

4. Henty Dunes



Key facts about this geosite:

- The area shows an expanse of large, long-lived, active and stabilised dunes
- One of the most extensive sand dune systems in Tasmania
- Some dunes are at least 30 m high

How to get there: This geosite is located at the Henty Dunes Picnic area about 13 kilometres north of Strahan and about 31 kilometres south of Zeehan via the Henty Road (B27) (Figure 1). From the picnic area walk up on to the active sand dunes where there are good views towards Ocean Beach. Alternatively expansive views of the Henty Dunes and Ocean Beach can be had by visiting the scenic lookout on the Henty Road about 8 kilometres north of the picnic area.

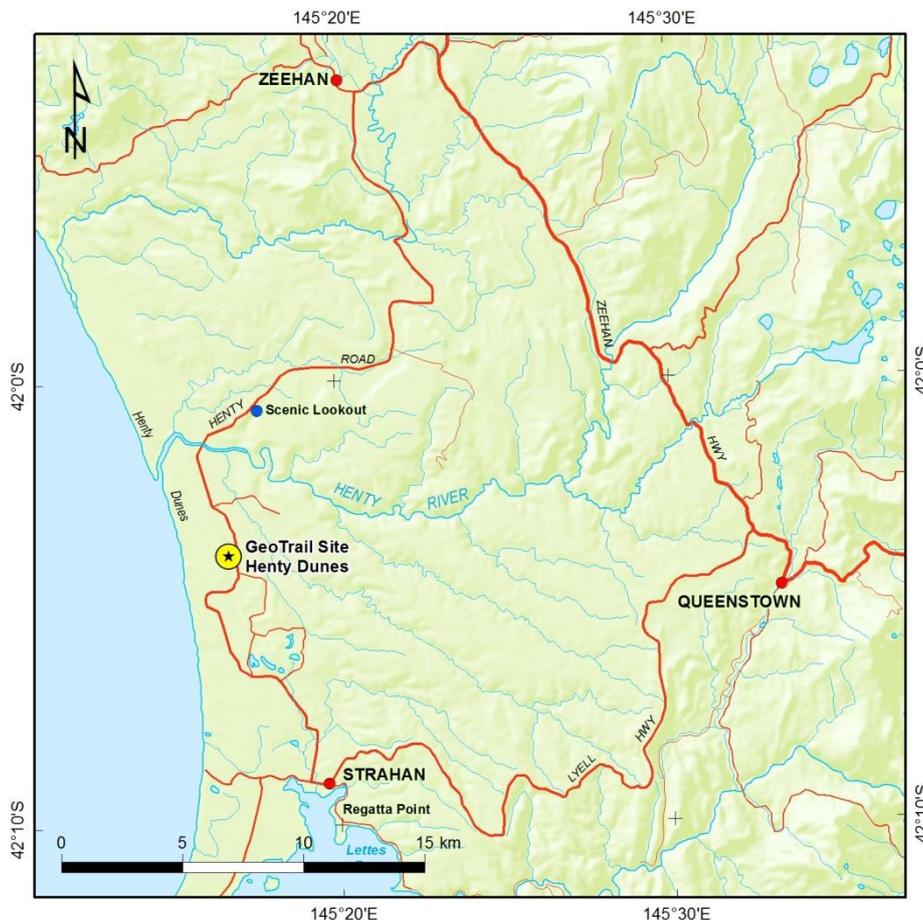


Figure 1: Location of the Henty Dune Geosite.

Geosite Description: The area to the south of the Henty River (Figure 1) encompasses an expanse of large, long-lived active and stabilised dune sands. Abundant [palaeosols](#) (old, buried soil horizons) occur in [deflation hollows](#) (Manchester, 2010). The dunes are both mobile and vegetated. These sand dunes formed from the Pleistocene to the present (Holocene period). Older dunes are dated and formed approximately 500,000 years ago. This area is one of the three or four most extensive [aeolian](#) landform assemblages in Tasmania.

Some dunes are at least 30 m high, and although [parabolic](#) in gross shape, in detail a number of parabolic blowouts and a few longitudinal dunes also occur. Orientation of individual blowouts is variable, probably reflecting variable wind patterns (Baillie and Corbett, 1985).

South of the Henty River, the mobile dunes are actively encroaching on a series of older, stable, dissected parabolic dunes (Figure 2 and 3) which extend nearly to Strahan (Baillie and Corbett, 1985). Active erosion of the dunes is visible along ocean beach (Figure 4).



Figure 2: Photographs of the dunes looking seaward (above) and eroded dune forms from the beach (below).



Figure 3: Active sand dunes near Henty Dunes Picnic area



Figure 4. Dune forms are slowly being eroded by wave and currents along Ocean Beach near Henty dunes.

Expansive views of the Henty Dunes and Ocean Beach can be had by visiting the scenic lookout on the Henty Road about 8 kilometres north of the picnic area (Figure 5). Locally fossil bearing sandstone and siltstone of Permian age can be observed in the road cuttings near the lookout.



Figure 5. Henty Dunes from the Henty Road Lookout

References:

BAILLIE, P.W., and CORBETT, K.D., 1985, STRAHAN. Geological Survey Explanatory Report, Geological Atlas 1:50,000 Series, [Sheet 57\(7913N\)](#), Tasmania Department of Mines

MANCHESTER, P.S., 2010. Created from Chaos. pp268-270.

Additional Information:

<https://www.tasmaniangeographic.com/henty-sand-dunes/>