



## Managing revegetation, community safety and erosion at Stockton

**During winter and spring, we'll remove more landfill, clear weeds, replant with native species and then install a fence to protect the site and the community**



Hunter Water owns 15 hectares of land at Fullerton Street Stockton, next to Corroba Oval. From the mid-1930s until 2002 the land contained the wastewater (sewage) treatment plant which serviced the Stockton community, and between 1964-1971 City of Newcastle leased part of the land and used it as a landfill site.

We are currently in the process of rehabilitating the land and taking steps to manage community safety and the risk of erosion.

Since 2018 we have spent \$5.9 million which includes removing approximately 9,400 tonnes of landfill (including asbestos), building a temporary seawall to help prevent erosion along the beach, weed clearing, and other land management activities.

We have also removed about 200 concrete 'tank traps' (installed by Department of Defence in World War II) from the surf zone to reduce risk to the community.

The next stage of the land remediation work will cost a further \$800,000.

### Land management and re-vegetation

So far, we have rehabilitated one hectare of land which includes 'capping' with clean sand and mulch, removing bitou bush and other weeds and replanting with native species.

From late-May we will start rehabilitating a further two hectares in the same way.

Ongoing weed management will then be needed into the future.

### Landfill removal

Beginning in early-June, we will be removing another

1,500 tonnes of landfill waste from the former landfill site behind the sand dunes. This is to reduce the risk that landfill close to the end of the seawall may become exposed in future storm erosion events. The material will be temporarily stored on-site before disposal at the Summerhill Waste Management Facility.

Trucks will be entering and exiting the site from Fullerton Street.

### Fencing for community safety

The land contains asbestos and other contaminants due to its previous use as a landfill site and wastewater treatment plant. We will be continuing the clean up into the future as funding becomes available.

In the near future fencing will be installed to ensure community safety. This is because walking and driving through contaminated areas can break through the sandy surface and expose contaminants.

Fencing along Fullerton Street will be black chain-wire, 1.8 metres high. Screening trees will be planted between the fence and Fullerton Road where possible. (We need to accommodate an existing electricity easement along the Fullerton Road verge).

Screening trees will improve the appearance of the fence from Fullerton Street and are being planted at the request of community members following consultation.

Tank traps will be placed along the inside of the fence to deter vehicles from driving over the fence.

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Behind the sand dunes the fencing type will be a traditional rural post/wire style to improve visual amenity for community members walking along the beachfront. The fence bordering Corroba Oval will remain galvanised chain-wire (as existing).

A map showing the fencing layout is below.

### Cultural assessment

An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit has been

obtained following an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment which identified that the land is within a culturally significant area. We will be engaging with local Aboriginal parties throughout the planned work.

### Managing erosion

The constructed seawall has a life of 8-10 years. We are evaluating options to manage erosion risk until the preferred scheme identified in the Extended Stockton Coastal Management plan is delivered.

### Beach access

Beach access is via Meredith Street, Stockton.

### The future

Consideration of ongoing public access routes to North Stockton Beach will be incorporated in City of Newcastle's Extended Stockton Coastal Management Plan.

### For further information

Up to date information about Hunter Water's work at Stockton is at [hunterwater.com.au/stockton](http://hunterwater.com.au/stockton)

