



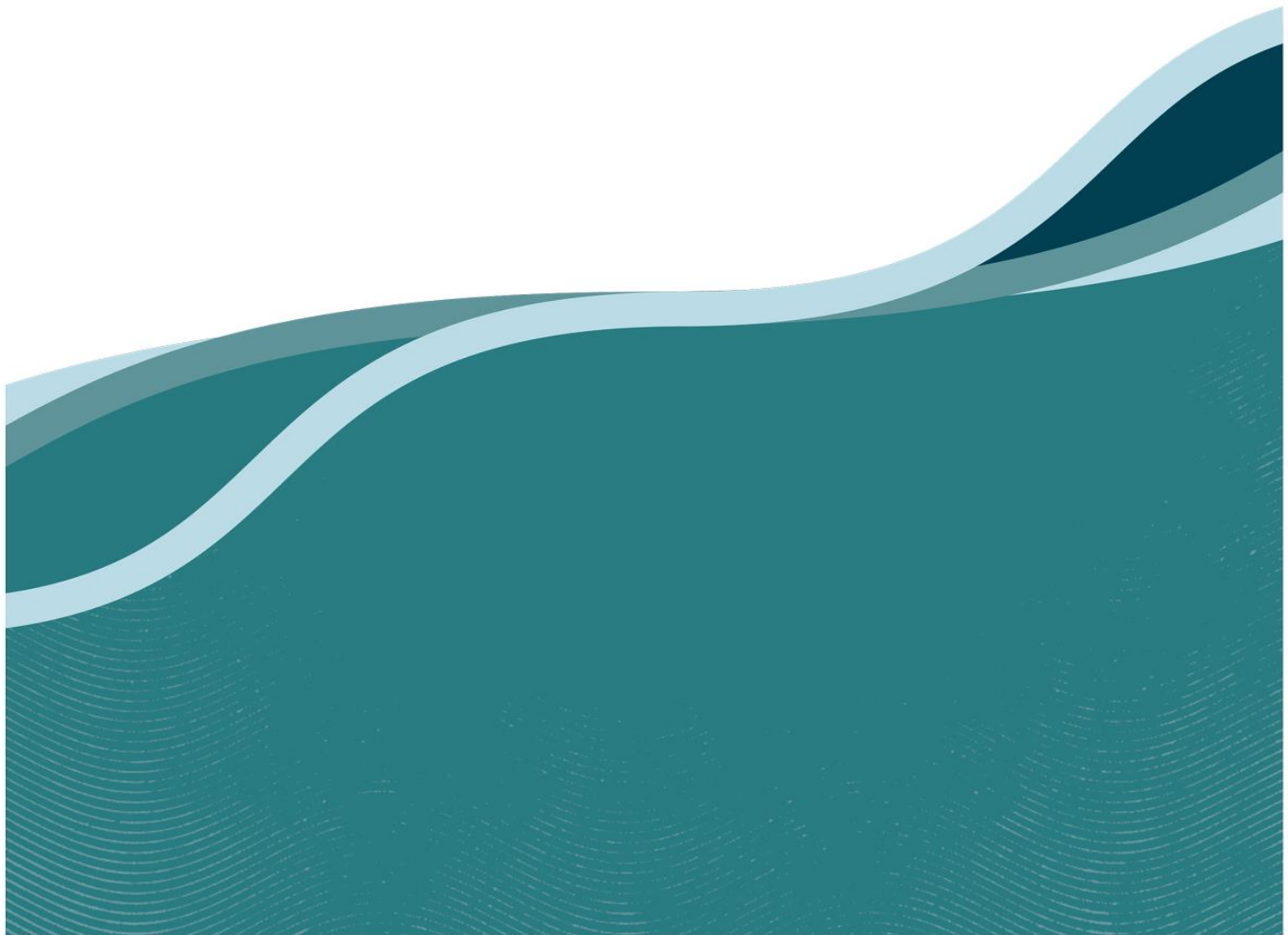
Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
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Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) Response

Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan

2024



Summary

The Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) response seeks to eradicate the PSHB pest complex in Australia. One way we're doing this is through a collaborative approach with Local Government (LG) to increase surveillance of host species and expediate the treatment of infested trees. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) recognises that Local Government, with its land management, planning and other regulatory responsibilities, is a key stakeholder in the PSHB response.

The Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan sets an approach for DPIRD and Local Governments to work together in the response to eradicate this invasive pest and outlines key areas with actions to support Local Government's contribution to the biosecurity response and recovery of urban forests in the Perth Quarantine Area.

Context

DPIRD is engaged in a nationally coordinated and funded response to eradicate PSHB. PSHB is a declared pest in Western Australia under section 22(2) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)*.

DPIRD has been working closely with affected Local Governments as part of its response to PSHB since it was first detected in the Perth metropolitan area in 2021. Local Government has a vital role in supporting the eradication of PSHB in Western Australia.

PSHB national response objectives

The objectives of the national PSHB Response Plan are to delimit the extent of the PSHB infestation by conducting surveillance and trapping, contain and eradicate PSHB within the established Quarantine Area by restricting the movement of risk material and managing infested trees.

LG engagement and activation plan objectives

The primary objective of the Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan is to leverage Local Government's expertise, resources and proximity to the community, to enhance the PSHB response by enlisting the support of the sector.

This plan aims to:

- **Enlist** the support of local government authorities.
- **Conduct** more surveillance, for early detection of infested trees.
- **Contain** the pest complex by avoiding the planting of preferred reproductive host trees.
- **Improve** understanding of PSHB, via Local Government community engagement.
- **Eradicate** PSHB with timely and efficient removal of infested trees and material.
- **Ensure** timely provision of information to local government.
- **Support** the recovery and restoration of urban forests.

A secondary objective of this plan is to support and build capacity in Local Government for the recovery and restoration of affected urban forests.

Scope

Local Governments (LGs) have been working with DPIRD since the beginning of the response to undertake biosecurity obligations, enable access, and assist with prescribed treatment options.

LGs and representative associations have acknowledged the significant threat of PSHB to urban forests and the importance of shared surveillance. LGs have requested regular information, updates, training and access to funding to assist with the PSHB response and the recovery of urban canopies.

This plan outlines DPIRDs activities which support the engagement of LGs and local communities within and adjacent to the Perth Quarantine Area. It also outlines the recommended activities of Local Government to assist with the PSHB response.

It is important to note that the following activities are currently out-of-scope for this plan:

- Provision of information that is in breach of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*
- Provision of the street addresses of infested trees on individual private property.
- Provision of information that is a breach of confidentiality with another LG.
- Provision of funding to LGs to undertake response activities.

Key activities

This plan supports the biosecurity model of shared responsibility and outlines a suite of actions for implementation by both DPIRD and LGs that will assist in the eradication of PSHB. A summary of DPIRD actions is provided in Appendix A and Local Government actions in Appendix B.

Consultation

This plan has been informed by, and builds upon, consultation with Local Government representatives including Mayors, Shire Presidents and elected members, CEOs, managers, field staff, and local government associations including the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and Perth South West Metropolitan Alliance.

Evaluation and review

This plan will be evaluated regularly to review achievements and identify strengths, weaknesses and improvement opportunities. Evaluations will also assess the effectiveness of activities against the stated objectives.

Key activities

1. Local Government Partnerships

Objective: Enlist the support of local Government authorities to actively engage in the PSHB response.

DPIRD actions:

- 1.1. Appointment of a Local Government liaison officer to manage communication and information updates.
- 1.2. Registry of Local Government PSHB partnership representatives.
- 1.3. Exchange of letters between the DPIRD PSHB response and LGs.
- 1.4. Continued liaison with WALGA to disseminate information, coordinate training needs and participate in stakeholder meetings.
- 1.5. Develop Research and Development (R&D) priorities and identify science opportunities through the Scientific Advisory Group.

Local Government actions:

- 1.6. Acknowledge correspondence from DPIRD regarding the PSHB response.
- 1.7. Nominate LG representatives to engage in the PSHB response.
- 1.8. Allocate resources to undertake PSHB surveillance and education activities within the limits of staff and budget allocations.
- 1.9. WALGA to work in collaboration with DPIRD and LGAs to support the response.
- 1.10. LG to Attend PSHB meetings with DPIRD.

2. Active surveillance

Objective: Conduct more surveillance for early detection of infested trees

DPIRD actions:

- 2.1. Support LG staff to contribute to surveillance outcomes by delivering training to local government operational field staff (eg parks, environmental staff and rangers) to aid early detection of newly infested trees.
- 2.2. Incorporate an LG reporting feature on the MyPestGuide Reporter App to prioritise reports from LGs.
- 2.3. Provide information to LGs on their contributions to the response, including surveillance activities via an LG Monthly PSHB Bulletin.
- 2.4. Engage arborists to monitor priority trees at canopy level.

