

1 **Large-scale Climate and Atmospheric Drivers of Local Headland Bypassing**

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11 **Key Points:**

- 12 • Strong low-pressure systems situated near the coast between 25 and 35°S have the
13 potential to trigger headland bypassing around Fingal Head.
- 14 • Slight changes in storm wave conditions generated by these atmospheric patterns can
15 trigger different formats and magnitude of bypassing pulses.
- 16 • Large-scale climate drivers influence the long-term cycles of bypassing through
17 controlling the longshore transport and updrift sediment availability.

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30 **Abstract**

31 Headland Bypassing is mainly a wave-driven coastal process that interconnects sediment
32 compartments and allows the continuity of the longshore sediment transport. In turn, waves are
33 subject to atmospheric patterns and climate drivers. Hence, this study focuses on identifying the
34 atmospheric systems and associated wave conditions that have triggered bypassing events in
35 Fingal Head (New South Wales, Australia) over last 33 years. For this, clustering techniques
36 were used to identify 225 weather types that represent the daily atmospheric variability over the
37 Coral-Tasman Seas. Four recent storm events that triggered headland bypassing were
38 numerically simulated including waves, currents, sediment transport and morphological
39 evolution in order to identify the relevant weather types for the development of the sand pulse.
40 Results revealed that strong low-pressure systems (e.g., Tropical Cyclones and East Coast Lows)
41 occurring off the Eastern Australian coast around 30°S are the dominant patterns triggering
42 bypassing events in the study area. The headland bypassing mechanism was observed to vary
43 between large sandbar system and sediment leaking around the headland according to slight
44 changes in the sea states generated by these storm events. Overall, atmospheric patterns showed
45 control over when and how the bypassing pulse occurs, whereas sediment availability is the main
46 factor influencing long-term cycles of bypassing that are subject to the variability of El Niño –
47 Southern Oscillation and Pacific Decadal Oscillation. Altogether, this study emphasized the
48 intricacy between the multiple factors controlling headland bypassing events, which has direct
49 implications on the potential for predicting the occurrence of this local coastal process.

50 **Plain Language Summary**

51 The movement of sand along the coast is at times constrained by the presence of headlands.
52 Headland bypassing is the natural process of sediment moving around a coastal rocky outcrop
53 influenced by the wave action. On the other hand, waves are influenced by atmospheric pressure
54 systems and these, in turn, are influenced by global climate oscillations. Hence, in this study the
55 atmospheric patterns that prevail over the Coral-Tasman Sea are investigated and, consequently,
56 how these synoptic scale systems modulate the sand movement around Fingal Head (New South
57 Wales, Australia) over the last 33 years. The results demonstrate that storms such as Tropical
58 Cyclones and East Coast Lows approaching latitude 30°S have the potential to generate waves
59 that promote sand movement around Fingal Head. It is also evident that the amount of sand
60 available on the beach south of the headland is relevant for longer cycles of bypassing. Overall,
61 understanding and predicting the periods when sand movement will be occurring around
62 headlands is a complex task that requires detailed research of several physical factors. For Fingal
63 Head, this study demonstrates that the variability of the sand volume is associated with globally
64 important climate indices such as El Niño – Southern Oscillation, which has dictated the multiple
65 years periods of headland bypassing.

66 **1 Introduction**

67 Shoreline research around the world has grown expressively over the last few years and with it,
68 the development of a direct relation between large-scale climate systems and coastline variability
69 at multiple temporal and spatial scales (e.g., Barnard et al., 2015; Castelle et al., 2015; Harley et
70 al., 2017; Wiggins et al., 2020; Silva et al., 2020; 2021a; Vos et al., preprint). The connection,
71 however, between global climate drivers and shoreline position relies on a series of intermediary
72 nearshore processes, for which there is still a deficiency of knowledge in terms of their particular

73 response to climate patterns variability (Graffin et al., preprint). While adding these local-scale
74 dynamical processes and non-linear interactions increases the complexity of the shoreline
75 analysis, they also represent a valuable contribution to refine predictions at a local-level (Short,
76 2022; Harley et al., 2022).

77 As one of the main drivers of shoreline changes, waves have been largely studied and frequently
78 associated with climate indices (Montaño et al., 2020; Odériz et al., 2020; Graffin et al.,
79 preprint). It is well-defined now, for instance, that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has
80 a prominent influence on wave climate and shoreline variability across the globe from
81 interannual to multidecadal timescales (Odériz et al., 2020; Graffin et al., preprint). Throughout
82 the Pacific Ocean, in particular, ENSO controls multiple atmospheric systems and oceanic
83 conditions (e.g., wave energy and direction) that impact on coastal vulnerability (Barnard et al.,
84 2015; Anderson et al., 2018; Vos et al., preprint). On the other hand, uncertainties are still
85 pronounced in terms of the subaqueous variability of the beach profile and the sediment
86 migration along the coast in response to changes in these regional weather patterns and global
87 climate oscillations. Among the few studies investigating the influence of atmospheric and
88 climate patterns on sediment transport, Splinter et al. (2012) observed that changes to the net
89 longshore transport over 50 years (1958 – 2009) on the East Australian Coast were strongly
90 related to ENSO and the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO). This relationship was most
91 significant during negative IPO and La Niña phases which led to more southerly deviations in
92 the net northward longshore sediment transport. Also in Eastern Australia, Ribo et al. (2020)
93 extended the knowledge on longshore transport to the millennial-scale, suggesting that the net
94 northward littoral drift was impacted by latitudinal shifts of the Subtropical Ridge controlling the
95 directional wave climate. Moreover, the study noticed the additional relevance of headlands in
96 controlling the regional longshore transport under the distinct sea-level and wave conditions over
97 multi-centennial periods.

98 Effectively, headlands act like a valve that intermittently allows sediment migration downdrift
99 (Klein et al., 2020), a coastal process called headland bypassing (HB). The ability (or not) of
100 sand to bypass a headland has evident importance since it controls the sediment budget of the
101 downdrift beach compartment (Thom et al., 2018, Goodwin et al., 2020). This subaqueous
102 movement of sand around a headland in the direction of the longshore drift is complex and
103 depends on several controlling factors. These include the geometry of the headland and
104 nearshore bathymetry (George et al., 2015; King et al., 2021), sediment characteristics and
105 availability (Casalho et al., 2014; Ribeiro, 2017; George et al., 2019), and hydrodynamic drivers
106 such as tides (McCarroll et al., 2018; Costa et al., 2019; Valiente et al., 2019) and above all,
107 waves (Ab Razak, 2015, Vieira da Silva et al., 2016a,b; 2018a; 2021; King et al., 2019; 2021;
108 Wishaw et al., 2021). The influence of wave characteristics in conditioning the occurrence of a
109 headland bypassing event recalls the importance of the large-scale atmospheric patterns and
110 climate drivers that induce the regional variability of the wave generation, impacting the
111 sediment transport along the coast and, at last, the shoreline.

112 A substantial obstacle to developing a connection between HB cycles and climate variability is
113 the lack of long-term real-world measurements. Field surveys around headlands and within the
114 surf zone are limited due to the hazardous environmental conditions and the restricted access to
115 specific equipment and trained personnel (McCarroll et al., 2018; Klein et al., 2020). On the
116 other hand, remote sensing techniques have recently increased their potential as tools to derive

117 coastal measurements with the number of satellites multiplying and the imagery resolution
118 improving significantly. As a result, only a few studies so far were able to derive some sort of
119 relationship between bypassing and climate indices. Using three temporally sparse bathymetric
120 surveys (1883, 2002 and 2011), Goodwin et al. (2013) describes the HB mechanism around Cape
121 Byron (Australia) and suggests that the IPO influences the wave climate in decadal scale which
122 leads to shifts in the bypassing pathways. Then, based on aerial imagery spanning 60 years,
123 Wishaw et al. (2021) observed that the completion of HB cycles required a specific sequence of
124 wave conditions and that the neutral to La Niña phases would support the sand movement around
125 Noosa Headland (Australia). Lastly, Silva et al. (2021a) acquired detailed topo-bathymetric
126 surveys that covered a full bypassing cycle triggered by a Tropical Cyclone in the Northern New
127 South Wales coast (Fingal Head, NSW - Australia) in February 2019. After developing a
128 conceptual model of the mechanism, the frequency of occurrence of bypassing events was
129 investigated using satellite-derived shorelines which revealed multi-annual to decadal cycles
130 likely related to the oscillations in ENSO and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) phases
131 (Silva et al., 2021a).

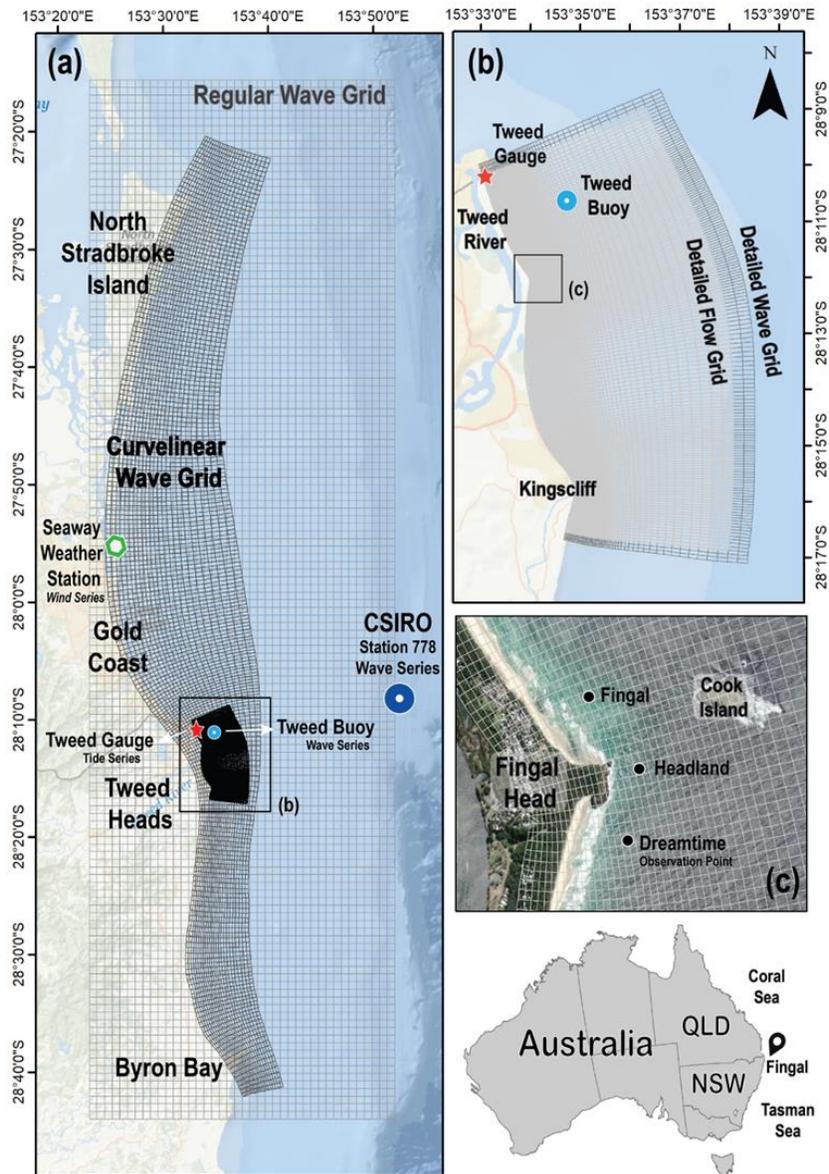
132 Exploring further the headland bypassing dataset provided by Silva et al. (2021a), the present
133 study investigates the relationship between weather patterns over the Coral and Tasman Seas and
134 the sediment transport around Fingal headland in the Eastern Australia Coast over the last 33
135 years, including the identification of specific storm types that have triggered bypassing pulses.
136 The susceptibility of this local-scale coastal process to the variability of global climate drivers
137 such as El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is also
138 assessed. Finally, a discussion of how the findings of this study would inform future bypassing
139 predictions is provided.

