



FAQ'S Frequently asked questions

Beaches Bylaw *Ture ā-rohe Tātahi*

Why do we need a beaches bylaw? *He aha te take o te ture ā-rohe tātahi?*

The Beaches Bylaw exists to:

- protect the beach environment
- promote public safety
- regulate activities, and,
- ensure shared, enjoyable use of the district's beaches.

Are vehicles and vessels allowed on the beach? *E āhei ana ngā motokā me ngā waka te noho ki tātahi?*

Driving of vehicles, vessels, motorcycles on the beach is not permitted except when using authorised accessways to reach the beach. This is both for the safety of other beach users and to protect sand dunes and ecological habitats.

Are quad bikes allowed on the beach? *E āhei ana ngā whā wira ki tātahi?*

Yes but with conditions. Quadbikes must use designated access ways to the beach, respect the 20 km/h speed limit, be registered and warranted, and be used for the purposes of recreation fishing only. To protect bird nesting sites and the beach dune ecosystem, quadbikes must be ridden between high water springs and low water springs and stay out of prohibited areas. Standard New Zealand road rules apply on beaches.

Can I launch or retrieve boats and go fishing? *E āhei ana te whakamānu, te tiki rānei i te waka ki te hī ika?*

Yes, but with conditions. You must use an authorised access way and leave the beach once you have finished launching or retrieving the vehicle. You may not park a vehicle and trailer on the beach.

Can I camp on the beach? *E āhei ana te noho tōpuni ki tātahi?*

The written permission of the Council (or person with delegated authority) is required to camp overnight on any part of any beach in the district.

Are dogs allowed on beaches? *E āhei ana ngā kurī ki tātahi?*

The Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw regulates the control of dogs in the district. Beaches are generally dog exercise areas (not required on leash) with some exceptions where dogs are prohibited. We are asking for community feedback on potential restrictions in Ōhope Beach during the summer season. You can have your say about dogs on beaches on Korero Mai.

Can I ride horses on the beaches? *E āhei ana te eke hōiho ki tātahi?*

Yes, unless it is a prohibited area which are included in the maps. Riding is permitted on the beaches between high waters springs and low water springs. Any person riding a horse must stay off the dunes.

Can I light a fire on the beaches? *E āhei ana te tahu ahi ki tātahi?*

Fire and Emergency New Zealand have the authority to prohibit fires in open air. Subject to these rules, fires are allowed on the beaches but must always be under supervision. The person lighting the fire must ensure that materials burnt are wholly combustible and the fire is fully extinguished with water before leaving the beach. All litter and debris must be removed.

What about enforcing this bylaw? *Me pēhea te whakaū i tēnei ture ā-rohe?*

This draft bylaw would be one tool to help manage vehicles on beaches or other issues on our beaches. Council compliance officers could issue infringement notices. Police also enforce the law, and any bylaw rules.