Local Government actions:

- 2.5. Attend PSHB training and information sessions.
- 2.6. Request LG field staff and contractors to undertake opportunistic surveillance of host trees whilst undertaking day-to-day activities.
- 2.7. Report suspect PSHB activity via the *MyPestGuide Reporter App*.
- 2.8. Consider expanding the scope of scheduled 'street tree audits' to include inspection for signs of PSHB.

3. Avoid planting PSHB preferred reproductive host trees

Objective: Contain the pest complex, by avoiding the planting of PSHB preferred reproductive host trees.

DPIRD actions:

- 3.1. Maintain the list of known PSHB host species in Western Australia at agric.wa.gov.au/borer
- 3.2. Maintain the list of global PSHB host species at agric.wa.gov.au/borer
- 3.3. Maintain the 'PSHB What to Plant' Guide at agric.wa.gov.au/borer

Local Government actions:

- 3.4. Avoid planting PSHB **preferred** reproductive host tree species
- 3.5. Discourage the local community from planting PSHB **preferred** reproductive host tree species.
- 3.6. Encourage the review and revision of relevant policies, plans and strategies to address PSHB response protocols and biosecurity risks.

4. Community engagement

Objective: Improve community understanding of PSHB via LG communications and engagement.

DPIRD actions:

- 4.1. Provide marketing collateral via the [PSHB communication portal](#), including animated videos, social media posts, photos, images, fact sheets, flyers, maps, and digital signage.
- 4.2. Deliver regular training and information sessions as appropriate, for Elected Members and LG sustainability, environmental education and communications staff.
- 4.3. Provide PSHB education kits and resources to LG.

Local Government actions:

- 4.4. Attend PSHB training and information sessions.
- 4.5. Utilise the PSHB Comms portal and education resources.
- 4.6. Share information about PSHB with residents via social media, rates notices, newsletters, information displays, community events, etc.
- 4.7. Include PSHB as a standing item on WALGA State Council agenda.

5. Timely treatment of infested trees

Objective: Eradicate PSHB with timely and efficient treatment of infested trees and material.

DPIRD actions:

- 5.1. Notify LGs of infested trees on LG managed land, including street trees, via issue of a Pest Control Notice (PCN) and a Tree Management Plan (TMP) for each Infested Premises (IP).
- 5.2. Meet with all affected LGs on a monthly basis, to discuss the priority of tree management and surveillance activities.
- 5.3. Liaise with LGs in the development of TMPs.
- 5.4. Notify LGs on the date(s) of prescribed control measures (treatment) of infested trees to ensure staff have the opportunity to attend.
- 5.5. Provide a BAM Inspector (an inspector authorised under the BAM Act) to oversee all prescribed control measures (treatment) of infested trees and ensure compliance with the Quarantine Area Notices (QAN) and PCN.
- 5.6. Engage qualified arborists for tree treatments and adhere to Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees
- 5.7. Deliver training for LG operational staff and contractors on the management of infested material, and requirements of the QAN, PCN and TMPs for IPs.

Local Government actions:

- 5.8. On receipt of a PCN and TMP, notify DPIRD of any approvals required to undertake the prescribed control measures (treatment) of infested trees.
- 5.9. Engage with DPIRD in the development of TMPs, and to discuss local priorities for tree management and surveillance activities.
- 5.10. Where resources permit, monitor pruned trees at regular intervals to ensure early detection of any reinfestation.
- 5.11. Encourage the review of relevant policies to address biosecurity response protocols and risks. For example, council Street Tree Policies to include a clause that enables the treatment of trees identified as a biosecurity threat. i.e. *Removal of a city tree will be considered if the tree is identified as a biosecurity threat.*

6. PSHB updates for Local Government

Objective: Ensure timely provision of information to Local Government

DPIRD actions:

- 6.1. Provide monthly maps with information on PSHB infestations within each individual LGA, to local governments that have entered into a non-disclosure agreement with DPIRD. Maps will include the locations of positive traps and infested premises, without identifying individual private properties.
- 6.2. Provide information specific to each LG via an LG Monthly PSHB Bulletin including key statistics and updates.

