

495162

PEGGS BEACH

Most sandy beach areas along the north coast belong to this land system. It is best developed in the western half of its distribution due to the greater abundance of sand there but is only present to a limited extent in the east. Where there has been too little sand for its normal development it is replaced by Somerset land system. Typically the beaches are backed by a series of sand dunes aligned parallel with the coast. The size and number of the dunes vary somewhat depending on the local abundance of sand, the magnitude of the rise and fall in sea level during recent geologic times and anthropogenic effects coupled with wind erosion.

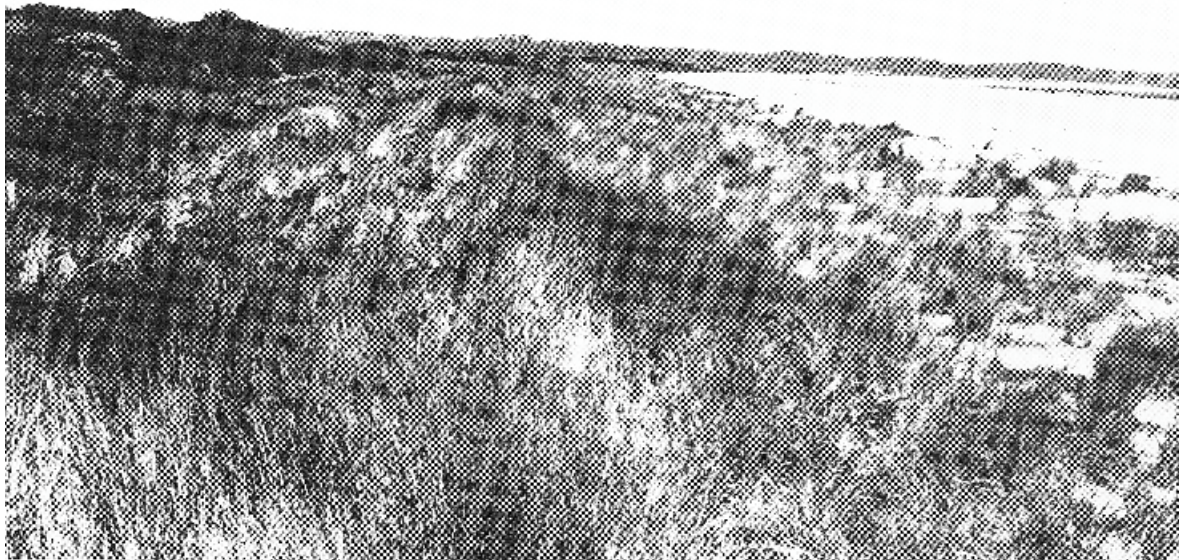
The calcareous material has been partially leached from the dune sands and the surface layers are darkened by the accumulated organic matter. In the vicinity of the mouths of the Leven, Forth and Mersey rivers, rounded rock fragments, mainly

about 20 cm diameter, are abundant in the frontal dunes and in some places entirely cover the beach areas as well. Davies (1965) says these are probably attributable to the rivers' function as distributors of glacial meltwater and rock debris during the Pleistocene. Smaller rock fragments line the eastern shore from Woolnorth Point. According to Edwards (1941) these are chiefly of olivine basalt and presumably are derived from Robbins Island.

Prior to white settlement the vegetation on the dunes was probably a closed scrub of white gum, *Banksia* sp. and *Melaleuca* sp. Now the introduced coast wattle and marram grass are prominent members of the community in many areas.

Peggs Beach land system has been extensively altered by clearing, burning, grazing and by its use for recreational purposes.

The ever present hazard in these areas is from wave action and wind erosion.

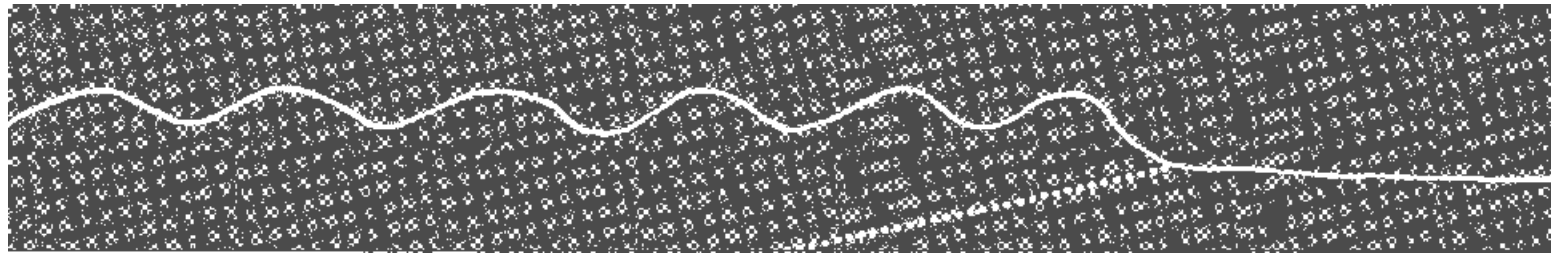


Marram grass now occupies the frontal dune in many areas. The native scrub appears as the strip of darker vegetation.

LAND SYSTEM

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Peggs Beach



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	75	25
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary coastal calcareous sands	
TOPOGRAPHY	Coastal sand dunes and beaches	
Land form	Coastal sand dunes and beaches	
Position	Parallel dunes and swales	Beach
Average Sidestope	7	2
NATIVE VEGETATION	Closed scrub	
Structure	Closed scrub	Bare
Association	White gum, honeysuckle, <i>Banksia serrata</i> , <i>Casuarina monilifera</i> , manuka, <i>Leptospermum glaucescens</i> , saggs, heath, bracken, coast wattle, <i>Leucopogon australis</i> , blackboy, golden pea, <i>Cone a alba</i>	
SOIL	Weakly differentiated, pale grey (10 YR 7/2) calcareous sand sod, uniform texture	Undifferentiated light reddish brown (5 YR 6/3) calcareous sand soil, uniform texture
Surface Texture	Loamy sand	Sand
Permeability	High	
Average Depth m	>2 0	
PRESENT LAND USE	Bush grazing, recreation, residential	
HAZARDS	High wind erosion	High wave erosion