



President's report 2021

The past two years have been challenging for many in our community. During times of restricted movement and socialisation, the value of our natural, open spaces has never been greater. John Fisher Park, Greendale Creek and Curl Curl Beach are beautiful places to be explored, enjoyed and protected, and the efforts of Curl Curl Lagoon Friends have been noticed and appreciated by more people than ever.

40th Anniversary - 2020

Despite the wind, the rain and the event restrictions, Curl Curl Lagoon Friends managed a small outdoor celebration in October 2020. We were determined to dedicate the newly-planted garden, Ngara, and mark our 40th Anniversary.

It was wonderful to hear from Karen Smith from the Aboriginal Heritage Office, James Griffin MP, Member for Manly, Bronwyn Regan who spoke on behalf of Federal MP Zali Steggall, Cr Natalie Warren and Ray Cox, a lifetime member of Curl Curl Lagoon Friends.

We unveiled our new sign dedicating the space to reflection and passive recreation and honoured recently-departed friends Harry Elliffe and Lorna Plate with benches perfectly positioned to take in the view.

We revelled in a song composed especially for the celebration by Nick Lush.

When conditions allow, it is still our intention to celebrate with the wider community four decades of sustained environmental care and advocacy.

Floating Wetlands Pilot - Federal Grant

In November 2019 Council and Lagoon Friends received a \$20,000 grant under the Commonwealth Department of Science, Industry, Environment & Resource's Communities Environment Program (CEP) to conduct a pilot project to establish whether the floating wetlands concept could help achieve the desired outcome of improving lagoon water quality.

Council staff led the scientific and technical elements of the project while CCLF took responsibility for community participation, project management, and administration of the CEP grant. We are so pleased and so proud to be working collaboratively and constructively with Northern Beaches Council on this joint project.

A controlled growing environment comprising an above-ground 5000L poly water tank, suspended platform holding a growing medium, crane, winch, air lift aeration pump, water transfer pump and associated equipment and services was established on a site within the grounds of the Council operated Curl Curl Community Nursery adjacent to the Lagoon.

In October 2020 water was pumped from the Lagoon into the tank and the first test cycle commenced.

By May 2021 it was demonstrated that species *Carex appressa* could both survive and thrive on nothing more than air and the nutrients present in the water sourced from the Lagoon.

Scientific testing of water samples taken daily over a 14 day period in March 2021 revealed an encouraging general net decrease in nutrient concentration.

During the course of the project, progress updates were published on Council's and Lagoon Friends' websites and social media channels and on-site open days were attended by local school children and the general public.

The first growing trial has demonstrated that a garden of wetland plants floating in water drawn from Curl Curl lagoon can survive and improve the water quality. Next steps are to trial a similar set up in the lagoon itself.

The full reports are available on our website.

We acknowledge the efforts of many involved in the project, and in particular thank Mark Stack and Susan Stack for administering and managing the project, Jane Lush, Pam Rawling and Paula Cowan for supporting the project, and Northern Beaches Council Senior Environment Officers Jason Ruszczuk and David Hellot for concept design, execution and evaluation.

We were grateful for the support of Warringah MP Zali Steggall for supporting our Communities Environment Program grant application to the Department of Industry.

Restoring Pride - Environmental Rehabilitation Project

Work commenced in early 2019 on vegetation rehabilitation on the north bank of the lagoon basin under a \$100,000 Coastal and Estuary Grant from the NSW State Government and managed by Northern Beaches Council.

A three-year project, it is nearing completion in 2021. While Covid-19 restrictions have prevented school and volunteer assistance, we are pleased with how well new plantings have taken. It's great to see more of the food and habitat local fauna rely on growing in the area.

Ongoing maintenance of the area will be needed for years to come and we will be seeking more information from Council on how this will be done.

Vale Harry Elliffe

Harry was a much-loved and respected member of the Curl Curl Lagoon Friends Executive Committee who served until 2019. He passed away, aged 92 in January 2020.

Harry spent more than 30 years tirelessly maintaining the vegetation along the Carrington Parade boardwalk and around the lagoon in John Fisher Park.

