Village.
- Investigate securing legal public access between Makorori Point car park and Makorori Beach as well down the northern side of Makorori Point/Headland as an alternative safer public walkway form Lysnar Reserve to Makorori Beach
- Improve car parking opportunities and manage congestion at the eastern end of Makorori Beach Road
- Relocate dedicated camping spaces from Red Bus car park to increase parking capacity for day users
- Advocate for right hand turning bays to car parking areas on SH35.
- Improve layout, function, and capacity of car parking areas.
- Investigate an accessible beach access at Northern Makorori, for wheelchairs and users with varied mobility.

Key Constraints

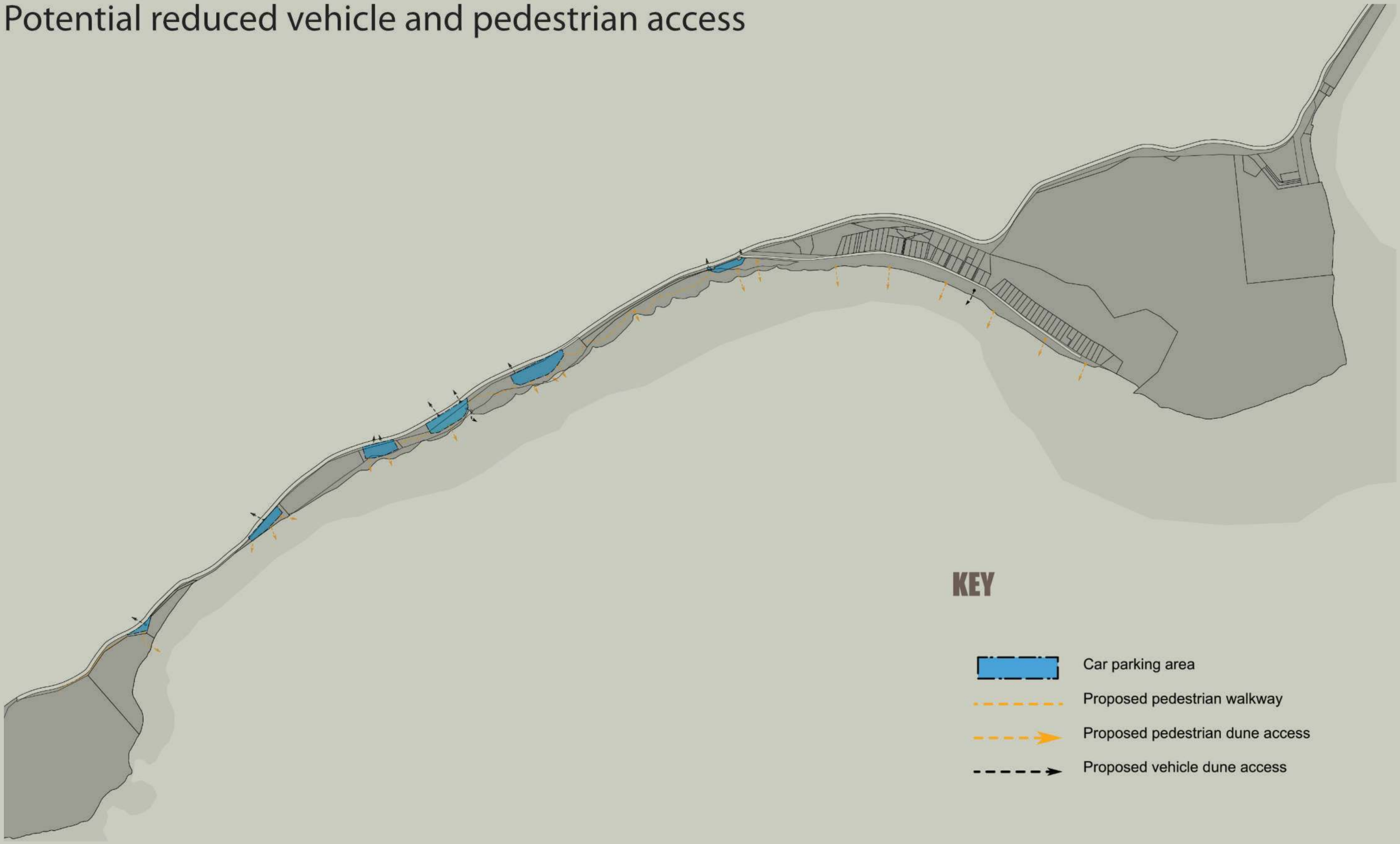
- Long, easily accessible foreshore area from SH35 to dunes and the beach between Makorori point car park and Makorori Point
- Access between Makorori point car park and the beach crosses steep and potentially unstable private land
- Limited space and steep topography on road reserve between Lysnar Reserve and Makorori point car park may constrain construction of walkway link
- Regulating camping must be done through a Camping Bylaw review process.

Recreational motorbike and vehicle tracks on the beach

Existing vehicle and pedestrian access



Potential reduced vehicle and pedestrian access



Ngā Matepā Takutai me te Pūmau Whenua

Coastal Hazards and Land Instability

Coastal Hazards

Much of the area of focus for the Master Plan is located in areas susceptible to coastal hazards such as sea level rise, coastal inundation, coastal erosion, storm surge and tsunami. A coast study of beach areas susceptible to coastal erosion (ASCE) was undertaken for Gisborne District Council in 2015 by consultants Tonkin & Taylor.

The Beach ASCE map shows areas of Makorori that may be adversely affected by coastal erosion, coastal flooding and/or tsunami over the next 100 years.

Land Instability

The wider Makorori landscape has been identified as one of the worst for land stability. The Makorori township settlement is inherently unstable due to the underlying geology and is complicated by a lack of formal stormwater drainage and poor subsurface drainage. The township is expected to be at ongoing risk of coastal erosion, shallow soil slip erosion and potential deeper-seated slumping of the colluvial toe slope (under slip erosion) and their effects.

