

Ashton Beach Enhancement Project

We are proposing some enhancements to Council's land at Ashton Beach and would like your feedback. We have developed two options for what needs to happen at the site and would like to hear your views on these proposals.

Have your
Say!

Your feedback will help us meet the current and future needs of users of the area, while ensuring their health and safety. **We are accepting feedback until 5pm, 7 February 2020.**

What is the aim?

Ashton Beach is used by local residents for a range of recreational activities.

This project aims to:

- Work with the community to ensure their safety when they are riding or walking on dongas that are on Council-owned land (adjacent to Ashton Beach)
- Continue Council's commitment to protecting and preserving areas that are recognised as having important biodiversity values to the district.

Why does the site need to be protected?

HEALTH & SAFETY: Motorbike riders have been long-standing users of the Ashton Beach area and Council does not want to prevent this recreational activity. However, recent assessments of the ground conditions, especially close to the edges of the donga (steep sided gully) has highlighted some serious health and safety concerns. As this is Council-owned land, we are obligated to mitigate these risks for users.

BIODIVERSITY: The Ashton Beach area boasts important biodiversity values. This is largely due to a concentration of significant indigenous vegetation in the area as well as its proximity to the mouth of the Ashburton River which has a rich and abundant birdlife.

The Ashburton River Mouth and adjacent area is considered to have the highest bird species richness of any site within the district. Seventy-eight (78) different species of birds have been recorded at the river mouth. It received international recognition from BirdLife International as it supports breeding colonies of the world's rarest gull species, the black billed gull.

What are we proposing?

OPTION 1

Fence the entire donga area and replace the existing boundary fence to protect the important biodiversity on Council land within the area.

The advantage of this option is that we will be eliminating the most concerning risk to riders on the donga area, while also improving the protection of biodiversity on Council land in the area.

The disadvantage is that some users will believe that by fencing the entire site, that Council is impinging on access to recreation opportunities on Council land.



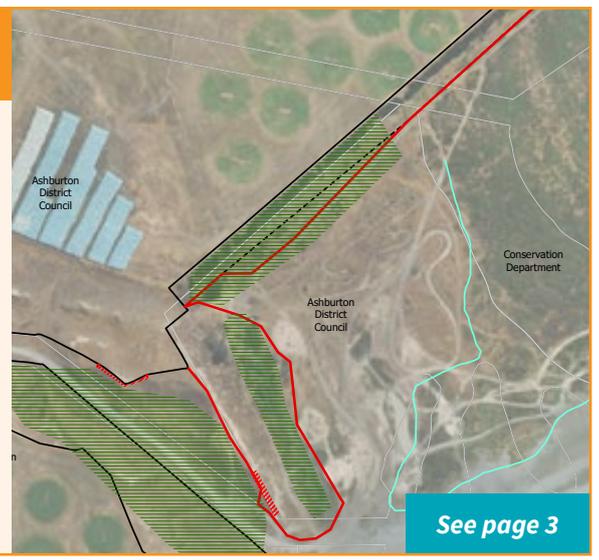
OR

OPTION 2

Fence the riskiest part of the donga area and replace the existing boundary fence to protect the important biodiversity on Council land within the area.

The advantages of this option are that we will be eliminating the highest risk area for riders, while still allowing access to some parts of the donga. We will also be improving the protection of biodiversity on Council land in the area.

The disadvantage is that the donga is likely to continue to erode, meaning that long-term, the area may need to be fenced anyway. The other disadvantage is that it doesn't offer as much protection for the biodiversity values in the area as option one.



How much will this cost and how will we pay?

The costs for either option is relatively minor (less than \$15,000) and can be met from within existing operating budgets. However, we know that different users of the area will have different views and feedback, which is why we want to hear from you before Council makes its final decision.

What else is happening?

