

Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) Update

Friday, 6 September 2024

The Department of Agriculture and Regional Development has announced a significant expansion of the PSHB Quarantine Area (QA) effective today, 6 September 2024.

Further information on this change and WALGA's PSHB actions and advocacy are provided below.

Quarantine Area Expansion

The new QA has increased in size from 871 km² to 16,400 km² and now covers the entire Perth metropolitan area. Five additional Local Government Areas are included: Armadale, Kwinana, Mundaring, Rockingham and Serpentine Jarrahdale, taking the number of QA Local Government areas from 25 to 30.

The Quarantine Area is divided into **Zone A** and **Zone B**.

- **Zone A** covers an area with high numbers of infested trees and where intensive control activities such as tree removal are underway. This zone has more restrictions on the movement of high-risk materials.
- **Zone B** covers an area with fewer or no infested trees and where heightened surveillance is underway to identify and control new infestations. This zone is intended to act as a 'buffer zone' between areas of higher infestations and the remainder of the State.

Zone A

City of Belmont	City of Gosnells
City of Bayswater	City of Melville
Town of Bassendean	City of Nedlands
Town of Cambridge	Shire of Peppermint Grove
City of Canning	Town of Mosman Park
Town of Claremont	City of Perth
City of Cockburn	City of South Perth
Town of Cottesloe	City of Stirling
Town of East Fremantle	City of Subiaco
City of Fremantle	City of Swan (Localities of Brabham, Henley Brook, Avey, Belhus, Ellenbrook, The Vines, Upper Swan, Baskerville, Millendon, and Herne Hill only)
	City of Vincent
	Town of Victoria Park

Zone B

City of Armadale

City of Kwinana

City of Joondalup

Shire of Mundaring

City of Wanneroo

City of Rockingham

City of Kalamunda

Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

Expanded quarantine area map: [2024.pdfhttps://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/PSHB_Map_QA_Zones_Both_Combined_Sept_2024.pdf](https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/PSHB_Map_QA_Zones_Both_Combined_Sept_2024.pdf)

Quarantine Restrictions

A Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) restricting the movement of wood and plant material is in place:

https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/PSHB_Quarantine_Area_Notice_and_Exemptions.pdf

Residents in **Zone A**:

- cannot move untreated or unseasoned wood outside Zone A, unless chipped to pieces that are 2.5 cm or less in diameter,
- cannot move plant materials, including living plants, that are greater than 2 cm in diameter outside Zone A, and
- must ensure any machinery used to handle green waste is cleaned before it can be moved outside Zone A.

Residents in **Zone B**:

- cannot move untreated or unseasoned wood outside the Quarantine Area, unless chipped to pieces that are 2.5 cm or less in diameter,
- cannot move plant materials, including living plants, that are greater than 2cm in diameter outside the Quarantine Area,
- can move wood or plant materials, including living plants, into Zone A, and
- must ensure any machinery used to handle green waste is cleaned before it can be moved outside the Quarantine Area.

Restrictions do not apply to grass and lawn clippings.

Further information including an interactive map showing the zones and requirements can be found at <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/borer>

Social Media Resources and Signage

Local Governments can access DPIRD communication assets here: [Airtable - PSHB Comms Portal](#).

DPIRD can provide signage material to Local Governments. Requests can be sent to pshbpublicinformationmanager@dpiird.wa.gov.au. WALGA has also requested that DPIRD create signage for Local Governments outside the QA to assist in communications with their communities.

WALGA is actively working to enhance the quality of communications from DPIRD to ensure that the information shared with Local Governments is appropriate and tailored to their individual circumstances.

DPIRD Engagement

DPIRD has developed a [Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan](#) to assist DPIRD and Local Governments to work together in the PSHB response. As part of the Plan DPIRD is offering:

- ongoing **monthly meetings** with each individual LG within the QA to discuss tree management and surveillance activities within their area, as well as general PSHB updates and information. Local Governments within the QA are encouraged to contact their DPIRD case manager.
- **LG Monthly PSHB Bulletins** tailored to each Local Government containing general updates and response statistics of activities within their boundaries and across the Perth metropolitan area.
- WALGA has requested that a general monthly bulletin also be made available to all Local Governments outside the QA.

WALGA will continue to update our Member Councils inside and outside the Quarantine Area with any updates.

DPIRD has requested that QA Local Governments nominate a key contact for the PSHB response. This representative will be the recipient of the Monthly PSHB Bulletin for distribution within Local Governments, and the liaison for monthly meetings.

WALGA also encourages Local Governments outside the QA to provide DPIRD with the details of their nominated contact, as a precaution, and to aid timely communications with DPIRD should it become necessary.

Local Governments should email PSHBPublicInformation@dpiird.wa.gov.au with the details of their nominated contact.

WALGA convenes PSHB Local Government meetings for officers to receive PSHB briefings from DPIRD and to collaborate with other stakeholders. The DPIRD presentation from the meeting held this week can be found [here](#).

WALGA Advocacy Priorities

Polyphagous Shot-hole borer and the Government's response remains a significant area of concern and a policy priority for WALGA.

While the \$7.2 million tree replacement funding announced by the State Government is welcome, WALGA is continuing to call on the State Government to:

- intensify and adequately resource the response effort, including support and funding for Local Governments,
- urgently roll out a public awareness campaign, including roadside signage around the Quarantine Area, and
- prioritise investment in research to find effective ways to treat and prevent PSHB.