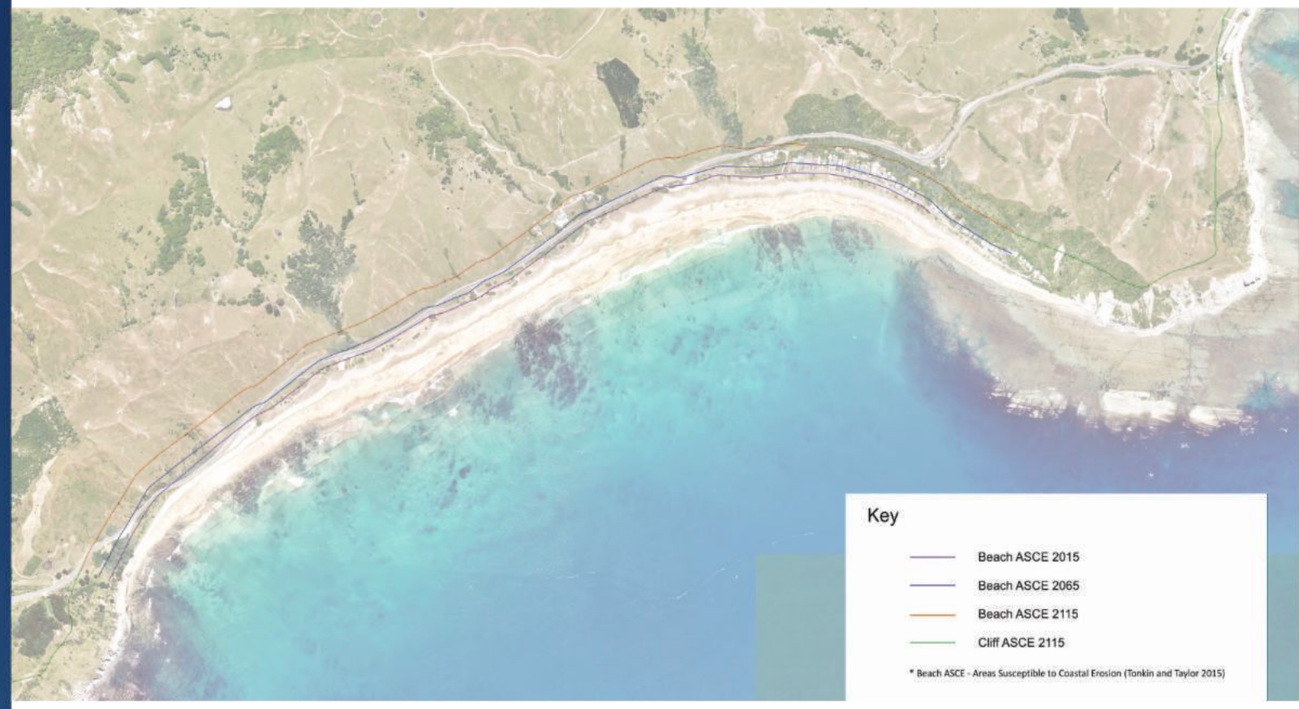
Land Overlay 3A

Land Overlay 3A describes land which has been identified and mapped as being some of the worst eroding land in the district.

Land Contamination

There are no known contaminated sites, or historic hazardous activities within the Master Plan area.

Areas susceptible to coastal erosion (Tonkin & Taylor, 2015)



LUC classification	Erosion Potential
7e1 (orange)	Potential for very severe soil slip, moderate earth flow, gully, riparian slip, and slight slump under pasture. Moderate gully, slight soil slip, earth flow, riparian slip and slump under forest.
7e27 (blue)	Potential for very severe wind erosion
8e2 (green)	Extreme erosion under any land use, with erosion types largely determined by the lithology, e.g., with strong rocks soil slip and sheet will occur, with weaker rocks slumps will occur along with other forms of erosion

