



King George Sound (Albany) WA03.02.01

Regional Setting

This mixed sand and rock coast compartment extends from Herald Point (E) to Bald Head.

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 overall as the shoreline is currently stable but erosion is likely to start.

Much of the coast has salt marsh and low-lying wetland around the estuarine shores of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour. Middleton Beach, the main ocean beach, and Emu Point at the entrance to Oyster Harbour are known to have been eroded.

Other comments

This compartment has an E aspect.

Geomorphological features include granite islands, Albany sounds, Vancouver tombolos, spits, rocky headlands and cliffs, beaches and dunes.



Almost half of the coastline (46%) consists of broad, gently-sloping sandy beach with well vegetated primary dune, often backed by parallel beach ridges or stabilised parabolic dunes. Broad arcuate sandy beach are also common (30%); these may be cusped or crenulate, formed between or in association with resistant headlands. The remainder of the compartment contains exposed high energy shorelines, with eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or aeolean limestone (24%).

Confidence in sources

High confidence. Information describing landforms or coastal landform change over the historical period is available. Interpretation of landform assemblages comes from site visits, available literature, satellite imagery and aerial photography. Despite this, there remains scope for a more holistic coverage of the compartment.

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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