140 **2 Regional Settings**

141 The study area is situated in Fingal Head (Tweed Heads, NSW - Australia) and adjacent beaches:
142 Dreamtime Beach on the updrift and Fingal Beach on the downdrift of the headland (Figure 1c).
143 This headland as well as Cook Island (600 m offshore, Figure 1c) and Nine Mile Reef, extending
144 7 km offshore off the island are formed of basalt rock from the Tertiary Period (Fox, 2016).
145 Fingal Head has about 20 m of elevation and a perimeter of about 700 m. The headland is
146 asymmetric with about 90% of its area on the updrift side of the apex. The apex angle is
147 approximately 80° and it is diagonally (22°, 300 m distance) aligned with the submerged rocky
148 reef extending onshore from Cook Island. The surrounding bathymetry of Fingal Head is around
149 -5 m AHD (Australian Height Datum) and the regional depth of closure is approximately -14 m
150 AHD (Strauss et al., 2013). Both updrift and downdrift beaches are formed by fine quartzose
151 sand (approximate $d_{50} \sim 0.2$ mm) (Chapman, 1981). The sediment input for this region is part of
152 the northward littoral drift within the primary central-east coast compartment that extends from
153 Clarence River in the south to the Tweed River in the north (Short, 2019; Thom et al., 2018) and
154 beyond.

155 This section of the coast is classified as wave-dominated, with open coast beaches predominantly
156 double barred (Short, 2019), a formation frequently observed at Dreamtime Beach. The wave
157 climate in this region is dominated by a south-southeast (S-SE) swell with average significant
158 wave height (H_s) of 1.5 m and peak period (T_p) of 10 s (Allen and Andrews, 1997). At the
159 Tweed Wave Buoy location (Figure 1a), modal wave conditions vary between 8 and 12 s T_p
160 with about 1 to 1.5 m H_s , and persistent easterly (E) to E-SE wave direction (Vieira da Silva et

161 al., 2017). These wave characteristics influence the longshore current direction towards north,
 162 transporting a net average of 500,000 m³ every year (Patterson, 2007). Finally, in terms of local
 163 water level, the study area is in a semi-diurnal microtidal region (Chapman, 1981) with a tidal
 164 range of 1.45 m.



165
 166 **Figure 1.** Study Area. (a) Regional view of the study area extending from the northern end of
 167 New South Wales (NSW) to Southeast Queensland (QLD). Wave modelling regional grids are
 168 represented covering the region from Byron Bay (NSW) to North Stradbroke Island (QLD) and
 169 extending offshore to the wave input station. (b) Local wave and flow grids are represented as
 170 well as the position of the Tweed Wave Buoy and Tweed River tide gauge. (c) presents a
 171 zoomed view of Fingal Head and Cook Island as well as the observations points at Dreamtime
 172 beach (updrift of the headland), at Fingal Beach (downdrift of the headland) and in front of
 173 Fingal Head.

174 Investigating the energy source areas and travel time of the waves reaching the region between
175 North Stradbroke Island (Queensland) and Cape Byron (New South Wales (see Figure 1a for
176 location), Silva et al. (2021b) identified that waves generated up to the periphery of the Coral-
177 Tasman Seas (about 3 days travel time) are the main components of the wave climate for the
178 study area. A large variety of atmospheric systems within the Coral-Tasman Seas is observed to
179 influence the wave generation zones (Shand et al., 2010), including anticyclonic intensification,
180 Tropical Cyclones, Tropical Lows, East Coast Lows and Southern Tasman Lows (Mortlock and
181 Goodwin, 2015). The seasonal migration of the high-pressure anticyclones dictates the synoptic
182 systems variability along the coast (Drosdowsky, 2005). During austral summer and autumn, the
183 Tropical Cyclones and Lows are formed over the warm waters of the Coral Sea and enhance the
184 generation of waves that reach the study area from the E-NE (Silva et al., 2021b). These tropical
185 storms propagate waves to the study region with H_s up to 7 – 8 m (Shand et al., 2010; Vieira da
186 Silva et al., 2018b). On the other hand, during austral winter months, the strong low-pressure
187 systems over the Tasman Sea increase the wave component from the S-SE (Mortlock and
188 Goodwin, 2015; Silva et al., 2021b).

189 The wave generation zones' variability has also been associated with large-scale climate drivers
190 such as ENSO. Several studies observed El Niño (La Niña) phases leading to modal and extreme
191 wave conditions from S-SE (E-NE) along the Tasman Sea coast (Harley et al., 2010; Hemer et
192 al., 2010; Mortlock and Goodwin 2015). Silva et al. (2021b) identified an intensification in wave
193 generation zones within the Coral-Tasman Sea during La Niña events, increasing the potential
194 coastal hazards for the Eastern Australian Coast during these periods (Odériz et al., 2020). In
195 terms of variability of atmospheric patterns due to ENSO events, a strong relationship has been
196 previously reported for Tropical Cyclone migration towards Southeast Queensland under the
197 influence of La Niña conditions (Chand et al., 2019); however, there is no clear evidence of
198 ENSO events controlling the variability of East Coast Lows and similar atmospheric systems
199 (Dowdy et al., 2019), despite the reported influence on the southerly wave component (Mortlock
200 and Goodwin 2015).

201 **3 Materials and Methods**

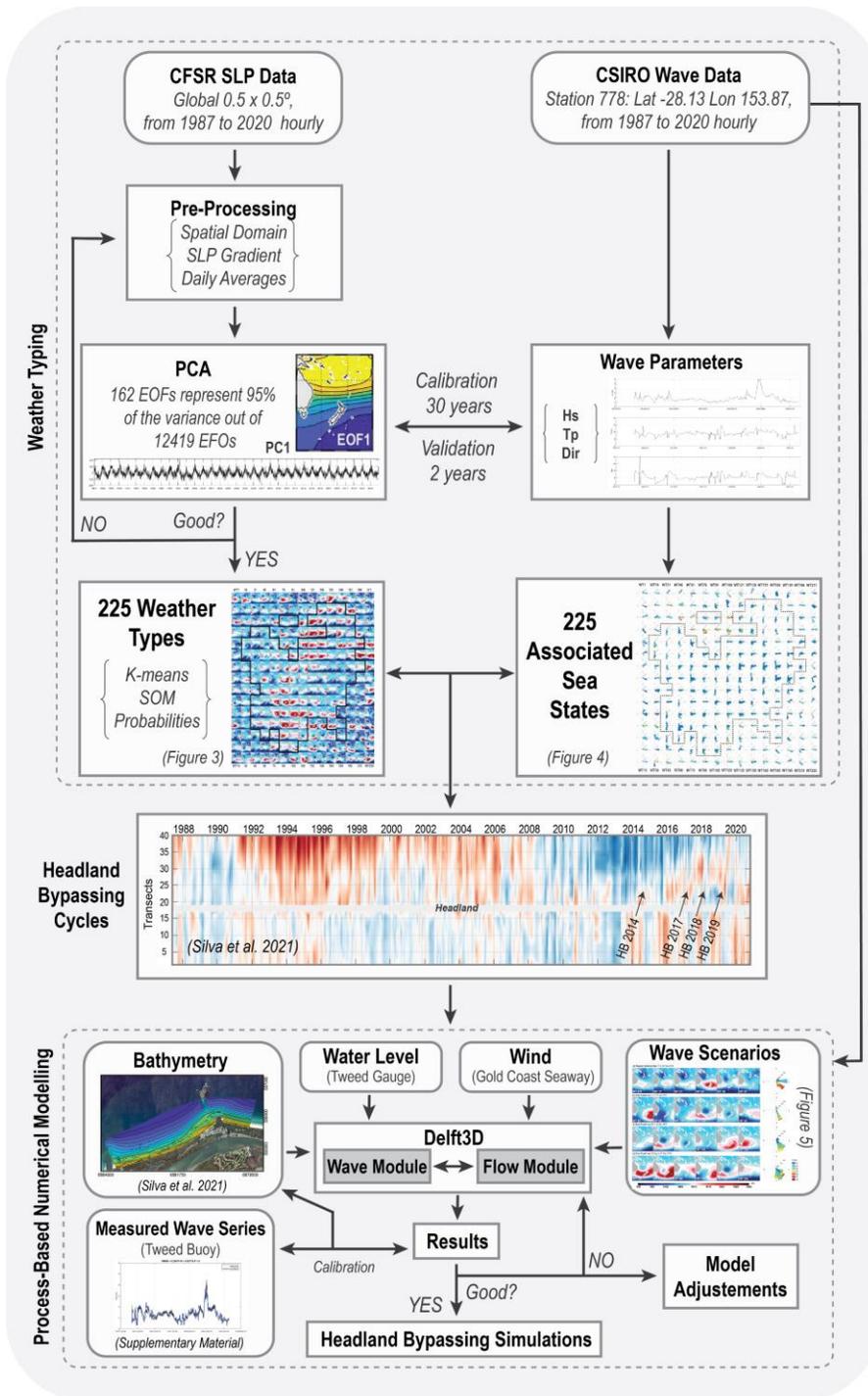
202 To achieve the aims of this research, the methods were divided into two major steps (Figure 2):
203 (1) the weather type analysis linking the sea-state parameters (predictand) to the wave-generating
204 synoptic-scale atmospheric systems (predictor) and their temporal variability; then, the results
205 from the weather type assessment were used to inform (2) the process-based numerical
206 modelling of local wave conditions, longshore sediment transport and beach morphology
207 variability.

208 **3.1. Dataset**

209 **3.1.1. Atmospheric Data**

210 Mean sea level pressure (SLP) fields were obtained from the US National Center for
211 Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Climate Forecast System (CFS) Reanalysis versions 1 and 2
212 (CFSv1 and CFSv2) (Saha et al., 2010; 2014) and used in the weather type analysis (Figure 2).
213 The CFSR is a third-generation global reanalysis with a high-resolution coupled atmosphere-
214 ocean-land surface-sea ice system developed to provide the estimate of the state of these
215 coupled domains over a period of time. The reanalysis series extends from 1979 to 2010 for the

216 CFSv1 and from 2011 to the present for the upgraded CFSv2. The SLP fields are available at an
 217 hourly time resolution and a horizontal resolution of 0.5° latitude \times 0.5° longitude.



218
 219 **Figure 2.** Framework of the methodology applied in this study. The first section, delimited by
 220 the grey dashed line, presents the steps for the weather analysis. After identifying the weather
 221 types, four storm events that have triggered HB are selected based on Silva et al. (2021a) results.
 222 The selected events are then modelled as presented in the last dashed area.

223 3.1.2. Wave data

224 Wave data was obtained from the CAWCR wave hindcast (Durrant et al., 2019). This dataset
225 was generated using the WaveWatch III v4.08/v4.18, wave model forced with NCEP CFSR
226 hourly winds and daily sea ice (Durrant et al., 2019). The dataset contains 3683 points within a
227 global grid of 0.4 degree (Durrant et al., 2019). The time series from a point (station 778) located
228 34-km offshore of the Tweed coast (NSW, Australia) (28.13°S, 153.9°E) was selected to be used
229 in this study (Figure 1). Wave parameters such as significant wave height (Hs), peak period (Tp)
230 and peak direction (Dirp) are available hourly within a time series that covers from 01 January
231 1987 to 31 December 2020.

232 3.1.3. Climate Index data

233 Climate indices were used to support the investigation of the variability of weather types in
234 relation to the different flavours of these large-scale drivers. Both the Southern Oscillation Index
235 (SOI) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) series were obtained from NCDC/NOAA
236 (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/teleconnections>). The SOI index represents the El Niño-Southern
237 Oscillation (ENSO) variability, which indicates El Niño (La Niña) events for negative (positive)
238 SOI phases based on the standardized difference of monthly average sea-level pressure between
239 Tahiti (French Polynesia) and Darwin (Australia). The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) series
240 also oscillates between positive (El Niño-like) and negative (La Niña-like) phases, based on the
241 sea-surface temperature anomalies in the northeast and tropical Pacific Ocean. In this study, a
242 threshold of ± 1 was used to characterize the climate index anomalies that indicate ENSO and
243 PDO phases.