Part 3

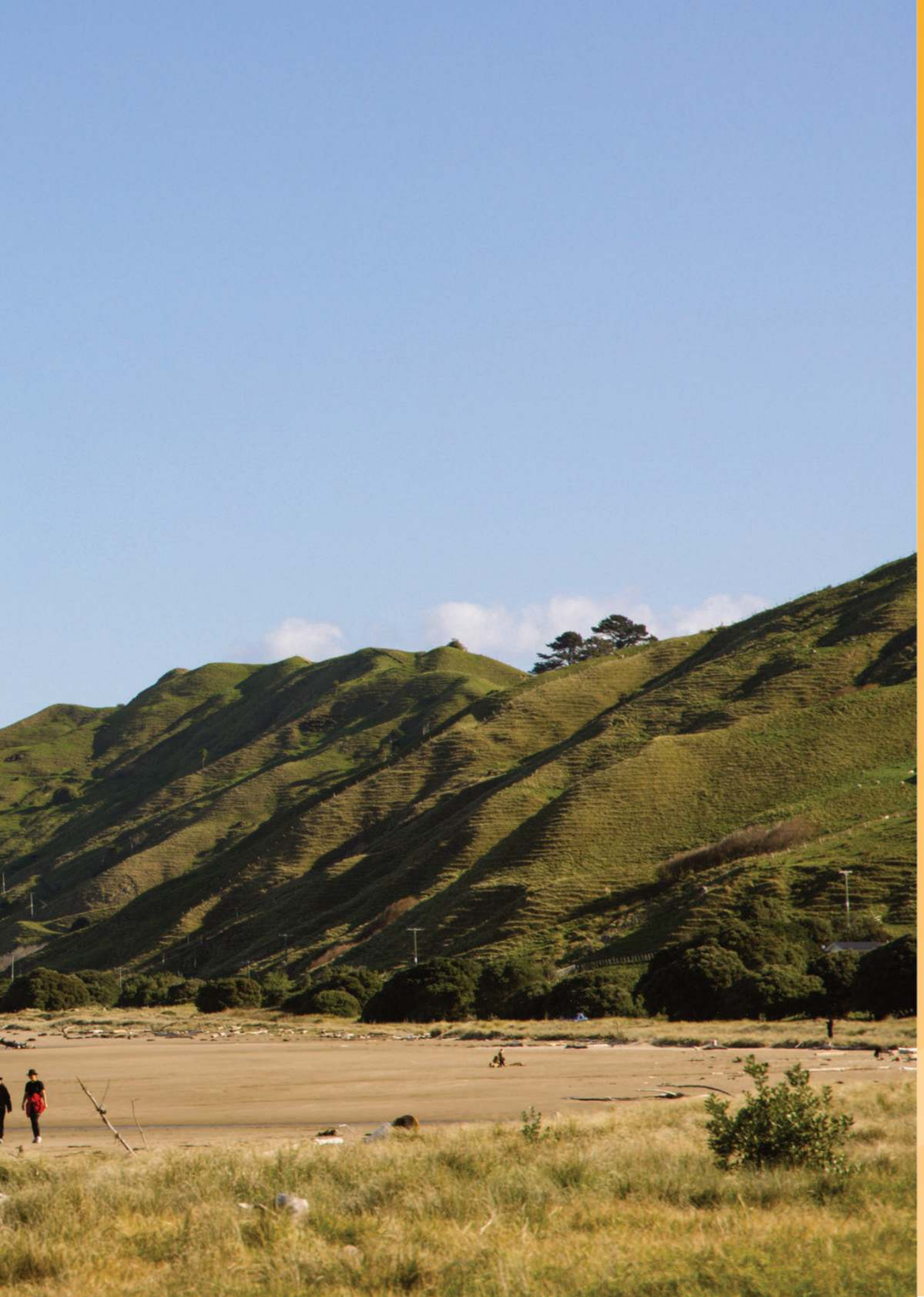
Te Mahere Matua
Master Plan

He Tirohanga Whakamua mō Makorori

A Vision for Makorori:

He taiao taurikura, ā, te wāhi haumaru tāngata o Te Toka Ahuru

A thriving environment and people in the shelter of Te Toka-Ahuru/Ariel Reef



Long-term Outcomes

The following long-term outcomes outline what the Master Plan aims to achieve and describe how Makorori should look and function in 30 years' time.

1. A protected and restored natural environment

   Makorori has a healthy dune system and thriving natural areas that provide habitat for native wildlife

2. Recreational access is safe, practical, and sustainable

   Access to the foreshore, beach, ocean and reef for recreation is safe, practical and minimises impact on the environment

3. Cultural heritage, history and values are respected and shared

   Cultural heritage is acknowledged, visible and supports management design and development decisions

4. Enhanced natural resilience to coastal hazards

   Makorori has a stable functioning dune system that provides resilience to inundation and helps slow the effects of climate change and sea level rise

5. The wild coastal feel is at the heart of the visitor experience

   The wilderness feel is retained and Makorori remains a place where people can connect with nature and enhance physical and mental wellbeing

6. Welcoming, safe, and practical recreational facilities

   Public spaces are obvious, safe, well cared for with recreational facilities and amenities located in practical and intuitive locations

Ngā Mahi Mahinga

Key Moves

Key Move 1 Rationalise access to the dunes and beach

What this looks like

- Informal vehicle access through the dune system restricted to designated access points and car parking areas
- Marked pedestrian access ways through the dune system are in intuitive and practical locations
- Progressive phasing out of informal vehicle access to the beach
- Re purposing existing vehicle tracks throughout the dunes to create an off-beach dune walkway
- Vehicle exclusion areas to help dune restoration, reduce opportunities to dump rubbish and provide space for dynamic coastal processes to function.

Key Move 2 Restore the dune system

What this looks like

Dune restoration that:

- restores naturally occurring dune vegetation
- slows erosion and provides space for dynamic coastal processes to function
- correlates with vehicle exclusion areas
- provides habitat to support the return of wildlife
- improves resilience to inundation
- includes reintroduction of threatened dune plants
- enhances amenity and the 'wild coastal feel'
- Includes ongoing weed control

Key Move 3 Share Makorori's history and cultural heritage

What this looks like

- Support mana whenua to share history, stories and cultural heritage associated with Makorori through interpretation
- Formalise Pānehu - historic pā site through storyboards and signage
- Restore traditional names of sites and landmarks
- Return a native aloe to the beach through amenity plantings of Horokaka
- Honour previous agreements relating to naming car parks

Key Move 4 Create an inviting, safe, enjoyable place to visit, live and play

What this looks like

- Develop a cohesive suite of well-maintained visitor facilities and amenities in practical locations appropriate to a rural coastal destination
- Establish consistent and informative signage and interpretation of the area's natural features and cultural significance
- Development of the Northern car park and foreshore area into Pukaingakakaho Reserve - a destination style recreation area
- Public areas along beach road are welcoming and usable for the public and free of dilapidated and semi-permanent private property

Key Move 5 Improve and establish dedicated car parking areas

What this looks like

- A sustainable network of dedicated parking areas
- Improved layout, capacity and function of existing car parking areas
- A mix of sealed and unsealed car parking areas to cater for different recreational experiences and intensity of use
- Improving amenity, usable open space and co-locating recreational infrastructure around parking areas
- Pulling parking areas back from the fore dune and creating usable green buffers between parking infrastructure and fore dune vegetation where possible.

