

Timber harvesting of Crown land in the south-west of Western Australia: an historical review with maps

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SUMMARY

The forests in the south-west of Western Australia have been harvested and their timber utilized since the beginning of European settlement in 1829. The earliest methods of timber production were pit-sawing, which was common until about 1900, and hewing, which was significant until about 1945. Hauling of logs and sawn timber was done exclusively by horse or bullock team until the introduction of timber tramways in the 1870s. Since about 1970, all log hauling has been by log truck. The first sawmill in the State operated in Perth in 1833, but the first of the large sawmills was established at Quindalup in 1858.

Reliable timber harvesting records in the form of maps are held by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for the period since 1920. Incomplete or less detailed records are available for the period 1829 to 1920. The author considers that some additional areas not shown as harvested in the CALM records were harvested before 1920. Other areas are recorded as harvested before 1920 but date unknown. Likely dates (decades) of cutting are postulated for these areas.

Maps are presented showing likely dates of first, second, third, and fourth logging (harvesting) on Crown lands in the south-west of Western Australia. Based on these maps, about half of the jarrah and wandoo forest on Crown land in the northern and central forest areas (CALM's Swan and Central Forest Regions) has been logged twice and some areas five times to 31 December 1989. By contrast, there was little logging in the southern forest area (CALM's Southern Forest Region) until about 1900 and most of the karri forest has only been logged once.

INTRODUCTION

Reliable timber harvesting records for Crown lands in Western Australia (WA) are available in the form of maps

held by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) for the period since 1920; i.e. since the Forests Department was created. Much less reliable records are available for the period before 1920. This paper has been written to synthesize a considerable volume of scattered information on timber harvesting in south-west Western Australia into a unified account intended to be useful for forest biologists, forest managers and others.

BACKGROUND

In this paper, jarrah and karri forest is defined as described in Department of CALM (1992), to include associated species such as marri.

Logging

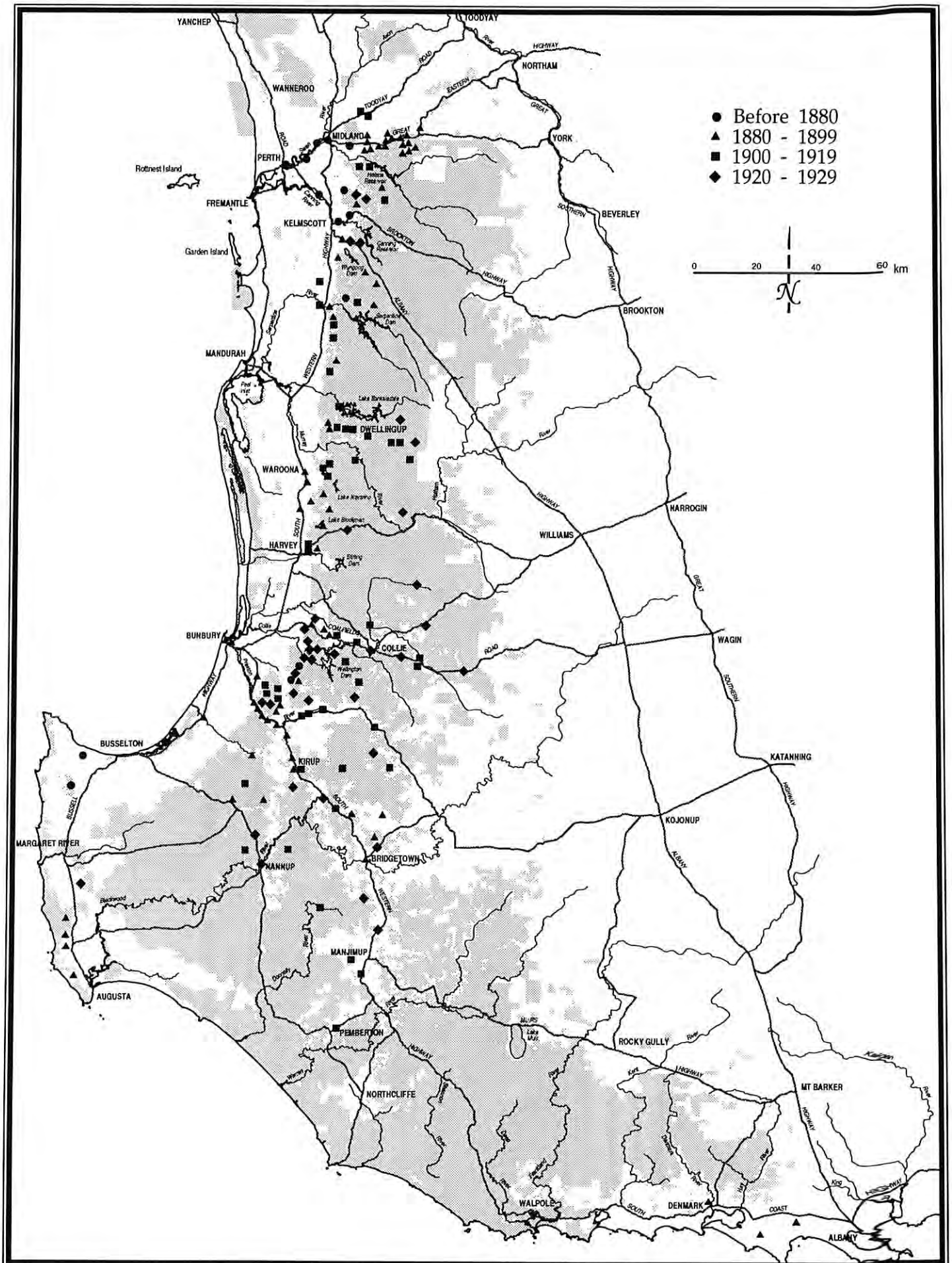
Logging (harvesting) is the felling of trees, preparation of logs (the utilizable part of a tree stem), extracting (snigging) logs from the site of felling at the tree stump to a landing or loading point, loading and carting the logs to the sawmill or other timber processing plant.

