

# 395161

## WATERHOUSE BEACH

Numerous small patches of coastal dunes and beaches formed on deposits of recent calcareous sands are scattered along the north and east coasts, stretching from Low Head to Falmouth. The two largest occurrences are in the Waterhouse and Boobyalla Beach areas, where long tongues of these sandy deposits extend inland with their long axes parallel to the prevailing winds. The dunes are most extensive along the coastline having a westerly aspect.

Although this system is similar in many ways to the Blackmans Lookout Land System (295161), it does differ in a number of aspects. One main difference is the average annual rainfall, which in turn has an effect on the soils and vegetation. This system also has a greater number of dunes (both fore and hind) and a smaller percentage of plains than the Blackmans Lookout system.

Deep sand soils have developed on all components. The calcareous sands on the beach and fore-dunes are undifferentiated, while those on the hind-dunes are weakly differentiated.

The beach is devoid of vegetation, while a tussock grassland of marram grass has stabilised the fore-dunes. A closed-scrub of coast wattle, prickly mimosa and marram grass has stabilised the hind-dunes. Coast wattle and honeysuckle form an open-scrub on the plains.

Grazing and recreation are the major land uses.

The major hazards are wind and water erosion. 'Blow-out' dunes have developed in areas where the protective barrier of marram grass has been broken. These 'blow-out' dunes are migrating inland, causing problems in some areas.

Parts of this system have been previously described by Hubble (1946), Dimmock (1960) and Stephens and Cane (1937).



Fore-dunes and beach.

Vegetation on the hind-dunes.

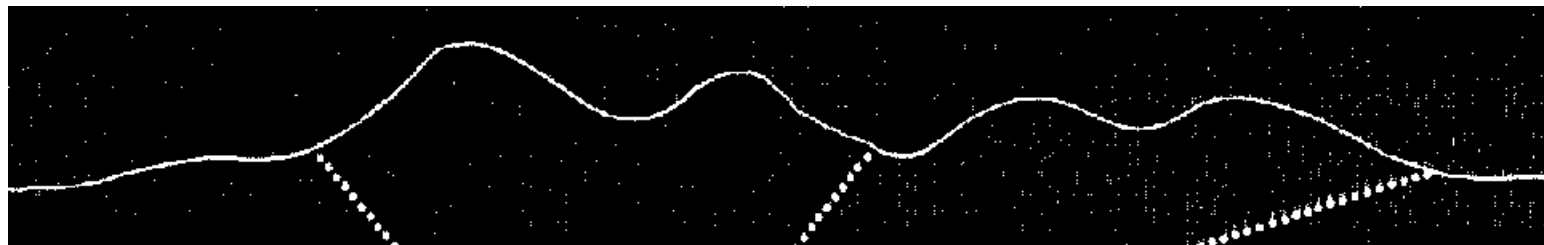


Marram grass vegetation on the fore-dunes.

**LAND SYSTEM**

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COMPONENT	1	2	3	4
PROPORTION %	20	35	35	10
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 625-750 mm			
GEOLOGY	Quaternary— recent calcareous sands			
TOPOGRAPHY				
Land form	Coastal dunes and beaches			
Position	Beach	Foredunes	Hind-dunes	Plain
Average Sideslope °	1	3	3	1
NATIVE VEGETATION				
Structure	No vegetation	Tussock grassland	Closed-scrub	Open-scrub
Association		Marram grass	Coast wattle, prickly mimosa, marram grass	Coast wattle, honeysuckle
SOIL	Undifferentiated yellow (10 YR 7/6) calcareous sands		Weakly differentiated yellow (10 YR 7/6) sands	Dark grey (10 YR 4/1) sand soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Sand			Sandy loam
Permeability	High			
Average Depth m	>2.0			
PRESENT LAND USE	Recreation			Grazing, recreation
HAZARDS	Sea and wind erosion	High wind erosion		Moderate wind erosion and rilling