Local Government actions:

- 6.3. Enter into a non-disclosure agreement with DPIRD to access PSHB maps for their individual local government area.
- 6.4. Provide information on LG engagement activities for the response and feedback on the LG Monthly PSHB Bulletin.

7. Recovery and restoration

Objective: support the recovery and restoration of affected urban forests.

DPIRD actions:

- 7.1. Provide capacity building activities to LG (e.g. skills development, training, knowledge sharing) to enable the pathway to recovery and resilience.
- 7.2. Work with relevant stakeholders and delivery agencies to explore the feasibility of PSHB recovery and resilience.

Local Government actions:

- 7.3. Attend training and information sessions to build the capacity of local government to assist in the recovery and restoration of the urban forest and affected communities.
- 7.4. Provide technical advice and feedback on PSHB recovery and resilience initiatives.

Communication protocols

This document is for internal use only and not to be circulated to external parties, in part or whole.

Local Governments may display, publish and post the pre-approved marketing collateral provided by DPIRD on the [PSHB communication portal](#).

Approval must be obtained from the PSHB Public Information Manager for any alterations or changes to the approved materials. Please refer to the contact and links channel in the communications portal.

Important Disclaimer

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Appendix A – Summary of DPIRD actions

PSHB response, Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan

1. Local Government Partnerships	
Objective: Enlist the support of LGs to actively engage in the response	
1.1	Appointment of a PSHB Local Government liaison officer
1.2	Registry of key LG PSHB partnership representatives
1.3	Exchange of letters between DPIRD and LGs
1.4	Liaise with WALGA to disseminate information, coordinate training needs and participate in stakeholder meetings
1.5	Support R&D for the control of PSHB through the Scientific Advisory Group
2. Active Surveillance	
Objective: Conduct more surveillance for early detection of infested trees	
2.1	Deliver PSHB inspection training to LG field staff
2.2	LG reporting channel on the <i>MyPestGuide Reporter App</i>
2.3	Provide information to LGs via the <i>LG Monthly PSHB Bulletin</i>
2.4	Engage arborists to monitor priority trees at canopy level
3. Avoid planting PSHB preferred host species	
Objective: Contain the pest complex, by avoiding the planting of PSHB preferred reproductive host trees	
3.1	Maintain the list of known PSHB host species in Western Australia
3.2	Maintain the list of global PSHB host species
3.3	Maintain the 'PSHB What to Plant' Guide
4. Community engagement	
Objective: Improve understanding of PSHB via LG communications and engagement	
4.1	Provide PSHB marketing collateral via the PSHB Communications portal
4.2	Deliver training information sessions for LG staff and stakeholders
4.3	Provide PSHB education kits and resources

5. Timely removal of infested trees	
Objective: Eradicate PSHB with timely and efficient treatment of infested trees and material.	
5.1	Notify LGs of infested trees on LG managed land
5.2	Meet with all affected LGs on a monthly basis, to discuss the priority of tree management and surveillance activities
5.3	Liaise with LG in the development of TMPs
5.4	Notify LGs on the date(s) of prescribed control measures (treatment) of infested trees to ensure staff have the opportunity to attend
5.5	Provide a BAM Inspector to oversee treatment of infested trees and ensure compliance
5.6	Engage qualified arborists for tree treatments and adhere to Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees
5.7	Deliver training for LG field staff and contractors on the management of infested material and requirements of the QAN, PCN and TMPs for IPs
6. PSHB updates for local government	
Objective: Ensure timely provision of information to LGs	
6.1	Provide monthly PSHB maps to LGs with non-disclosure agreements
6.2	Issue a Monthly PSHB Bulletin to each LG with localised information
7. Recovery and restoration	
Objective: support the recovery and restoration of affected urban forests	
7.1	Provide capacity building activities to LG
7.2	Explore the feasibility of PSHB recovery and resilience initiatives.

