

Site: Koonya Ocean Beach

About Koonya Ocean Beach

It is highly recommended that you combine your visit to Koonya Ocean Beach with time at Gunnamatta. Koonya Ocean Beach is located at Blairgowrie, which is approximately 4 kilometres from Sorrento. It is an ocean beach with rocky headlands. Before leaving the car park take advantage of the view. You are on a neck of land with Port Phillip Bay on one side and Bass Strait on the other.

Unfortunately, this site provides:

- Stark examples of the impact of human activities on the dune system and
- A clear demonstration of the problems when there is insufficient funding to implement appropriate management strategies.

This site can be accessed by travelling along Melbourne Road towards Blairgowrie and then turning into Hughes Road. There are sufficient parking spaces at the end of this road but no toilet facilities are available in the car parking area. There is no charge for entry. From the car park there are steps and a track to the beach. Once on the beach walk parallel with the dune system. The path down to the beach would be difficult for those in a wheel chair and may not be accessible for those with physical disabilities.

PLEASE TAKE CARE AT THIS SITE AS THERE ARE POWERFUL RIPS PRESENT

Some further information about London Bridge can be found at the [Parks Victoria website](#)

Fieldwork Activities.

Please note that not all of these activities need to be undertaken. Select those that suit your needs.

1. With reference to your base map describe the relative location of Koonya Ocean Beach. OR
Using either the GPS Test or GPS Data apps describe the absolute location of Koonya Ocean Beach.

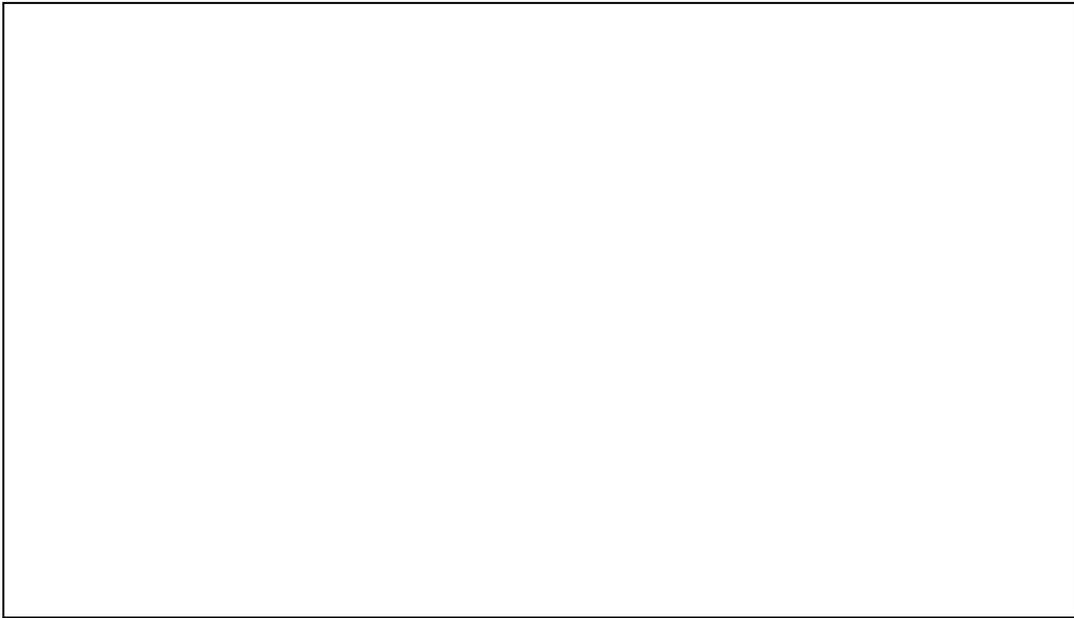
2. Record the following information about the wave characteristics at this site.

Characteristics	
Wave frequency (waves/minute)	
Estimated wave height	
Types of waves (constructive/destructive)	
Wind strength and direction	

How could the above wave characteristics affect the size and shape of this beach?

3. What evidence is there that powerful rips are present at this beach?

4. Facing the dunes, take a photo or draw a simple sketch to show a cross section of the beach. Explain how the undulations cause the strong rips that are present.



5. If you have a drone, take an overhead photo of the dune system. Alternatively, take photos of some of the larger dune blowouts. Note the characteristics of the dune blowouts (this is done in more detail in the next task).

6. Using the guide below evaluate the condition of the dune system.

Vegetation Coverage (indicate ranking with a tick)

Extensive coverage of vegetation.	Very good coverage of vegetation.	Vegetation coverage is good but this does not apply to all of the dune system.	Inconsistent vegetation coverage.	Sparse vegetation coverage.
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

Variety of vegetation species (indicate ranking with a tick).