244 3.2. Weather Typing

245 There are several approaches to estimate the relationship between atmospheric patterns and wave
246 conditions. A less computationally expensive is the weather-type method that uses clustering
247 techniques to classify atmospheric pressure fields into groups that can be statistically associated
248 to wave parameters (Giorgi et al., 2001; Caires et al., 2006; Costa et al., 2020). Camus et al.
249 (2014) proposed and validated a framework that consists of grouping the atmospheric circulation
250 into a finite number of weather types (WTs) through the use of Principal Component Analysis
251 (PCA) and a sequence of three data mining techniques: Maximum-Dissimilarity (MDA), K-
252 means (KMA) and Self-Organizing Map (SOM) algorithms. This approach was used in this
253 study in order to characterize the weather patterns that generate the wave conditions for
254 triggering headland bypassing.

255 Figure 2 illustrates the main steps of the weather typing framework for which historical data of
256 both regional SLP fields (see section 3.1.1. Atmospheric Data) and local sea-states (see section
257 3.1.2. Wave Data) are required. Then, the identification of the weather types is done in four
258 steps: i) definition of spatial domain, ii) estimation of sea level pressure and sea level pressure
259 gradient; iii) reduction of dimensionality by means of a Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
260 and iv) application of the cluster techniques to time series of PCs to define the main weather
261 types of the study area.

262 The spatial domain was defined based on the results obtained by Silva et al. (2021b). Those
263 authors applied the ESTELA methodology (Evaluating the Source and Travel-time of the wave
264 Energy reaching a Local Area - Pérez et al., 2014) to demonstrate that the primary generation
265 zone of the swell and sea that reach the study area is within both the Coral and Tasman Seas, but

266 it could extend over the Pacific Ocean Basin for less frequent distant swells. To ensure the use of
267 the proper spatial domain, in this study a sensitivity test was undertaken using multiple
268 geographic areas (see Supplementary Table 1). A multivariate linear regression model was
269 applied using the times series of the PCs obtained from the different spatial domains as
270 predictors (see details of the Principal Component Analysis below) and the daily average of
271 wave parameters as predictand. The linear regression model was calibrated with data from 1987
272 to 2017 and validated with data from 2018 to 2020 (see Supplementary Figure 1 and 2). The
273 optimal spatial domain was identified as the area that resulted in higher correlation in the linear
274 regression analysis, which was the one that extends from 0 to 60°S and 140°E to 170°W.

275 The SLP and SLP gradient, which represents the geostrophic wind conditions (Camus et al.,
276 2014), are obtained within the spatial domain defined in the previous step. Sea-level pressure
277 data over land regions are not directly relevant for wave generation and is disregarded to avoid
278 adding the variability of these areas to the analysis. According to Silva et al. (2021b), waves
279 generated near the domain boundaries take about three days to reach the study region. This
280 means that it can be a lag between the moment that the atmospheric condition generates the
281 waves and the moment that the wave reaches the target point nearshore. In order to verify the
282 relevance of the wave travel time, a multivariate linear regression model between the time series
283 of daily principal components and wave time series considering time lags of zero to 9 days (see
284 Supplementary Figure 3) was assessed. Higher correlation was obtained with zero to 1-day lag,
285 indicating that a 1:1 assessment is sufficient for this study that aims to characterize the
286 relationship between daily WTs and the wave conditions over the interest region.

287 The Principal Component Analysis is applied for a concatenated matrix of daily averages of SLP
288 and SLP gradient fields. This technique allows eliminating data dependence while it reduces the
289 dimensionality of the dataset (Camus et al., 2014). From this analysis, only the principal
290 components that explain 95% of the variance (first 162 out of 12419 PCs for the selected domain
291 area) are taken to the subsequent weather type classification steps. The new PC-space is then
292 divided into a pre-defined number of clusters using the KMA algorithm. This technique groups
293 similar data into clusters that are characterized by a prototype that represents the centroid of the
294 group, also called weather type. KMA needs a set of initial prototypes (“seeds”) to initiate the
295 clustering. Here, the seeds were obtained by applying the MDA algorithm that ensures the
296 selection of the most representative and distinct data within the initial dataset (Camus et al.,
297 2014). Every data is attributed to the cluster with the most similar prototype (Hastie et al., 2001).
298 The centroid is recalculated and the distances between data and prototypes are calculated again
299 to redefine the groups. The loop continues until a defined stability is achieved.

300 The number of clusters is variable and not statistically determined. Due to the large variability of
301 the synoptic circulation in the study area including several distinct storm events that have been
302 observed to be relevant for shoreline variability (e.g., Harley et al., 2022) and headland
303 bypassing (e.g., Silva et al., 2021a), 225 clusters (WTs) were used. Synoptic charts of specific
304 storm events – such as Tropical Cyclone Oma – were visually compared to the daily WTs to
305 confirm if these atmospheric systems and their trajectories were being well represented. Finally,
306 the WTs were self-organized within a bidimensional lattice ($N = 225 = 15 \times 15$) using the SOM
307 technique, which distributes the WTs along the lattice based on the similarity criterion among
308 them to provide a more efficient visualization of the results (Camus et al., 2014).

309 The result is presented in Figure 3a where the WTs from WT1 to WT225 are distributed along
310 the columns. In Figure 3b, the occurrence (total number of days) of each WT during the last 33

311 years (1987 to 2020) is presented, while Figure 3c shows the variability of this occurrence over
312 seasons: austral summer (DJF), austral autumn (MAM), austral winter (JJA) and austral spring
313 (SON). The occurrence of each WT is also calculated for ENSO and PDO periods in order to
314 investigate if there is any influence of these climate drivers on the long-term WTs variability.
315 Each of these WTs have generated specific wave conditions (significant wave height and peak
316 direction) that are represented in the wave roses distributed in a 15x15 lattice according to the
317 WTs distribution (Figure 4).

318 3.3. Process-based Numerical Modelling

319 This study uses Delft3D, a process-based numerical model to simulate the waves, currents,
320 sediment transport and morphological variability near the headland for four events of headland
321 bypassing (Figure 2). The model was run using coupled WAVE and FLOW modules in online
322 mode. The wave model domain included three grids: one regular regional grid covering a region
323 of 163 x 48 km extending from Byron Bay (northern NSW) to North Stradbroke Island
324 (Southeast QLD) (Figure 1a) and offshore until the location of the CAWCR wave model output
325 point with a grid resolution of 1.2 x 1.2 km; a regional curvilinear grid was nested within the
326 regional regular grid and covers an area of approximately 150 x 20 km with grid resolution of
327 300 x 600 m; and a nested local curvilinear grid with a 16 x 6 km of area centered on Fingal
328 Head and extending from Kingscliff to the south and Tweed River to the north (Figure 1b). The
329 local wave grid resolution varies from 345 x 110 m in the outer cells to 45 x 28 m near the
330 headland. The flow module grid is two rows smaller than the local wave grid on the offshore,
331 south and north boundaries (Figure 1b). The topo-bathymetric data for the regional grids was
332 obtained from the 100-resolution digital elevation model from Project3DGBR (Beaman et al.,
333 2010) while the local wave and flow grids included the detailed topo-bathymetric survey of
334 November 2018 from Silva et al. (2021a). All simulations were initiated with the same topo-
335 bathymetric data which represents a spring-summer condition with an accreted beach on the
336 updrift and no large sandbar formation.

337 The four selected storm events were simulated within a 45-day period with about 15-20 days to
338 ensure initial model warm up and about 15 days after the storm event for completion of the
339 process. The CAWCR wave hindcast was used (see section 3.1.2. Wave data) with 72 directional
340 bins for the local wave grid, and 40 frequency bins ranging between 0.02 Hz and 1 Hz.
341 Diffraction and refraction were activated to reproduce the wave transformation on the nearshore
342 reefs, Cook Island and Fingal Head. The coupling interval between the FLOW and WAVE
343 modules was set to 60 minutes. The flow model was run in 3D mode with 10 sigma vertical
344 layers and a time step of 1 minute. The water level time series was obtained from the Tweed
345 River tide gauge (Figure 1b) and imposed uniformly at the offshore boundary. The wind time
346 series available from the Gold Coast Seaway Weather Station (Figure 1a) was used for the
347 simulation. The south and north boundaries were set as Neumann for the flow conditions.
348 Finally, morphological changes were activated within the FLOW module for the simulations.

349 The model was calibrated using the period from 29 November 2018 to 22 March 2019, which
350 represented a variety of wave conditions including a major storm event (Tropical Cyclone Oma).
351 Topo-bathymetric data was available for the beginning and end of the simulation, allowing for
352 morphological calibration. Parameters such as wave-related suspended and bed-load transport
353 were adjusted (both with a value of 0.3) in order to improve the sediment transport as well as
354 horizontal eddy viscosity and diffusivity (2 and 20 m²/s, respectively) that were used to ensure
355 the currents deflected as they pass the headland and produce realistic morphological changes.

356 Modelled time series of significant wave height, peak period, direction and water level were
 357 compared to the nearshore Tweed Wave Buoy and Tweed River tide gauge measurements
 358 (Figure 1b). Time series comparisons are presented in the Supplementary Material Figure 4.
 359 Statistical results of the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE) and Bias
 360 were considered satisfactory (Table 1). The Brier Skill Score was used to assess the morphology
 361 simulation providing a result of 0.53, which is considered reasonable/fair according to van Rijn
 362 et al. (2003).

363 **Table 1.** Error statistics for significant wave height (H_s), peak period (T_p), direction ($Dirp$) and
 364 water level (WL).

	H_s	T_p	$Dirp$	WL
<i>RMSE</i>	0.29	1.76	23	0.01
<i>MAE</i>	0.20	1.30	15	0.01
<i>BIAS</i>	0.003	0.003	0.004	0

