

Weathering and Erosion



Weathering is the physical breakdown of objects into smaller particles on site. Chemical weathering occurs when the rock substance is chemically changed, for example, when rainwater with dissolved carbon dioxide dissolves limestone as is the case on the Bluff. Weathering can occur due to the action of wind, water, the sun, ice formation, plants (root growth), and the effects of human activity.

Erosion is the wearing away of the Earth's surface by wind, water, glaciers and humans. On the Bluff the action of wind and water has carved a range of unusual shapes into the rocks with one feature known as the “Chickens Head”. The rate of erosion is speeded-up by human activity such as clearing coastal =vegetation, trampling on plants growing on the Bluff and nearby sand dunes or by climbing on the cliffs and dunes. By keeping off these sensitive areas we can protect the Bluff from this losing some of its habitat values

Deposition is the settling of particles moved by erosion. The lighter particles float to the top , while the heavier ones sink. In the Barwon River mouth at the edge of the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary heavier particles of sand build up while the lighter particles of clay are carried further out to sea. This is very clear after heavy rain or a flood.

For further information see the Notes from Teachers Online Primary Science.

[Deposition and Erosion](#)

[Wave action video](#)

