

Key Resources

Pop up a video.

Landco is the most recent development company to turn its attention to the sandspit and Whakairiora, but it's certainly not the first. The area has been in a tug-of-war for the last 45 years or so between private and public interests. Check out the following resources to learn the history of the place, understand the current situation, and think about some possible futures for the site.

Past

Sandspit Timeline

Pat Heffey's chronological account of important events in the history of the sandspit – 1838 to 2007.

The Ngunguru Sandspit and the protection of wahi tapu

A case study written in 1996 by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Looks at efforts in the early 90s to get the sandspit into public ownership and protect its cultural, historic and natural heritage.

Present

Values of the Ngunguru Sandspit

An item about the sandspit's values and the society's purposes.

Close Up: Sandspit Fight

A TV1 item about local reaction to LandCo's proposed development of the sandspit.

Fight for the beaches

A Listener cover story, written in late 2005, about local reaction to LandCo's purchase of the sandspit.

Ngunguru Spit and Whakairiora

Chris Mulcare's summary of events and human pressures on the land.

So many reasons to save sandspit

A Northern Advocate editorial by Laura Franklin, summarising the issues related to the sandspit.

2007 and 2008 - from masterplans to landswap attempts

An extract from Ngunguru Sandspit: Values, community and property on the Northland coast.

Future

Ngunguru Spit Subdivision

A New Zealand Herald article by Gary Taylor, chairman of the Environmental Defence Society, explaining why the sandspit is unsuitable for development and recommending that it be put into public ownership.

{josquote}...if you can't afford a coastal property now, perhaps you could buy one a bit further away from the beach and wait. -Martin Craig, Consumer{/josquote}

Shifting Sands

Raewyn Peart surveys the last sixty years in coastal development and explains why a New Zealand Coastal Commission is now required.

Protecting the Coast

We finally have a beefed-up coastal development policy but more work needs to be done to protect our special beaches.

Coastal erosion

A 2005 Consumer magazine report by Martin Craig looking at what's causing coastal erosion, how bad the problem really is, and what affected homeowners can realistically do.

...one consequence of the world becoming increasingly inter-connected will be to reverse a fundamental principle of economic development, namely that people move to places where jobs are located. ...I believe the opposite will become increasingly true: jobs will emerge where people choose to live. As a result, in the future, the truly successful communities will be those that invest not in attracting businesses, but in making themselves the nicest possible place to be. Jonathan Schechter, The Charture Institute