We were so pleased that Northern Beaches Council renamed the boardwalk the Harry Elliffe Way in honour of his significant contribution to the local environment and community. We hope to hear from Council soon regarding signage to be installed and unveiled.

Ngara in Stirgess Reserve

Trees, shrubs and grasses in the new native garden area have well and truly taken off since first planted in March 2020. We love the name proposed by the local Aboriginal Heritage Office for this place for passive recreation, peaceful enjoyment and gathering. Ngara, from the Sydney Language (aka Darug / Eora) means *listen, hear, think*.

It's transformed an area that was once an exposed grass field into a point of focus and gathering for people to sit or use their imagination in play around the rock seats.

We installed two bench seats in honour of life members, Harry Elliffe and Lorna Plate, and it's wonderful to have their memory included in this special place.

Curl Curl Lagoon Friends invites members and friends to join Friday afternoon weeding and plant care sunset sessions.

We would like to thank the Mayor for his support of the project, Jeremy Smith (Manager Park Assets) who has steered the project and Scott Van Trienen (Asset Management officer) who brought about the garden and continues to liaise with us re plantings and further care.

Bird Count Survey

Over the past five years, local volunteer bird counters have identified at least 80 species in and around the lagoon.

These include Royal Spoonbills and Black Swans, Great Egrets and slender White Faced Herons, to the smaller Coots, Chestnut Teals and Pacific Black Ducks.

On the last Friday of the month, experts, enthusiasts and complete novices meet at the wooden bridge at 7:30am to spend 20 mins spotting and documenting the birds from each vantage point.

The surveys help understand and record the level of biodiversity in these areas, by looking at the abundance of native birdlife.

This information helps Council measure any changes that have occurred based on actions carried out, and use findings to improve the environment.

We hope that the initiative will be able to re-start once COVID restrictions ease.

Clean Ups - Clean Up Australia Day & Curly Community Clean-Up crew

Barriers, wheel barrows, tyres, crates and our newest problem ... vaping gear featured in clean ups held over the last two years.

Our survey counts reveal that the volume of rubbish collected has decreased in recent years, however old tip-site detritus continues to turn up in eroded areas.

Bush Care

Since 2019, we've had three areas of focus: Alan Newton Reserve, beach dunes and the creek banks west of the concrete bridge in John Fisher Park.

Tireless efforts from our Bush Care group has seen Alan Newton Reserve flourish in recent times. You may have noticed the native flower meadow at the Griffin Road entrance and native ground cover establishing in the vicinity. This is a unique bunch of volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 90 years of age proving that caring for the natural environment is a timeless pursuit.

Earlier this year, Curl Curl Lagoon Friends joined the local scout group and Council to remove lantana and re-plant native species on the sand dunes at Curl Curl beach. Completed in sections, it's encouraging to see grasses, wattle and pigface taking hold where lantana previously dominated.

A much tougher prospect is rehabilitating Greendale creek banks between Harbord road and the concrete bridge in John Fisher Park. Vines and smothering weeds have taken over endemic plantings over recent years. We're very grateful to the 1st/2nd Harbord Scout Group for early efforts in clearing and mulching incremental patches.

We're often asked how people can get involved with Curl Curl Lagoon Friends to improve the environment. Bush Care at Alan Newton Reserve is a wonderful way to learn about bush regeneration, meet locals and give back.

Join the custodians of Alan Newton Reserve on 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9am.

Optus Tower

The Development Application submitted by Optus to build a monopole on the bank of the lagoon was approved this time last year despite significant community opposition and a concerted campaign coordinated by Curl Curl Lagoon Friends.

To date, no development certificate has been issued. We continue to monitor the situation.

Issues impacting John Fisher Park and Greendale Creek

Unauthorised bike tracks dug into the riparian zone around Greendale Creek and Curl Curl Lagoon are causing erosion, damage to trees and removal of native species habitat. The issue has intensified during periods of lockdown when school-aged children are not engaged in school or typical activities.

CCLF Executive Committee has been working with Northern Beaches Council and Police Local Area Command to design an approved off-road bike track to the east of the netball courts and to deter further criminal damage to nearby vegetation.

