Cheltenham Beach Monitoring Report 2025

Scan the **QR code** to check out all beach data here.

Cheltenham Beach is monitored by Auckland Council's Coastal Processes Monitoring Programme to determine rates of sand gain (accretion), or sand loss (erosion), identify storm impacts, and monitor beach operations. By improving our understanding of how Auckland's coastline changes over time, we can make more informed decisions to manage coastal hazards, guide beach maintenance, and support the resilience of our beaches into the future.

This report presents changes at Cheltenham Beach over the last year. Check out the latest State of Environment report to explore long-term trends of beach change in Tāmaki Makaurau or click here to learn more about how we measure and describe changes at the coast.

Observed Coastal Change

The Coastal Processes Programme monitors sand levels at Cheltenham Beach with 3 profile lines running perpendicular to the shoreline (Figure 1). These long-term records help us track changes in beach width and beach volume over time.

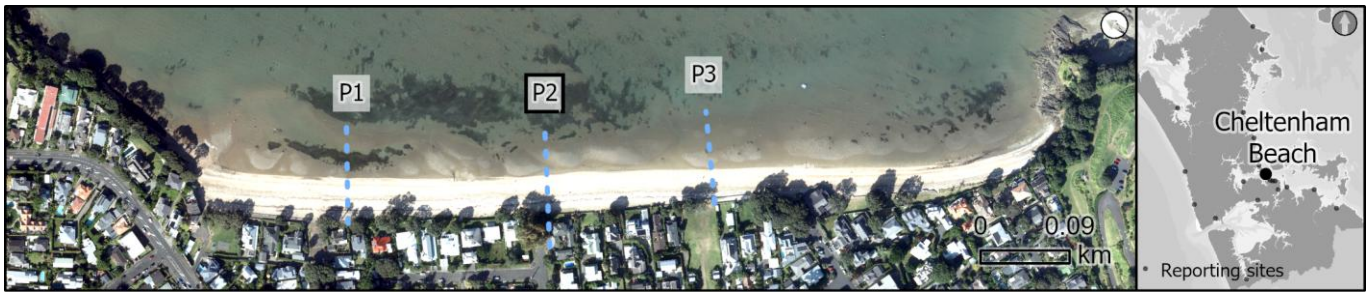


Figure 1: *Location of the 3 monitored beach profiles at Cheltenham Beach. The representative profile shown in Figure 2 is highlighted with a black border. All beaches included in this reporting scheme are shown on the right-hand side map of Auckland.*

Change in sand levels:

Figure 2 shows historic sand levels at Cheltenham Beach Profile 2, from the beach access down to the water level. At the upper beach (above MHWS) sand levels are currently very high with the October survey sitting at the top of the historic range (Figure 2).

In 2025, sand levels at the upper beach lowered slightly over winter but are now at the highest level on record while the lower beach has accreted throughout the year to now sit in the middle of the historic range.

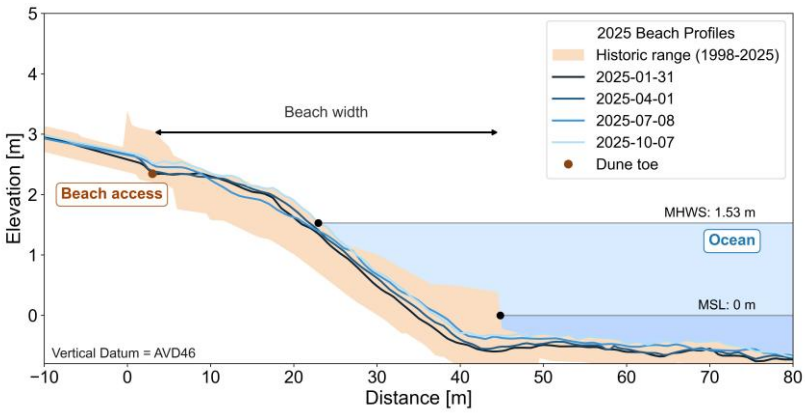


Figure 2: *Changes in sand levels at Cheltenham Beach P2. Mean Sea Level (MSL) represents the average mid-tide level, Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) marks the average high-tide line. Beach width is the distance between seawall toe and MSL.*

