

REASONS FOR FERAL PIG CONTROL ON STATE FOREST

The Forests Department sees the control of feral pigs on State Forest as desirable for a variety of reasons.

Dieback

Feral pigs are regarded as a possible vector in the spread of jarrah dieback disease. Samples of material taken from the bodies and digestive systems of some pigs have proved negative and there is no other positive proof of such a role. However, their habit of wallowing in wet low-lying areas and then moving to upland sites, together with their feeding on vegetative material from some susceptible plants, infers that they could act as a disease vector. Some new upland infections cannot be explained by any other means.

Safety of Forest Users

There is no known example of direct threats to the safety of forest users by feral pigs. However, the removal of pigs would not only reduce this threat, but also the more real possibility of conflict between illegal hunters and legitimate forest users.

Invasion of Adjacent Land

Control of feral pigs in State Forest would decrease antagonism towards the Forests Department felt by neighbouring private landholders, whose properties are invaded by pigs from surrounding forest areas.

Environmental Damage

Feral pigs cause environmental problems, damaging vegetation and affecting native fauna through competition or alteration of habitat. Whilst the extent of these effects is not accurately known, there is no doubt that pig control would be beneficial to environmental values.

Water Quality

The Forests Department has a responsibility for water quality in catchment areas and feral pig activity would be capable of increasing water turbidity in localised situations in streams and dams.

FERAL PIG CONTROL IN STATE FOREST

Priorities for control of feral pigs in State Forest will be as follows:

Priority 1 Areas of particular importance or value to the Department, including research and forest sanctuary priority areas, pipehead catchments and recreational areas.

1.1 Adjacent to private property and likely to affect it.

1.2 Not adjacent to private property.

Priority 2 Areas where control will prevent spread beyond their present distribution.

2.1 Isolated pockets of infestation.

2.1.1 Adjacent to private property and likely to affect it.

2.1.1 Not adjacent to private property.

2.2 Extremities of main distribution.

2.2.1 Adjacent to private property and likely to affect it.

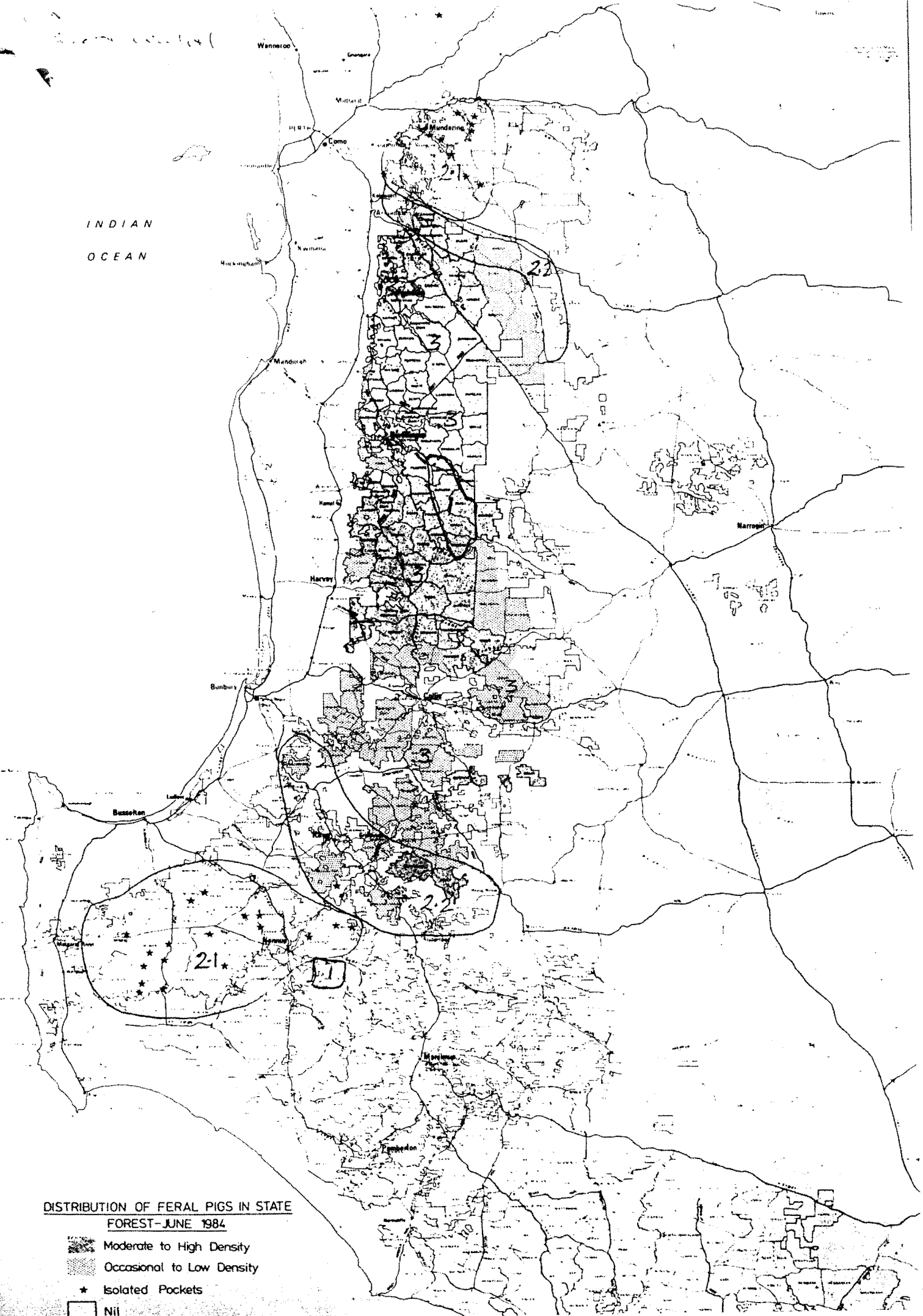
2.2.2 Not adjacent to private property.

Priority 3 Remaining areas of State Forest within the main distribution area of feral pigs.





3.1 Adjacent to private property and likely to affect it.

3.2 Not adjacent to private property.

INDIAN
OCEAN



**DISTRIBUTION OF FERAL PIGS IN STATE
FOREST-JUNE 1984**

-  Moderate to High Density
-  Occasional to Low Density
-  Isolated Pockets
-  Nil