Executive Committee Members

I'd like to acknowledge and thank members of the executive committee who volunteer their brains and brawn in service of protecting and enhancing this place that we love so much. This past year's committee included: Pam Rawling, Susan Stack, Mark Stack, Jane Lush, Viktorija McDonnell, Mary-Anne Brickwood, Justin O'Hare and Paula Cowan.

Stepping down from the committee are Mary-Anne Brickwood and Justin O'Hare. Please join me in thanking them for their contribution and guidance over the past two years.

We would love to hear from any members or soon-to-become members who would like to join the committee. It's a rewarding experience to contribute to preserving the natural environment with others in the area. There's really no substitute for seeing something you've planted or protected thrive for years to come.

If you have a few hours free and are looking to contribute and connect, we have roles in grant writing, social media creation, bush regeneration, event organising, liaising with

Council and local members, clean-up day support and bird counting. We're a friendly bunch and would welcome some new or reappearing faces.

Curl Curl Lagoon Friends

President's Report 2021



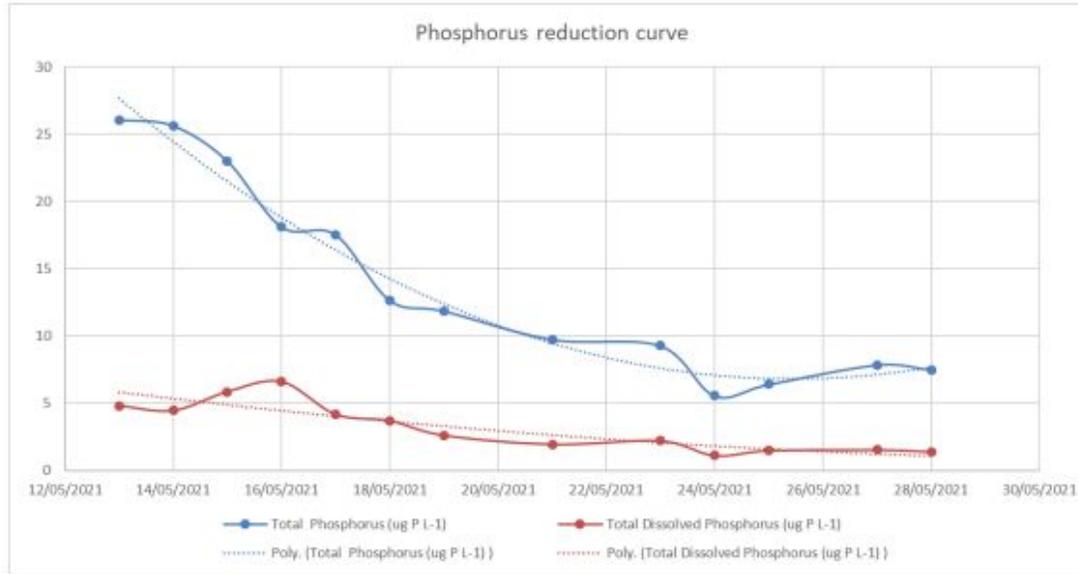




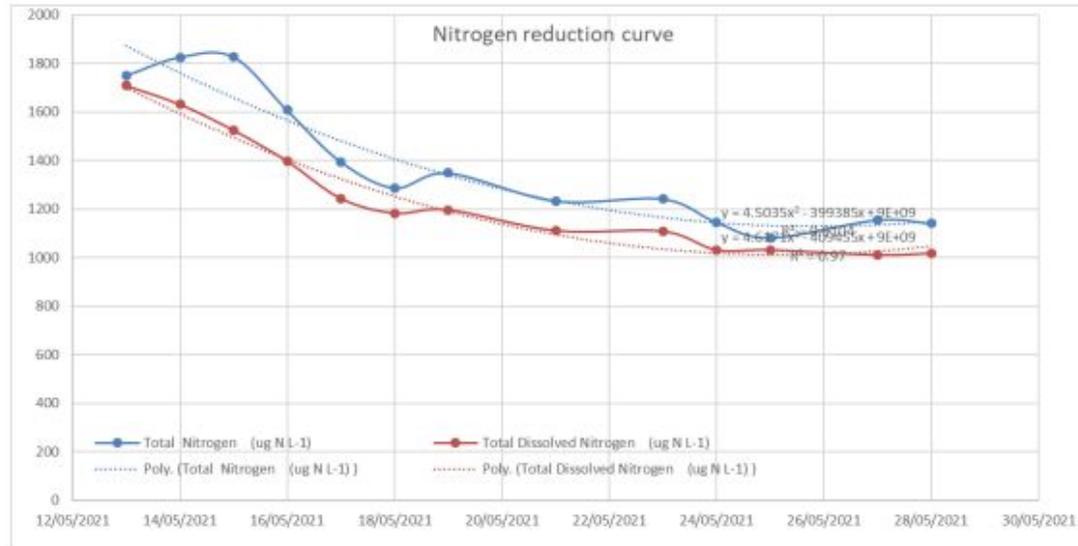




Total Phosphorus Reduction



Total Nitrogen Reduction





Restoring pride in Curl Curl Lagoon

Council is rehabilitating this site with funds from the Environmental Trust.

The work will be done over three years and includes:

- Removing pest plants such as coral trees, phoenix palms, lantana and angy vines.
- Controlling weeds and preparing the site for new plantings.
- Planting native species to improve habitat for native fauna and improve visual amenity.

