

The largest of the marginal plateaux is the Naturaliste Plateau (Encl. 4). This comprises an east-west trending whale-back feature, lying at water depths between 2500 and 3000 m. The southern slope is relatively steep, forming a marginal scarp slope, but the northern slope shelves gently to oceanic depths. The plateau is partly separated from the southwest tip of Australia by a depression occupied by the continental rise.

The marginal plateaux of the Great Australian Bight show considerable variation in form and internal structure. The Eyre Plateau cannot strictly be considered as a plateau since it is not separated from the shelf by a slope : it is more properly referred to as deeper shelf. It overlies fault blocks with sedimentary fill. The Ceduna and Beachport plateaux are composed of thick wedges of deltaic sediment that have subsided, probably under load. They lie at depths between 500 m and 2000 m and replace the continental rise in areas where they are developed.

The East Tasman Plateau lies at depths of 2800 m-3500 m and is of low relief. As with the Naturaliste Plateau it is a low relief feature, partly separated from east Tasmania by a depression occupied by the continental rise.