



Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB)

LGA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have a question you would like answered, please email pshb@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

Quarantine Area

A Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) has been issued under regulation 60 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013*. This Quarantine Area is defined by the boundaries of the following Local Government Authority boundaries:

City of Canning	City of South Perth	Town of Claremont
City of Cockburn	City of Stirling	Town of Cottesloe
City of Fremantle	City of Subiaco	Town of East Fremantle
City of Melville	City of Vincent	Town of Mosman Park
City of Nedlands	Shire of Peppermint Grove	Town of Victoria Park
City of Perth	Town of Cambridge	

The requirements of the QAN include:

- Movement within the QA is permitted unrestricted.
- Wood more than 2.5cm in diameter must be chipped to pieces that are less than 2.5cm in diameter before leaving the QA.
- Living plants with woody stems greater than 2cm must not leave the QA.
- Machinery used to handle green waste must be cleaned of wood material prior to leaving the QA.
- An Inspectors direction is required if these conditions are unable to be met.

Further information, the QAN, maps and a list of susceptible host plants are available on the webpage: www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer.

Will DPIRD be producing material for comms to public so LGAs can share consistent messaging?

DPIRD will produce communications and make them available via the WALGA website.

Resources are also available for download from agric.wa.gov.au/borer.

Can you clarify if the Resource Recovery Group - Canning Vale Centre is within the Quarantine Area (QA)?

Yes, the Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) is located within the Quarantine Area. Please visit agric.wa.gov.au/borer to see a map of the Quarantine Area.

What is the trigger for the QA to be dismantled?

The QA may be dismantled if PSHB is discovered in a regional area, or outside the new Quarantine Area.

Because PSHB is new to Australia, decisions are made at a national level with input from the states, territories and industries likely to be impacted by the pest. This process is set out in the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).

The EPPRD is a formal, legally binding agreement between the Federal state and territory governments, Plant Health Australia and peak industry bodies.

The Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer of WA is a member of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP). The CCEPP is Australia's key technical body for coordinating national responses to emergency plant pest (EPP) incursions, and assessing the technical feasibility for their eradication.

Can you provide an advice note for building and demolition permits, to alert builders in the QA?

Contractors including those working in building and demolition should be made aware of PSHB symptoms and encouraged to report anything suspicious.

If trees are being removed from a site, restrictions apply to how the green waste is treated and moved.

Communications material including fact sheets will be made available on the [WALGA website](#).

What kills the borer?

Unfortunately, not much. Destruction is the best tool in cases of heavy infestation.

There has been some research conducted on chemical and biological controls. Chemical treatments are difficult as the borer completes most of its lifecycle inside the tree. They are unlikely to receive a dose as they leave the tree very infrequently.

Research has been conducted on the use of systemic insecticide and fungicide to treat PSHB, results showed they had a very low rate of kill. There is currently nothing registered for use in Australia to treat PSHB.

DPIRD is talking closely with colleagues in California regarding new data they have regarding treatment methods.

It is a very difficult beetle to kill, the most effective means to kill the beetle is chipping to 2.5cm which results in a 99% kill rate.

It is recommended to hot compost or cover following chipping to remove the final 1% chance of a single beetle establishing a new colony.

Would phosphorus injections stop the fungus and limit the food source?

Phosphorous injections have been successful in treating *Phytophthora* dieback. There is no research or data to suggest it would be effective in controlling PSHB.

Biologically we still don't understand how exactly phosphite works. This makes it difficult to predict if it would be effective to control PSHB.

Can we chip and store onsite for a period and how long would that period be?

A fact sheet is being prepared relating to the treatment of green waste.

The recommendation is to solarise the chips under plastic. The length of time needed to solarise them depends on the time of year. When it is high summer the recommendation is to solarise under plastic for a few months. During winter it is for six months.

Please report any suspicious material so we can arrange to inspect it.

Will there be clear protocols for our parks teams and our landfill around green waste handling and disposal distributed next week?

Information including fact sheets will be made available via the [WALGA website](#).

For more information, or to apply for a permit please email pshb@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Is Western Power included in the program as contractors come in and out of the QA in an ongoing manner?

Western Power will be advised of the new Quarantine Area Notice as well as the Tree Guild of WA who manage a list of powerline-approved arborists.

Who is contacting private green waste operators?

DPIRD has compiled a list of green waste facilities within the Quarantine Area. These facilities have been contacted by phone or in-person.

Please contact us if you are aware of any waste facilities that have not been made aware of the requirements.

What is the stick to the control? So we can inform the public Fines? Prison?

DPIRD will always endeavour to educate people and persuade them to comply before taking a heavy-handed approach.

The Quarantine Area Notice is issued under regulation 61 of the [Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013](#).

Failure to comply with the Quarantine Area Notice could result in a fine, the Director General taking remedial action under regulation 133 of the Regulations or both.

Will DPIRD remove box elders?

The presence of borers does not necessarily result in the removal of the plant or tree unless it poses a significant risk to safety or the spread of PSHB. When an infected tree is detected, they are risk assessed by subject matter experts including entomologists, pathologists and arborists.

Infestation of box elders pose a high risk as they often drop limbs due to extensive PSHB galleries. The pest was initially detected following reports of a box elder dropping limbs in an East Fremantle backyard.

Important disclaimer

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