Appendix B – Summary of Local Government actions

PSHB response, Local Government Engagement and Activation Plan

1. Local Government Partnerships	
Objective: Actively engage in the PSHB response	
1.6	Acknowledge correspondence from DPIRD regarding the PSHB response
1.7	Nominate LG representatives to engage in the PSHB response
1.8	Allocate resources to undertake PSHB surveillance and education activities
1.9	WALGA to work in collaboration with DPIRD and LGAs to support the response
1.10	LG to Attend PSHB meetings with DPIRD
2. Active Surveillance	
Objective: Conduct more surveillance for early detection of infested trees	
2.5	Attend PSHB training and information sessions
2.6	Request LG staff and contractors to undertake opportunistic PSHB surveillance of trees whilst undertaking day-to-day activities
2.7	Report suspect PSHB activity via the MyPestGuide Reporter App
2.8	Consider expanding the scope for street tree audits to include inspection for PSHB
3. Avoid planting PSHB preferred host species	
Objective: Contain the pest complex, by avoiding the planting of PSHB preferred reproductive host trees	
3.4	Avoid planting PSHB preferred reproductive host tree species
3.5	Discourage the local community from planting PSHB preferred reproductive host tree species
3.6	Encourage the review and revision of policies, plans and strategies to address biosecurity response protocols and risks
4. Community engagement	
Objective: Improve understanding of PSHB via LG communications and engagement	
4.4	Attend PSHB training and information sessions
4.5	Utilise the PSHB Comms portal and education resources
4.6	Share information about PSHB with residents
4.7	Include PSHB as a standing item on WALGA State Council agenda

5. Timely removal of infested trees	
Objective: Eradicate PSHB with timely and efficient treatment of infested trees and material.	
5.8	On receipt of a PCN and TMP, notify DPIRD of any approvals required to undertake the prescribed control measures (treatment) of infested trees
5.9	Engage with DPIRD in the development of TMPs, and to discuss local priorities for tree management and surveillance activities
5.10	Monitor pruned trees at regular intervals to ensure early detection of any reinfestation
5.11	Review and revise relevant policies to address biosecurity response protocols and risks
6. PSHB updates for local government	
Objective: Ensure timely provision of information	
6.3	Enter into a non-disclosure agreement with DPIRD to access localised PSHB maps
6.4	Provide information on LG engagement activities and feedback on the PSHB LG Bulletin
7. Recovery and restoration	
Objective: Support the recovery and restoration of affected urban forests	
7.3	Attend training and information sessions to build capacity to assist in the recovery and restoration of urban forests and affected communities
7.4	Provide technical advice and feedback on PSHB recovery and resilience initiatives.

Appendix C - Glossary of terms and acronyms

Term	Meaning
Amplifier tree	a tree or species of tree in which the PSHB can breed prolifically, allowing the build-up of large populations of beetles. A list of amplifier trees can be found on the WA host list at agric.wa.gov.au/borer
<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> (BAM Act)	The BAM Act and associated regulations provide for the protection of WA's agriculture and food sector and the environment. This includes prevention of new pests, weeds and diseases from entering WA and management of the impact and spread of those pests already present in the state.
BAM Inspector	an inspector authorised under the BAM Act
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Direction Notice (DN)	issued by a BAM inspector for infested material to be taken off site.
Fusarium	A genus of fungi. PSHB has a symbiotic relationship with a <i>Fusarium</i> fungus, farming it inside the tree as a food source for the beetle and its larvae. In susceptible trees, the fungus kills vascular tissue causing Fusarium dieback and tree death.
Infested	Polyphagous shot-hole borer is present as either live or dead specimens.
Infested Premises	A premises (or locality) at which an PSHB is confirmed or believed to exist
PaDIS	Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) phone 08 9368 3080.
Pest Control Notice (PCN)	A notice issued under the Western Australian <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> . Includes restrictions as gazetted in the Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) dated 21 March 2023.
Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB)	The Polyphagous shot-hole borer (<i>Euwallacea fornicates</i>) is a tiny beetle. PSHB is invasive and declared a pest in Western Australia under section 22(2) of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> (BAM Act).
Prescribed control measures	Prescribed control measures include treatments such as pruning, removal and chipping of infested material
Quarantine Area Notice (QAN)	Issued to prevent the spread of declared pests from a specified geographical area. The latest QAN for PSHB was gazetted on 21 March 2023.
Reproductive host	A host plant where any life stage of PSHB indicating reproduction was observed, or exposed galleries of attacked host plants were present and <i>Fusarium</i> sp. (AF-18) was isolated
Tree Management Plan	A document that outlines the tree management options and process (steps) for treatment and audits at an infested premises. Issued along with the pest control notice.

Approval

Document approved by	Sign-off date
Dominic Castledine, Public Information Manager	16 August 2024
David Griffiths, Incident Controller	16 August 2024
Mia Carbon, Acting Deputy Director General, Sustainability and Biosecurity	16 August 2024

