



Rossiter Bay WA02.01.04

Regional Setting

This mixed sand and rock coast compartment extends from Hammer Head to Mississippi Point.

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 regional hazards, including mid-latitude cyclones (depressions), storm surges and shelf waves.

Justification of sensitivity

Sensitivity rating is a 4 as the shoreline is currently stable but likely to start eroding.

High frontal dunes that are stable at present are anticipated to become active in future, as some are in the central part of the embayment.

Other comments

This compartment has a SSE aspect.

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

The coastline is mainly (63%) comprised of broad, arcuate sandy beaches, which may be cusped or crenulate, formed between or in association with resistant headlands. Exposed high energy shorelines are also common (37%), with eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or eolian limestone.



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)

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