

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

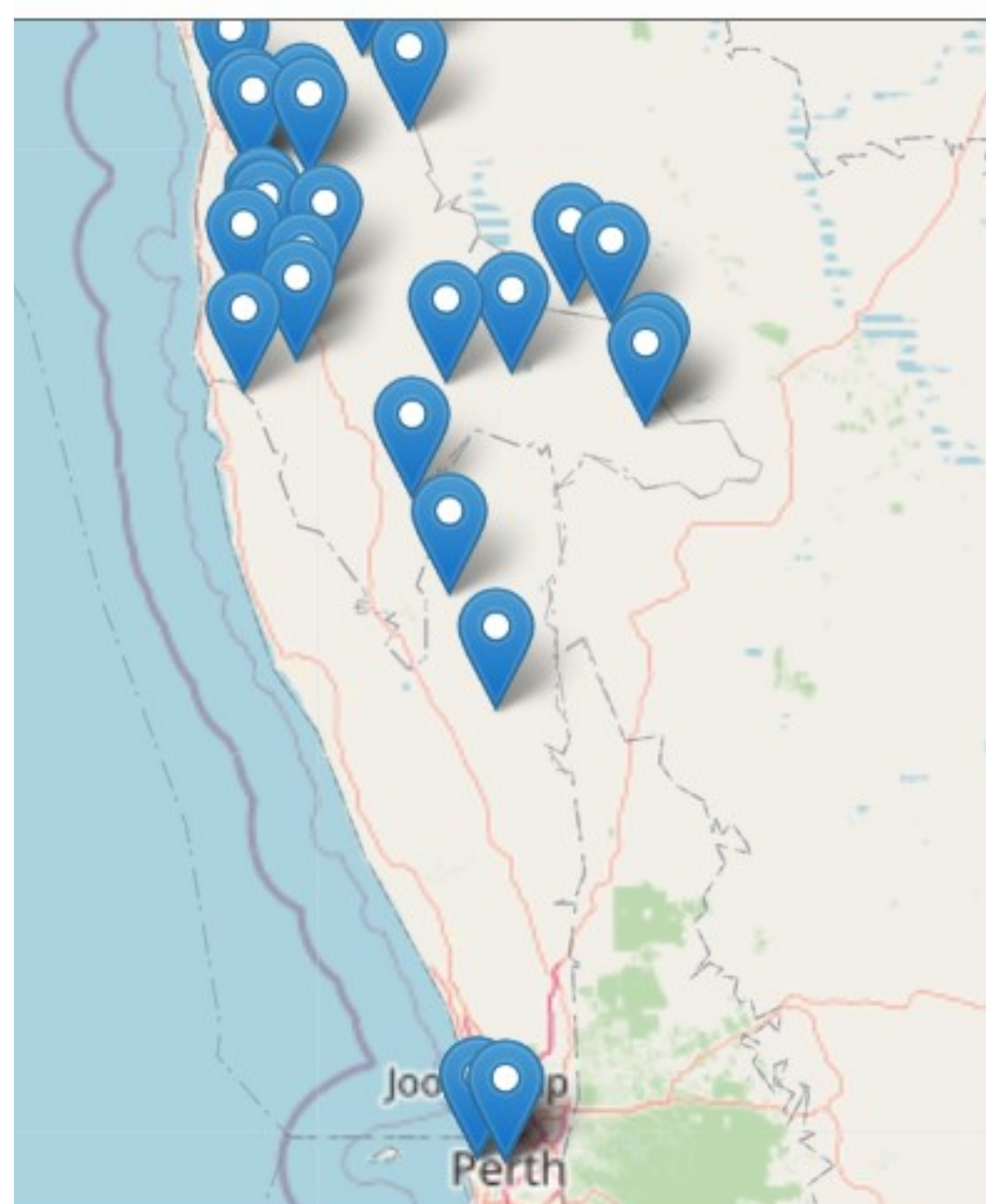
River Red Gum



River Red Gums planted in Moora

River Red Gums are a common and widespread large iconic tree seen along watercourses over much of mainland Australia.

Description: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* is a tree that typically grows to a height of 20 metres (66 ft) but sometimes to 45 metres (148 ft) and often does not develop a lignotuber. The bark is smooth white or cream-coloured with patches of yellow, pink or brown. The flower buds are arranged in groups of seven, nine or sometimes eleven, in leaf axils on a peduncle 5–28 mm (0.20–1.10 in) long, Flowering mainly occurs in summer and the flowers are white. The fruit is a woody, hemispherical capsule.



Distribution: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* has the widest natural distribution of any eucalyptus species. It is commonly found along waterways and is a giveaway clue to the location of arid creeks in outback Australia. North of Perth, *E. rudis* intergrades with *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *obtusa* so the bark may be smooth and very similar to *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

Environmental, social & economic benefits:

- *E. camaldulensis* readily germinates from both fresh seed and seed stored in cool dry conditions. It quickly toughens up and can withstand drought even whilst in forestry tubes. It makes an excellent bonsai and will readily regrow both from the base and from epicormic buds.
- River Red Gums contribute to the provision of nutrients and energy for other species through leaf and insect fall. This is especially important to the ecology in areas of low nutrients. The tree's preferred habitat of floodplains and watercourses also gives it the role of flood mitigator, which slows silt runoff.
- The limbs of River Red Gums, sometimes whole trees, often fall without warning so that camping or picnicking near them is dangerous, especially if a tree has dead limbs or the tree is under stress.
- Many of the street planted Moora River Red Gums have been pollarded to reduce their size and limb dropping potential. Their large roots also lift the bitumen so not recommended for planting next to roads.



Moora River Red Gum avenue



Large pollarded River Red Gum



River Red Gums are welcome shade in summer