

F9. Vehicles on beaches

F9.1. Background

Vehicle usage on beaches, foreshores, seabeds and adjacent public land can damage coastal environments, habitats, flora and fauna, disturb other recreational activities, and pose an increased risk to public safety. While vehicles are needed on beaches for specific community needs, inappropriate use can damage ecologically sensitive areas and areas or sites of significant historic heritage or cultural value.

Vehicles on beaches will be controlled mainly under a bylaw.

F9.2. Objectives [rcp/dp]

- (1) Protect areas within the coastal environment containing significant ecological or historic heritage values from the adverse effects of vehicle use.
- (2) Conflicts between vehicle users and other recreational and beach users are minimised.
- (3) Unnecessary vehicle use in the coastal environment is discouraged.

F9.3. Policies [rcp/dp]

- (1) Avoid vehicle use in coastal marine areas within the [D9 Significant Ecological Areas Overlay](#) (Marine 1 or Marine 2) and the [D17 Historic Heritage Overlay](#), other than for:
 - (a) the investigation, construction, operation, maintenance (including repair) and upgrade of infrastructure or structures; and
 - (b) emergency services, enforcement, public health and safety, and coastal conservation and management.
- (2) Limit vehicle use in or near areas of significant ecological or historic heritage values in the coastal environment to movements necessary for activities and where there is no other reasonable or practical alternative.
- (3) Limit the areas where recreational vehicles have access, and manage vehicle use to avoid and where practicable minimise all of the following:
 - (a) damage to dunes or other geological systems;
 - (b) damage to ecological systems or to significant habitats of indigenous flora and fauna;
 - (c) danger to other beach users and risks to public health and safety;
 - (d) loss of amenity values and disturbance of people's enjoyment of the beach environment;
 - (e) damage to historic heritage (including scheduled significant historic heritage places);

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- (f) damage to habitats of significant fisheries resources; and
 - (g) damage to scheduled sites and places of significance for Mana Whenua, including identified wāhi tapu.
- (4) Avoid using the beach, foreshore and seabed as a vehicle accessway to private property unless there are no practical alternative means of gaining landward access.