365 4 Results

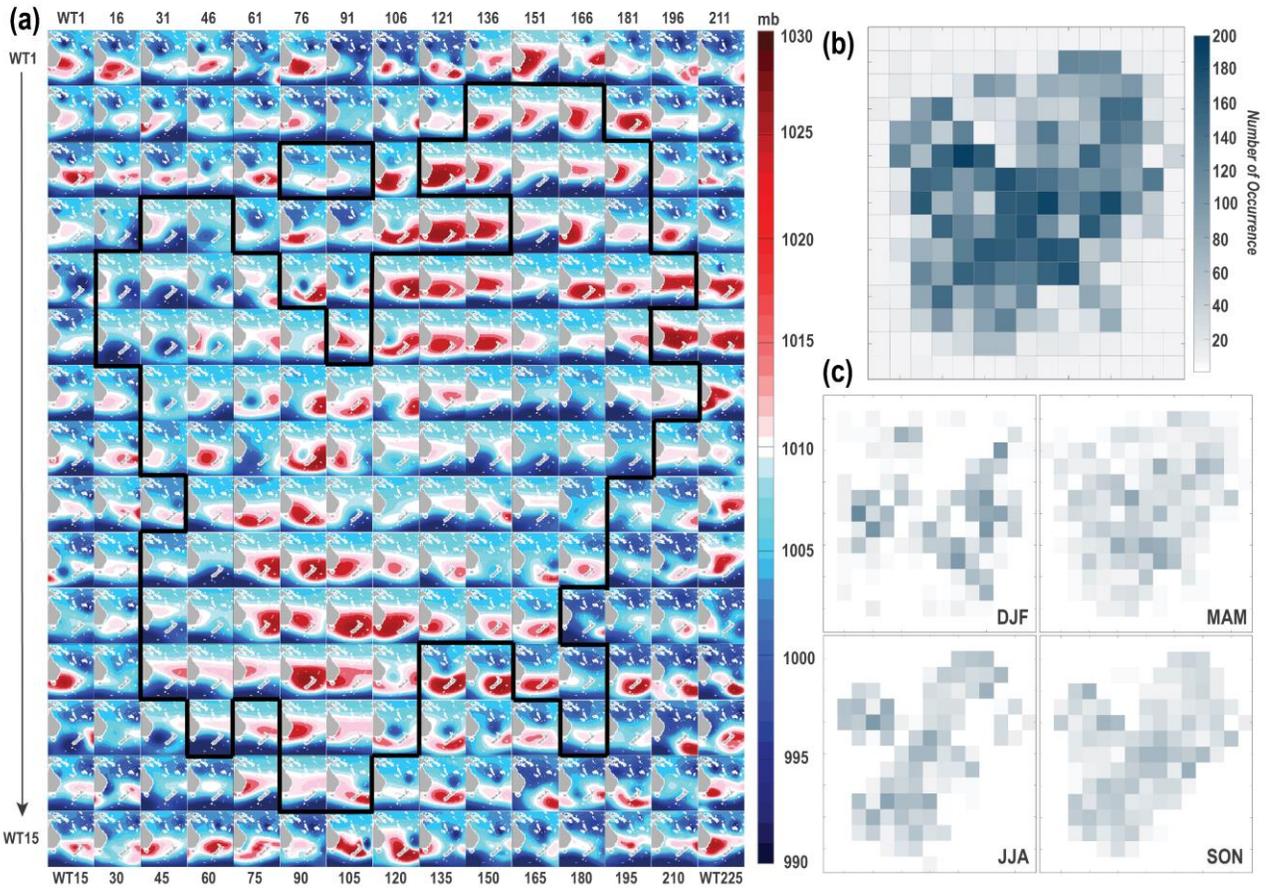
366 First, an overall description and number of occurrences of the WTs (Figure 3) obtained is
 367 presented and related to the wave conditions that were generated by each of these atmospheric
 368 patterns (Figure 4). Then, some WTs responsible for the storm events that triggered HB over the
 369 years are distinguished (Figure 5). These storm wave events are simulated through numerical
 370 modelling (Figure 6) and the most relevant WTs for the development of the bypassing pulses are
 371 identified. Finally, the variability of these WTs is analyzed over time considering ENSO and
 372 PDO (Figure 7) phases.

373 4.1. Weather Types and Associated Wave Parameters

374 From the 225 WTs, 100 WTs account for 90% of the frequency of occurrence, with each of these
 375 WTs happening at least 50 times (days) during the period considered here. These WTs are
 376 grouped in the central part of the matrix (Figure 3b) and are primarily representing the variability
 377 of the position and intensity of the high-pressure systems (anti-cyclones) over the Tasman-Coral
 378 Sea (Figure 3a – WTs within the black line delimitation). Wave characteristics associated with
 379 these WTs show a large directional range attributed to each WT, particularly varying from east
 380 (90°) to south (180°), and with wave heights mostly lower than 2 m (Figure 4). Additionally, a
 381 few WTs within this group present a high-pressure system in combination with a strong low-
 382 pressure system developed over the Tasman Sea, such as in WTs 117 and 118 (Figure 3a). For
 383 each of these WTs, a stronger southerly wave component with wave heights reaching around 5 to
 384 6m is observed (Figure 4).

385 In the outermost cells of the WTs lattice are distributed the 125 WTs that correspond to only
 386 10% of the total frequency of occurrence (Figure 3b), which means that each one of them has
 387 occurred less than 50 days out of the 12419 days. These WTs are mostly representing the
 388 variability of strong low-pressure systems such as Tropical Cyclones that occur over the Coral
 389 and Tasman Seas (Figure 3a). While the probability of occurrence of these WTs is very low,
 390 there is a large variety of atmospheric patterns and trajectory of migration of the pressure
 391 systems among them. For instance, 91 distinct WTs have occurred less than 10 times and 33 of
 392 them happened only once. In terms of wave conditions, these less frequent WTs have a
 393 substantial contribution on the generation of easterly storm wave events with wave heights

394 between 2 and 4m (Figure 4). Some Tropical Cyclones, such as the ones represented by WTs 79,
 395 94, 108 and 109, approach the coast and interact with strong high-pressure systems (Figure 3a)
 396 which can generate wave heights up to 8m varying from east-northeast to south-southeast
 397 (Figure 4).



398
 399 **Figure 3.** Weather Types (WT) lattice and number of occurrences of each WT. (a) Matrix
 400 presenting the 225 WTs distributed per column (1-15, 16-30, ..., 211-225). Sea-level pressure is
 401 presented in millibars with red colors indicating high pressure and blue shades showing low
 402 pressure systems. (b) presents the number of occurrences (grey to blue scale) for each WT over
 403 the total study period. (c) Seasonal variability in the number of occurrences of each WT. DJF –
 404 austral summer, MAM – austral autumn, JJA – austral winter and SON – austral spring months.
 405 Black contour in (a) indicates the WTs that have occurred more than 50 days over the 33 years.

406 As for the seasonal variability (Figure 3c), austral summer (177 WTs) and autumn (183 WTs)
 407 show a large range of WTs occurring during these seasons including extreme weather events
 408 (Figure 3a). For the summer season, 26 WTs with at least 50 days of occurrence represent 60%
 409 of the atmospheric variability, while for the autumn season only 14 WTs happened at a minimum
 410 of 50 days, and this represents 29% of the frequency of occurrence for the season. The most
 411 frequent WTs over summer, such as WT 38, are characterized by less intense high-pressure
 412 (about 1010-1013 mb) located southward over the Tasman Sea (Figure 3a). During autumn, the
 413 anti-cyclone is still frequently observed southward but more intense (about 1015-1020 mb), as

414 can be observed for WTs 97 and 115. For any of these WTs, wave conditions generated vary
415 from the east to south direction with wave heights up to 3m (Figure 4).

416 Austral winter and spring have a reduced variety of WTs occurring (108 and 123 WTs,
417 respectively), which are mostly concentrated in the center of the WTs matrix (Figure 3a,c). For
418 the winter season, the most frequent WTs (23 WTs with minimum of 50 days of occurrence)
419 account for 48% of the atmospheric patterns' variability. The atmospheric patterns represented
420 are mostly extensive and strong high-pressure systems (above 1025mb), sometimes combined
421 with the intrusion of a low-pressure system near the southeast coast such as in WT 71 (Figure
422 3a). These atmospheric systems can also generate waves from east to south; however, the
423 directional range for each WT is narrower than for the events from summer (e.g., WT167 in
424 Figure 4). Finally, during spring, 15 WTs have occurred at least 50 days and represent 29% of
425 the frequency of occurrence. Among these WTs the primary characteristic is a less intense high-
426 pressure center (1010 mb) displaced towards the east (Figure 3a) with associated wave
427 conditions varying from 0 to 180° and low wave heights (e.g., WT 21, Figure 4).

428 4.2. Storm Events Triggering Headland Bypassing Pulses

429 Based on the shoreline analysis presented by Silva et al. (2021a), four headland bypassing pulses
430 that occurred recently (August-September 2014, March 2017, January 2018, and February 2019
431 indicated in Figure 2) were selected (Figure 5). Figure 5 presents the sequence of daily weather
432 types observed during each of the storm events as well as a wave rose with significant wave
433 height and peak direction for the period.

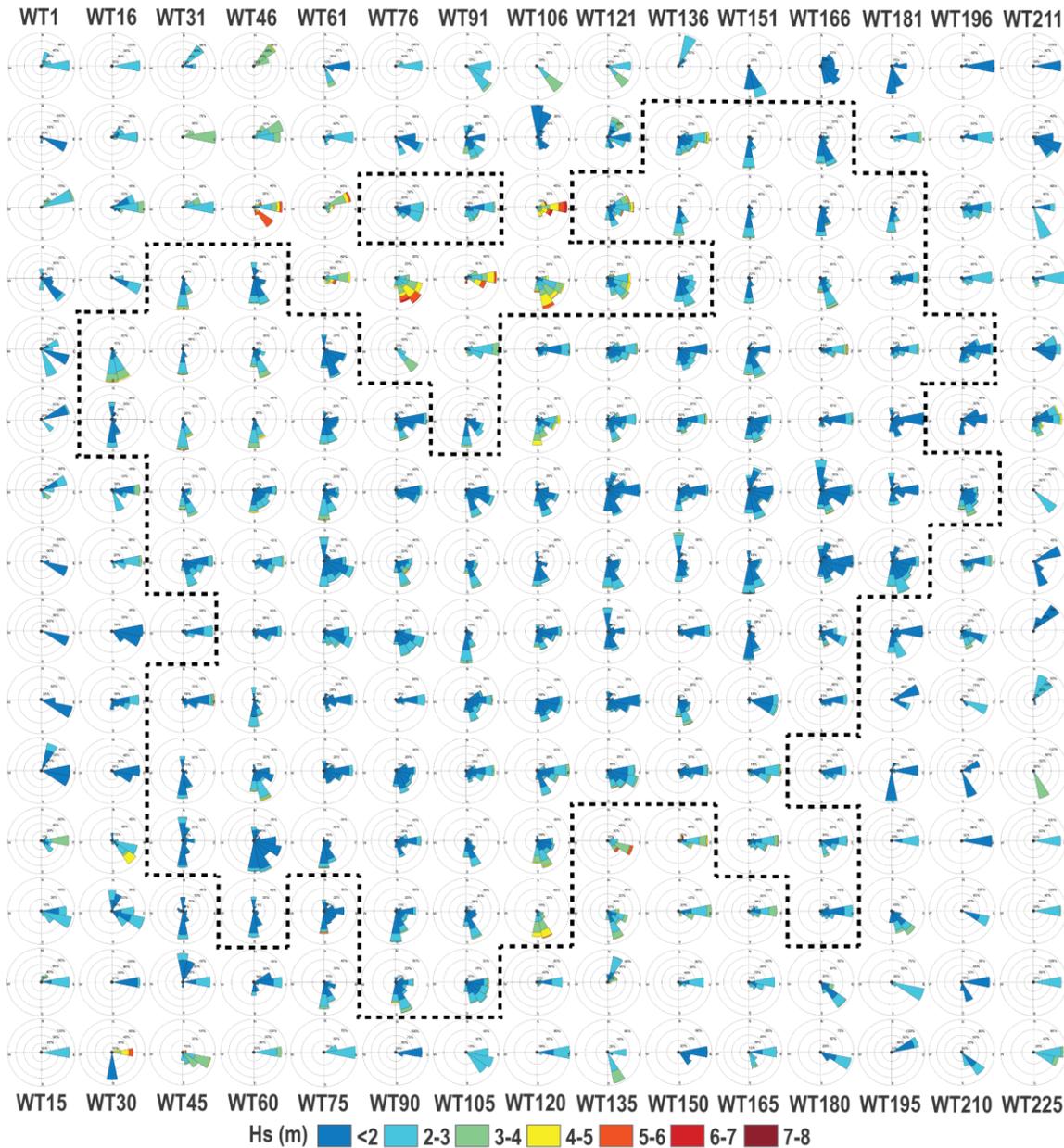
434 Storm event 1: Figure 5a shows the most recent significant HB event in Fingal Head that
435 occurred in February 2019 due to the passage of Tropical Cyclone Oma. From the 17 February,
436 TC Oma started migrating southwest from Vanuatu towards the Queensland coast in Australia
437 (Figure 5a). Until the 21 February, TC Oma's position generated waves approaching the study
438 area from the E-NE (60-90°) corresponding to about 70% of the wave direction variability of the
439 event, and with 56% of the offshore Hs ranging between 1 and 2 m and about 23% between 2
440 and 4 m. On 22 and 23 February, TC Oma reached the position represented by WT48, located
441 between 25° and 30°S and began transitioning to a Subtropical Cyclone. During these two days,
442 the wave direction shifted to SE (130-150°) comprising 27% of the total variability from the
443 eight days period, while offshore Hs varied between 4 and 6 m, constituting about 20% of the
444 wave height distribution. Then, on the 24 February TC Oma began to dissipate whilst migrating
445 northeast.