Tree removal will start in early 2019 and works should be completed by June 2021.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

For all enquiries visit nothenbeach.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 434 434

ALABAMA



Permitting public access to
the area is a key objective of the
management plan. The area is
open to the public for walking and
cycling. The area is also used for
recreation and education.





📷 Curl Curl Lagoon could one day be clean enough to swim in.

\$100,000 grant to restore native wildlife and plants at Curl Curl Lagoon

September 7, 2018 12:50pm
Julie Cross Manly Daily

Curl Curl Lagoon will undergo a three-year \$100,000 rehabilitation program to help bring back native flora and wildlife.

Paula Cowan, president of Curl Curl Lagoon Friends, said the work will involve



In loving memory of

Harry Elliffe

1927 - 2020

A dedicated friend of Curl Curl Lagoon
who worked tirelessly to protect this natural area

Ngara -
to listen, hear, think.
(language of the
Sydney Basin)

Welcome to this special
place for passive
recreation and the
enjoyment of nature.

This garden was created
as a joint project of
Northern Beaches Council
and
Curl Curl Lagoon Friends.
2020











YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US THE LAST
FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4PM TO HELP
WEED & KEEP OUR GARDEN BEAUTIFUL 😊 😊

Selected filters

(Data resource: Greendale Creek and Curl Curl Lagoon Bird Survey 2017 to 2019)

▸ Taxon

▸ Occurrence

▸ Location

▸ Record

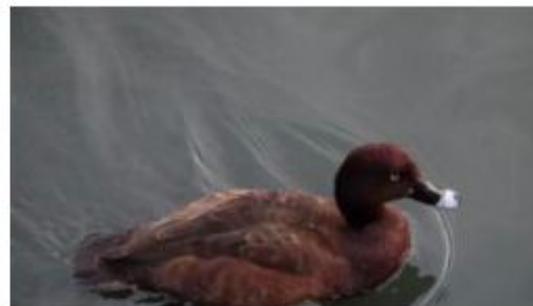
▸ Assertions

▸ Attribution

Images from occurrence records



Grey Teal (*Anas (Nettion) gracilis*)



Hardhead (*Aythya (Nyroca) australis*)



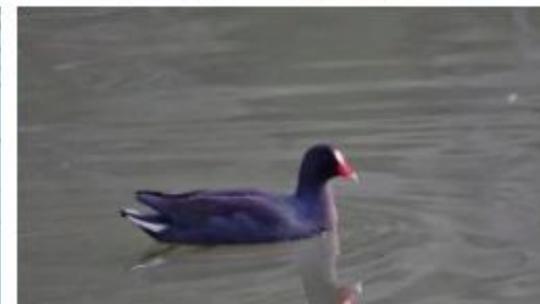
Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*)



Little Pied Cormorant (Unmatched taxon)
(Unmatched taxon)



