

## Site: Koonya Ocean Beach

### About Koonya Ocean Beach

It is highly recommended that you combine your visit to Koonya Ocean Beach with time at Gunamatta. Koonya Ocean Beach is located at Blairgowrie, which is approximately 4 kilometres from Sorrento. It is an ocean beach with rocky headlands. Unfortunately, this site provides stark examples of the impact of human activities on the dune system (which can be linked to tourism/recreation) and the problems when there is insufficient funding to implement appropriate management strategies.

From Sorrento 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**

Before leaving the car park take advantage of the view. You are on a neck of land with Port Phillip Bay on one side at Bass Strait on the other.

Some further information about London Bridge can be found at the Parks Victoria website

[parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au) > ... > [Mornington Peninsula National Park](#) > [Things to do](#)

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.


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2. Take photos of the dune system and in particular some of the larger dune blowouts.
3. Using the guide below evaluate the condition of the dune system.

Vegetation Coverage (indicate ranking with a tick)

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

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

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

Dune stability (indicate ranking with a tick)

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

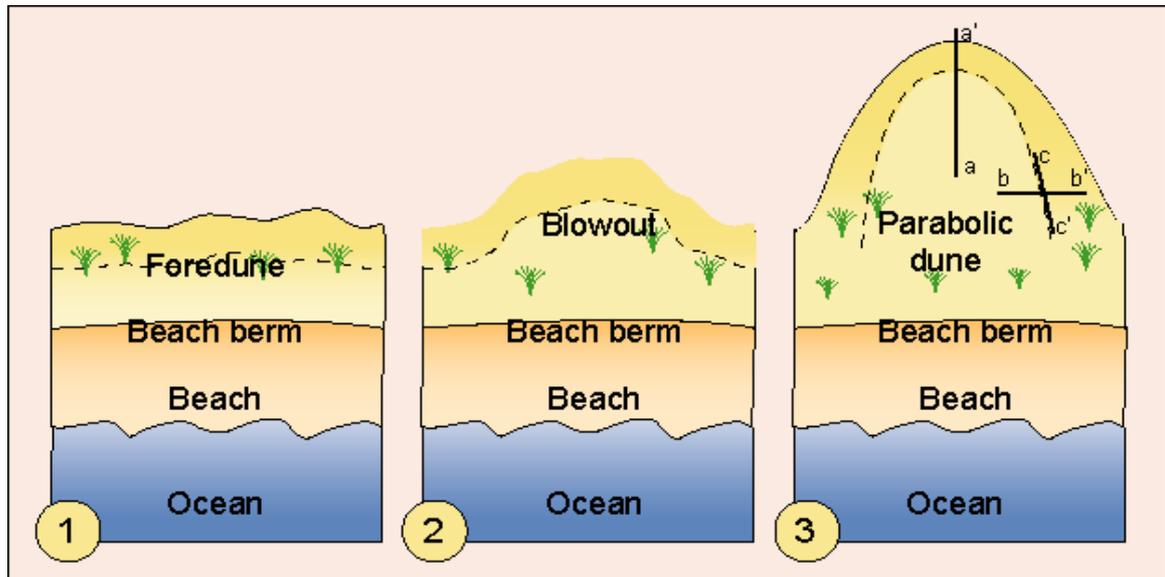
**TOTAL POINTS**

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


4. What tourism/recreational activities at this site could cause the removal of vegetation on the dune systems resulting in the dune blowouts?


5. With reference to the diagram below explain how human activities can cause dune blowouts.


**Steps involved in a dune blowout**



Source: [https://people.uwec.edu/jolhm/Past\\_Students/Wenell/CapeHenry/parabolicfm.gif](https://people.uwec.edu/jolhm/Past_Students/Wenell/CapeHenry/parabolicfm.gif)

6... What impacts have the dune blow outs at Koonya had on the condition of the surrounding beach and the amount animal life present?

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7. 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.	