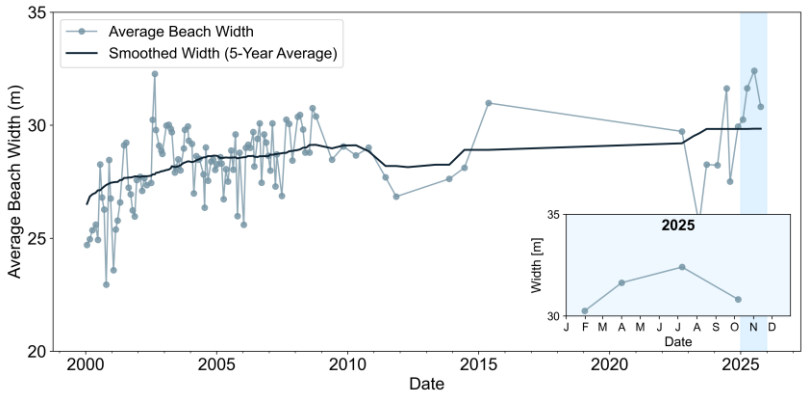


Figure 3: *Beach-wide averaged width (calculated between seawall toe and MSL) at Cheltenham Beach.*

Change in beach width:

Cheltenham Beach exhibits long-term widening (accretion) but with considerable short-term fluctuations in beach width observed throughout the record likely driven by locally and regionally generated storm waves (Figure 3).

In 2025, average beach width increased slightly over winter from ~30 m in February to ~33 m in July, before returning to nearly 30 m in October (Figure 3).

Change in beach volume:

Since consistent monitoring began in the 1990s, the amount of sand at Cheltenham Beach has increased but shows large fluctuations in beach volume throughout the monitoring record (Figure 4).

In 2025, average beach volume at Cheltenham Beach shows only small fluctuations where loss of sand at the northern end of the beach in July and October is balanced by sand gains at the southern end of the beach.

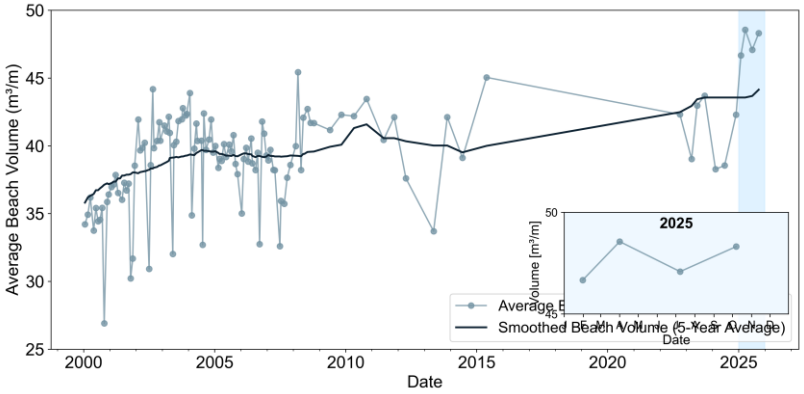
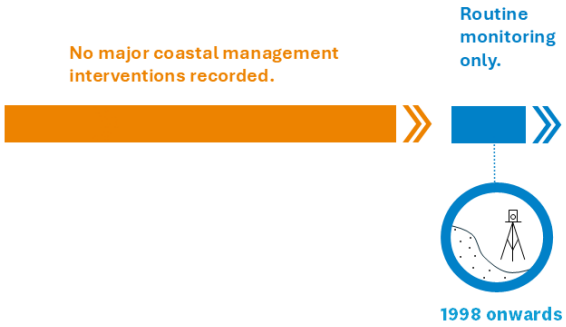


Figure 4: *Beach-wide averaged volume (calculated above MSL) at Cheltenham Beach.*

Coastal Management Activities



What has been going on?

There have been no coastal management activities undertaken at Cheltenham Beach, any seawall construction has been undertaken by private property owners. Routine beach profile surveys have been ongoing since 1998.

To learn more about how Auckland's coastline is being managed checkout Auckland's Shoreline Adaptation Plans.