

2012

Coastal Management At [redacted] Beach



View of sand dunes and beach

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## **INTRODUCTION**

As an environmental consultant, I will be conducting an investigation into the effectiveness of the coastal management strategies currently being undertaken at XXX beach. Here I will be looking at the natural and human impacts on the beach, the current coastal management strategies and their effectiveness and to recommend improvements to the current or to new strategies.

Clearly state reason for study

## **The Natural And Human Impacts At XXX Beach Human Impacts**

At XXX Beach, the impacts humans have made is clear to see. Where use to be larger fordunes and backdunes there now sits a car park and surf club. Designated walkways down to the beach dune fencing, signs and bins are coastal management strategies but are also a result of human impact to the beach. Other human impacts include; Public toilets, the surf life saving tower, picnic areas and taps. Humans can have both good and bad impacts on the beach for eg. Humans have brought in a car park and surf club, meaning that the beach has lost part of its backdunes. However, humans have put in place Coastal Management strategies to help the beach from threats such as erosion.

Sound overview of a range of impacts and use of geographical terminology

The natural impacts that can be seen at XXX Beach include a tombolo. Rock cut platform, Sand dunes, Cliff and Headlands.

## Current Coastal Management Strategies & Their Effectiveness At XXX Beach

The Coastal management strategies that are being used at XXX Beach at the present time include Dune fencing, bins, vegetation, signs and manmade walkways down to the beach. The most effective of these strategies include dune fencing, vegetation and the designed walkways to the beach.



Dune fencing is the construction of fences along and outlining the primary dunes. This reduces the trampling by people by restricting the access to the dunes and protects existing or transplanted vegetation on the dune. At XXX beach dune fencing is one of the most effective coastal management strategies being used.

Applies knowledge collected in the field to draw conclusions

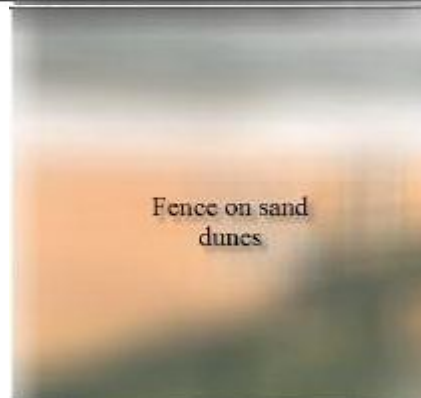
The planting of vegetation on the primary dune are also one of the more effective of the coastal management strategies being used at XXX Beach. The planting of vegetation helps to protect the dunes from the threat of erosion by plants such as spinifex that act as sand stabilizers. The spinifex catches the sand and it sticks to the plant instead of blowing/ eroding away.



Use of clearly labelled photographs

As well as dune fencing and the planting of vegetation, designed walkways down to the beach are also an important and effective coastal management strategy. The walkways are designed to help reduce the impact that people have on the dunes when making their way down to the beach. It is important that we have these walkways so that when people do go down to the beach they are making as little impact on the dunes and vegetation as possible.

Designed Walkways To Beach



Sound explanation of several specific examples of management strategies and evidence of use of primary data

A coastal management strategy that is in use at XXX Beach, that is less effective than the others, is the use of bins. Bins at the beach are very important so that people have a place to put their rubbish instead of littering. The bins at XXX Beach seem to be less effective because there was still rubbish seen on the ground. This could be because there weren't enough there and people couldn't find them or they were full.



Another coastal management strategy in use at XXX Beach that is less effective than the others are the use of signs on the beach. Although this is still a good strategy it seemed to be less effective because some people don't notice them or just don't care. Although, most of the signs at XXX Beach were clear and easy to read.

Adequate discussion of improvements necessary for better management of the beach

### **Recommended Improvements To Current Strategies & New Strategies To Help Manage the Coastal Environment at XXX Beach**

While the current coastal management strategies at XXX Beach are good and for the most part, fairly effective, there is definitely room for improvement in both current and new strategies. To add to and improve the current strategies being used at XXX Beach I recommend that the council bring in more bins to be spread out and that unlike the old bins, have lids on them to stop the rubbish from flying out when there are strong winds, This would reduce the amount of litter on the beach. Also, bringing in the bins that have different categories for recyclable, glass and general waste would be better for the environment in that it also recycles the rubbish instead of just dumping it into the general waste.

Clear management recommendations

Making the signs at the beach more noticeable would also improve their effectiveness. At the moment the signs at XXX Beach are in plain colours ( as seen in the picture to the left) and less noticeable than others signs that have used brighter colours to get the public's attention. Improving these signs by making them bigger and brighter to draw the public's attention would make the use of signs a more effective coastal management strategy at XXX Beach.

The dune fencing at XXX Beach was good, but could still be improved by fencing off the entire dune and not just at the bottom and top. Most beaches that fence off the dunes completely find that people are less likely to slide down, trample on or walk across the dunes this way.



Good use of evidence from the field and possible solutions to issues discussed

### **Bibliography**

#### Websites:

- <http://www.XXX.nsw.gov.au/environment/coastal-management/>

#### Books:

- Geography Excursion Booklet
- Geography work book

#### Pictures:

- My own pictures from the excursion to XXX Beach
- WEBSITE - [http://www.google.com.au/search?hl=en&q=Bins+at+beach&bav+0n.2,or.r\\_gc.r\\_qf.,cf.osb&biw=1280&bih=683&wrapid=tlif133296529639710&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=OW9zT5PIMYuTiQfnIL3kDw](http://www.google.com.au/search?hl=en&q=Bins+at+beach&bav+0n.2,or.r_gc.r_qf.,cf.osb&biw=1280&bih=683&wrapid=tlif133296529639710&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=OW9zT5PIMYuTiQfnIL3kDw)

### **Grade Commentary**

Terry demonstrates sound knowledge of the key impacts and management strategies employed on the coast. Specific examples of management strategies and their effectiveness have been explained and evaluated using evidence showing an adequate understanding of the key issues. Some appropriate photographs are used but other geographical tools such as maps and sketches would improve this report. The report uses sophisticated language and presents in a logical manner. This work sample demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at C grade standard.