Key Move 6 Improve safe access

What this looks like

- Creating safe access to and from car parking areas and Beach Road from SH35
- Developing safe well-constructed legal access between Makorori Point car park and the beach
- Development of an off-road connection between Wainui/Lysnar Reserve walkways and Makorori Beach

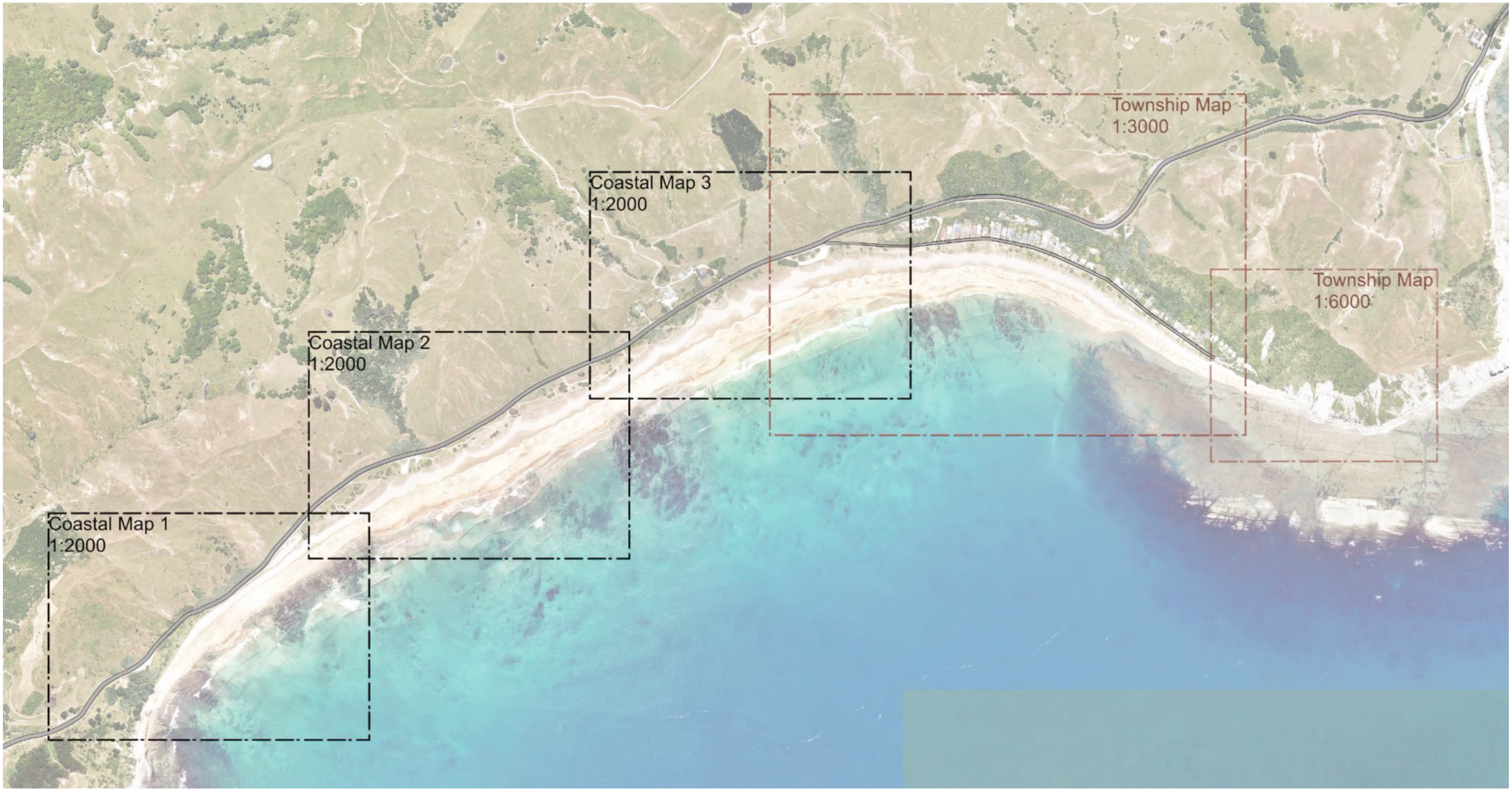
Key Move 7 Engage the community

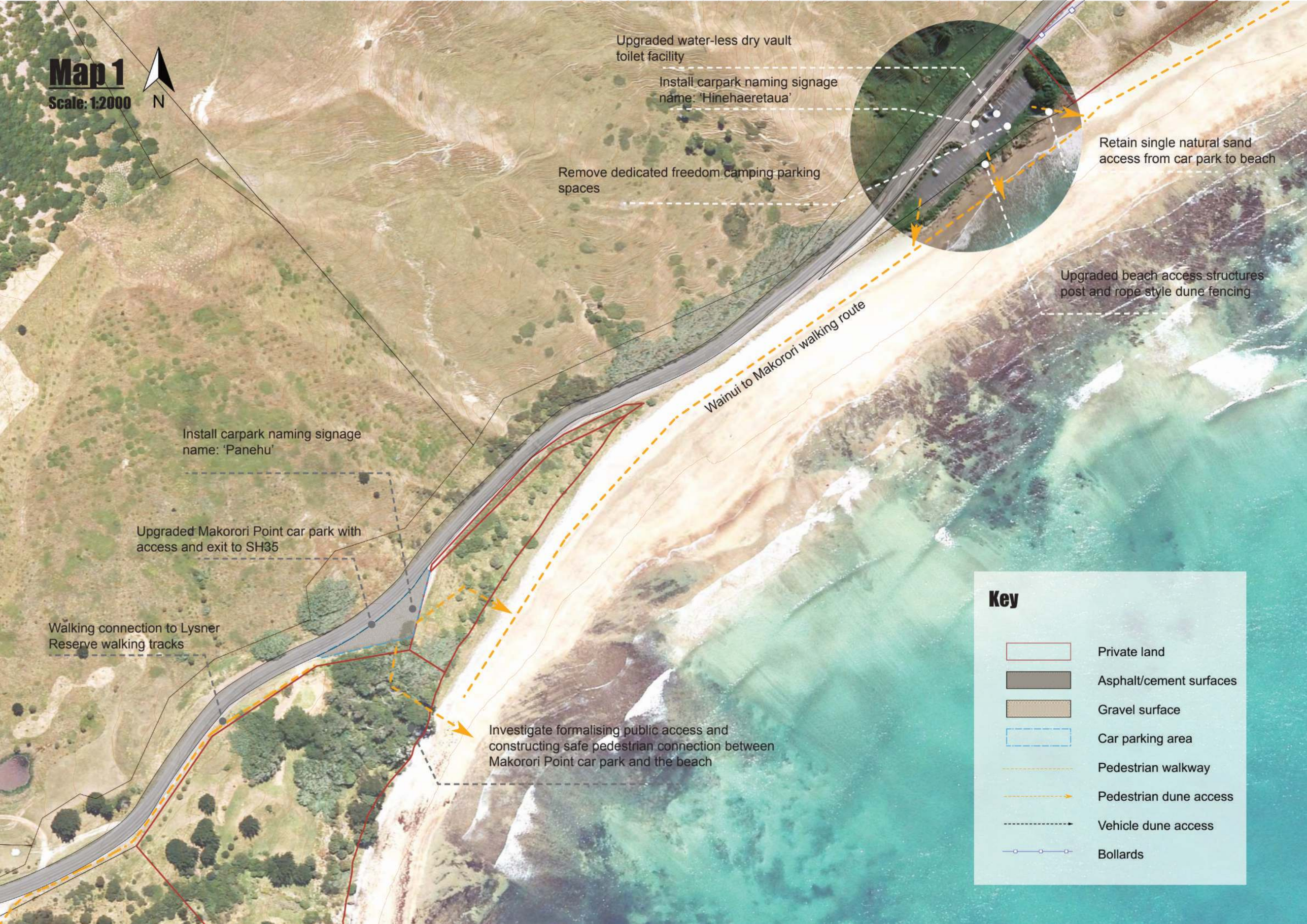
What this looks like

