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Conservation and Attractions

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## MINIMISING DIEBACK SPREAD YOU CAN HELP

Dieback is spread through the movement of soil and water. Minimising its spread involves the following hygiene measures.

- Know where dieback occurs in areas which you use and avoid these sites wherever possible.
- Remember that all machinery and vehicles have the potential to pick up soil and move it around.
- Avoid driving machinery or other vehicles through creeks or on muddy tracks. Keep to well formed roads.
- Clean down muddy vehicles and equipment before leaving the site or before moving to a new area.
- Use water, compressed air or a brush to clean down.
- Take soil required for construction or roadworks from sites known to be free from dieback.
- Work in dry soil conditions wherever possible.
- Avoid ponding water during any activities involving soil movement.
- Take special care when entering or working within any area of native vegetation.

## DO YOU?

- Own a four wheel drive?
- Regularly travel along dirt roads?
- Cart soil from one place to another?
- Carry water from one place to another?
- Earn income from native vegetation?

If so, then your co-operation is essential in stopping the spread of dieback. Please contact the NSDWP for information on how you can help protect our beautiful native vegetation from this killer fungus.

Contact: The Chairperson  
NSDWP  
PO Box 22  
MUCHEA WA 6501

or phone any CALM office.

Members of the NSDWP are:

Department of Conservation and Land  
Management

RGC Mineral Sands Limited

Main Roads of WA

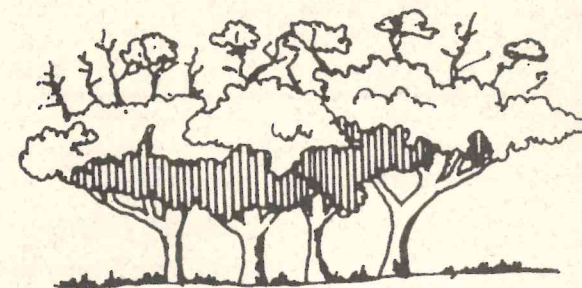
Tiwest Joint Venture

Department of Minerals and Energy

CRA Limited

# DIEBACK IN THE NORTHERN SANDPLAINS

Results and  
recommendations from a  
regional survey  
1992 Edition



THE NORTHERN SANDPLAINS  
DIEBACK WORKING PARTY

## WHAT IS THE NSDWP?

The Northern Sandplains Dieback Working Party is a group formed to promote the study of dieback (*Phytophthora* spp.) in the Northern Sandplains to enable the implementation of effective research, management and educational programmes.

Our objectives are:

- To share knowledge and experience on dieback management.
- To promote a high standard of operational hygiene by setting the example for others.
- To promote and support dieback education programmes for regional land users and the general public.
- To share and co-ordinate training effort.
- To utilise media and other extension opportunities.
- To promote and support projects that contribute to the understanding and management of dieback.

## WHY DO A SURVEY?

The discovery by CALM of dieback near Cataby in 1986 alerted people to its existence in the region. Restricting the spread of the disease is the best defence until a practical cure is found for infected plants. A regional survey was therefore essential in assessing the potential risk to the valuable plants of the area.

## WHAT IS DIEBACK?

Dieback is an introduced disease which kills plants. The *Phytophthora* fungus lives in the soil and infects roots of plants starving them of nutrients and water. There is no known cure for the disease at present. Some plants infected by the fungus die very quickly. Banksias, dryandras and hakeas are some examples. Other plants are affected over years and appear to die back gradually – hence the name “dieback”. Resistant plants include marri, wandoo, river red gum and sedges.

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Dieback is usually spread by the movement of soil through human activity. Once introduced the fungus spreads downstream throughout drains, swamps and streams. When soil or water that is infected with dieback moves it carries the fungus with it.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

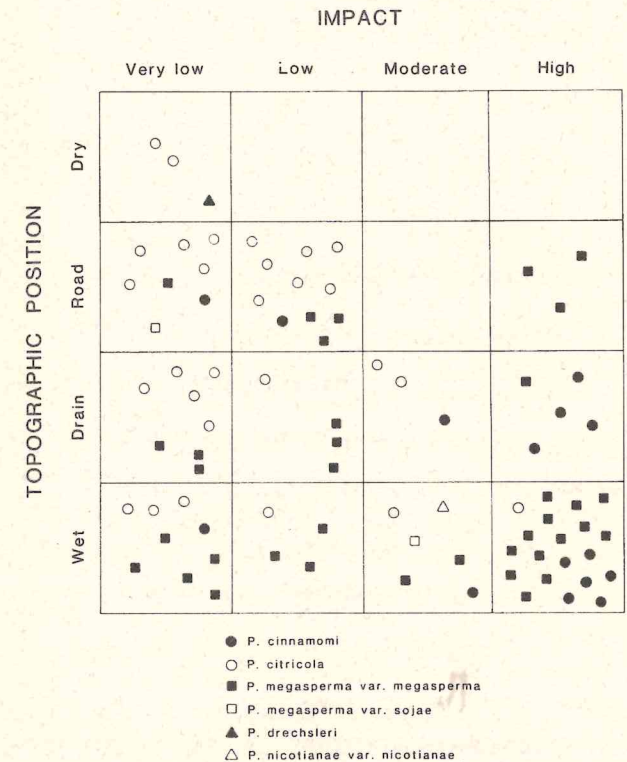
Dieback is a real threat to many plants in the Northern Sandplains. Many of these are not found anywhere else in the world. As well as being an important biological resource they also help support local industries such as beekeeping, wildflower harvesting and cultivation, tourism and recreation. These industries are worth millions of dollars each year.

