

RED TINGLE (*EUCALYPTUS JACKSONI*) AS A HEAVY STRUCTURAL TIMBER

by T.J. Maher

Near the south coast an extensive area of red tingle forest occurs. It is roughly defined by the Bow, Frankland and Deep Rivers. It can occur as a pure stand but is usually closely associated with karri. In mixed stands tingle usually predominates. It is usually larger in girth than karri, though not as tall.

The majority of the area is prime forest and there are phenomenal pole and pile regrowth stands. The current commercial value is nil, although the potential is high. At the moment trials of red tingle poles are being considered and the potential for the species for peeling will be assessed in the next few months.

Recently, the bridge over the Frankland River at Nornalup was strengthened. It was of interest to find that the major structure and piles of the existing bridge were red tingle. The piles were drive in 1921, having been cut from Group Settlement areas nearby. Initially the bridge had a raised section in the centre to allow for the masts of passing boats. In 1937 the bridge was severely damaged by fire and when restored some of the piles were spliced with jarrah and the stringers replaced. The decking was red tingle. When this tingle decking was pulled up in 1971 it was found to be in good condition. The red tingle piles were also quite good.

Points of interest regarding this bridge:

1. Span: 190'
2. Normal life of a jarrah pile: 20-30 years.
3. Red tingle piles currently in use for 51 years.
4. The piles are 55' long, 35' driven, 8' in water and 12' to the stringers.
5. The area is under tidal influence.