446 Storm event 2: In January 2018, a bypassing event was triggered due to the migration of a low-
447 pressure system into the Southern Tasman Sea (WT 82 and 68 in Figure 5b). It continued
448 moving along the Southeast Australian Coast until it reached 30-35°S and persisted in this
449 location between 14 and 16 January, represented by WTs 174 and 118. About 90% of the wave
450 direction distribution during this event occurred between S-SE (150-180°), and the highest Hs
451 values were observed on 16 January (WT 118) exceeding 5 m. The wave height, however,
452 decreased fast as the low-pressure system migrated southeast towards New Zealand (WT 37) and
453 then decayed.

454 Storm event 3: Weather type 118 and 37 were also observed in the storm event that initiated the
455 HB around Fingal in March 2017, however, the low-pressure system was initially formed over
456 the Southeast Australian Coast and then moved offshore (Figure 5c). The low-pressure system
457 persisted over the Tasman Sea (WT 118) from 6 to 10 March, generating S-SE (145-170°) waves

458 that constituted over 70% of the wave direction distribution of this event. During these four days,
 459 the offshore H_s varied between 3 and 5 m which corresponds to about 50% of the wave height
 460 variability. From the 11 to 15 of March, the wave height decreased, and wave direction oscillated
 461 between E-SE. A low-pressure system was observed to form over the coast and moved
 462 southward (WT 97) on the 13 March, but it does not consolidate (Figure 5c).

463

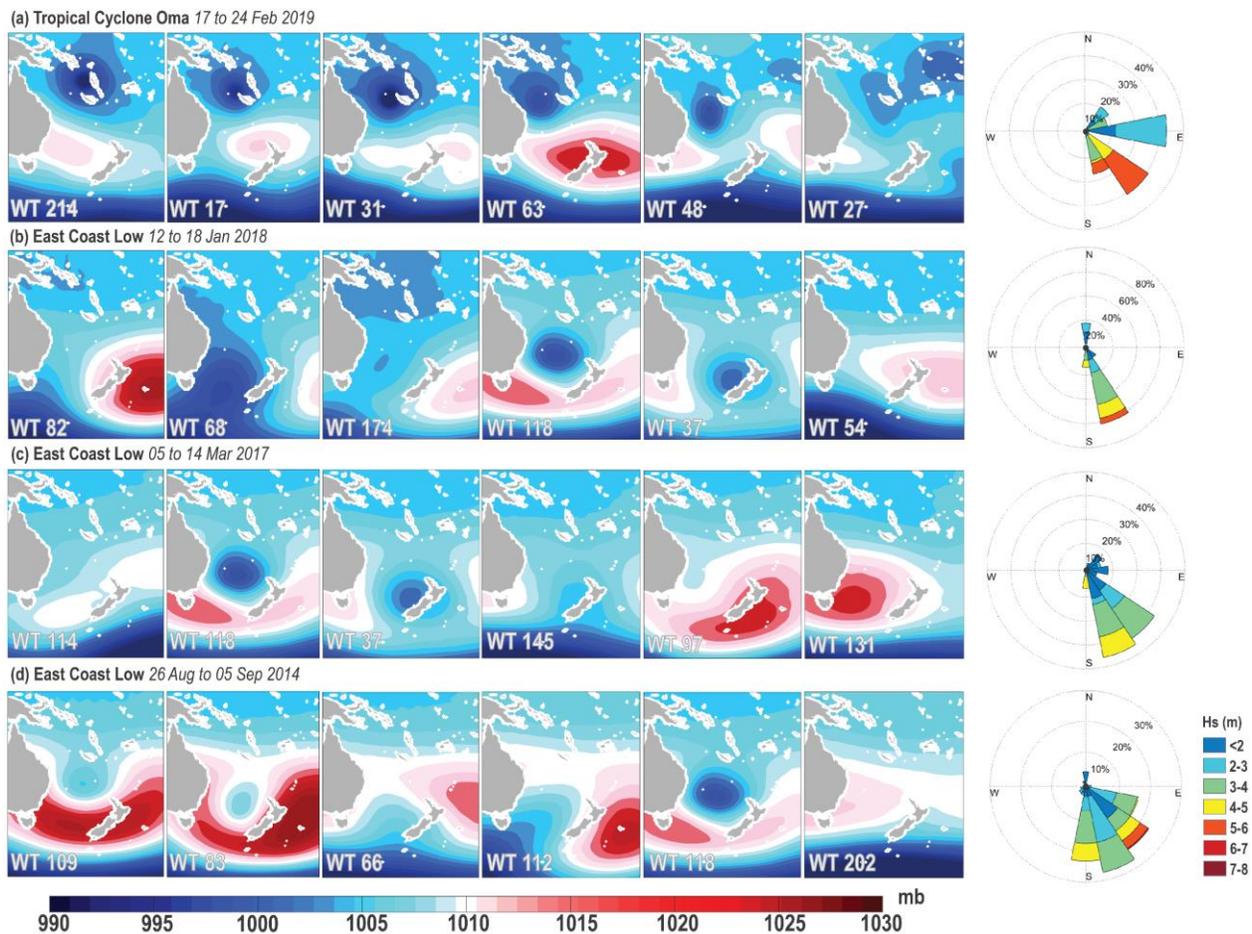


464

465 **Figure 4.** Significant wave height (meters) and peak direction (North at the top, East at the right,
 466 South at the bottom, West at the left side of the wave rose) associated to each WT. Distribution
 467 of wave roses along the matrix follows the WT lattice distribution. Black dashed line contours
 468 the WTs that occurred 50 or more days over the 33 years.

469 Storm event 4: The last storm event selected occurred between August and September 2014
 470 (Figure 5d). A low-pressure system formed at the boundary of the Coral and Tasman Seas (WT
 471 109) and started migrating south into the central Tasman Sea to approximately 35°S (WT 83).
 472 During the transition between WT 109 and 83 on 27-28 August, offshore Hs peaked at values
 473 between 4 and 6 m (representing 13% of the wave height variability) and SE wave direction was
 474 prevailing, ranging between 120 and 140°. The low-pressure system continued its track over the
 475 Tasman Sea and reached a location that is characterized by WT 118 (Figure 5d) between 3 and 4
 476 September. The wave direction shifted rapidly to the south (180-200°) and Hs increased to about
 477 4 m at this time. After that, the storm event dissipated (Figure 5d) and wave height diminished.
 478 Overall, during the full storm period, E to S-SE waves represented 70% of the wave direction
 479 variability, while wave heights were mostly (79%) between 1 and 3.5 m.

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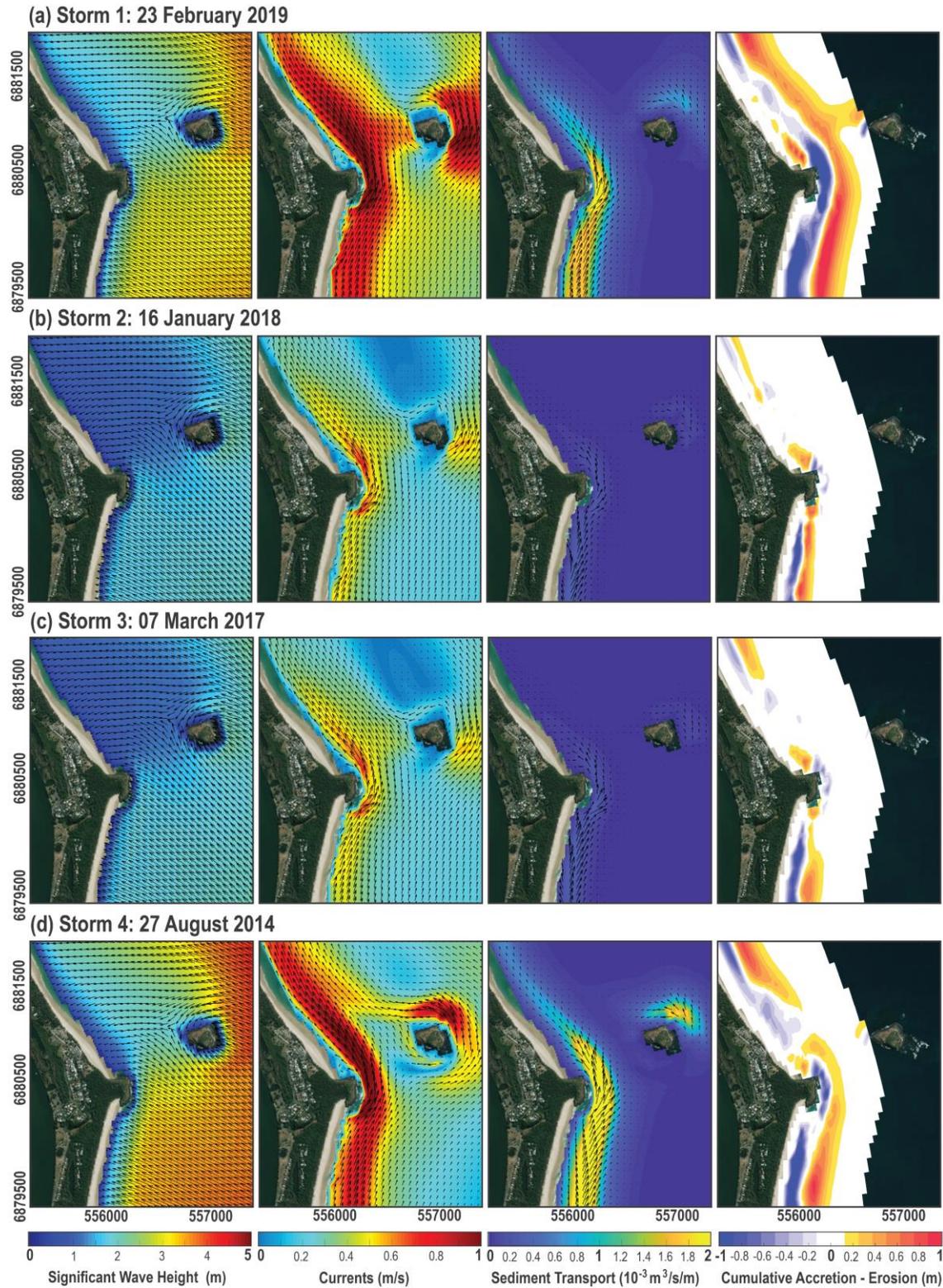
482 **Figure 5.** Four selected storm events. (a) February 2019 event (Tropical Cyclone Oma)
 483 represented during the sequence of days by WTs 214, 17, 31, 63, 48 and 27. (b) January 2018
 484 event represented by WTs 82, 68, 174, 118, 37, and 54. (c) March 2017 event represented by
 485 WTs 114, 118, 37, 145, 97 and 131. (d) August – September 2014 event represented by WTs
 486 109, 83, 66, 112, 118 and 202. Sea-level pressure is presented in millibars. Wave roses show the
 487 wave height (m) and direction for each storm event.

488 In order to understand the effect of these atmospheric patterns and associated wave conditions on
489 the sand bypassing around Fingal Head, process-based numerical modelling was applied, and the
490 results are presented in Figure 6 for the peak of each storm event. For TC Oma in 2019, WT 48
491 developed an energetic sea-state in which SE waves approached the study region with 3.5 to 5 m
492 (Figure 6a). Wave attenuation was evident in shallower waters and a large shadow zone (H_s
493 approximately 1 – 1.5 m) occurred to the north of Fingal Head as a result of the wave refraction
494 and diffraction processes happening on the submerged rocky reefs and Cook Island. A strong and
495 wide northward longshore current (over 0.8 m/s) formed within the surf-zone and increased in
496 magnitude at the tip of the headland (Figure 6a). Also, a small recirculation cell occurred
497 downdrift of Fingal Head, which demonstrates a process by which sediment accumulation occurs
498 in this region (Figure 6a). The wave and current characteristics of this event led to intense
499 sediment transport around the headland, as evidenced by the offshore sandbar (Figure 6a).

