



Bellinger WA01.03.04

Regional Setting

This mixed sand and rock coast compartment extends from Point Malcolm to Cape Pasley.

The dominant regional processes are the Mediterranean to humid cool-temperate climate; southern annular mode (driving dominant south-westerly swells and storms), micro-tidal; high energy south-westerly swells; westerly seas; carbonate sediments; and interrupted swell-driven longshore transport.

This coastline is susceptible to mid-latitude cyclones (depressions), storm surges and shelf waves.

Justification of sensitivity

Sensitivity rating is a 3 as the shoreline is currently stable and likely to remain stable.

Sediment cells are confined to small embayments separated by rocky headlands and tombolos. Some sediment linkage between embayments is apparent as continuous beach or dunes crossing headlands, but is thought to be low in volume.

Other comments

This compartment has a SE aspect.

Geomorphological features include the Recherche Archipelago, granite headlands, beaches and dunes.

The majority of the coastline (57%) consists of broad sandy beach, which may be cusped or crenulate, formed between or in association with resistant headlands. A large proportion of the coastline (30%) displays exposed high energy shorelines with



eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or aeolean limestone. The remainder (13%) is comprised of narrow sandy beach without extensive beachrock, backed by continuous, stable, well-vegetated high dunes which may include calcarenite.

Confidence in sources

Low confidence: Interpretation of landform assemblages comes from satellite imagery and aerial photography. There is limited or no information available describing landforms or coastal landform change over the historical period.

Additional information

Australian Beach Safety & Management Program (ABSAMP) database of over 12,000 beaches can be accessed at http://www.ozcoasts.gov.au/coastal/beach_intro.jsp (also see Surf Life Saving site)

Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). (2006) Oil Spills Response Atlas. Australian Government Canberra. Available at <https://www.amsa.gov.au/environment/maritime-environmental-emergencies/national-plan/general-information/OSRA/index.asp>

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Sharples C, Mount R, Pedersen T, Lacey M, Newton J, Jaskierniak D & Wallace L. (2009) The Australian Coastal Smartline Geomorphic and Stability Map. Version 1: Project Report. Geoscience Australia & Department of Climate Change, www.ozcoasts.gov.au/pdf/SmartlineProjectReport_2009_v1.pdf

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