



Nornalup Inlet (Walpole) WA04.01.05

Regional Setting

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.

This mixed sand and rock coast compartment extends from Point Irwin to Point Nuyts.

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. Nornalup Beach, in vicinity of the barred entrance to Walpole Inlet, 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, arcuate embayments, beaches, dunes, and the Nornalup Inlet.

Most of the coastline consists of exposed high energy shorelines with eroded igneous or metamorphic rocks associated with overlying beachrock or eolian limestone (66%). The remainder features narrow sandy beach with extensive beachrock (34%).



Confidence in sources

Low confidence. There is little information available describing landforms or coastal landform change over the historical period. 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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