500 WT 118 generated high energy S-SE waves offshore in 2017 and 2018, however, both swell
501 events showed waves approaching the study region with about half of the offshore H_s (< 2.5 m)
502 (Figure 6b,c). These events triggered HB with a considerably weaker northward longshore
503 current (0.3 to 0.5 m/s) compared to TC Oma 2019, although the currents intensified when
504 passing by the headland (Figure 6b,c). The reduced sediment transport condition led to the
505 formation of a narrower sandbar that connected to the updrift side of Fingal Head (Figure 6b,c).
506 Then, sediment leaked around the headland and deposited on the downdrift side, where a small
507 recirculation cell was also observed (Figure 6b,c). Interestingly, both the 2017 and 2018 storm
508 events were followed by a second high-energy wave episode. In 2018, the second event occurred
509 on 31 January – 1 February with offshore H_s up to 3.5 m and SE (120-140°) wave direction,
510 which approached the coast with a H_s of about 2 - 2.5 m, influencing the formation of a
511 northward longshore current around the headland (see results in Supplementary Material Figure
512 5). In 2017, the second storm event occurred on 30 to 31 March with southerly (180°) waves
513 reaching 5.5 m offshore, but approaching the coast at about 2 m. These conditions were
514 sufficient to form a northward longshore current that supported the sandbar migration slightly
515 offshore and around the headland (Supplementary Material Figure 5), providing continuity to the
516 HB process that started about 15-20 days before.

517 Lastly, WTs 83 and 109 generated offshore SE waves of up to 6 m, which reached the study area
518 with H_s of about 4.5 to 5 m (Figure 6d). Similar to the other events, a shadow zone was observed
519 in the Fingal Beach region with wave heights decreasing to about 1.5 m. This storm event
520 generated a strong northward longshore current (> 0.8 m/s), however the current was not as wide
521 as the currents that were formed in 2019 (Figure 6a,d). Sediment transport around the headland
522 occurred through an offshore sandbar (Figure 6d), which was reinforced by the wave and current
523 conditions generated during the rapid development of WT 118 a couple of days later. Finally, the
524 small recirculation cell and sediment deposit downdrift of the headland, which were constant
525 features of the HB in this location, are also observed in the 2014 event (Figure 6d).

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Figure 6. Waves (m), currents (m/s), sediment transport ($10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}/\text{m}$) and cumulative accretion and erosion (m) model results for each of the selected storm events: (a) February 2019, (b) January 2018, (c) March 2017 and (d) August-September 2014.

531 4.3. Weather Types Long-term Variability and Related Climate Drivers

532 The weather types related to storm events that have triggered recent headland bypassing (WT 48,
 533 WT 83, WT 109, 118 and WT 174) account for a total of 256 days over the 33 years of analysis
 534 (about 2 % of all the WTs variability) within 133 distinct events (single occurrences or multiple
 535 consecutive days) (Table 2). A clear seasonal distinction is observed in their occurrence with
 536 WTs 48 and 174 occurring entirely during summer and autumn months while WTs 83, 109 and
 537 118 have about 80% of their occurrences from late autumn to early spring (April to October).
 538 Among the 133 events within the total period, 27 (23 and the four selected) events generated
 539 wave conditions similar to the storms that triggered HB (with offshore Hs > 3.5 m and primary
 540 wave direction from the S-SE). In association with these WTs, some other systems have been
 541 recurrently observed such as WT 63 (a preceding stage for WT 48), WT 67 (an ECL preceding
 542 WT 118), WT 79 (a low pressure system moving south along the QLD coast and preceding WT
 543 109 and 174), WT 111 (an ECL formation usually related to WT 109 and 118), WT 112 (a low
 544 pressure in the Southern Tasman Sea related to WT 109 and 118), WT 117 (a low pressure in the
 545 center of the Tasman Sea observed succeeding WT 83 and 118). Some other WTs as WT 20, 37,
 546 50, 51, 98, 128 and 133 are also detected towards the end of the storm events considered here as
 547 the low-pressure systems migrate towards New Zealand.

548 **Table 2.** Weather Types related to the recent bypassing events. The table presents the total
 549 number of days that each WT occurred and the number of events it constituted. In the last
 550 column, the S-SE high energy storm events associated with the WTs are identified.

551

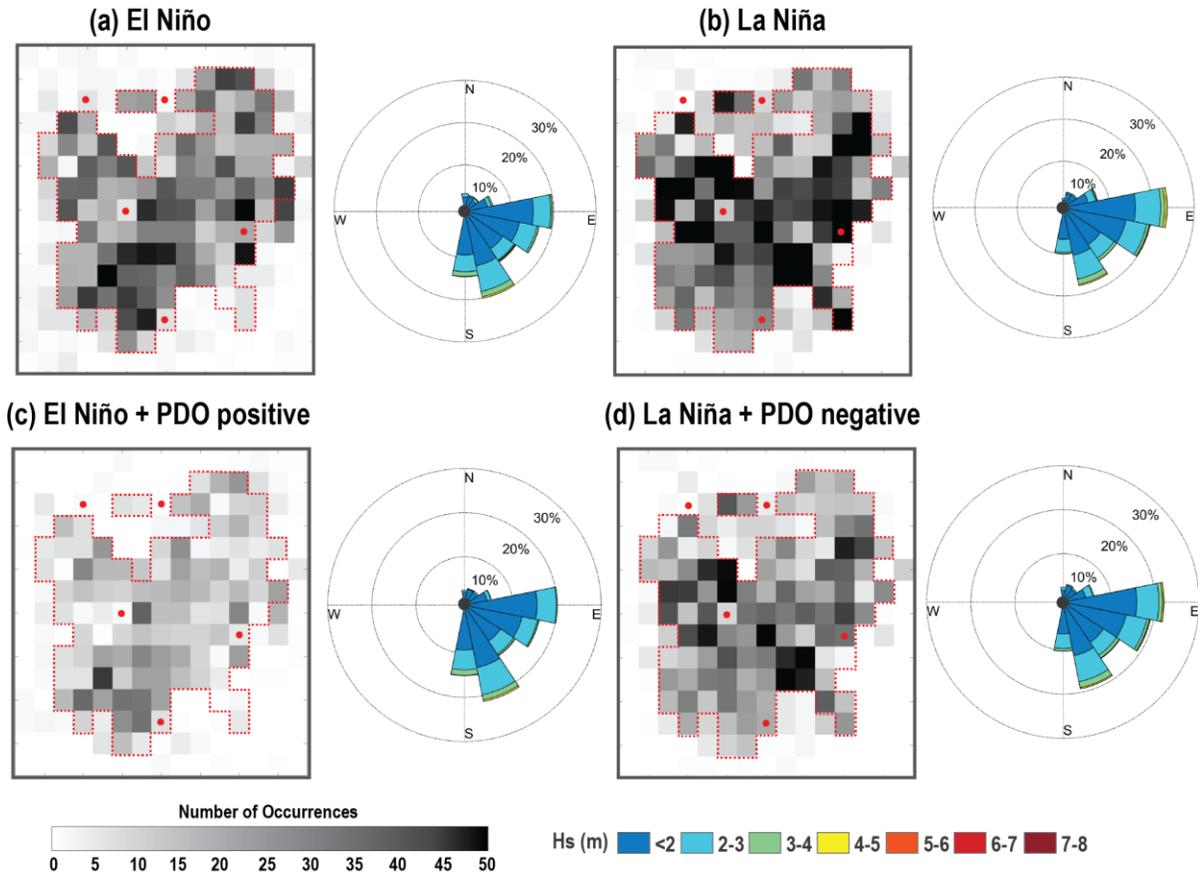
<i>WT</i>	<i>Total Days</i>	<i>Total Events</i>	<i>Identified S-SE Storm Wave Events</i>
48	6	5	Jan-Feb 92, Feb 19
83	35	19	Aug 89, Aug 14
109	48	34	Jun 89, Jul 89, Oct 90, Jul-Aug 93, May 96, Jul 00, May 03, Aug 06, Jun 08, Apr 09, Jul 12, Aug 14
118	54	30	Feb 99, Apr 99, Jul 99, May 05, Jul 07, Apr 09, Jul 11, Jun 12, Aug 12, Sep 14, Mar 17, Jan 18, Jul 20
174	113	45	Feb 88, Jan 18

552

553 Of these 27 storm events with potential to cause HB, about 50% (13) have occurred during
 554 ENSO (SOI index) neutral months, while the other events have been observed both during El
 555 Niño (8 events) and La Niña (6) phases. Considering just these selected events it is not possible
 556 to distinguish the influence of ENSO phases, however by evaluating the entire WT lattice
 557 (Figure 7a,b) it is noticeable that there is a distinction in the number of occurrences of each WT
 558 as a function of ENSO variability. In general, El Niño accentuates the occurrence of some WTs
 559 that are typically observed during winter and spring (Figure 3c) such as WT 71, 88, 98, 100, 102,
 560 103, 113, amongst others, that represent high pressure systems extending over a large part of the
 561 Tasman Sea and tend to be displaced northward. As a consequence, S-SE (135 to 180°) waves
 562 occur slightly more often (48%) than the E-NE to E-SE (67.5 to 135°) component (42%), and
 563 this difference increases for waves higher than 3.5 m with 73% approaching from the S-SE

564 (Figure 7a). Examples of WTs generating storm waves during El Niño events are WT 27, 45 and
 565 48 (Figure 3a and Figure 4), the latter being the weather pattern identified during Tropical
 566 Cyclone Oma.

567



568

569 **Figure 7.** Number of occurrences of each weather type and the correspondent wave roses for
 570 periods of El Niño (a), La Niña (b), combined El Niño with PDO Positive (c), and La Niña with
 571 PDO negative (d). Red dashed line contours the WTs that occurred 50 or more days over the 33
 572 years. Red dots indicate the five WTs associated with headland bypassing.

573 For La Niña phases (Figure 7b), the WT occurrence distribution resembles the variability for
 574 summer and autumn months (Figure 3c), such as WT 54, 69, 131, 170, 184, 185, among others.
 575 These WTs are characterized by a high pressure dislocated southward and frequently extending
 576 into the Pacific Ocean (Figure 3a, e.g., WT 185). Due to these characteristics, the easterly wave
 577 component (E-NE to E-SE) contributes 51% of the total variability while S-SE waves represent
 578 42% (Figure 7b). In relation to waves with higher Hs (> 3.5 m), 59% correspond to waves from
 579 the E-NE to E-SE and 41% from the S-SE, which is not as discrepant as observed for El Niño
 580 periods. Some of the WTs generating storm waves during La Niña phases are WT 63, 64 and 94
 581 (with over 50% of their occurrences during La Niña) representing intense low pressures moving
 582 south in the Coral Sea (Figure 3a) and producing severe storm waves (Hs >5 m) from a more
 583 easterly direction (Figure 4).