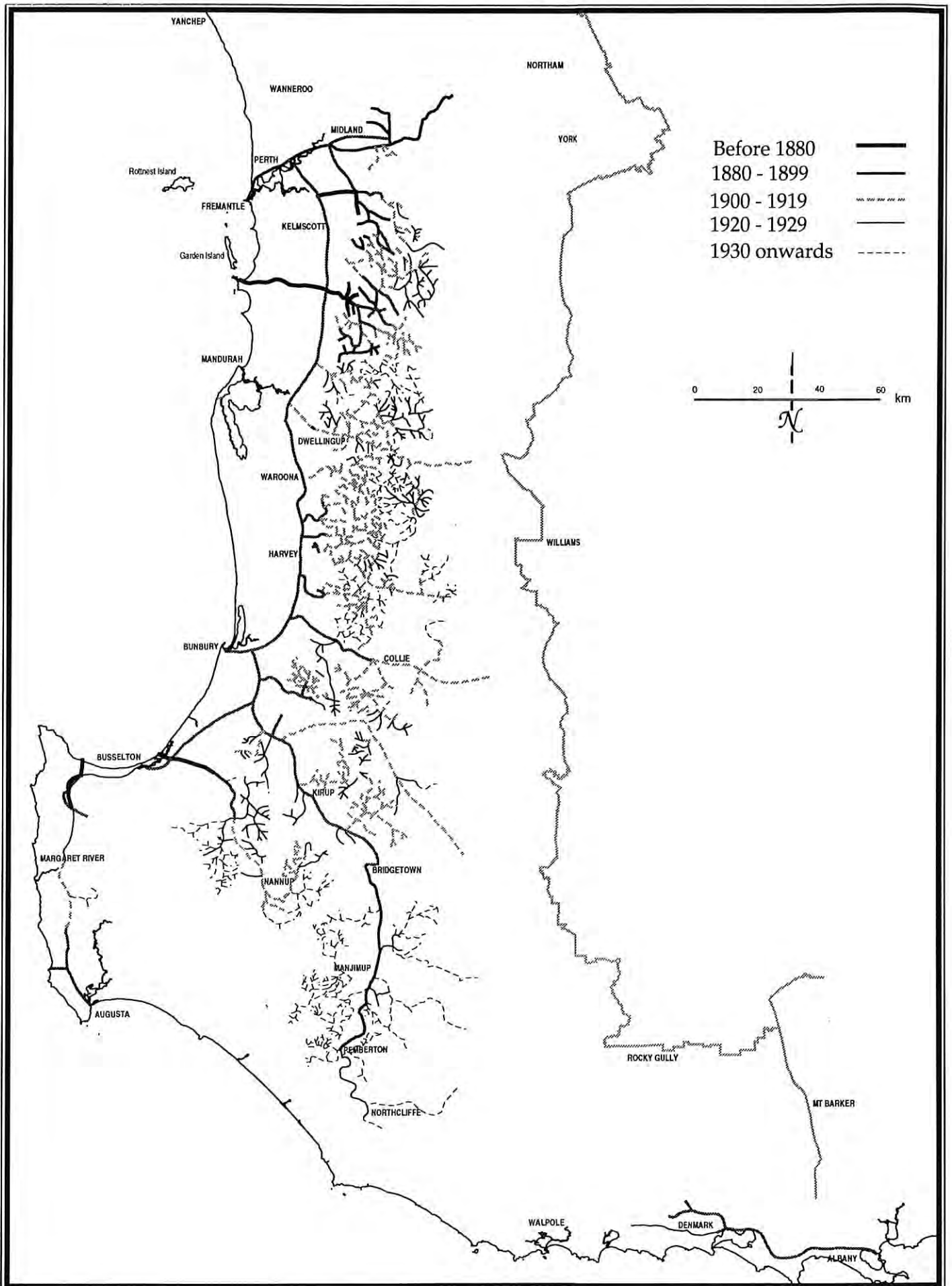
Felling Methods

Felling and snigging methods have been described by Hewett (1979). In the early days of European settlement, trees were felled using an axe or an axe and cross-cut saw.