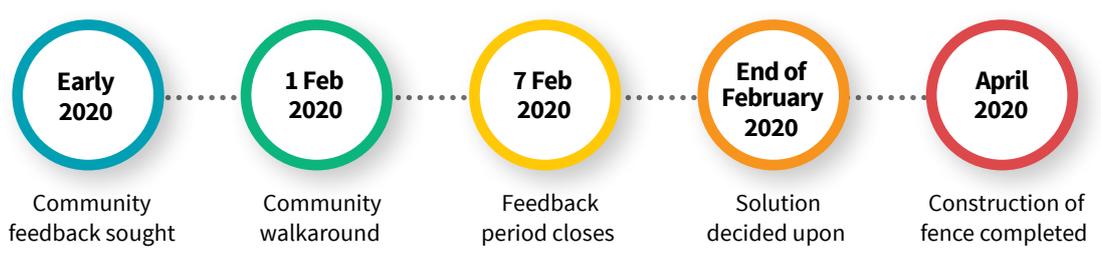
In line with their Ashburton River/Hakateru Mouth Strategy, Environment Canterbury will be taking measures to better protect the values of the rivermouth. These actions have been prioritised and several will get underway this summer. These include fencing off areas, that give access to nesting birds, new signage, some education, and the creation of a track to encourage users to stick to one route only when accessing the river mouth and spit.

Come and talk to us

We invite you to come and have a chat with a couple of the Council officers who have been working on this project. They will take you for a walk around the site and explain what is proposed.

The walk around will take place from 1-2pm on Saturday 1 February. Feel free to stop by at any time.

TIMELINE



To provide feedback, please visit ashburtondc.govt.nz/haveyoursay where you will find a link to a short survey.

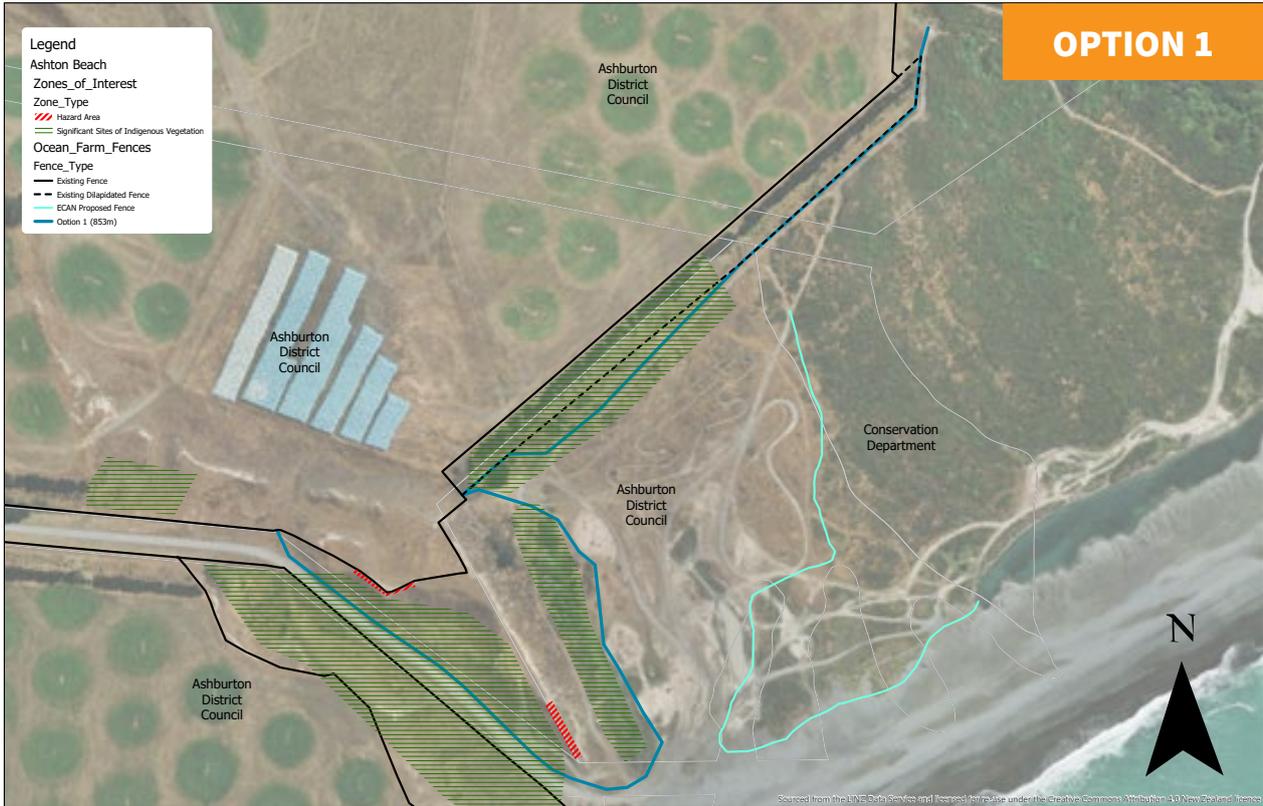
If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact submissions@adc.govt.nz or (03) 307 0000.



