

Hon Steve Chadwick
Minister of Conservation



Message

Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand

Message from Hon Steve Chadwick, Minister of Conservation to the Dune Restoration Trust of New Zealand on the occasion of their Annual Conference 5 – 7 March 2008.

I welcome the efforts of the Dune Restoration Trust to care for our remaining dune systems and rebuild some of what has been lost. The increasing number of community groups involved with dune care is, I think, a healthy sign that the significance of dunes as an integral part of our beautiful coastline and a unique habitat for indigenous species is becoming more widely recognised. As awareness of the risks of climate change spreads, I expect the value of dunes as natural defences against rising sea levels and storm surges will also become more generally understood.

A new draft New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement will soon be released for public consultation. Like the existing statement it will explicitly recognise the importance of dunes, within a context of clearer and stronger policies overall. I urge you as advocates of dune protection and restoration to take a close look at the draft statement and make your views known. Still, too often, dunes are thoughtlessly damaged or destroyed. Getting clearer and more effective national policy in place will be another step towards your goals.

I am sorry that due to another commitment I am unable to attend the conference. I hope you have an enjoyable conference.