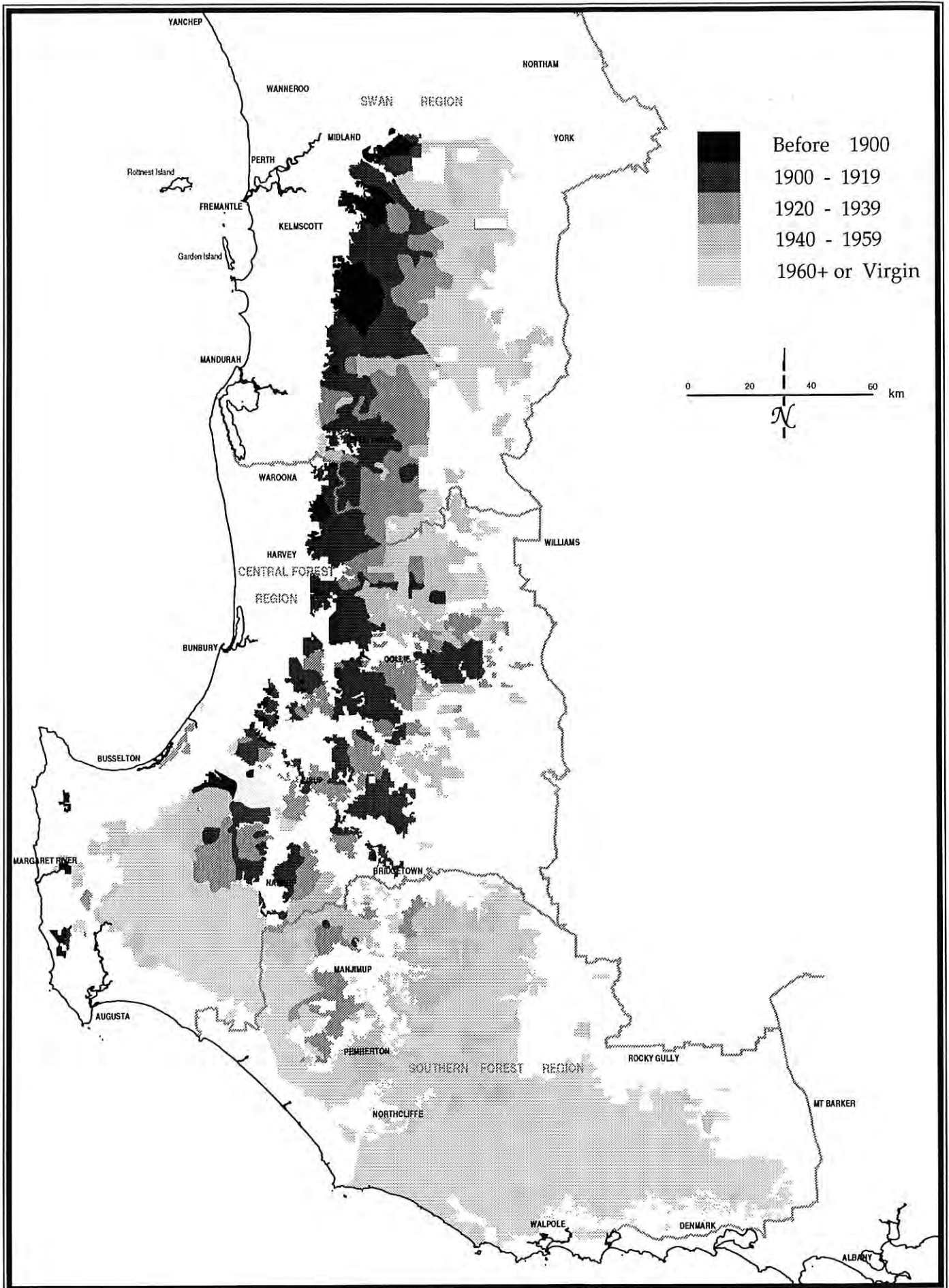
The development of portable engines paved the way for mobile power saws in the mid-1940s. The first of these was mounted on two (occasionally one) wheels and fitted with either circular or cross-cut saw blades.

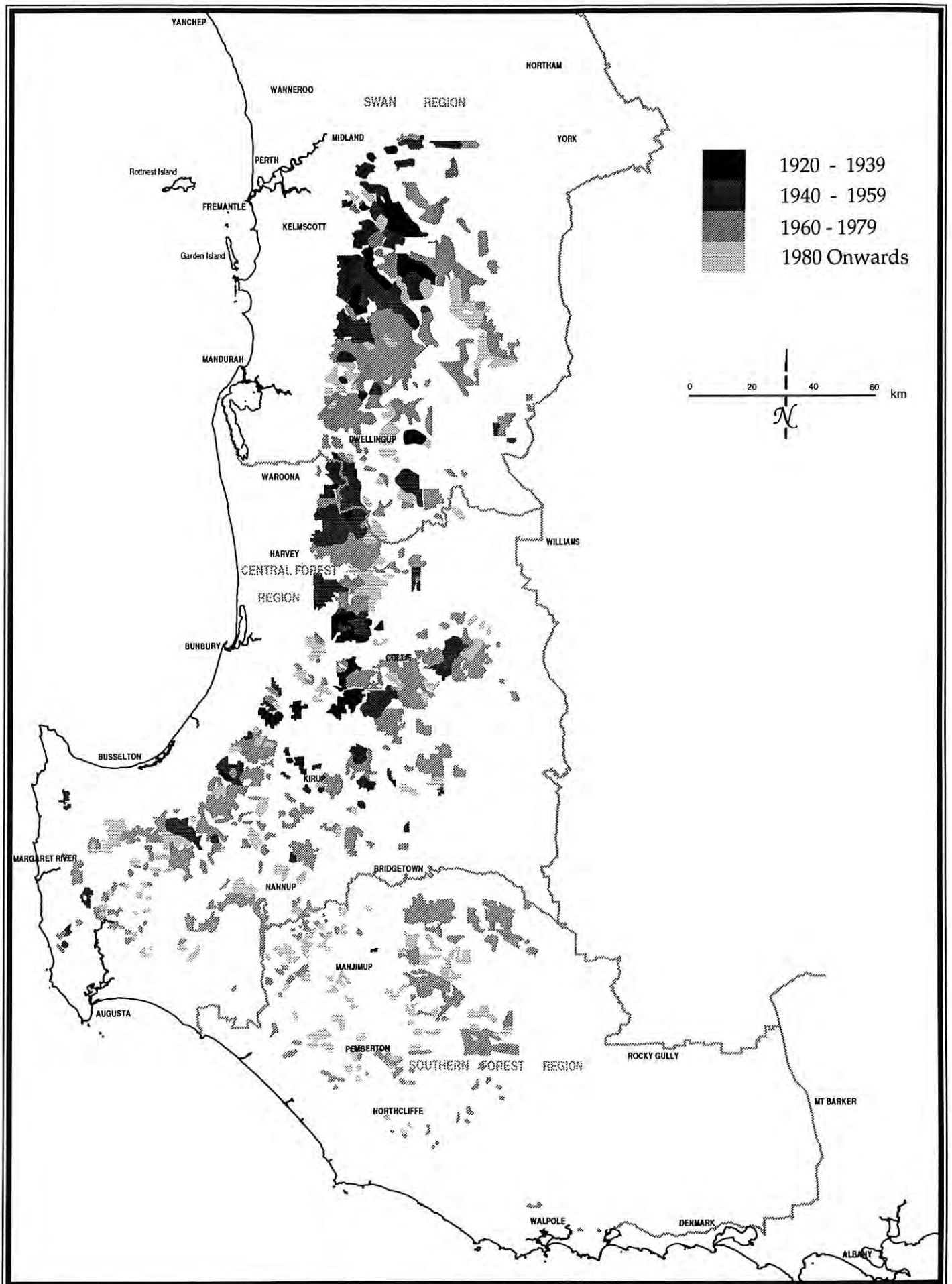
In the late 1940s the first chain-saws became available in WA. The first models were two-person saws about 2 m long and were very heavy. These saws were in use for about seven years until the first one-person chain-saws arrived in Australia in about 1955. These were still very heavy by modern standards but had better chain than the earlier chain-saws. Since then chain-saws have been greatly improved by reducing their weight, noise and vibration levels.