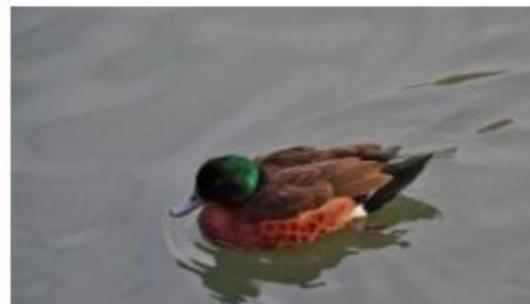
Eurasian Coot (Unmatched taxon)



Dusky Moorhen (Unmatched taxon)



Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)



Chestnut Teal (*Anas (Nettion) castanea*)



Pacific Black Duck (*Anas (Anas) superciliosa*)

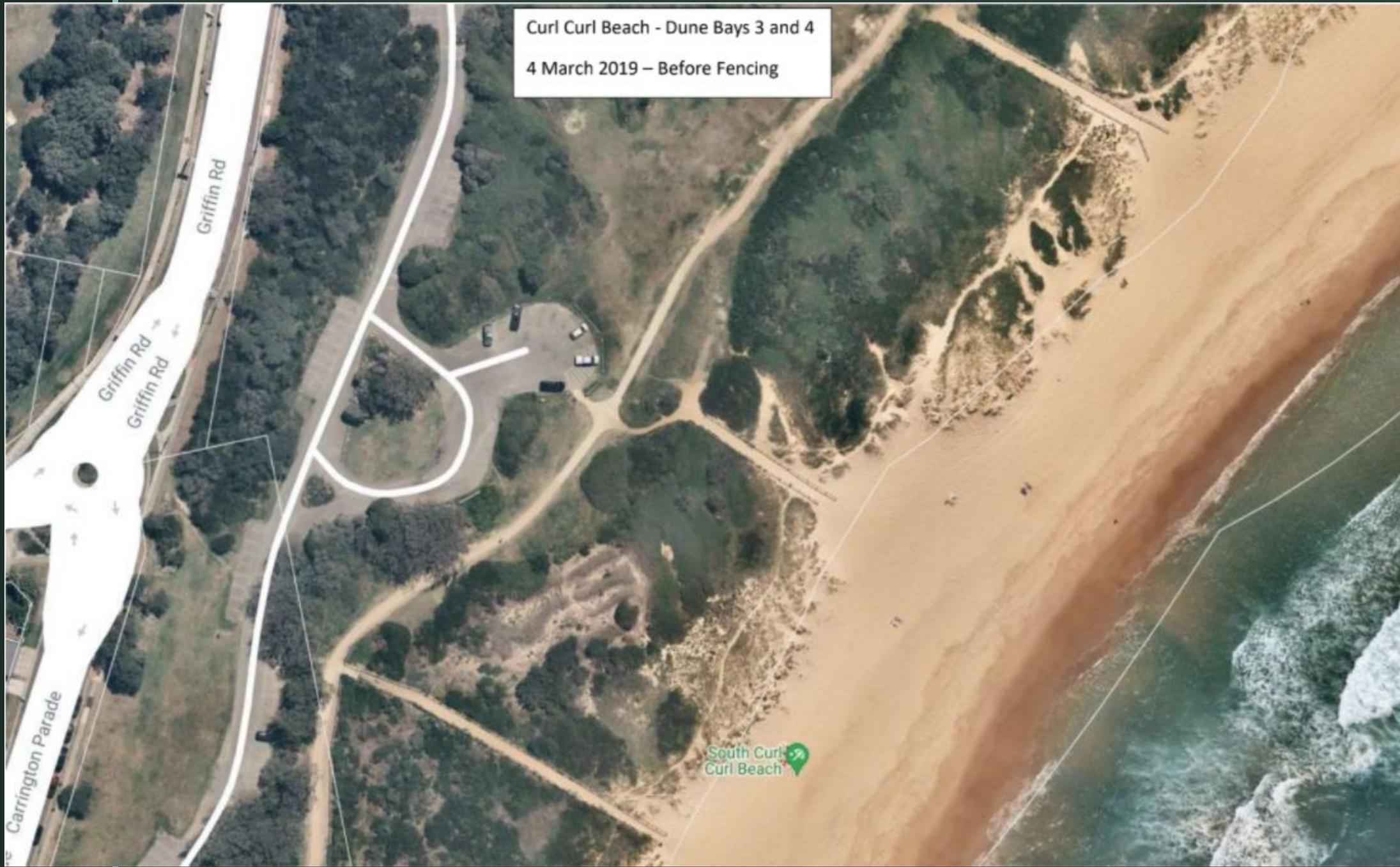








Curl Curl Beach - Dune Bays 3 and 4
4 March 2019 – Before Fencing



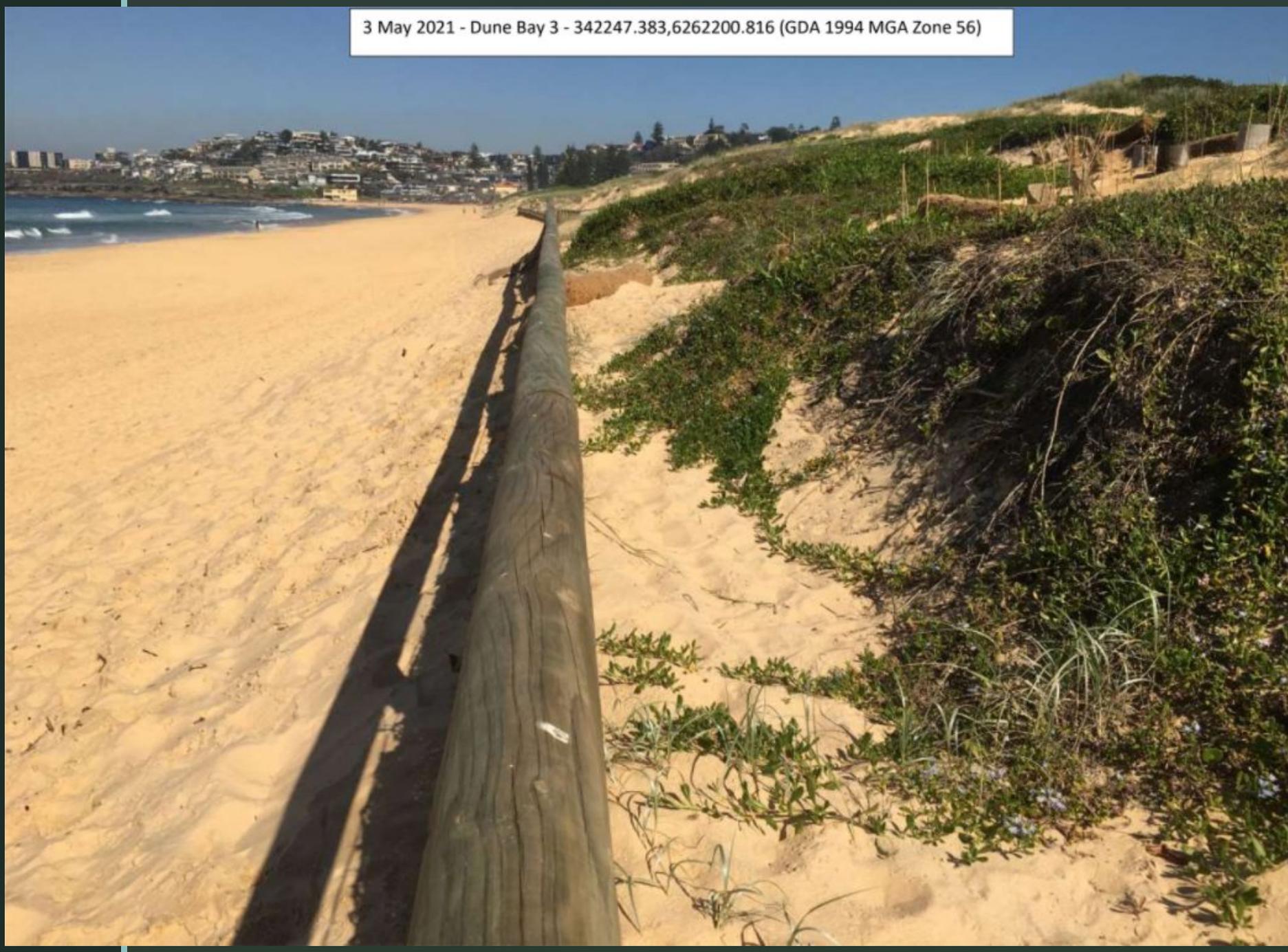
Curl Curl Beach - Dune Bays 3 and 4
10 April 2021 – After Fencing