584 The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is considered a long-lived ENSO phase (Johnson et al.,
585 2020) and it has been observed to oscillate in synchronicity with long periods of accretion and
586 erosion on the beaches adjacent to Fingal Head, in particular when co-incident with ENSO
587 periods (Silva et al., 2021a). Results for the number of occurrences with respect to PDO cycles
588 were similar to the observed variability during ENSO phases. To verify if a co-existence of these
589 climate drivers could potentialize the occurrence of some atmospheric patterns, the WTs
590 occurring during both PDO positive (negative) and El Niño (La Niña) were identified (Figure
591 7c,d). For PDO positive combined with El Niño phases, WTs 71, 98, 100 and 102 were most
592 representative (Figure 3a). The general wave condition was observed to be similar to the El Niño
593 only phases, but the percentage of waves with $H_s > 3.5$ m increased to about 95% from the S-SE
594 direction (Figure 7c). On the other hand, for the PDO negative phase and La Niña combination
595 the WTs with a greater number of occurrences are WT114, 131 and 145 (Figure 3a). The
596 atmospheric patterns occurring during these periods generate storm waves with an equal
597 percentage (50%) for both E-SE ($90 - 135^\circ$) and S-SE ($160 - 180^\circ$) directions (Figure 7d).

598 **5 Discussion**

599 5.1. The Headland Bypassing Mechanism around Fingal Head

600 Some studies have used process-based numerical modelling to investigate headland bypassing in
601 idealized scenarios (Ab Razak, 2015; George et al., 2019) or real-life headlands (Vieira da Silva
602 et al., 2016b, 2017, 2018a, 2021; Valiente et al., 2019, 2020; King et al., 2021) with the primary
603 focus of isolating specific parameters and understanding their influence on the HB process.
604 Overall, modelling sediment transport around a headland has been a challenging task (Klein et
605 al., 2020), and especially if the purpose is to develop morphological simulations. In this sense,
606 this study has contributed a first step into deriving through modelling the morphological changes
607 that occur when a bypassing pulse is triggered. More importantly, these results show that the
608 distinct bypassing pulses proposed by Silva et al. (2021a) can be initiated with marginally
609 different storm wave characteristics.

610 George et al. (2019), for instance, developed a numerical model of sediment transport using
611 idealized scenarios in order to categorize some controlling factors of the HB mechanism. The
612 analysis showed that large and oblique waves generated more transport than smaller and oblique
613 waves or large waves at a shore-normal angle (George et al., 2019). The present study
614 corroborates George et al. (2019) findings showing that large waves (offshore H_s of around 6 m
615 and T_p of 10-11 s), at the peak of the storms (2014 and 2019 events) and in an oblique direction
616 to the coast (SE, around 130 to 140°) reached the headland with 2.5 m H_s and a direction of 110
617 to 120° , which resulted in strong northward longshore currents (of about 1 m/s), high suspended
618 sediment transport (of about $4 - 5 \times 10^{-3}$ m³/s/m) and bed load transport (of about 10×10^{-5}
619 m³/s/m). On the other hand, the results for the storm events in 2017 and 2018 showed also that
620 high offshore waves (with H_s of about 5 m and T_p of 13 s) but from a more southerly direction
621 (160 - 165°) reached the headland with 1.5 m H_s and 110 to 120° angle. The wave height
622 attenuation impacted on the intensity of the longshore current (of about 0.3 – 0.4 m/s), the
623 suspended sediment transport (of about $3.5 - 6 \times 10^{-5}$ m³/s/m) and the bed load transport (of
624 about 20×10^{-6} m³/s/m).

625 More interestingly, the high energy storm events from the SE presented similar values of bed
626 load and suspended transport at all observation points (updrift, in front of the headland and
627 downdrift; see Figure 1), while the storm events from the south (Figure 6b,c) presented bed load

628 and suspended transport of one order of magnitude higher on the downdrift compared to the
629 headland and updrift points. This suggests that the wave attenuation changed the category of
630 bypassing (George et al., 2019; Klein et al., 2020) from an unconstrained bypassing – where
631 there is virtually no difference between downdrift and updrift sediment transport – to a bed
632 eroded bypassing when the sediment transport is larger around the downdrift shoulder of the
633 headland implying the occurrence of erosion in front of the headland (Figure 6). Considering the
634 proposed bypassing concept around Fingal Head (Silva et al., 2021a) and the present findings,
635 the sandbar bypassing is clearly represented by two modes: the 2014 and 2019 storms showed an
636 unconstrained sediment flux through the wide surf-zone and the 2017 and 2018 storms presented
637 a leaking bypassing process which pushes the sediment deposited at the tip of the headland
638 towards the downdrift beach.

639 A final consideration in terms of the HB mechanism is the difference of the directional range of
640 the selected storm events. While the 2014 and 2019 storms (Figure 5a,d and Figure 6a,d) have a
641 broader distribution of wave directions during the storm event, the 2017 and 2018 storms (Figure
642 5b,c and Figure 6b,c) have 70 to 90% of the waves during the storm event from the S-SE
643 directional range. The sequencing of wave direction influencing a HB process has been observed
644 before in multiple locations (Vieira da Silva et al., 2018a; Wishaw et al., 2021), but focused on
645 the full completion of the bypassing pulse. Here, it was observed that there is a potential
646 relevance of the variability of wave direction during a storm event influencing the type and
647 magnitude of the HB pulse. The hypothesis is that the easterly wave component preceding the
648 peak of the storm mobilizes sediment offshore and the oblique SE waves promote the downdrift
649 movement as evidenced by the extension of the sandbar. However, to confirm this theory, a more
650 focused study on modelling the HB process and evaluating the evolution of the storm events is
651 needed.

652 5.2. Weather Types inducing Headland Bypassing

653 The weather types obtained in this study and their temporal variability are in general agreement
654 with the atmospheric patterns previously described for the Tasman-Coral Seas region
655 (Drosowsky, 2005; Chand et al., 2019; Dowdy et al., 2019). Overall, the anticyclonic high-
656 pressure (or subtropical ridge) dominates the spatial distribution of the SLP fields (e.g., Figure
657 3), particularly influencing their seasonal variability. Extensive latitudinal migrations and
658 changes in intensity are observed for the anti-cyclones throughout the year with the most
659 southward (northward) position and less (more) intensity of its center during summer (winter)
660 (Drosowsky, 2005). This latitudinal displacement of the high-pressure systems influences the
661 wave generation zones in the study region and produces a more easterly (southerly) mean wave
662 direction during summer (winter) months (Shand et al., 2010; Mortlock and Goodwin, 2015;
663 Silva et al., 2021b). Autumn months showed the largest variability of WTs which results from
664 the transitioning position of the anti-cyclone (Drosowsky, 2005) allowing the migration of
665 Tropical Cyclones to the south and the low-pressure systems (e.g. ECLs) along the coast to the
666 north. Within this condition, wave generation occurs over a wider area of the Coral-Tasman Sea
667 (Silva et al., 2021b) and with higher waves, on average, reaching the study region (Shand et al.,
668 2010).

669 The WTs also well-represent the large variety of extreme events (Figure 3) that are formed over
670 the Coral-Tasman Sea, in agreement with previous studies (Rueda, 2013; Chand et al., 2019;
671 Dowdy et al., 2019). Among these atmospheric patterns, strong low-pressure systems that are
672 positioned near the coast between 25 and 35°S (mid-latitudes) have the potential to generate

673 headland bypassing around Fingal Head. These events can be originated from Tropical Cyclones
674 that migrate south, becoming a post-tropical cyclone (Dowdy et al., 2019). The southward TC
675 tracks are less frequent than TC tracks over the northern part of the Coral Sea (Chand et al.,
676 2019), but have happened a few times in the past (Gray et al., 2020). For instance, in the summer
677 of 1992, two successive TCs (TC Betsy 6-13 January and TC Daman 15-18 February) moved
678 south along the Queensland coast approaching a position represented by WT48 (similar to TC
679 Oma). Both events presented waves from the E to S-SE which reached 3.5 to 4.5 m Hs, leading
680 to a HB pulse at Fingal Head according to the shoreline dataset from Silva et al. (2021a). In
681 March 1993, TC Roger triggered headland bypassing while it migrated from the Solomon Islands
682 towards 25°S near Fraser Island (QLD). The WTs associated with this 10-day event follow the
683 sequence of WT 198, 63, 108, 131, 99 (Figure 3a). All of them present a range of incident wave
684 direction from the E-NE to S-SE, with the peak of the storm (Hs of up to 6 m) having wave
685 direction of about 90-100° followed by several days with waves over 1.5 m from the S-SE. In
686 March 1995, TC Violet (represented by WTs 79 and 174) generated SE waves of up to 5 m of Hs
687 while migrating southward along the coast to about 30°S, which led to another bypassing pulse.
688 In March 2004, TC Grace (characterised by WTs 94 and 64) moved south along the coast and
689 underwent extratropical transition, generating waves from the E-SE of about 2 to 4 m, triggering
690 a pulse of headland bypassing at Fingal Head.

691 On the other hand, severe TCs that crossed the coast in Southeast Queensland and Northern
692 NSW such as TC Nancy (Jan-Feb 1990) and TC Oswald (Jan 2013) (Gray et al., 2020) did not
693 trigger a bypassing pulse as these low-pressure systems moved too close or over the coast
694 producing high energy E-NE waves. TC Debbie in March 2017 was also a remarkable coastal-
695 crossing TC, causing landfall over Brisbane (QLD) region. However, different from the above
696 mentioned TCs, TC Debbie actually moved back offshore as a strong low-pressure system and
697 reinforced the already triggered bypassing of early March 2017 (Figure 5c and Figure 6c). Note
698 that weather type clusters do not represent the transformation of these TCs over land as sea-level
699 pressure variability over the continents was neglected from the principal component analysis.

700 East Coast Lows are another class of intense low-pressure systems that can occur near the mid-
701 latitudes offshore the East Australian coast (Dowdy et al., 2019). These atmospheric systems are
702 very diverse in terms of cyclogenesis, structure and temporal variability (Browning and
703 Goodwin, 2013; Dowdy et al., 2019). WTs 67, 80, 83, 109, 111, 117, 118 and 174 represent
704 some of the more common examples of these atmospheric patterns. Silva et al. (2021a) suggested
705 some potential bypassing events based on the sandbar position offshore, from which nine were
706 related to ECLs generating S-SE (150 to 180°) storm waves higher than 3.5 m, such as Feb 1988
707 (WT174), June 1989 (WTs 109, 111 and 117), October 1990 (WTs 109, 111), March 1998 (WTs
708 108 and 111), July 1999 (WTs 111 and 118), May 2003 (WT 109), May 2005 (WTs 111, 117,
709 118), July 2011 (WTs 67 and 118), July-Aug 2012 (WTs 109 and 118). Among these events, the
710 most common WTs were 109, 111, 117 and 118 that represent a low pressure centered at 30 to
711 35°S with associated strong high-pressure systems to the south. Additionally, the storms
712 mentioned above were reasonably long-lived events with some lasting for over a week, whereas
713 ECLs are known for being explosive systems that intensify rapidly and last only for few days
714 (Dowdy et al., 2019). Finally, as for the Tropical Cyclones, some ECL events are well-known for
715 causing high wind damage, intense erosion, and flooding in coastal cities which may not
716 necessarily be related to headland bypassing. For example, the June 2016 ECL represented by
717 WTs 111 and 67 produced E-NE storm waves that led to severe erosion of Southeastern
718 Australia beaches (Harley et al., 2017), but it was not as significant for the Northern NSW region

719 including Dreamtime and Fingal beaches due to the limited fetch of the wind-generated waves in
720 the north of the region.

721 In total 19 storm events are presented here that were related to shoreline and/or sandbar changes
722 in the study region concurrent with some of the relevant WTs identified over the 33-year period.
723 Although it is expected that these are not the only events that have triggered HB or had the
724 potential to produce a sand pulse at Fingal Head (e.g., Table 1), they have provided some
725 distinguishable characteristics that support the development of an understanding of how
726 bypassing events were initiated in the past and what they had in common. Overall, the few TCs
727 leading to HB occurred between February and March and during the accretionary periods in the
728 study area (1992 to 1996, 2004 to 2007 and 2014 to 2020) (Silva et al., 2021a). Conversely, the
729 ECLs inducing bypassing listed above occurred mainly between May and July and coincided
730 with the periods where the updrift beach was eroded (1988 to 1990, 1997 to 2003, and 2009 to
731 2013) (Silva et al., 2021a). This implies that the atmospheric patterns related to HB at Fingal
732 Head could occur anytime. However, it also suggests that TC-related bypassing requires more
733 sediment availability and likely leads to larger volumes of sand transported such as during TC
734 Oma (Figure 6a); whereas the ECLs can produce HB pulses with lower volumes of sand being
735 transported around the headland such as the events in 2017 and 2018 (Figure 6b,c).