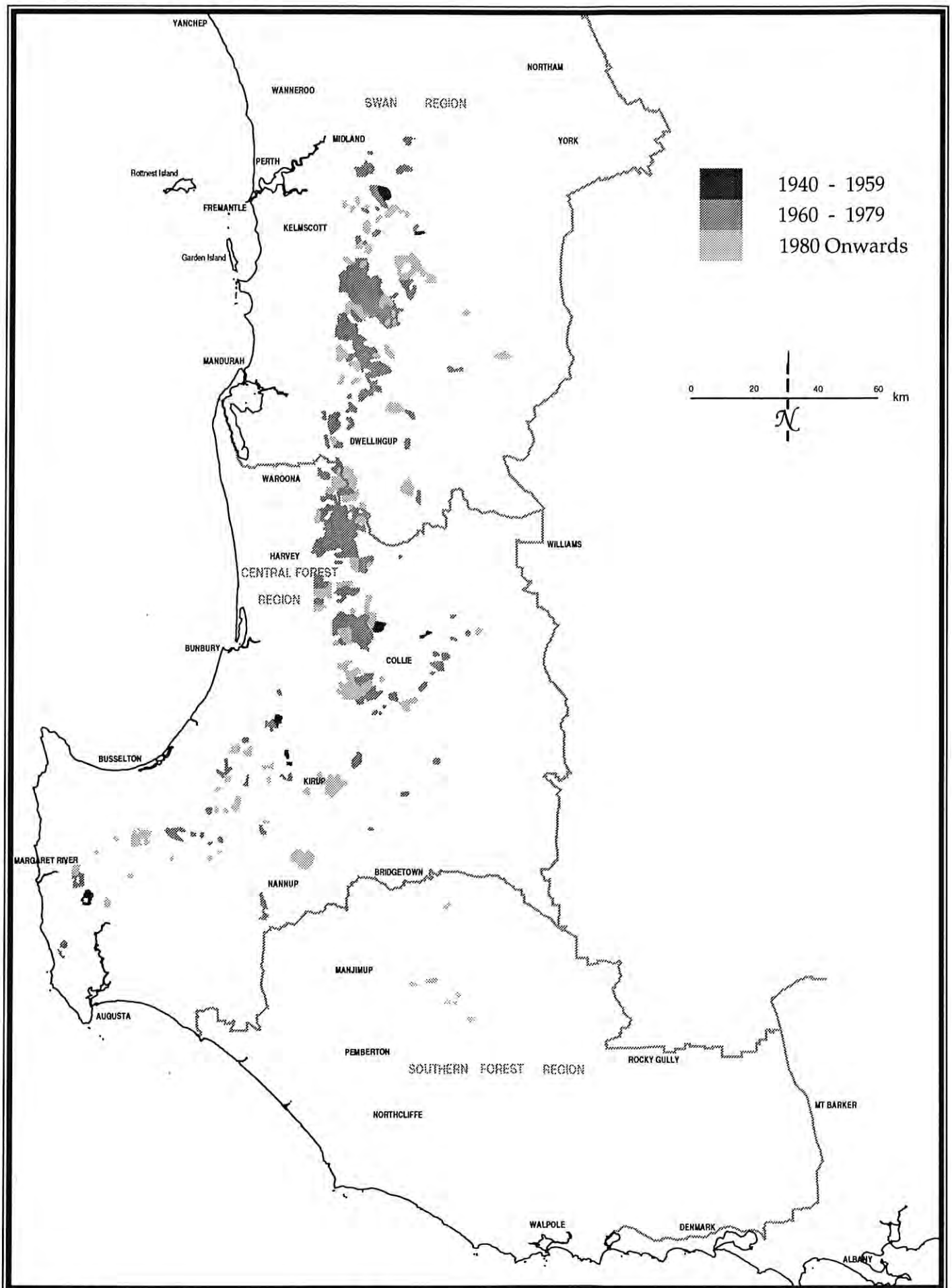


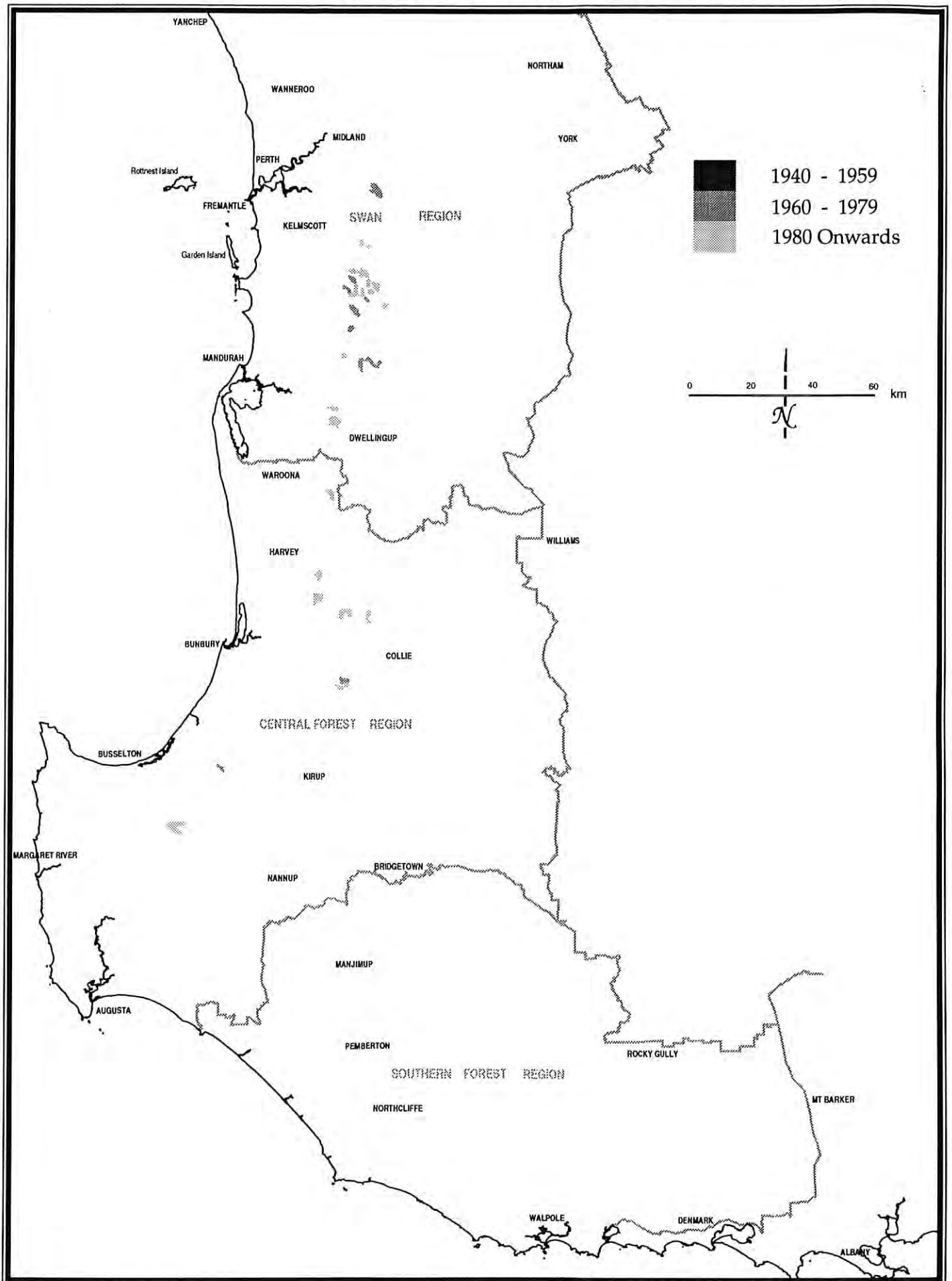
Appendix 2. Railways and tramways first used.





Appendix 3b. Areas cutover - date of second logging.





Appendix 3d. Areas cutover - date of fourth logging.

APPENDIX 4

Early sawmills in Perth District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Monger	1833	?	Mt Eliza, Perth
Monger & Cowan	1844	?	Guildford
Hancock	1844	?	Belmont
Graves	1881	?	Murray Street, Perth
Honey & Co.	1883	?	Fremantle
Railway Dept	1916	1929+	Midland
Dennis	1925	1930	Wanneroo

APPENDIX 5

Early sawmills in Mundaring District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
Rockingham Jarrah Co. (Wanliss 1870); Rockingham Jarrah Timber Co. (1874); Neil McNeil (1889); Rockingham Railways and Jarrahdale Forests (1892); Jarrahdale Jarrah Forests and Railways (1897); Millars (1902); Bunnings (1983) 'Jarrahdale Mill'	1870	Still open	Jarrahdale
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
B Mason	1884	1870	Masons Landing, Canning River
Mason, Bird & Co.	1870	1882	Masons Mill, Carmel
White, later Wright & Co. (Keane) 'White's Mill'	1882	1888	Mt Helena
R Honey & Co (1889); Forsyth & Hummerston (1893) 'Lion Mill'	1889	1898	Mt Helena
Canning Jarrah Timber Co. (1890); Millars (1902)	1890	1916	Canning Mills, Karragullen
" " 'No. 1 Sleeper mill'	1893	?	Karragullen area