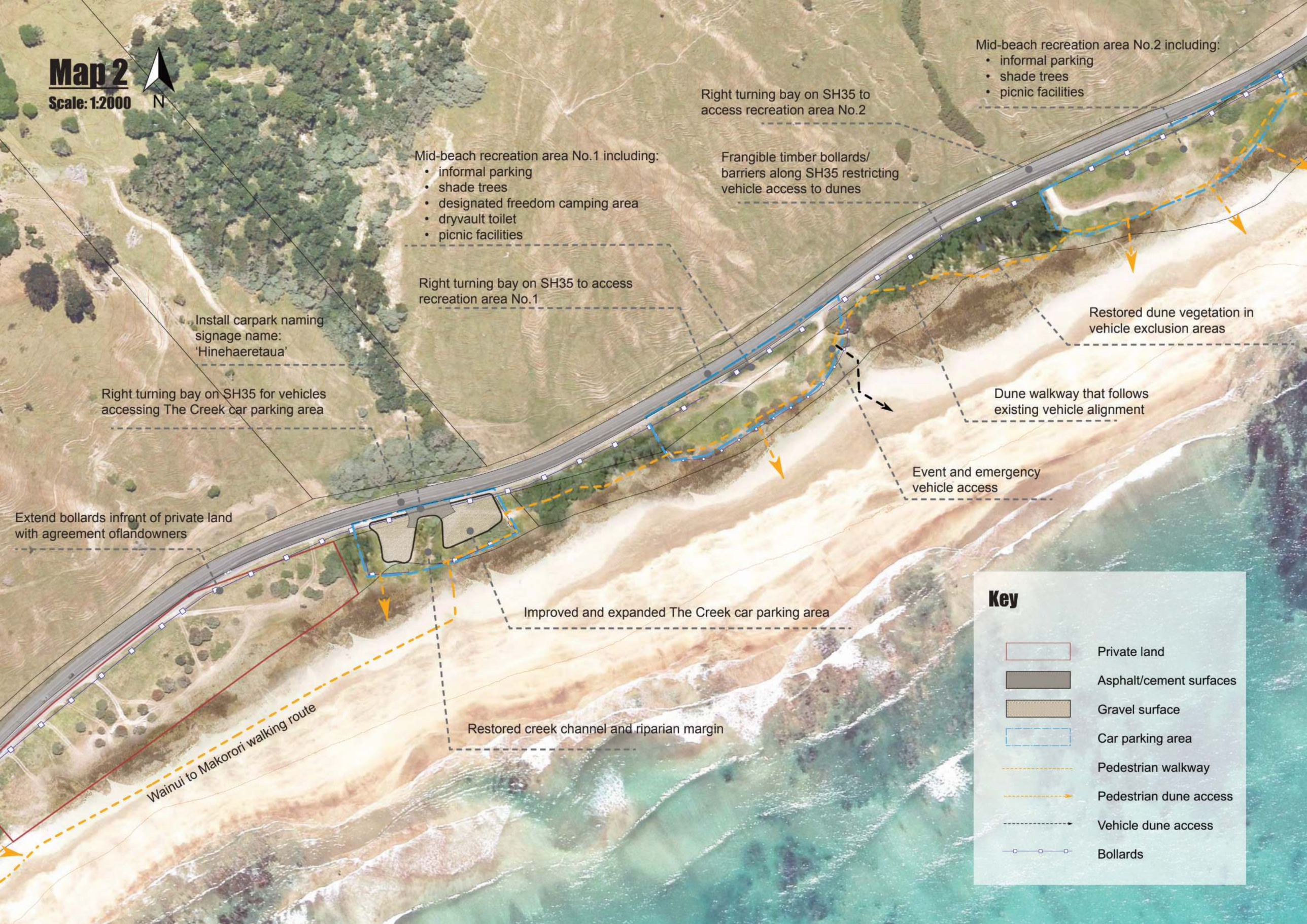
- Increase engagement and collaboration between the community, council, landowners and other public agencies responsible for managing Makorori
- Support community led environmental restoration, maintenance and education initiatives
- Seek community and key stakeholder input into site specific development and concept planning.
- Engage the community to champion the vision, delivery of projects and management intentions of this Master Plan.

