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Greenlife Industry Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer detected in Perth, Western Australia

- The Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB) was detected in the Perth metropolitan area in September 2021, found outside the initial PSHB quarantine zone established in Fremantle
- 25 local government areas have been captured within the polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer quarantine zone
- Western Australian tree stock growers must remain vigilant in their surveillance and monitoring for this pest.

The Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is taking immediate action in response to confirmed detections of the Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB), an exotic beetle, in the Perth metropolitan area.

First detected in East Fremantle in August 2021, the Department is implementing a comprehensive strategy to address the pest incursion which includes surveillance, quarantine notices, containment policies, stakeholder communication, and ensuring the safety and efficiency of all response activities for those in the 25 local government areas under quarantine.

John McDonald, Director RDE and Biosecurity at Greenlife Industry Australia, is emphasising the importance of cooperation and coordination between government, the nursery industry and the community in implementing these measures.

“The PSHB is a serious threat to our greenlife sector. The beetle has a symbiotic relationship with a fungus that it cultivates in trees to use as a food source. In susceptible trees, the fungus kills vascular tissue causing dieback and tree death.

“We urge Western Australian tree stock growers to remain extra vigilant in their surveillance and monitoring for this pest.

“A thorough and proactive response is crucial in mitigating the impact of the PSHB on the local environment, surrounding businesses and residents.

“By adhering to the quarantine area requirements, businesses play a vital role in preventing widespread tree deaths.

“Together, we can safeguard our greenlife industry and the wider community against this invasive species.

“If growers detect PSHB in their business, they should report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881,” Mr McDonald said.

Mr McDonald leads the national nursery industry biosecurity and sustainable plant production program which is funded by Hort Innovation using the nursery research and development levy with

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additional funds from the Australian Government. The program includes working with a wider biosecurity network to help limit the spread of exotic pests and diseases.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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More information

For current quarantine areas, visit: www.outbreak.gov.au/current-outbreaks/polyphagous-shot-hole-borer

For detailed quarantine area requirements, refer to the infographic:
www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/PSHB%20DL%20infographic.pdf

For identification information and images, access the online pest identification platform:
www.pestid.com.au/pest-insect/tea-shot-hole-borer-shot-hole-borer-polyphagous-shot-hole-borer-ambrosia-borer

The Pest Identification Tool was developed by Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland, with support and assistance from Greenlife Industry Australia, Hort Innovation and Plant Health Australia.