



William Bay WA04.01.03

Regional Setting

This mixed sand and rock coast compartment extends from Wilson Head to Stanley Island/Point Hillier.

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, as occurs along the Back Beach. Parry Beach is likely to be subject to erosion in future and would have a slightly higher rating (4).

Other comments

This compartment has a S aspect.

Geomorphological features include granite islands, rocky headlands, zeta formed bays, beaches and dunes.



A large proportion of the coastline consists of narrow to wide sandy beach seaward of low bluffs (< 50m), in sedimentary rock including limestone (57%). Exposed high energy shorelines are also common, with eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or eolean limestone (30%). The remaining coastline consists of broad arcuate sandy beaches, which may be cusped or crenulate, formed between or in association with resistant headlands (13%).

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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