

# Polyphagous shot-hole borer - Transition to Management

## Frequently asked questions

### Why can't polyphagous shot-hole borer be eradicated?

Based on the latest scientific data and advice from leading plant biosecurity experts, the National Management Group (NMG) has determined that polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) is no longer technically feasible to eradicate from WA.

Determining factors include the difficulty in detecting and controlling borer infestations at an early stage before the pest can reproduce, and the lack of available effective chemical treatments for eradication.

Ongoing eradication would require the removal of a very significant number of trees from Perth's urban canopy and is unlikely to be successful.

As a result of this decision, the response to shot-hole borer in WA is now transitioning to the next phase of the response.

### How will management differ from eradication?

The national response to shot-hole borer has not stopped. The response will now enter a new phase that focuses on longer-term management of the pest.

An 18-month national Transition to Management Plan is being finalised which will outline how shot-hole borer infestations will be managed, and how its spread and impact on healthy trees will be limited.

The initial phase of the transition will focus on targeted management of shot-hole borer infestations to slow its spread and minimise the risk of spread beyond the Perth metropolitan area.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will work closely with industry, community and local government partners to build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to manage the shot-hole borer long term.

Further detail on the Transition to Management Plan will be made available shortly.

Early reporting of shot-hole borer, particularly in the outer metropolitan area, remains as important as ever and DPIRD is urging people to continue to look for and report signs of the borer to the department through the MyPestGuide reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

## Who will coordinate the Transition to Management Plan?

The shot-hole borer response will begin transitioning from an eradication response to a management phase from 1 July 2025.

DPIRD will lead the transition to management phase in WA and will work closely with industry, community and local government to build the knowledge, skills and capacity to manage shot-hole borer into the future.

## How long will the Transition to Management Plan be in place?

The national Transition to Management Plan, which is being finalised, will guide the transition from eradication to the long-term management of shot-hole borer in Western Australia over an 18 month period.

## How will the Transition to Management Plan be funded?

All Australian governments will contribute to the cost of this phase of the national response.

The State Government has provisioned \$26.5 million for the shot-hole borer response plan in the 2025-26 State Budget, to focus on the management of the invasive pest to slow its spread, limit the impact on healthy trees and to protect our horticulture industry.

## Will trees continue to be removed under transition to management?

Targeted surveillance and management of high-risk infested trees will be an important element of the transition. These activities will be focused on slowing the spread and minimising the risk of spread beyond the Perth metropolitan area.

Early reporting of shot-hole borer, particularly in the outer metropolitan area, remains as important as ever and DPIRD is urging people to continue to look for and report signs of the borer to the department through the MyPestGuide reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

## Will the Quarantine Area remain in place?

The Quarantine Area for shot-hole borer remains in place.

The community's support is vital to help limit the spread of shot-hole borer. All Perth residents and businesses are urged to continue to follow the Quarantine Area restrictions.

One of these restrictions applies to moving untreated wood.

Untreated wood, including firewood, and living plants *cannot* be moved outside of the Quarantine Area.

DPIRD reminds people who purchase firewood to purchase wood locally and burn it where they buy it.

## Will there be more research funding for shot-hole borer?

The State Government is investing \$2.17 million towards new research which aims to improve detection, surveillance and control methods for shot-hole borer.

The WA Agricultural Research Collaboration research projects will explore improved surveillance and treatment options to support the long-term management of shot-hole borer. These projects bring together scientific expertise from across the State's leading universities, DPIRD and CSIRO to investigate how the latest science, technology and learnings can assist in responding to this pest.

The more we can learn about shot-hole borer and its associated fungus, the better equipped WA will be to protect and support the State's urban tree canopy and horticultural industry.

## What will the research projects focus on?

The first research project, led by Curtin University, will develop predictive models and risk maps to help prioritise surveillance and control efforts, ensuring efficient resource allocation and enhanced decision-making.

The University of Western Australia will lead a project investigating innovative chemical and biological control strategies against the pest, as well as improved pest detection by identifying new chemical lures.

A Murdoch University-led project will further examine the host range of shot-hole borer in WA and look at innovative technologies, such as remote sensing, AI-driven risk mapping and geospatial tools to improve early detection of the borer.

For more information about the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer Research Program, visit the [WAARC website](#).

## What other research is being undertaken in Western Australia?

DPIRD is committed to working with international and local scientists to support further research under WA conditions.

DPIRD continues to work with the City of Perth and the City of Vincent to explore treatment options used overseas to help minimise the loss of trees.

The trials, which started in October 2023, are being undertaken at several locations in known shot-hole borer infestation areas in the inner metropolitan area.

The research includes direct trunk injections and paint-on applications of insecticides on preferred host trees.

More work is required to determine the effectiveness of these measures to manage shot-hole borer infestations.

The City of Canning is also undertaking a study using systemically injected chemicals to manage shot-hole borer infestations in host trees.

DPIRD will continue to liaise with local governments about the results of other chemical trials being undertaken and any potential treatments that show signs of success in managing shot-hole borer.

## What will be done to protect the State's horticulture industries?

DPIRD continues to keep the State's horticulture industries informed about shot-hole borer and the work being done to minimise the risk to horticulture production areas.

The Quarantine Area covering the entire metropolitan area remains in place and movement restrictions for wood and plant material still apply.

The community's support is vital to help limit the spread of shot-hole borer. All Perth residents and businesses are urged to continue to follow the Quarantine Area restrictions.

DPIRD encourages people to continue to look for and report signs of shot-hole borer through the MyPestGuide reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

## What will be done to protect the WA environment?

Protecting Perth's urban tree canopy and environment from shot-hole borer remains a high priority for Western Australia as the national biosecurity response shifts focus from eradication to management of the invasive pest.

The State Government has provisioned \$26.5 million for the shot-hole borer response plan in the 2025-26 State Budget, to focus on the management of the invasive pest to slow its spread, limit the impact on healthy trees and to protect our horticulture industry.

As part of the 2025-26 State Budget, the State Government has also committed \$6.9 million to a tree rebate program and a \$10 million grants program to increase urban canopy.

The treebate program will provide 10,000 West Australians each year with \$150 rebates to plant native trees

The \$10 million grants will be delivered over four years and enable community groups to get involved in improving the urban greening and canopy cover in their local streets and suburbs.

These initiatives build on the State Government's \$7.2 million WA Tree Recovery Program to help revegetate Perth's urban canopy impacted by shot-hole borer.

This program will fund local governments and residential landowners to replant trees that have been removed due to shot-hole borer.

For more information visit [WA Tree Recovery - Local Government Grant Program](#)

The State Government has also provided an additional \$1.6 million in grants under the Urban Greening Grants Program to 16 local government across Perth and Peel to plant more than 5,000 trees and 130,000 understorey species

## Should shot-hole borer still be reported?

Yes. Reporting will continue to be a crucial component of shot-hole borer management .

DPIRD encourages people to continue to look for and report signs of shot-hole borer through the MyPestGuide reporter app or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

Early reporting of shot-hole borer, particularly in the outer metropolitan zone, is as important as ever.

## What are the next steps?

The shot-hole borer response will begin transitioning from an eradication response to a management phase from 1 July 2025.

The initial phase will focus on targeted management of shot-hole borer infestations to slow its spread and impact on healthy trees to minimise the risk of spread beyond the Perth metropolitan area.

DPIRD will work closely with industry, community and local government partners to build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to manage shot-hole borer into the future.

A national Transition to Management Plan is being finalised and further detail on the plan will be provided as it is available.