" " 'Yankee Mill'	1893	?	Karragullen area
" " 'No. 3 Mill'	1893	?	Karragullen area
" " 'Death Adder Creek Mill' (No. 4)	1890	1901	Death Adder Creek
Millars (first) 'Bartons Mill'	1903	1908	Carilla
" 'Bartons Mill No. 2'	1908	1925	Bartons Mill
" 'Bartons Mill No. 3'	1925	1939	N of Bartons Mill
Rockingham Jarrah Co. (Wanliss 1885); Neil McNeil (1889); Rockingham Railways and Jarrahdale Forests (1892); Jarrahdale Jarrah Forests and Railways (1897); Millars (1902)	1885	1900	Wungong Brook
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 2'			
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 3'	1890	1901	39 Brook
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 4'	1895	1901	Serpentine River
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 5'	1895	1899	Chandlers
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 5'	1899	1910	Big Brook
" " " 'Jarrahdale No. 6'	1899	1913	Big Brook
" " " 'Board Mill'	1903	1915 ?	Balmoral Road
" " " 'Mundijong Board Mill'	1918	1928	Mundijong
Perth Jarrah Sawmills (Bunnings) 'Lion Mill'	1905	1926	Mt Helena
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Buckingham	1866	1899	Stocker Road, Kelmscott
Buckingham 'Poplar Mill'	1872	1899	Brookton Highway, Roleystone
A. Smith & Co.	1877	1897	Nyaania Creek, Smiths Mill
Lacey "Enterprise Sawmill"	1881	1883	Zamia, Mahogany Creek