There is a wide variety of vegetation species present in the dune system.	A variety of vegetation species are present in the dune system (4/5 species).	A range of vegetation species exists (3 species are present in the dune system).	Limited range of vegetation species (only 2 species present in the dune system).	Only one species present in the dune system.
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

Dune stability (indicate ranking with a tick)

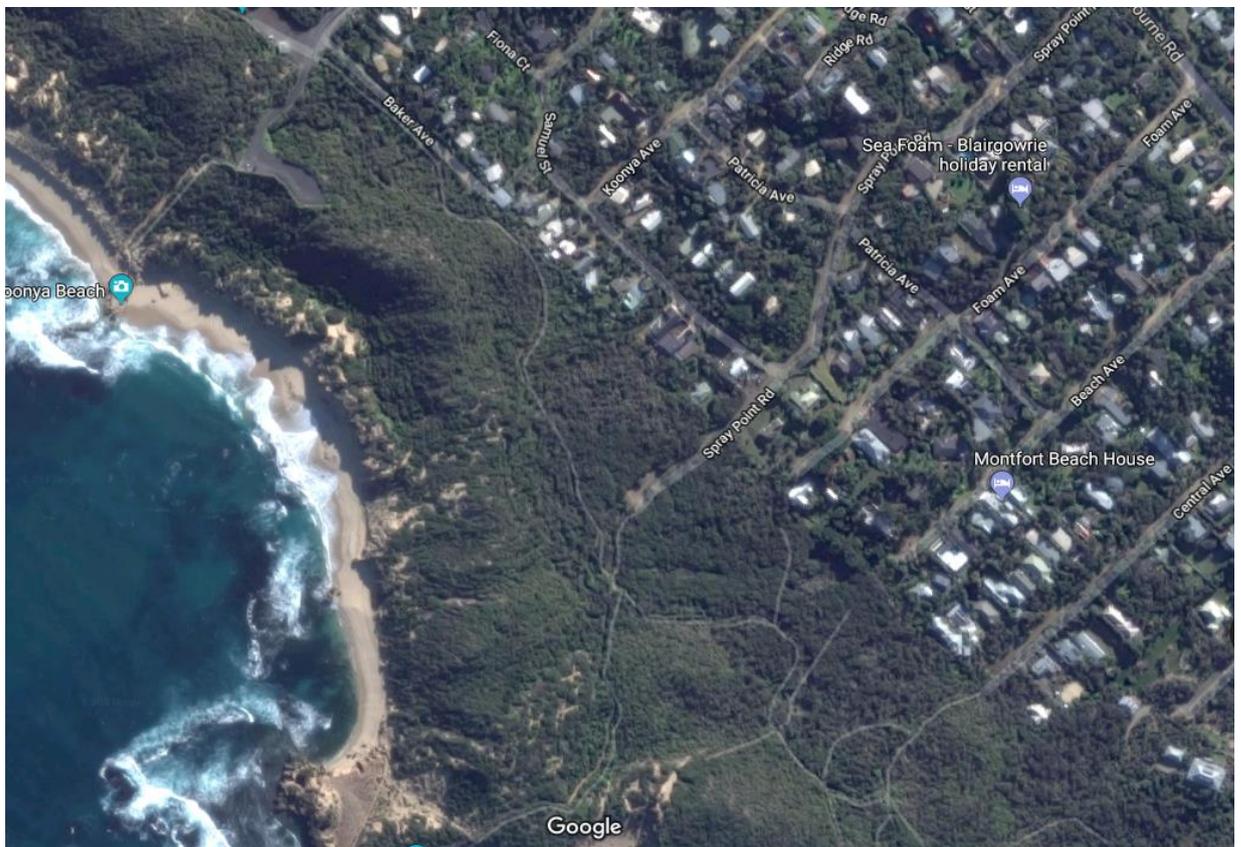
Highly stable dune system with no evidence of erosion.	A very stable dune system with limited evidence of erosion.	The dune system is generally stable but there are some signs of erosion.	There are areas of the dune system that are heavily eroded and unstable.	The dune system has a number of significant areas of erosion and is not stable.
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

TOTAL POINTS

Using the above as a guide comment on the condition of the dune system

7. Refer to the image below showing Koonya Ocean Beach and the surrounding area. On this image annotate human activities, such as housing, that could place pressure on this beach and in particular the dune system. Hypothesise about the human activities at this site that could cause the removal of vegetation on the dune systems.

Satellite image of Koonya Ocean Beach, Hughes Road



Source : Google Maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/xRFx7K3oBY22>)

10. Complete the table below regarding the management strategies that have been implemented at this beach.

Description of management strategy and purpose	Effectiveness of management strategy (consider factors such as the sustainability of the strategy and whether the strategy achieves the goals set)
Car park facilities	
Signage(prohibited activities and wildlife)	
Steps/pathway to beach	
Areas of revegetation	
Fencing	
Other	

