



Ratcliffe Bay (Denmark) WA04.01.02

Regional Setting

This rocky coast compartment extends from Torbay Head to Wilson 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 3 overall as the shoreline is currently stable and likely to remain stable.

Most of the coast is rocky, with steep bluffs cut in coastal limestone. Ocean Beach is likely to be subject to erosion with any adjustment of the bar across the mouth of Wilson Inlet.

Other comments

This compartment has a SSW aspect.

Geomorphological features include rocky headlands, limestone cliffs, beaches, dunes and the Wilson Inlet.

This compartment contains two distinct coastal landform types. The first features narrow to wide sandy beaches seaward of low bluffs (< 50m), in sedimentary rock including limestone (52%). The second type consists of exposed, high energy shorelines with eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or eolian limestone (48%)



Confidence in sources

Low confidence. Little information describing landforms or coastal landform change over the historical period is available. Interpretation of landform assemblages comes from site visits, satellite imagery and aerial photography.

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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