



Caring for our dunes

Our 52 kilometres of golden beaches are the city's playground, at the centre of our lifestyle and economy. Recognising their huge importance and as a world leader in coastal management, we work year-round to maintain, enhance and protect our beaches and the many activities and experiences they sustain.

Stable dunes are critical to the health of our beautiful beaches. They also form a crucial defence against erosion, protecting people, properties and infrastructure.

Our natural buffer

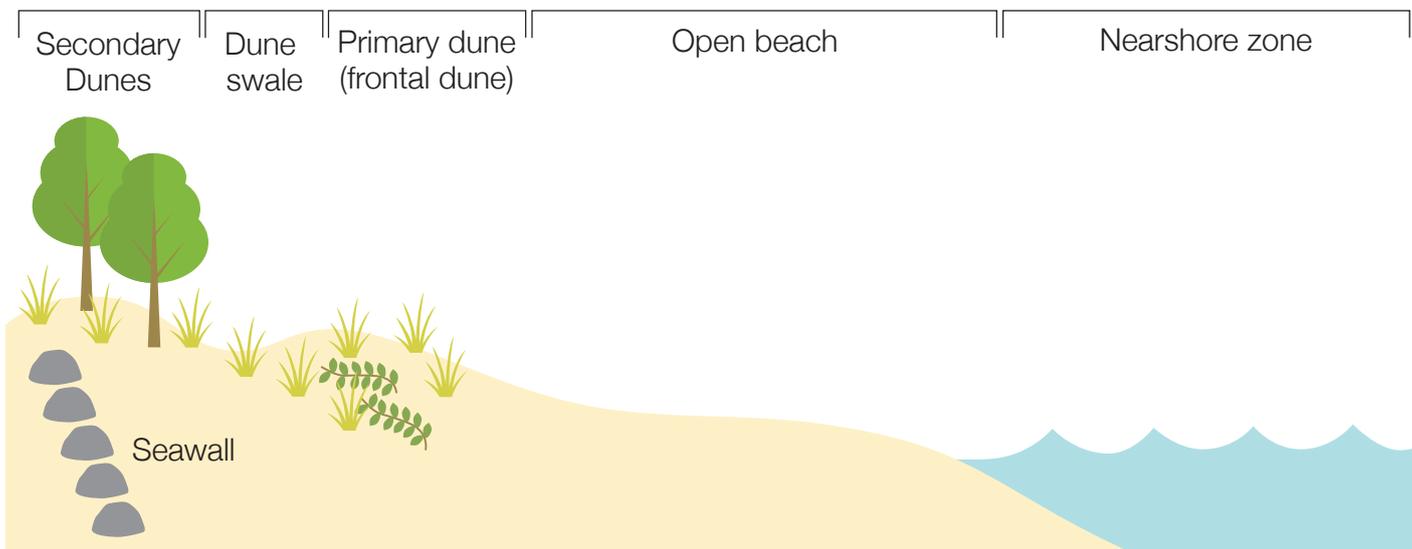
Beaches buffer our coastline from storm and erosion impacts. During storm events, sand from the beach and dune system is eroded to form a nearshore storm bar, absorbing wave energy and enhancing the protection of the beach from further erosion. During calmer conditions, the sand is slowly swept back up onto the beach.

Native vegetation is integral to the successful functioning of any dune system. Coastal plants trap and hold windblown sand on the beach, facilitating growth and recovery of dunes after storm events. Without this vegetation, sand on the beach is blown inland, impacting on properties and infrastructure, and further diminishing the sand from the beach system.

Ocean Beaches Strategy

The Ocean Beaches Strategy vision is that our beaches are clean, healthy, safe and accessible now and into the future. The Gold Coast is lucky to have naturally beautiful sandy beaches. Maintaining healthy and clean beaches is important to visitors and is core to why residents choose to live here. Through the implementation of the Strategy we will see:

- sand dunes with native vegetation, reducing the risk of sand loss and providing animal habitat
- sand dunes that are protected from becoming overgrown with weeds and negative human impacts, such as pedestrian traffic.



Our beach environment

Dune vegetation is part of our city's unique natural environment and provides important ecological benefits for a clean and healthy beach. Coastal dunes provide habitat for a variety of wildlife including birds, reptiles and invertebrates, and form a critical corridor for the movement of wildlife in our urban landscape.

Trees also provide shade in the summer and shelter from strong winds; enhancing amenity to make our foreshore parks and beaches more enjoyable for everyone.

Dunes under pressure

Our growing population and visitor numbers combined with the appeal of our foreshore as a location for outdoor recreation and events means there is an increasing demand for access and use of our foreshore parks and beaches.

As a result, our precious dune vegetation is impacted by:

- trampling from pedestrians
- weeds, dumping of garden waste and rubbish
- mowing and encroachment
- cutting and poisoning of plants and trees
- illegal camping.

For more information

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
W cityofgoldcoast.com.au/dunes



Goats Foot *Ipomoea pes-caprae* is a common stabiliser of the primary dune.

Caring for our dunes

Caring for our dunes is a collaborative effort from both the City and beach users. The City works to protect our dunes and promote healthy native vegetation by:

- controlling weeds and exotic plants
- planting native endemic species
- installing dune fencing and maintaining public access ways
- supporting community activities under the BeachCare program (administered by the Griffith Centre for Coastal Management)
- beach cleaning and litter patrols.

Beach users can help ensure our dunes are resilient and healthy by:

- using designated beach access ways and keeping off the dune vegetation
- disposing of rubbish and green waste in the bins provided
- joining in local BeachCare activities
- reporting camping and vandalism as soon as possible.