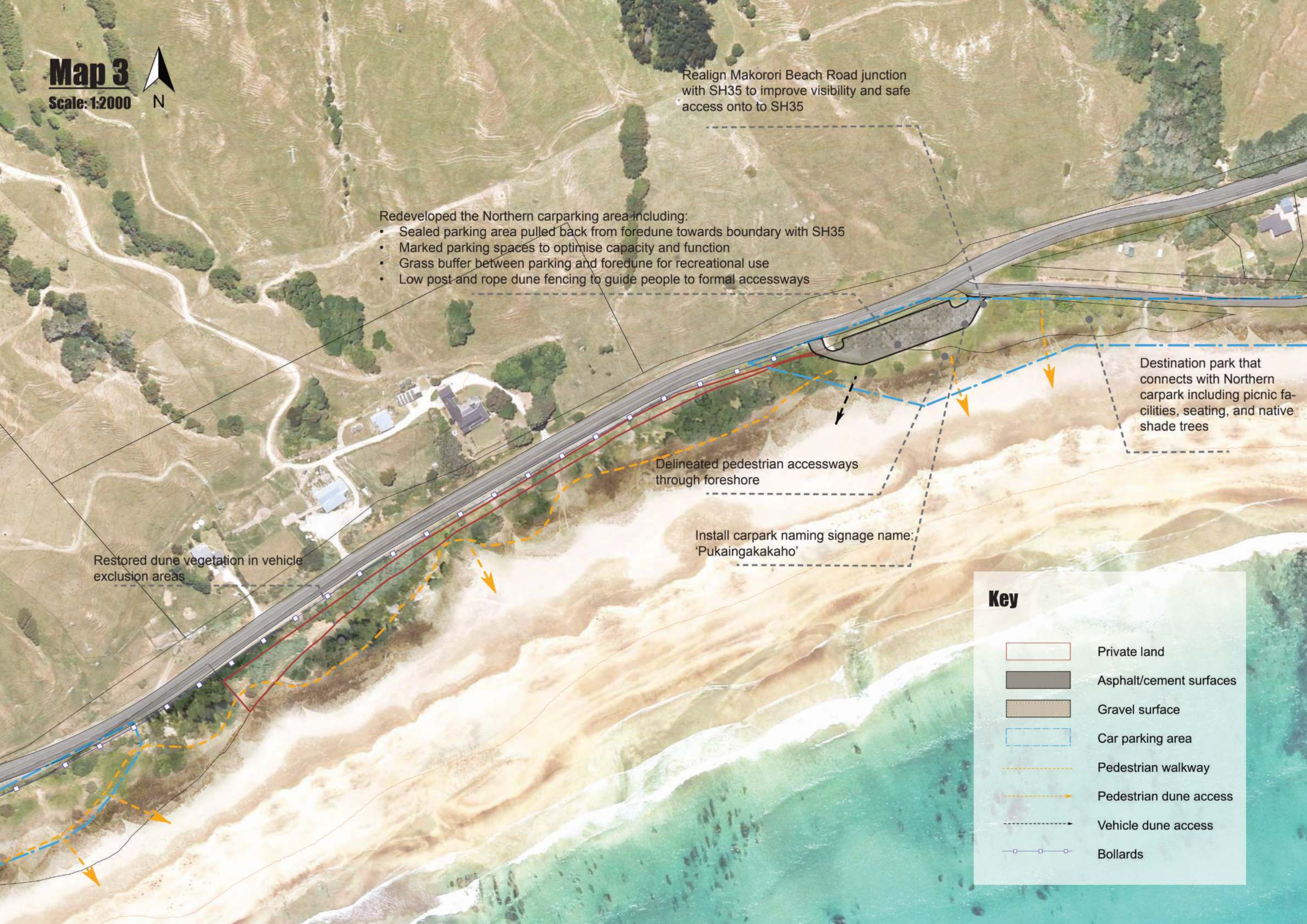
Ngā Mahere Ariā Matua

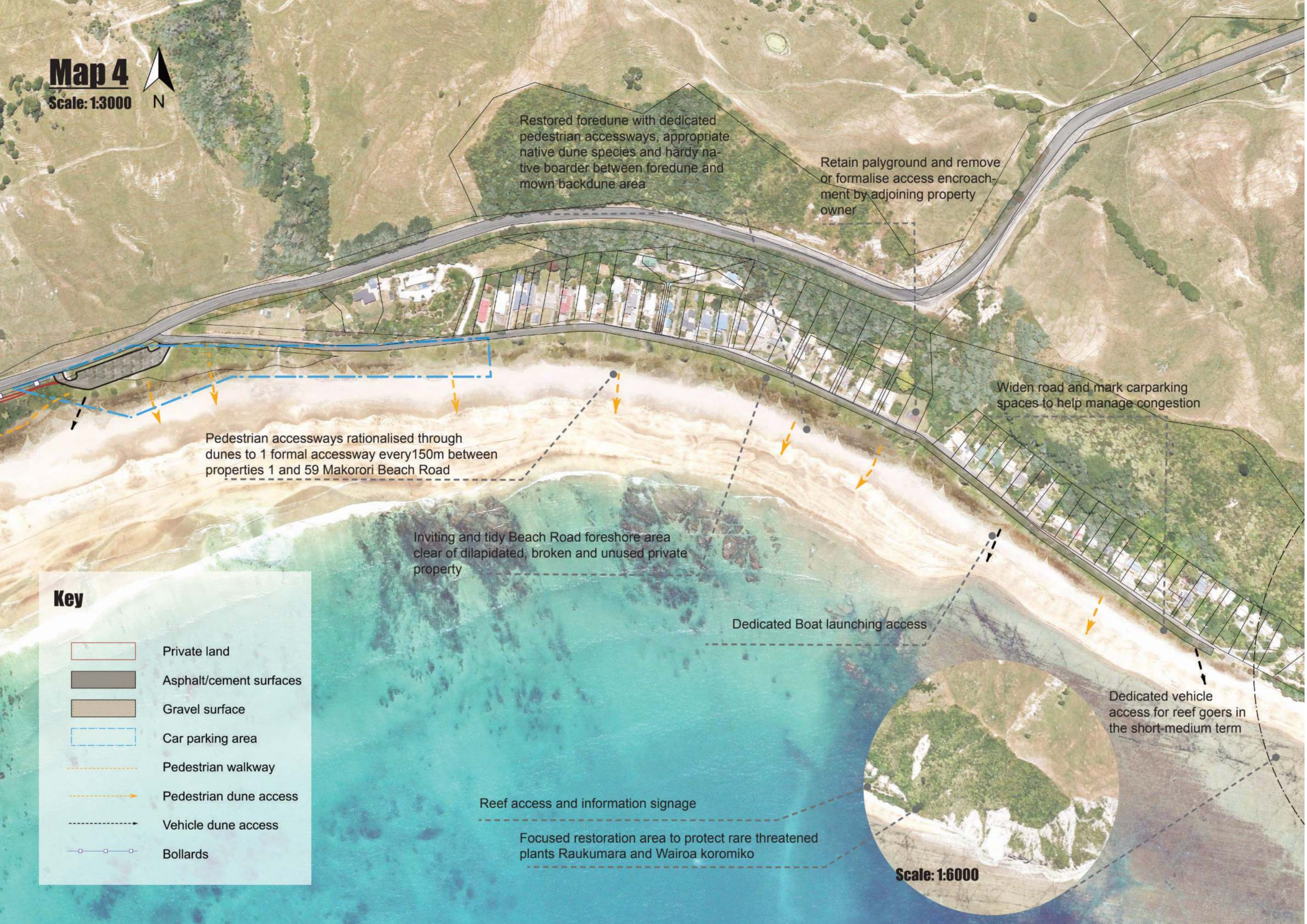
Master Plan Maps




Map 1
Scale: 1:2000
N
Upgraded water-less dry vault toilet facility
Install carpark naming signage name: 'Hinehaeretaua'
Remove dedicated freedom camping parking spaces
Retain single natural sand access from car park to beach
Upgraded beach access structures post and rope style dune fencing
Wainui to Makorori walking route
Install carpark naming signage name: 'Panehu'
Upgraded Makorori Point car park with access and exit to SH35
Walking connection to Lysner Reserve walking tracks
Investigate formalising public access and constructing safe pedestrian connection between Makorori Point car park and the beach
Key
Private land
Asphalt/cement surfaces
Gravel surface
Car parking area
Pedestrian walkway
Pedestrian dune access
Vehicle dune access
Bollards


Map 2
Scale: 1:2000
N
Mid-beach recreation area No.2 including:
• informal parking
• shade trees
• picnic facilities
Right turning bay on SH35 to access recreation area No.2
Frangible timber bollards/ barriers along SH35 restricting vehicle access to dunes
Mid-beach recreation area No.1 including:
• informal parking
• shade trees
• designated freedom camping area
• dryvault toilet
• picnic facilities
Right turning bay on SH35 to access recreation area No.1
Install carpark naming signage name: 'Hinehaeretaua'
Restored dune vegetation in vehicle exclusion areas
Right turning bay on SH35 for vehicles accessing The Creek car parking area
Dune walkway that follows existing vehicle alignment
Event and emergency vehicle access
Extend bollards infront of private land with agreement oflandowners
Improved and expanded The Creek car parking area
Restored creek channel and riparian margin
Wainui to Makorori walking route
Key
Private land
Asphalt/cement surfaces
Gravel surface
Car parking area
Pedestrian walkway
Pedestrian dune access
Vehicle dune access
Bollards


Map 3
Scale: 1:2000
N
Realign Makororі Beach Road junction with SH35 to improve visibility and safe access onto to SH35
Redeveloped the Northern carparking area including:
• Sealed parking area pulled back from foredune towards boundary with SH35
• Marked parking spaces to optimise capacity and function
• Grass buffer between parking and foredune for recreational use
• Low post and rope dune fencing to guide people to formal accessways
