

The Beachcare Programme; reviewing 20 years of restoration effort.

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The Beachcare Programme consists of a group of community-driven dune restoration projects within the Waikato Region. The programme is primarily funded through Waikato Regional Council, with strong support from territorial authorities. It recently passed its 20 year milestone and now has 24 active projects.

All long-term programmes are at risk of stagnation unless they periodically evaluate project effectiveness and consider recent innovations. In an effort to maintain the momentum and perhaps enhance its value, we are conducting a Beachcare Programme review. This review includes streamlining day-to-day processes, investigating new technologies, and developing restoration plans.

One of the early obstacles in conducting this review was determining the measures for project success. As Beachcare is a community-based programme, community engagement and support is arguably as important as restoration longevity and habitat condition. Achievements to date have been developing fertilizer from pest control by-product and conducting a comprehensive Beachcare project survey. Future goals are developing a standardised ecological monitoring protocol and restoration plans tailored to each project. As the Beachcare programme review is dynamic and ongoing, this presentation will describe the latest developments and next steps.