Appendix 5 (continued)

Gill & Co. (Alex Forrest & Lacey 1888) 'Enterprise Sawmill'	1882	1896	Sawyers Valley
M Smith & Sons	1882	?	Sawyers Valley
Buckingham	1882	1900	East Byford
Sexton	1885	1886	Forsyth
Sexton	1886	1896	Gorrie
Dunton & Forsyth	1890	?	Chidlow
West Australian Jarrah Timber Co.	1890	1897	Chidlow
Byfield	1891	1901+	Wooroloo
Sexton (1893); Sheppardson (1894)	1893	1898	Mundaring
Firns	1893	1918	Serpentine, Karnet
Atkins & Low	1894	1896	Roleystone
McDowell, Byfield	1894	1895	Wooroloo
McDowell	1895	1898	Parkerville
Dunton & Co. (1896); Forsyth (1899)	1896	1903	Forsyth
Gill & Co. (Alex Forrest & Lacey)	1896	1897	Mahogany Creek
McDowell (1896); Gill McDowell (1897)	1896	1898	Sawyers Valley
Dunton & Co. (Adams & Conaughton)	1896	1900	Chauncy Gully
Forsyth & Dunton 'Helena Sawmill'	1896	1903	Gorrie Road
Sexton	1896	1897	Gorrie
Isbister, Wiseman & Co. 'Federation Sawmill'	1896	1900	Sawyers Valley
Tomlinson	1896	?	Sawyers Valley
Patterson	1897	?	Smiths Mill
Sexton	1897	1902	Parkerville
McCoy & Oudaille	1897	1898	SE of Chidlow
Connaughton & Crossman 'Gem Sawmill'	1897	1900	Sawyers Valley
Brown	c1897	?	Chidlow
Silberthorpe & Adair	c1897	?	Serpentine
Johnston, Blakeney & Co	c1897	?	Armadale
Armadale Timber Co.	c1897	?	Armadale
Higgs 'Armadale Sawmill'	1897	1904	Byford
Guppy	1898	?	Gooseberry Hill
WA Timber Co. (1898); Brown (1899) "Excelsior Mill"	1898	1900+	Chidlow
Hummerston	1899	1904	Mt Helena
Port & Honey	1900	1913	The Dell
Sexton	1901	?	Sawyers Valley
Forsyth 'Avonholme Mill'	1903	1906	Chidlow
Franklin & Finlay	1903	?	Keysbrook
Frawley	1904	?	Myara
Sampson (1904) 'Dalgarp Mill'; Bunnings (1906)	1904	1906	Gidgegannup
Dyke & W Smith (1905); Bunnings (1906)	1905	1910	Gidgegannup
Buckingham	1905	1907	South Kalamunda
Buckingham	1907	1909	Keysbrook
Buckingham	1909	1911	Serpentine
Patterson	1910	1913	Mundaring Weir
Groth	1918	1919	Sawyers Valley
Wilson	1918	1920	Wooroloo
Robinson	1918	1919	Keysbrook
Groth	1919	1920	Keysbrook
Bunney	1919	1921	Kelmscott
Curtis, Chisholm & Co.	1921	1929+	Bedforddale
Smalles, Weston, Leibow	1922	1929	Pickering Brook

APPENDIX 6

Early sawmills in Dwellingup District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
Whittakers	1902	1946	North Dandalup
Millars	1904	1961	Nanga
Millars	1910	1930	Marrinup
South West Timber Hewers Co-op (1910); State Sawmills No. 5 (1920)	1910	1960	Holyoake
Railway Dept No. 2	1911	1963	Banksiadale
Medium sized mills (3500-7000 m³/year output)			
McDowell, Gill McDowell Jarrah Co; Millars (1902)	1895	1903	Waroona
Bunnings	1898	1901	North Dandalup
Gill McDowell, Millars (1902) '11 Mile Mill'	1902	1904	Waroona Dam
Gill McDowell, Millars (1902) 'No. 5 Mill'	1908	1910	Near Nanga Road
Port, Honey & Co No. 1	1911	1929	Pindalup
Railway Dept No. 1 (leased to Holmes)	1912	1914	Dwellingup
State Sawmills No. 4	1913	1924	Wuraming
South West Hewers Co-op (1913); Plavin (1918); Australian Lumber Co. (1923)	1913	1928	Inglehope, Plavins
Port & Co. No. 2	1923	1929	Pindalup
State Sawmills No. 4	1924	1951	Hakea
Port & Co. No. 8	1925	1929	Duncans
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Tuckey	1885	1886	Marrinup
Hannans	1895	1900	Marrinup
Goodrich & Massey	1896	?	North Dandalup
Shearer, Weatherhead & Co.	1897	1899	North Dandalup
Parkers	1899	?	Serpentine
Frank & Finlay	1900s	?	Karnet
Teesdale-Smith & Timms	1902	?	East Pinjarra
Frawleys	1904	?	Karnet
Iyalls	1904	1905	Pinjarra
Patterson	1913	1925	Amphion
Federal Trading and Engineering	1919	1920	Pinjarra
Australian Lumber Co. No. 1 & 2	1920	1921	Hotham
Mann	1920	1921	Pinjarra
Sundercombe	1927	?	Waroona
Forsyth	1928	1929	Murray River
Waroona Sawmilling Co.	1929	?	Waroona