Destination park that connects with Northern carpark including picnic facilities, seating, and native shade trees
Delineated pedestrian accessways through foreshore
Install carpark naming signage name: 'Pukaingakakaho'
Restored dune vegetation in vehicle exclusion areas
Key
Private land
Asphalt/cement surfaces
Gravel surface
Car parking area
Pedestrian walkway
Pedestrian dune access
Vehicle dune access
Bollards


Map 4
Scale: 1:3000
N
Restored foredune with dedicated pedestrian accessways, appropriate native dune species and hardy native boarder between foredune and mown backdune area
Retain palyground and remove or formalise access encroachment by adjoining property owner
Widen road and mark carparking spaces to help manage congestion
Pedestrian accessways rationalised through dunes to 1 formal accessway every150m between properties 1 and 59 Makorori Beach Road
Inviting and tidy Beach Road foreshore area clear of dilapidated, broken and unused private property
Dedicated Boat launching access
Dedicated vehicle access for reef goers in the short-medium term
Reef access and information signage
Focused restoration area to protect rare threatened plants Raukumara and Wairoa koromiko
Scale: 1:6000
Key
Private land
Asphalt/cement surfaces
Gravel surface
Car parking area
Pedestrian walkway
Pedestrian dune access
Vehicle dune access
Bollards

Appendix one:

Te Whakahaere i ngā Takunetanga Management Intentions

The following management and development intentions serve as a foundation on which the proposals in this Master Plan are based and should guide the operational management of the beach into the future. This plan is non-statutory, and these are intended to inform future policy decisions.

Working with Mana Whenua

Management intentions – To develop and maintain a strong and meaningful partnership with mana whenua in the preservation, development and management of the beach.

How we intend to achieve this:

Provide opportunities for mana whenua to excercise kaitiakitanga by:

- Shared decision making in the implementation of this plan and future policy.
- Working in partnership to identify how any cultural features or landscapes may be acknowledged, interpreted or celebrated in design.
- Protecting sites of cultural significance
- Using signage and landmarks as an opportunity for mana whenua to restore traditional site names.