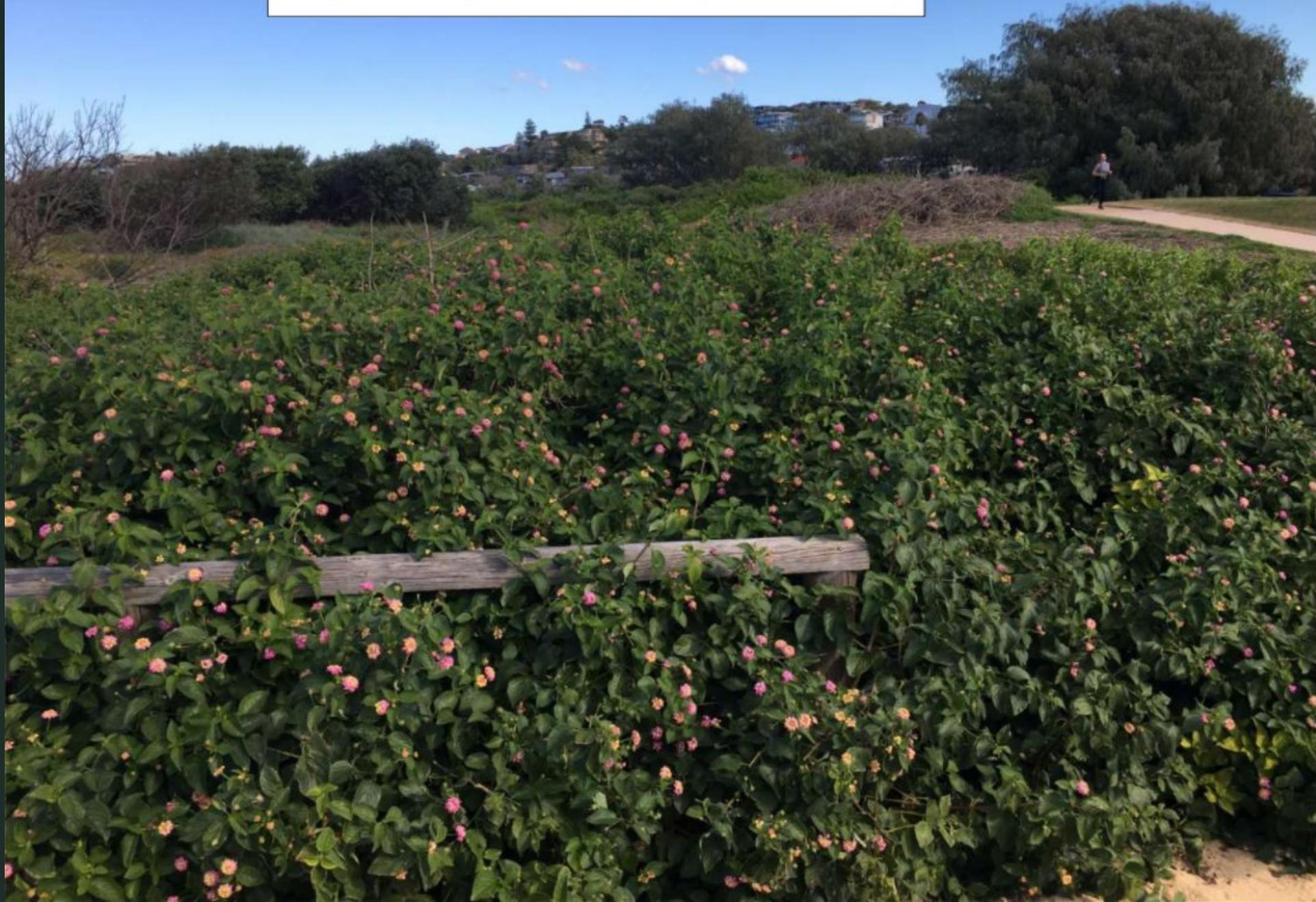
29 April 2020 - Dune Bay 3 - 342247.383,6262200.816 (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56)