APPENDIX 7

Early sawmills in Mornington District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
Millars; Bunnings(1983)	1895	Still open	Yarloop
Millars	1896	1919	Hoffman old
Millars	1898	1961	Mornington
Canning Jarrah Co. (1899); Millars (1902)	1899	1920	Wellington
Millars	1920	1964	Hoffman new
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
Millars	1895	1898	Benger
Millars	1897	1909	Waterous
Port (1893); Jarrah Timber & Wood Paving Corp. (1898) No. 1 mill	1893	1901	Gervasse
Jarrah Timber & Wood Paving Corp. No. 2 mill	1898	1902	Worsley
Jarrah Timber & Wood Paving Corp. (1898) No. 3 mill; Millars (1902)	1899	1902	Worsley
Millars No. 4 mill	1899	1904	Klondyke
Lyall (1904); Bunnings (1907)	1904	1968	Lyalls
South West Timber Hewers Co-op	1909	1911	lucknow Mungalup
Buckingham (1911); State Building Supplies (1954); Hawker Siddeley (1961)	1911	1968	Muja
Lewis & Reid No. 1 (1911); Bunnings (1923)	1911	1925	Allanson
Lewis & Reid No. 2 (1913); Bunnings (1923)	1913	1925	Harris River
Wandoo Timber Co. (1913); Bunnings (1914)	1913	1930+	Muja
Millars spot mills (3)	1920	1928	Wellington
Australian Lumber Co.	1920	1927	Bowelling
Bunnings	1920	1926	Lowden
Millars (Trees Limited)	1920	1958	Treesville
State Sawmills No. 6A	1920	1923	Worsley
State Sawmills No. 6B	1923	?	Windy Ridge Road
Westralian Timber & Trading	1924	1926	Maroondale (Loc 1)
State Sawmills No. 6C	1925	1926	Potters Gorge, River Road
State Sawmills No. 6D	1926	1927	Groom Road
State Sawmills No. 6E	1927	1928	Harnett Road
State Sawmills No. 6	1928	1930	Sneaker Road
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Clifton	1845	1875+	Australind
M C Davies	1875	1884	Pile Road
M C Davies	1875	1884	Worsley
Bunbury Jarrah Timber Co.	1881	1882	Ferguson Road
Port	1894	1898	Crooked Brook
Teesdale-Smith & Timms (1894); Port (1895)	1894	1895	Boyanup
Wright	1895	1901+	Dardanup (Crooked Brook)
Hooker '17 Mile Mill'	1895	1899	Boyanup
H J Yelverton	1895	?	Bunbury
Law	1895	1896	Samson Brook
Williams (3 spot mills)	1896	1913	Harvey Weir
McCoy, (later Ferguson)	1897	1914	Logue Brook
McDevitt & Mitchell	1897	1899	Drakesbrook
Canning Jarrah Co. spot mill	1897	1899	Wellington

Appendix 7 (continued)

Hooker	1898	1899	Bunbury
Atkins & Law, later leased to Port	1898	1899+	Worsley
Drysdale	1904	1905	Picton
Bunnings	1906	1908	Hamilton Hill
Harnetts	1910s	?	Beela
Coolup Milling Co.	1914	1920	Coolup
R Palmer	1919	1922+	Collie
Harnett	1919	1929+	Gervasse
McSweeney	1920	1921	Boyanup
Plavin	1920	1925	Bowelling
Lewis & Stirk	1920	1926	Shotts
Connell	1920	?	Mungalup
Amalgamated Collieries	1920	1929+	Collie
Port & Co.	1920s	?	Waroona
Bunnings 'Preston Valley Sawmills'	1921	1925	Yabberup
Collie Land & Timber No. 1 (McCluskeys)	1921	1925+	Shotts area
Connell No. 2	1924	1927	Collie
Jackson & Rodgers	1925	1926	Boyanup
Collie Land & Timber No. 2	1925	1927	Shotts area
Mumballup Timber Syndicate	1925	1929	Mumballup
Collie Land & Timber No. 3 (1928); Douglas Jones (1933)	1928	1960+	Harris River
Worsley Timber No. 1	1928	?	Worsley
Worsley Timber No. 2	1928	?	Worsley

APPENDIX 8

Early sawmills in Blackwood District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
Westralian Jarrah Forests Co. (1898); WA Timber Corporation (1899)	1898	1926	Greenbushes
Jarrah Wood & Sawmills Co. (1899); Millars (1902)	1899	1983	Jarrahwood
Sexton & Drysdale (1906); McLean Bros & Rigg (Vincent); Bunnings (1914) 'Preston Valley Sawmills'	1906	1925	Noggerup
WA Jarrah Sawmilling Co. (Bartram); Kauri Timber Co. (1912)	1908	1925	Barrabup
Millars 'East Kirup Mill'	1910	1928	Grimwade
Kauri Timber Co.	1914	1925	Ellis Creek
Kauri Timber Co. (1925); Douglas Jones (1961); Millars; Bunnings (1983)	1925	Still open	Nannup
Medium size mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
WA Jarrah Timber Co.	1883	1888	Harrington
Lyall, McDowell (1902); Bunnings (1905)	1894	1940	Argyle
Teesdale-Smith & Timms (1894); Yelverton (1895); Imperial Jarrahwood Corp. (1897)	1894	1898	Donnybrook
Port (1893); Jarrah Timber & Wood Paving Corp. (1898) '24 Mile Mill'	1893	1899	N of Donnybrook
Port, Baxter & Prince No. 1 mill	1894	1902	Irishtown Road
Baxter & Prince	1894	1896	Argyle Block

