



Brunswick WA13.02.02

Regional Setting

The dominant regional processes are the wet-dry tropical climate (trade winds, monsoons); El Niño Southern Oscillation (driving high sea-level variability); Madden-Julian Oscillation (driving weather patterns including monsoons and tropical cyclones); mega to meso (limited) semi-diurnal tides; waves dominantly seas; episodic high river sediment discharges; mixed carbonate-terrigenous sediments; tidal sediment transport, and limited longshore transport.

This coastline is susceptible to regional hazards, including tropical cyclones, storm surges and river flooding.

This rocky coast compartment extends from Battery Point to Cape Wellington.

Justification of sensitivity

This compartment contains two dominant landform assemblages:

[1] Commonly found are cliffs and beaches formed between highly resistant and structurally controlled headlands (62%). [2] Tidal flats, some with channels backing onto cliffs, and covered by extensive mangrove forests (34%) occur around parts of St George Basin close to the mouth of the Prince Regent River. The fault-controlled Prince Regent River - unique to the region - discharges into the Saint George Basin.

Geomorphological features include coral reefs, Bonaparte Archipelago, semi enclosed basin, and the fault aligned Prince Regent River.

This compartment has a NW aspect.



Confidence in sources

Moderate confidence: Limited or no information specifically describing landforms or coastal landform change is available for the historical period. However, multiple photographic runs and other regional investigations of landforms have been published.

Interpretation of landform assemblages comes from satellite imagery, available literature and aerial photography.

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>

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Short AD. (2006) Beaches of the Northern Australian Coast: The Kimberley, Northern Territory and Cape York: 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.

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