## WHAT DID THE SURVEY FIND?

A map showing all the dieback infections recorded to date is shown overleaf. It clearly illustrates that dieback is already widespread in the region, but most infections are small and localised.

The following diagram summarises the other main findings of the survey:

- Wet areas (swamps, drains) are most at risk
- Road verges and drains may harbour the fungus.

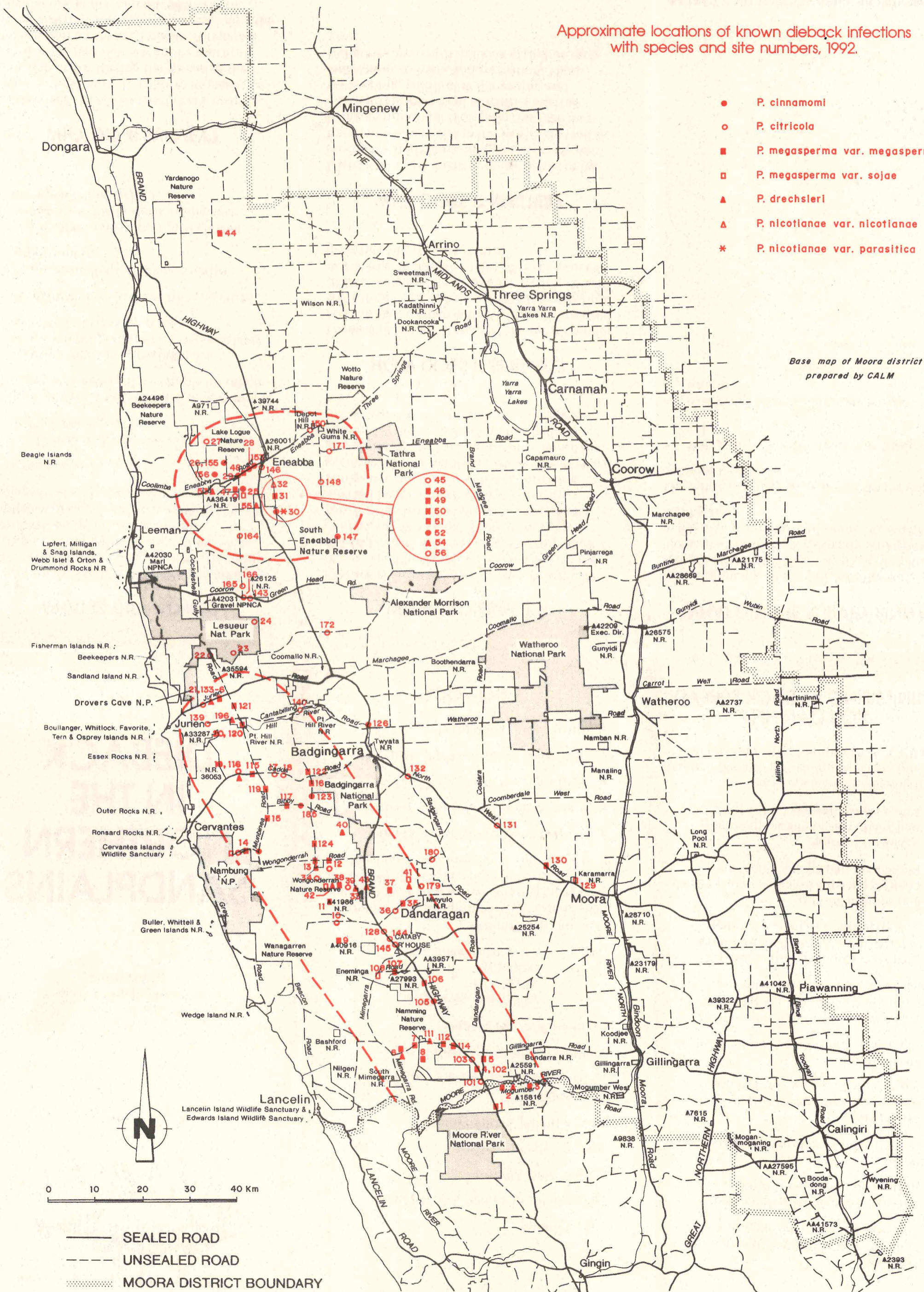


## IMPACT AND TOPOGRAPHIC POSITIONS AT DIEBACK INFECTED SITES

Approximate locations of known dieback infections  
with species and site numbers, 1992.

- *P. cinnamomi*
- *P. citricola*
- *P. megasperma* var. *megasperma*
- *P. megasperma* var. *sojae*
- ▲ *P. drechsleri*
- △ *P. nicotianae* var. *nicotianae*
- \* *P. nicotianae* var. *parasitica*

Base map of Moora district  
prepared by CALM



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