Appendix 8 (continued)

Baxter & Prince No. 2 mill	1896	1902	Irishtown Road
Baxter & Prince (Preston Timber Co.)(1899); WA Jarrah Sawmilling Co. (1906)	1899	1909	Kirup
Baxter & Prince spot mills (2)	1902	1906 ?	Donnybrook Block
Millars	1908	1910	Kirup
Adelaide Timber Co.	1908	1987	Wilga
Swan Sawmills (Fergusons)	1914	1921	Lowden
Swan Sawmills (1920); Millars (1923)	1920	1929	Claymore
Lewis & Reid	1921	1929+	Mullalyup
Sussex Timber Co. (Nicholson)	1923	1929+	Dellerton
Timber Corporation	1926	1931	Woop Woop
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Baxter	1895	1899	5 km S of Donnybrook
Koetze	1895	1896	Bridgetown
J Scott	1896	1900	Hester
Jarrah Timber & Wood Paving Corp. (Port)	1897	1900	Donnybrook
Imperial Jarrah Wood Corp. (Yelverton) (1898); Millars (1902)	1898	1903	Newlands
Adelaide Timber Co.	1899	1907	North Greenbushes
Sexton & Drysdale	1905	1906	Queenwood
Hodder & Stoughton	1901	?	S of Boyanup
Plewright & Mann	1905	1907	Balingup
Adelaide Timber Co.	1907	1908	East Greenbushes
Donnybrook Sawmills	1914	1919	Brookhampton
Mitchell & Ryan	1916	1922+	Jayes Road
Martin	1918	1922+	Queenwood
Connell	1918	1920	Hester
Griffith	1919	1922	Donnybrook
Machin	1919	?	Bridgetown
Grist, Nicholas & Co.	1920	?	Donnybrook
Smith	1920	1921	Barrabup
Bunnings 'Preston Valley Sawmills'	1920	1925	Lowden
Holdsworth	1920	1929+	Hester
Thompson	1921	1922	Argyle
Whistler Bros	1921	1927	Dinninup
Jenkins	1922	1930+	Balingup
Colsen	1926	?	Nannup

APPENDIX 9

Early sawmills in South West Capes District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
West Australian Jarrah Timber Co.	1870	1878	Lockeville
M C Davies	1899	1913	Jarrahdene
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
M C Davies	1882	1901	Karridale
West Australian Jarrah Timber Co.	1883	1888	Goodwood
M C Davies	1886	1910	Boranup
Forests Department (tuart mill)	1920	1930	Ludlow
WA Jarrah Forests 'Pilgrims Mill' (1924); Adelaide Timber Co. (1929); Worsley Timber Co. (1984)	1924	Still open	Witchcliffe
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
H J Yelverton	1858	1864	Quindalup
H J Yelverton (1864); Imperial Jarrah Wood Corp. (1897)	1864	1900	Station Gully
M C Davies	1881	1882	Coodardup
M C Davies (tuart mill)	1881	1882+	Capel
Imperial Jarrah Wood Corp. (1900); Millars (1902)	1900	1906	W of Treeton
Payne	1918	1919	Capel
Farley	1919	1922	Capel
Grist & Nicholas	1921	?	Goodwood Road
Margaret River Timber Co.	1923	1926+	Margaret River
Bonola	1925	1926	Alexandra Bridge
Scott	1926	1929+	Capel
Busselton Sawmills	1927	1929+	Yallingup

APPENDIX 10

Early sawmills in Manjimup District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
lyall & Drysdale (1911); Wilgarrup K & J Co (Millars) (1912); Bunnings (1983)	1911	?	Jardee
State Sawmills (1912); Hawker Siddeley (1961); Bunnings (1970)	1912	Still open	Deanmill
WA Timber Corporation (1921); Millars (1931)	1921	1983	Palgarup
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
Wheatley (1910); Bethell (1912)	1910	1917	Donnelly River
Lewis & Reid (1923); Bunnings (1925)	1923	1948	Yornup
Australian Lumber Co.	1924	1927	Alco
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Nelson Co-op Soc.	1913	?	Palgarup
Machin	1918	1922+	Glentulloch
Smith	early 1900s	1916	Winnejup

APPENDIX 11

Early sawmills in Pemberton District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
State Sawmills No. 2 & 3; Hawker Siddeley (1961); Bunnings (1970)	1914	Still open	Pemberton
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
Nil			
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
State Sawmills (spot mill)	1913	1914	Pemberton
Carrig	1924	1926+	Northcliffe

APPENDIX 12

Early sawmills in Walpole District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
Millars	1896	1905	Scotsdale
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Keith	1910	1922+	Hay River
Saw	1919	1922+	Bow River

APPENDIX 13

Early sawmills in Albany District.

SAWMILL OWNER(S)	OPENED	CLOSED	LOCATION
Big mills (>7000 m³/year output)			
Millars	1896	1905	Denmark
Medium sized mills (3500 m³ - 7000 m³/year output)			
Nil			
Small mills (<3500 m³/year output)			
Egerton-Warburton	1880	?	King River
Millars	1884	1888	Torbay
Millars	1889	1890	Albany
Millars	1890	1893	Torbay
Millars	1895	1896	Denmark
Douglas	1912	1922+	Denmark
Denmark Timber Co.	1916	1920	Denmark
Floy	1918	1923	Parry Inlet
Harper	1918	1922+	Albany
Hawkins	1919	1922+	Porongurup
Bennetts, Stokes	1919	1922	Gledhow
Groth & Adams	1920	1922	Marbellup
Douglas Bros	1921	?	Kalgan River
Steele	1921	1922	Albany
Forte	1921	1922	Marbellup

