



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Our country. Our future.

BETTER BEACH HABITAT

Changing 4WD habits



Dunes damaged by careless four-wheel driving have been restored along Lilley's Beach on Boyne Island thanks to the efforts of volunteers.

Restoring beach scrub

Four sensitive dune habitat sites were improved by volunteers coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia, as part of a Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) project funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Gladstone area residents, including members of the Gladstone 4WD Club, joined in the dune restoration work, in the process improving their awareness of responsible behaviours to protect dunes.

FBA initiated the project because healthy dunes are important for protecting critically endangered coastal vegetation, known as beach scrub, that grows behind the foredune habitat.

An area of 163 hectares of endangered beach scrub was being damaged by salt spray from the ocean as a result of eroded dunes along the beach.

Working together

Work to fix four sites began in late 2012, with volunteers undertaking activities including removing weeds, erecting sand fences, applying biodegradable coconut mesh and other matting to control erosion, and replanting.

The project also involved awareness-raising efforts by Gladstone Regional Council, who issue beach permits for 4WD users and manage a campsite along the beach, and Boyne Smelters Ltd who run an annual weed control program to help conserve beach scrub at Lilley's Beach.

Caitlin Davies, Regional Manager of Conservation Volunteers Australia said the fact that so many groups and individuals worked together to share the message of the importance of dunes meant the project achieved greater outcomes.

"It was great to be involved in a collaborative project, with measurable outcomes using innovative solutions. Lilley's Beach is a great place to call your office!" she said.

Wiser beach users

Interpretive signage was also installed along Lilley's Beach explaining the ecology and processes of how dunes protect beach scrub, and encouraging responsible behaviour such as not driving on dunes and reducing speed.

The changes to Lilley's Beach have stabilised four sites damaged by four wheel drive use, re-established native plants and controlled weed threats to allow regeneration of the habitat for the long-term sustainability of the sites and the beach scrub they protect.

