



Dorre Island WA09.04.02

Regional Setting

The dominant regional processes are the Mediterranean to arid climate; the El Nino Southern Oscillation (driving sea-level variability); Southern Annular Mode (driving south-westerly swells and storms); strong sea breezes; micro to meso tidal, mainly diurnal; south-westerly swells; southerly seas; and carbonate sediments with moderate northerly longshore transport.

This coastline is susceptible to regional hazards, including extra-tropical cyclones, mid-latitude cyclones (depressions), storm surges, and river flooding (sub-regions only).

This mixed sand coast compartment extends from South Bejaling Hill to Point Quobba.

Justification of sensitivity

The sensitivity rating is a 4 as the shoreline is currently stable but likely to start eroding. The compartment includes the main sink of a sediment cell extending approximately 27 km northwards from the Gascoyne River delta to Quobba. In the north, episodic transgressive dunes abut and overlay limestone. Any change to the southern part of the cell near its source, the Gascoyne River, will affect this part of the coast.

Other comments

Common landform assemblages:

Foredunes in this compartment are discontinuous, partly scaped and have <25% vegetation cover. The frontal dunes include mobile sand sheets and blowouts, particularly north of the southern end of Lake MacLeod. Narrow sandy beaches with extensive beachrock (47%), and perched beaches adjoining a low beachrock cliff face (46%) are common.



Geomorphological features include beaches and dunes.

This compartment has a SW aspect.

Confidence in sources

Low confidence: Limited or no information describing landforms or coastal landform change over the historical period is available. Interpretation of landform assemblages comes from satellite imagery, aerial photography and available literature.

Additional information (links and references)

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>

Baker C, Potter A, Tran M & Heap AD. (2008) Geomorphology and Sedimentology of the Northwest Marine Region of Australia. Geoscience Australia, Record 2008/07. Geoscience Australia, Canberra. 220pp.



Eliot I, Gozzard B, Eliot M, Stul T and McCormack G. (2012c) The Gascoyne Coast, Western Australia: Shires of Shark Bay to Exmouth. Geology, Geomorphology & Vulnerability. Damara WA Pty Ltd and Geological Survey of Western Australia, Innaloo, Western Australia.

http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/marine/MAC_R_ShiresOfSharkBayAndExmouthFullReport.pdf.

Eliot I, Nutt C, Gozzard B, Higgins M, Buckley E & Bowyer J. (2011). Coastal Compartments of Western Australia: A Physical Framework for Marine & Coastal Planning. Report to the Departments of Environment & Conservation, Planning and Transport. Damara WA Pty Ltd, Geological Survey of Western Australia and Department of Environment & Conservation, Western Australia

Gozzard JR. (2011d) WACoast –Gascoyne. Geological Survey of Western Australia

Short AD. (2005) Beaches of the Western Australian Coast: Eucla to Roebuck Bay: A guide to their nature, characteristics, surf and safety. Australian Beach Safety and Management Program. University of Sydney Coastal Studies Unit and Surf Life Saving Australia. Sydney University Press. Sydney, New South Wales.

Sharples C, Mount R, Pedersen T, Lacey M, Newton J, Jaskierniak D & Wallace L. (2009) The Australian Coastal Smartline Geomorphic and Stability Map. Version 1: Project Report. Geoscience Australia & Department of Climate Change, www.ozcoasts.gov.au/pdf/SmartlineProjectReport_2009_v1.pdf