

# Polyphagous shot-hole borer

## Transition to Management

Based on the latest scientific data and advice from leading plant biosecurity experts, on 18 June 2025, the National Management Group (NMG) agreed that polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) was no longer technically feasible to eradicate from Australia. Determining factors included the difficulty in detecting and controlling borer infestations at an early stage before the pest is able to reproduce, and the lack of available effective chemical treatments for eradication.

The NMG has agreed to an 18-month Transition to Management Response Plan (T2MRP). All Australian governments will contribute to the cost of this phase of the response.

Over the next 18 months, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will be working with industry, community and local government partners as part of the transition. Activities will focus on slowing the spread of the pest beyond the Perth metropolitan area through targeted surveillance and tree management, minimising its impact, and building capacity to manage the pest longer-term.

The response to PSHB has not stopped. DPIRD remains committed to supporting communities through this phase of the response and ensuring best-practice management strategies are in place.

## T2M Response Activities

The T2MRP will enable a coordinated shift in how PSHB is managed in Australia. The strategy is structured around four key programs: Orderly Transition of Eradication Activities, Slow the Spread, Capacity Building, and Future Proofing.

### Orderly Transition of Eradication Activities

This program aims to transition from eradication-oriented activities in an orderly and coordinated manner to the activities detailed in the T2MRP:

- Realign efforts to undertake tree treatment activities for high priority trees and areas
- Refocus surveillance activities around high-risk areas, such as waterways, and top hosts located on the boundary of the QA

### Slow the Spread

This program aims to slow the spread of PSHB, providing stakeholders with time to develop and implement sustainable management strategies. It will also support the development of robust surveillance and suppression measures. It includes:

- Identification of high-risk sites and host species
- Targeted surveillance in priority areas
- Treatment strategies tailored by site, host species, and infestation level
- Strengthened compliance and enforcement of quarantine restrictions

## Capacity Building and Training

This program focuses on developing resilience and capability in communities, industries and landowners to manage the impact of PSHB. It includes:

- Delivery of comprehensive training program for local governments and land managers
- Development of tailored manuals and pest identification guides
- Hosting of technical workshops and forums

## Future Proofing

This program is designed to prepare local and national stakeholders for long-term sustainability and adaptability in PSHB management, including establishment of arrangements to mitigate the impact of PSHB in Australia.

- Development of a national research strategy to address knowledge gaps
- Review and enhancement of relevant trade protocols
- National assessment of host species risk to prioritise resources and interventions

## Quarantine Area

The PSHB Quarantine Area (QA) will remain in effect as a key means of slowing the spread of the pest. The QA covers the entire Perth metropolitan region.

## Quarantine Zones

The QA is divided into two zones:

- The **Management Zone** which covers the inner metropolitan area where the borer is already present; and
- The **Containment Zone** which covers the outskirts of the metropolitan area.

## Movement Restrictions

To reduce the risk of spread, movement of PSHB material remains restricted under the following rules:

- Movement of PSHB host material from within the **Management Zone** to areas outside the **Management Zone** is prohibited.
- Movement of PSHB host material from within the **Containment Zone** to areas outside the **QA** is prohibited.

These restrictions apply to material such as tree prunings, mulch (>2.5cm diameter), unseasoned wood, and plants (>2.0cm diameter).

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