Managing Access

Management intention – to prioritise protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment whilst facilitating access and use for low-impact recreational activities to balance recreational access and use with protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.

How we intend to achieve this:

In the short/medium term:

- Restricting speed of vehicles on the beach and rationalising access points to those located close to where vehicles want to be to help manage impacts on the environment and other users
- Promote the concept of a vehicle free destination recreation area on the beach between Northerns car park and the turning circle at the eastern end of Makorori Beach Road (with the exception of vehicles launching and retrieving boats at the dedicated boat lunching access).
- Provide car parking and pedestrian access in practical locations that facilitate recreational use (i.e. adjacent to surf breaks) and minimise damage to the dunes and beach.
- Strategically use low dune fencing and timber bollards to guide people to these dedicated parking and pedestrian access ways
- Rationalise and formalise dedicated pedestrian and vehicle access ways through the fore dunes, making these clear and obvious

In the long term:

- As vegetation establishes and vehicle barriers/bollards are installed along SH35 and around car parking areas, incrementally expand the proposed vehicle exclusion area limiting vehicle access to emergency vehicles and other specific uses such as boat launching at dedicated locations.

Car park Development

Management Intention – to provide safe, practical, and sustainable car parking areas to support low-impact recreational activity

How we intend to achieve this:

- Improving the capacity of existing car parking areas by expanding and redesigning existing areas, marking car park spaces, or using landscaping to create efficient parking layouts
- Where practical and possible, pull car parking back from fore dune areas to create more space for passive recreation and restoration of the dune system to mitigate against the impacts of coastal processes.
- Seal entrance ways to dedicated car parking areas to improve amenity, minimise maintenance and repair costs and and assist safe exit onto SH35
- Advocate for right turning bays on SH35 to dedicated foreshore parking areas.

Dune Restoration

Management Intention – To progressively restore dune areas, co-ordinate restoration initiatives with practical recreational access.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Prioritise fore dune restoration with an emphasis on weed control and in-fill planting of native species, especially spinifex, through a community-led collaboration with GDC
- Focus initial back dune restoration efforts on riparian and other wet areas and adding diversity to existing Pōhutukawa groves
- Use a mix of native species to maintain windows of beach visibility from SH35
- Riparian restoration that includes planting, incorporating stream boulders and adding reed species to reduce water velocity, create habitat and improve amenity
- Use hardy spray resistant species such as Pohuehue (Muehlenbeckia) and Wiwi to delineate fore dunes and back dune areas

Adapting to a Changing Climate

Management intention - Manage the Makorori foreshore area to be resilient and adaptable, and in a way that slows the impact of climate change and sea-level rise.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Introduce a programme of dune monitoring including benchmarking for natural dune movement, vegetation restoration and canopy cover
- Implement managed retreat of existing assets and infrastructure, and avoid locating new assets in areas at risk of erosion and sea level rise

Recognise, plan for and respond to increased risks from plant and animal pests and pathogens, for example Myrtle rust and its potential impact on Pōhutukawa

Visitor Facilities

Management Intention – To provide facilities in carefully considered locations that enhance the visitor experience and cater for increasing use and minimise impact on dune/ ecosystem restoration, cultural values.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Design an interconnected suite of facilities that have logical flow between each other, for best user experience.
- Cluster the majority of visitor facilities around dedicated car parking and recreation areas to help retain the wild natural coastal experience
- When renewing public toilets move towards low maintenance and environmentally sustainable design such as a waterless dry vault system
- Ensure visitor facilities fit with the coastal landscape character, have environmentally sensitive design, construction methods and materials
- Monitor use of visitor facilities to guide future provision, location, removal or renewal

Rubbish

Management intention – To eliminate illegal dumping and litter in the dunes, and on the beach.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Signage requesting visitors use the provided rubbish bins, or take home their rubbish
- Reduce dumping sites through environmental design, limiting access to, and improving visibility of areas that are regular dumping locations

Camping

Management intention – To provide for a limited number of self-contained camping vehicles in a location that does not impact day visitor use of key parking areas.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Relocate self-contained camping spaces from Red Bus car park to one of the two parking areas between Northerns and Creek car parks
- Use the next Freedom Camping bylaw review to ratify this change

Signage, Information and Interpretation

Management intention –To minimise the number of signs focusing on essential signage that provides clear and concise directions, information or interpretation that enhances the visitor experience.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Work with mana whenua and local residents regarding content and messaging
- Base signs around key visitor areas
- Design signs and interpretive material that only includes the minimum necessary to convey the message
- Combine/co-locate signs as much as possible to reduce clutter and maintenance
- Support the location of civil defence, emergency management, fishery management and public safety signs
- Avoid unenforceable regulatory signs
- Provide interpretive information on Makorori's natural, historic and cultural values

Events

Management intention – to support events that enhance visitor experience but have a low threshold for proven impacts.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Maintain a consistent and balanced approach to assessing and approving event proposals to ensure the impacts on the environment, wildlife, other users, residents and landowners are considered, including:
  - the numbers of participants or size of group/s involved
  - location of the activity
  - timing of the activity, including duration, time of day, season or time of year
  - likely impact of the activity on the event area and other Makorori users, landowners and residents.
- Implement a co-ordinated approach to event approvals between Council and others responsible for managing land, activities and the environment i.e. mana whenua, Waka Kotahi, DoC and Makorori landowners.

Commercial Use

Management intention - To accommodate temporary commercial activities that add to the enjoyment and visitor experience without compromising natural values, conflicting with causal recreation use or negatively impacting residents or landowners.

How we intend to achieve this:

When assessing and approving applications consider:

- How the activity contributes to the community
- How the activity benefits the visitor experience
- What other activities, including commercial activities, occur at Makorori and the potential cumulative impact of an additional activity
- Input regarding the impact of any application on local residents

Dogs and Horses

Management intention – To maintain Makorori as a dog and horse friendly destination.

How we intend to achieve this:

- Manage the impacts of dogs through the dog control bylaw

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti
GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL