



Frequently asked questions - beach scraping project at Woolli Beach

What is Beach Scraping?

Beach scraping is simply a process of moving sand locally from the waters-edge (below high tide level) to the nearby dune using machinery, such as bulldozers and excavators. Scraping differs from beach nourishment in that nourishment involves the transport of sand from other locations, such as the northern end of the Beach or from dredging the River.

Why does Woolli need beach scraping?

Scraping will repair past storm damage to the dunes and build an increased buffer of sand at the back of the beach to improve resilience against future storms. Ideally this will buy enough time for our CZMP's longer term beach nourishment strategy to be implemented.

How will it help protect Woolli from storms and erosion?

The beach scraping simply moves a volume of sand, in this case over 10,000 cubic metres, to the dune at the back of the Beach. The beach berm at the front of the Beach will be retained assisting to resist wave action in minor ocean storm events. The more sand that exists at the back of the Beach the less susceptible the dune will be to damage. The rebuilt dune will not necessarily provide total protection against large ocean storm events.

The scraped sand taken from the zone between high and low tide lines is expected to be naturally replaced by waves moving new sand in from offshore bars within a few weeks

On which part of the beach will it happen?

Research has shown that the dunes in front of the southern-most 800m of the village are most at risk, so the project will focus there. This area stretches from the last house on South Terrace to the beach access at O'Keefes Lane. Low spots in the foredune north of O'Keefe's Lane where the foot of the main dune is exposed will also be repaired.

When will it happen?

The plan is to do the work on the beach over two to three weeks and have the construction complete by December 8th so that it doesn't impact the school holidays. The weather and beach conditions make this the best time of the year for beach scraping. The project may be deferred until February 2018 if the necessary approvals and funding resources are not obtained prior to late-November 2017.

Will the beach be closed?

No, the beach will not be closed while the construction is happening. In the area around the construction site, safety officers will be directing vehicles and people around areas of potential risk.

The construction site will be in the southern 800m of the village so well away from the main swimming areas at the point. See also later questions about 4WD access and public safety.



Who will run the project and do the work?

The project will be managed by a joint working group including the Council, CCPA and the State Govt. This group will select a contractor(s) to do the construction work. Wooli DuneCare will be active in replanting and stabilising the rebuilt dune with new plants and sand catch fences to trap wind-blown sand.

Who's paying for it and how much will it cost?

The CCPA and Council have committed \$25,000 each to this project. A further \$50,000 in funding has been requested from the NSW Government. Council and the CCPA are hopeful that the Government will fund their share of the project costs consistent with the indication in the Ministers letter to Council in May 2017. Total proposed budget is \$100,000.

Will it be safe to go on the beach during beach scraping?

Yes. Public access to the areas where earthmoving machinery is operating on the beach and the South Terrace 4WD access will be controlled to reduce public safety risk. The situation may be temporary or intermittent. Please follow advice on signage and from people in flouro vests, stay out of barricaded areas and use alternate beach access points.

Can licensed 4-wheel drive vehicles go on the beach during the project?

Licensed 4-wheel drives can use the beach during the project subject to directions from project safety officers. The Vehicle access way between the village and the point may be closed during the project. The 4WD access to Wooli Beach via the National Park north of Wooli will remain accessible (subject to weather and surf conditions) for the duration of the beach scraping works.

What impact will beach scraping have on the flora and fauna, particularly DuneCare's plantings?

The impact of the beach scraping is deemed to be insignificant following review of similar projects in other locations (eg New Brighton/Ocean Shores) provided the depth of scraping does not exceed 0.3 metres (1 foot). Animals in the beach sand are naturally highly adaptable to the variable and dynamic environment in which they live. Dune vegetation, such as spinifex, is adaptable to rapid loss and deposition of sand. Daily observations of the beach and dune will be performed to ensure that nesting sites of birds and sea turtles are not impacted by the scraping works.

The timing of the project has been carefully chosen to minimise impacts on nesting fauna while providing a full growing season for new plantings on the rebuilt dune.

DuneCare will remove, pot and then replant many of the plants on and between the dunes, including pigface and spinifex seeds and runners. DuneCare would welcome new and not-so-new volunteers to assist. Many hands make light work.

What will happen to the sand traps that DuneCare have installed?

These will be buried or reused depending on their condition. Additionally, DuneCare will install new traps along the length of the new dune to help stabilise and grow it. Again, if you can give some time, Wooli DuneCare would welcome your assistance.

Is the project part of the Coastal Zone Management Plan for Wooli?

The current draft CZMP focuses on a future Beach Nourishment Strategy (BNS) to provide most protection for Wooli. The CZMP also includes beach scraping to supplement the BNS as needed and this project is part of that supplement.



What is planned for the official beach access ways within the project area?

The newly reformed dune will be susceptible to erosion from wind forces. So, to improve establishment of dune vegetation, pedestrian access to the beach will be limited to official public accessways. Subject to funding availability, the six public accessways within the work zone may be repaired to improve their safe use thereby encouraging pedestrians to stay off the new dune. Low-key fencing and signage will be installed to guide pedestrians to appropriate access points.

What is planned for the un-official beach access ways within the project area?

Much of these access ways will be buried by the new sand added to the dune. A picket-and-rope fence will be erected along the crest of the 800m of new dune. The fence will carry signs requesting beach goers to use the official access ways thereby avoiding damage to the new dune.

What “noise nuisance” will occur?

The works using earthmoving machinery will be undertaken in daylight hours (approx. 7.30am to 6pm) to minimise nuisance, to ensure safety of the contractors and local wildlife. No other noise generation is expected. Work may be intermittent if weather conditions are adverse, eg large seas.

Will the project affect my Woolli property value?

The works will provide some resilience to the beach and dune system against storm erosion. The intent is that no adverse impact on property value will arise because of these works. To determine any impact on individual property value, Council recommends that interested persons engage a registered land-valuer to provide specific guidance.

How will sand be prevented from blowing onto my property?

New sand-traps, like those already existing on the foredune and upper beach, will be installed on top of the new dune at the completion of the works to encourage deposition of windblown sand on the dune. Replanting of the dune with dune plants and sowing Spinifex seed will further reduce potential for wind-blown sand reaching properties.

Notwithstanding that, sand does already blow onto private property from time to time when certain weather conditions exist. Measures will be taken to reduce windblown sand however it cannot be prevented. Landowners should continue existing management of their property by closing windows and doors facing the beach when conditions are adverse and windblown sand is likely to cause nuisance.

How will we know if the project is successful?

Surveys of the beach scraping zone before and after the new dune is built will measure the important outcomes. That is, (a) has the necessary volume of sand (a minimum of 10,000 cubic metres) been moved onto the dune and (b) has the slope of the dune face been reduced from its current (about) 90 degrees to no more than 18 degrees.

A report will be prepared to document beach changes once the final survey is done (up to 6 months after the scraping). This report and data will inform any future beach scraping at Woolli Beach and other locations.

The ultimate success of the project will be determined by how well it protects the village from storm erosion for the next 2 to 3 years until the CZMP’s beach-nourishment program takes over.



Who decided to undertake this beach scraping project?

The NSW Minister for the Environment provided advice to Council in May 2017 advising that beach scraping is regarded as a viable short term, low cost measure to reduce coastal erosion. [Council resolved on 15 August 2017](#), to pursue this project in partnership with the CCPA.

Who has been consulted in preparing for the project?

Wooli CCPA, Wooli community, relevant government agencies (OEH, Dept. of Industry (Lands and Forestry), Dept. of Primary Industries including Fisheries/Marine Parks) and local Aboriginal groups (Birrigan Gargle Local Aboriginal Land Council and Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation) and Council.

Will the project affect Aboriginal values, artefacts or objects?

The beach and dune area has been subject to many cycles of erosion and accretion. Hence, it is considered that the risk of disturbing Aboriginal objects in original context is negligible.

Council has completed a detailed search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System which indicates that no Aboriginal sites are located within or adjacent to the work zone. The Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) have agreed to the project being undertaken.

What can landowners, residents and visitors do to help make this a success?

You can really help by doing 4 important things.

Staying Safe on the beach

Safety officers will be directing vehicles and people around areas of potential risk in the construction site. Ensure your family, friends and pets stay safe by following directions of safety officers, signs and contractors. If an area is barricaded, please don't enter.

Helping DuneCare

Our DuneCare group has the big job of protecting the new dune from strong winds. This involves installing sand-traps on top of the new dune and replanting shrubs, plants and grasses. Sharon Nelson and her team will be needing help from early November until mid-December. Please call Sharon on 0448-602898 if you can assist.

Informing yourself about the project

Reading through these questions and answers will tell you a lot about the project and then you can answer others' questions. There will be a regular newsletter and notices in mailboxes and on notice boards coming out from early November to keep everyone up to date. When you need to know more, contact the project manager, Scott Lenton at CVC on 0266430234 or Peter Dunn from CCPA on 0409-304980

Caring for the new dune.

The new sand traps and plantings being put on top of the new dune will stabilise and grow it to give us even more protection. But they need time to do their work. So, over the Christmas holidays, please stay off the new dune and encourage our visitors to use the public access ways to get to the beach as indicated by the rope fence and signs.

The project team thank you for taking the time to read this document and sharing it with your family, friends and guests.

