

# What are some of the options ?

## The Options



- Remain with the status quo. Allow continued uncontrolled access
- Create separate areas for different activities to avoid clashes
- Provide for beach dependent activities such as fishing, but not other activities such as biking etc
- Use signs to encourage users to stay off sensitive areas
- Limit some types of use to organised events at specified times and locations
- Fence off all vulnerable areas
- Provide more facilities such as rubbish bins and toilets
- Designate camping areas to limit environmental degradation
- Use signage to ensure visitors are aware and sensitive to the environment and other users

- Limit access opportunities in identified sensitive areas
- Identify appropriate places to provide more access and facilitate this access
- Move reserves where erosion has reduced access (eg coastal strips)
- Develop coastal trails for 'walk only' access along the coast
- Develop more public boat launching sites
- Maintain access at landowners discretion (status quo)
- Formalise public access in appropriate places by way of legal easements over private land
- Remove right of ways across private land and provide publicly owned alternatives
- Develop a public access management strategy to identify appropriate responses in each area

**Where do you think we should increase access?**

**Where do you think we should limit access?**

**How should we achieve this?**

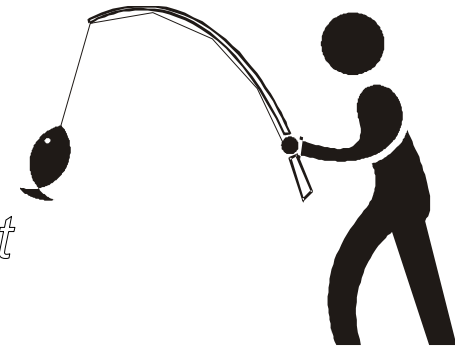
**How do we deal with conflicts between different users?**

**How do we successfully balance commercial and recreational uses?**

- Negotiate purchase of land for reserves and access ways
- Use signage to ensure visitors are aware and sensitive to farming environment and any hazards such as fire.
- Assist landowners who are willing, to provide suitable methods of access, ie stiles, gates etc.
- Landowners to charge for access across private land to contribute to maintenance and liabilities

# Access and Recreation

Theme sheet



The Wairarapa Coast is noted for its rugged beauty and isolation and is largely undeveloped; but it may not stay this way forever. You may have noticed that coastal sections are becoming sought after and property values are soaring. This development may have some positive spin-offs for the Wairarapa but could equally have negative implications for the character of our coast and how we enjoy it if not managed well.

The development of a Wairarapa Coastal Strategy will enable our community to come up with a management approach to retain the special qualities of the coast we value.

This theme sheet contains information on some of the issues facing our coast, and outlines some of the options for dealing with those issues. The issues and options are a mixture of technical information and views of the community. We want to know what you think the important issues are, and how you think they should be managed.

Your comments will be used to help develop a draft strategy that will be released for further comment mid-year.

## A Coastal Playground

The Wairarapa coast has high value as a major recreational playground for the Wairarapa community and visitors to the area.



Especially during the summer months, the coastline provides an attractive and popular environment for fishing, walking, swimming, mountain biking and four wheel driving. However, access and space are limited and not all of these activities are compatible.

Less than half of the 140km of coastline north of Cape Palliser is accessible by public road and in only half of these areas are people legally allowed to walk from the road to the beach. Access in these places is often provided through the good will of landowners. While this has led to few conflicts in the past, we must think about how this will be managed to secure access for the future.

Sometimes restricted access can protect some of the other things we value, natural places, fishing resources or sensitive areas. We must think carefully about how we manage access so that we can enjoy the Wairarapa Coast, without having impacts on other values.

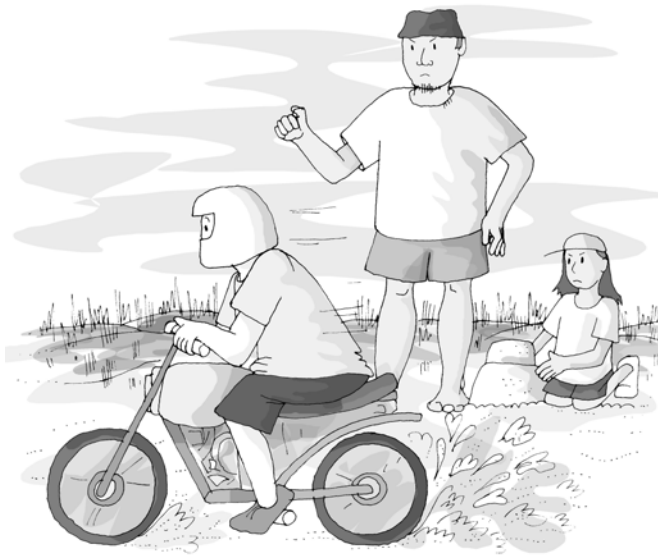
# Access and Recreation Issues

## The Issues

### Increasing recreational use

More and more people are visiting and enjoying the Wairarapa Coast. While this is an excellent recreation opportunity, it can cause problems:

- Some recreational activities are not compatible with others, i.e. picnicking and motor bike riding.
- Over crowding of some very popular areas.
- An increasing number of facilities are required, for example public toilets and rubbish bins and collection. Vandalism can also be a problem.
- An increasing number of people using the coast can have negative effects on the environment we go there to enjoy
- Some types of recreation, particularly motorised access, can cause damage to sensitive areas for example vehicles on sand dunes.
- Camping can have negative impacts if not managed well, for example increased rubbish or poor disposal of effluent.



### Limited access to and along coast

Access to the coast is limited in many places, roads do not reach all places along the coast, and often there is private land between the road and the sea. This can have both positive and negative impacts:

- inaccessible areas are protected from poaching and overfishing
- environmental impacts of use are limited to smaller areas
- more access may bring with it more boating safety issues
- opportunities for recreation and safe boat launching are limited
- activities and effects are concentrated on a few key areas
- opportunities for tourism and recreation services are limited

*Access to and along the coast is something we all expect, and value. It is also recognised as a 'matter of national importance' in the Resource Management Act*



### Access to coast over private land

A lot of the access to the coast is provided through the good will of private landowners. This provides more opportunities for public access than public land alone can provide. However it can potentially have implications for both the landowners and the public:

- There can be maintenance and health and safety implications for the landowner as well as disturbance of farming eg during lambing season, stock wandering through open gates
- There can be a considerable fire risk posed by careless visitors and campers.
- Public access may not be available year round causing confusion. Access for the public is not guaranteed and may be restricted anytime at landowners discretion
- Change in ownership may see 'traditional' coast access stopped.