3 May 2021 - Dune Bay 3 - 342247.383,6262200.816 (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56)



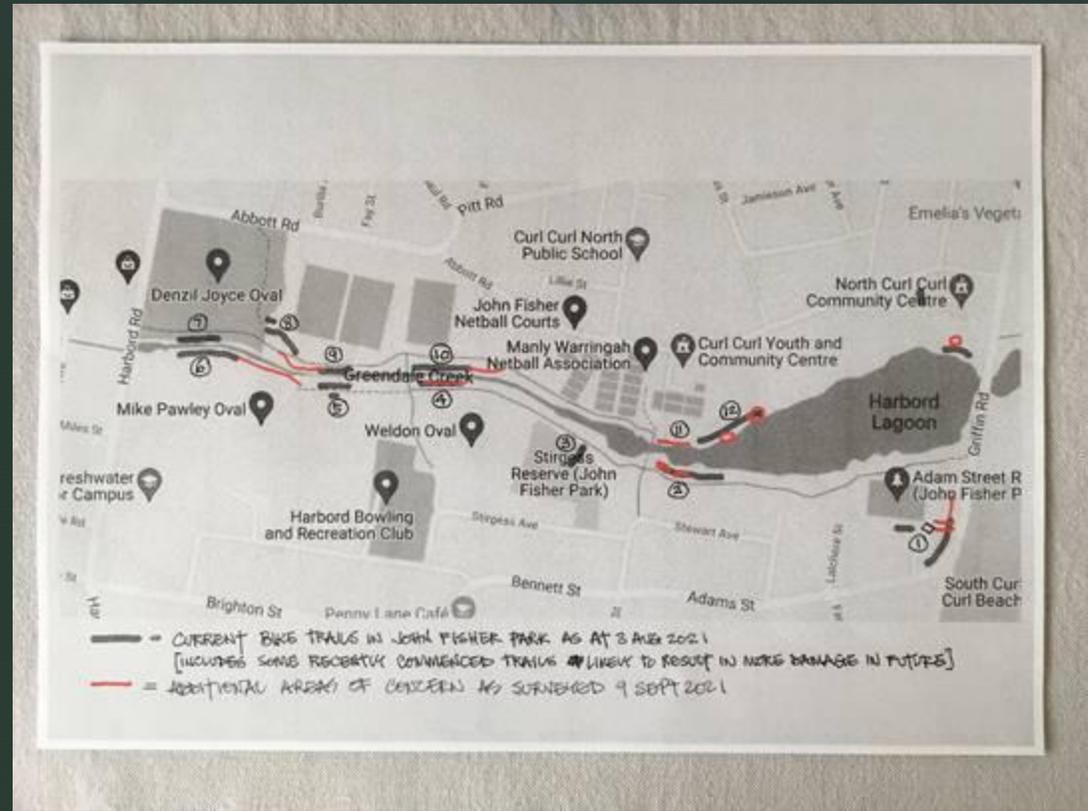
20 May 2020 - Dune Bay 4 - 342154.079,6262160.995 (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56)



3 May 2021 - Dune Bay 4 - 342154.079,6262160.995 (GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56)







Closed

Unauthorised trails



These unauthorised bike trails are causing damage to the environment.

The trails and jumps will be removed and environment rehabilitated.

It is an offence under section 629 of the Local Government Act 1993 to damage any plant or animal, or to disturb the ground surface in this area.

is being actively monitored and on the spot fines apply.

This is a Bushland Management Area

Please assist us by **not dumping** rubbish, grass or garden clippings and **not damaging** vegetation.

Please respect the work being done here for the local community.
Thank you.

Bushland Restoration

Council is working to restore this area.

Natural bushland will be established through weed control, bush regeneration, and planting native species.

Please respect this work being undertaken for the community. Council requests that:

- Only existing tracks and designated bike paths be used
- Rubbish and vegetation waste is not left in the reserve

Your co-operation is appreciated.

Enquires: 1300 434 434
northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au





You can
help too!