All feedback will be considered before the final plan is signed off and work begins. We are accepting **feedback until 5pm, 7 February 2020.**



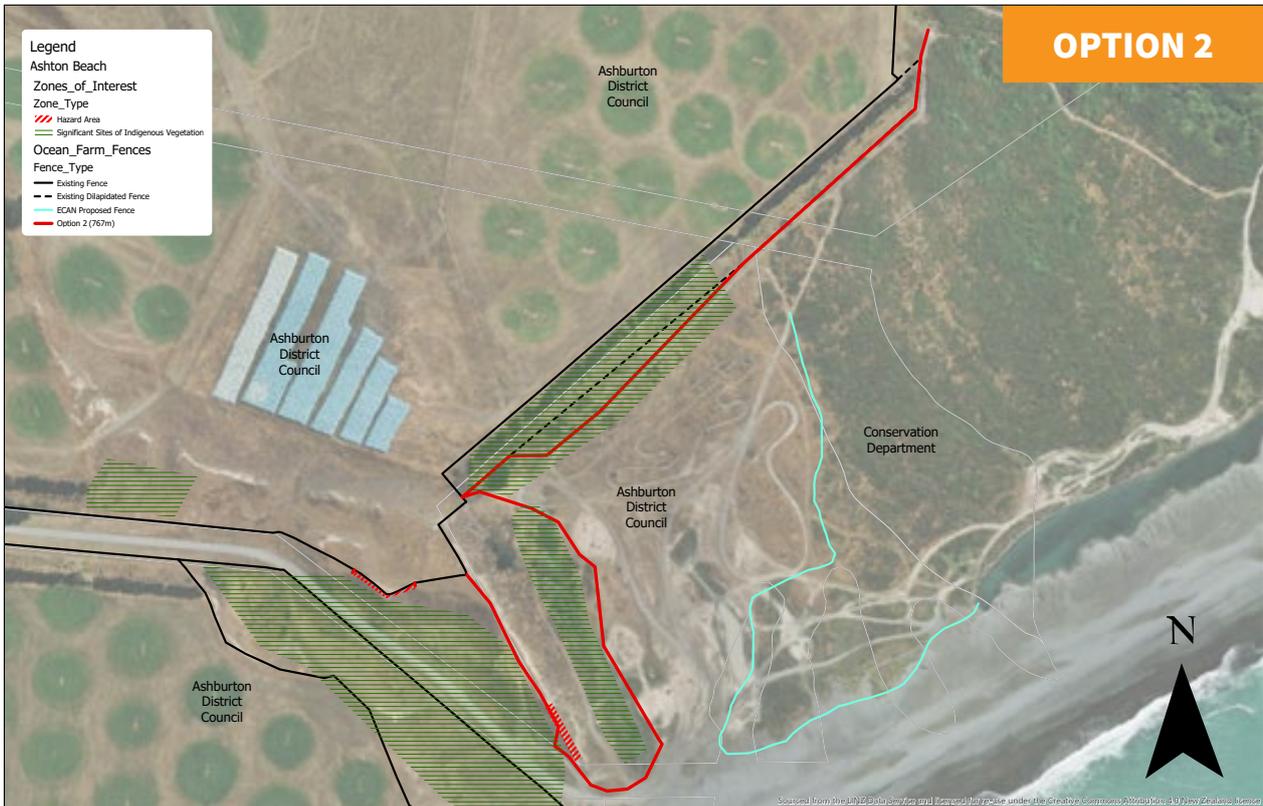
Ashton Beach Proposed Fencing



Scale: 1:1,700
 0 35 70 140 Meters
 Printed on: 16/01/2020

Ashton Beach Proposed Fencing
 Option 1

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Scale: 1:1,700
 0 35 70 140 Meters
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Ashton Beach Proposed Fencing
 Option 2

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