736 Lastly, the WTs identified to be pertinent for HB did not show evident links to ENSO and PDO
737 phases. Studies of TC genesis and frequency for the Coral Sea and Southwest Pacific have
738 shown that La Niña phases tend to have an above-average number of TCs per season
739 approaching the far south of the Queensland coast (Chand et al., 2019). This occurs as a function
740 of a displacement of the South Pacific Convergence Zone (SPCZ) towards the southwest
741 influencing the dislocation of the cyclogenetic regions (Brown et al., 2020). However, from the
742 few TC events observed migrating south and identified as generating bypassing, three were
743 during strong El Niño months and two during transition to La Niña, which does not suggest any
744 obvious connection with these climate drivers. In fact, for this number of events, it is not
745 statistically possible to develop any relationship. The same applies to ECL events which are
746 already described in the literature as having only discrete connections to ENSO phases (Dowdy
747 et al., 2019) with a potential increase in occurrence during transitioning periods between strong
748 El Niño to strong La Niña (Hopkins and Holland, 1997). Altogether, it might not be possible to
749 distinguish the climate driver that specifically induces the occurrence of the WTs that have
750 triggered bypassing, but a distinct long-term variability of the shoreline position near Fingal
751 Head exists and it is correspondent to multiannual to decadal cycles of ENSO and PDO (Silva et
752 al., 2021a). Hence, it is likely that the cyclicity of headland bypassing around Fingal Head is
753 driven by the long-term sediment availability updrift.

754 Klein et al. (2020) stated that sediment availability is a key factor for the HB process as it
755 influences the net long-term magnitude of the sand pulse. However, sediment accumulation
756 updrift of the headland is dependent on a persistent oblique wave climate intensifying the
757 longshore sediment transport (Ribeiro, 2017). In the present study, it was observed that El Niño
758 and the PDO positive phase reinforce the winter-like WTs and southerly wave component, while
759 La Niña and the PDO negative phase present the opposite pattern with more WT characteristics
760 of the typical summer-autumn period. These conditions are expected to have a substantial
761 influence on the northward longshore transport (Splinter et al., 2012) and therefore explain the
762 shoreline variability observed by Silva et al. (2021a) – i.e. positive (negative) PDO phases and

763 long periods of El Niño (La Niña) corresponding to a more accreted (eroded) upper beach updrift
764 of Fingal Head.

765 5.3. Potential for Headland Bypassing under Climate Projections

766 Climate change is altering the atmospheric circulation, the teleconnection patterns, and
767 consequently, the wave climate (Hemer et al., 2013; Reguero et al., 2019). For the Eastern
768 Australia Coast, predictions of latitudinal changes of the subtropical ridge (Drosowsky 2005;
769 Grose et al., 2015), displacements of the SPCZ (Brown et al., 2020), and variability of the
770 tropical and extratropical cyclones frequencies (Dowdy et al., 2013; Chand et al., 2019; Speer et
771 al., 2021) have been alarming for the impacts and associated uncertainties on wave power
772 (Odériz et al., 2021), wave direction (Lobeto et al., 2021), sediment transport (Vieira da Silva et
773 al., 2021; Zarifsanayei et al., 2022), and ultimately, the local coastal processes and shoreline.

774 The findings from this study showed that Tropical Cyclones and East Coast Lows are necessary
775 to trigger a bypassing pulse in Fingal Head, although the headland may “leak” sand under modal
776 wave conditions if the updrift beach is fully accreted (Silva et al., 2021a). Projections for TC
777 activity in the East Australia region indicate a trend towards fewer cyclones in particular over the
778 peak season (Dowdy, 2014; Chand et al., 2019). On the other hand, several studies have
779 suggested a poleward migration of the TC genesis and location of maximum intensity (Kossin et
780 al., 2014; Daloz and Camargo, 2018; Shan and Yu, 2020), which result from the tropical
781 expansion (Yang et al., 2020). If the updrift beach has enough sediment supply, fewer and
782 southerly dislocated TC tracks, as predicted, could potentialize HB at Fingal Head, such as
783 during the TC Oma event where one TC triggered a large bypassing pulse during that season. On
784 the contrary, if TC occurrences increase, it could enhance upper beach erosion and not facilitate
785 the bypassing pulse completion which requires less energetic sea states (Wishaw et al., 2020;
786 Silva et al., 2021a). Another variable for the future scenarios is the proximity of the cyclones to
787 the coast during the TC migration, since it was observed that TCs that crossed the coast were not
788 efficient in developing sand bypassing at Fingal Head.

789 For the ECLs, trends and future projections are unclear as these systems have large spatial and
790 temporal variability which leads to inconsistencies in the historical records (Dowdy et al., 2019).
791 Dowdy et al. (2013) suggested that a decrease in the number of winter ECLs could occur along
792 the east coast of Australia from around 20 to 30°S. Speer et al. (2021) found that three ECLs had
793 a maximum intensity near 28°S during 1970-1994, but this pattern has moved south to about
794 34°S, 153°E since 1995. Overall, the uncertainties in ECL trends make it difficult to provide any
795 estimate of how they would impact the coastal processes. However, if these systems are being
796 dislocated to higher latitudes, it is likely that a reduction in HB pulses triggered by ECLs would
797 occur, as for the example of WT 67 that characterises the June 2016 ECL that led to erosion but
798 no significant bypassing.

799 In addition to the expected variations to the regional atmospheric patterns, the global-scale
800 climate drivers that have been related to long-term sediment availability for the bypassing pulses
801 (Silva et al., 2021a) are also subject to future changes. Over the last 50 years ENSO extremes
802 have been significantly stronger (Grothe et al., 2020) and a recent study showed that El Niño
803 events might develop faster and persist over longer periods (Lopez et al., 2022). These
804 projections could indicate a potential for longer periods of sediment availability updrift of Fingal
805 Head. At the same time, models have shown an increase in strong El Niño to La Niña transitions
806 (Chen et al., 2017; Lopez et al., 2022) and overall wave projections have suggested that a more

807 La Niña-like mean state would dominate the wave climate in Eastern Australia (Hemer et al.,
808 2013). In that case, erosive periods would also be intensified at Dreamtime Beach. Finally, PDO
809 predictability has been suggested to reduce under a warming climate (Li et al., 2020), which does
810 not satisfy any potential prediction of future changes in sediment availability due to this driver.

811 In summary, considering all uncertainties associated with the trends and projections of
812 atmospheric patterns and climate indices discussed, linear trends towards either more or less
813 bypassing are not likely to occur within the scope of current climate projections. In fact, it could
814 be expected that the cyclicity of the HB process will be maintained but the magnitude will be
815 intensified, as a consequence of the potential for more extreme ENSO phases and the spatial
816 variability of the relevant atmospheric systems. In other words, the periodic accretion resulting
817 from longer lasting El Niño's can provide sediment for larger bypassing pulses under the
818 influence of the southward position of TCs, whereas the transition to strong La Niña phases can
819 lead to dramatic subsequent erosive periods. Altogether, putting this in the context of the
820 challenges for shoreline predictions (Splinter and Coco, 2021), it becomes evident that climate
821 projections cannot be translated linearly to local coastal processes. While global-scale wave
822 forecasting based on climate scenarios can be linked to general shoreline trends, this knowledge
823 needs to be much more refined in order to reproduce the complexity of local scale coastal
824 processes and better inform coastal management decision-making.

825 **6 Conclusions**

826 Using weather type clustering techniques and process-based numerical modelling, this study
827 identified the synoptic systems that have generated the ideal wave conditions to trigger
828 bypassing pulses around Fingal Head (New South Wales, Australia). Overall, results showed that
829 the occurrence of the specific weather types could support different bypassing mechanisms, but it
830 is the long-term sediment availability that controls the multiannual to decadal cycles of headland
831 bypassing. Furthermore, this study aimed at disentangling the relationship between large-scale
832 climate drivers, atmospheric systems, waves and a local coastal process, which effectively
833 highlighted the complexity of conceptualizing headland bypassing and predicting its occurrence.

834 Tropical Cyclones and East Coast Lows approaching mid-latitudes (30°S) are necessary to
835 initially develop a bypassing pulse in the study area. However, not every TC or ECL migrating
836 towards this zone is able to trigger a HB episode. Some potential influences include the
837 trajectory of these atmospheric systems as it was observed that severe TCs crossing over the
838 coast can lead to massive erosion but no substantial bypassing; persistence of a TC in a particular
839 location which can influence the formation of the appropriate wind fetch for wave generation;
840 and sediment availability on the updrift side of the headland that limits the magnitude of the
841 pulse. Considering all these characteristics, Tropical Cyclone Oma (February 2019) was the
842 precise example of a weather type capable of triggering a large sandbar bypassing event.

843 This study also provides, for the first time, morphological simulations of real-life bypassing
844 pulses. The four selected storm events presented two distinct headland bypassing mechanisms, in
845 agreement with previous literature. The sandbar bypassing mechanism was observed to be a
846 larger sand pulse with an unconstrained characteristic of the sediment transport while the
847 sediment leaking mechanism showed stronger sediment transport on the downdrift compared to
848 the updrift, leading to erosion at the tip of the headland. The offshore waves forcing the models
849 varied from 5-6 m Hs and around 130° wave direction for the sandbar bypassing while for the
850 sand leaking pulse wave heights were 4-5 m and from 160°. All storms reached the study region

851 with SE (110-120°) wave directions, but the more southerly storms had smaller wave heights. In
852 this sense, wave attenuation ultimately led to the distinction between the two bypassing types.

853 Considering the variability of occurrence of the WTs associated with the bypassing events, no
854 trend or significant relation was observed with the selected climate indices (ENSO and PDO).
855 On the other hand, the overall WT lattice showed changes in the number of occurrences of
856 weather types for the distinct phases of these drivers. Positive (negative) PDO phases and El
857 Niño (La Niña) showed a more winter-like (summer-like) atmospheric variability with the high-
858 pressure displaced northward (southward) and, as a consequence, storm wave directions were
859 more common from S-SE (E-SE). Overall, this indicates that positive PDO and El Niño phases
860 have the potential to intensify the longshore transport and provide accretion at Fingal Head's
861 updrift upper beach (Dreamtime Beach), and vice-versa for negative PDO and La Niña events.
862 Therefore, climate drivers are capable of influencing the long-term sediment availability and the
863 low-frequency headland bypassing cycles.

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875 **Open Research**

876 The datasets used in this research are available via their original repositories. The weather type
877 analysis is based on the CFSR dataset available at <https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds093.1/> (1987 to
878 2011) and <https://rda.ucar.edu/datasets/ds094.1/> (2012 to 2021). Wave parameters analyzed in
879 this study are available from CAWCR repository (<https://data.csiro.au/collection/csiro:39819>).
880 Tide series is available at the QLD Government repository
881 (<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/beach/tide-sites>) and the wind series is
882 available at the Bureau of Meteorology – BOM AUS – repository
883 (<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/dwo/IDCJDW4050.latest.shtml>). Regional bathymetry from the
884 Project 3DGBR is freely available at <https://portal.ga.gov.au/persona/marine>. Local bathymetry
885 is available per request and approval by the Tweed Sand Bypassing (TSB), NSW Department of
886 Planning, Industry & Environment and QLD Department of Environment and Science. Weather
887 typing codes are of intellectual property of University of Cantabria (Camus et al., 2014) and are
888 being made available through the TESLA-Kit project (<https://github.com/teslakit/teslakit>).

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