

POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER — INFESTATION

236. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the infestation of polyphagous shot-hole borer throughout the Perth metropolitan area.

- (1) Can the minister provide an outline of any community awareness campaigns regarding the infestation that have been undertaken to date, including —
 - (a) the communication mediums used;
 - (b) the amount expended on these campaigns; and
 - (c) the target audience or organisations?
- (2) What specific industry organisations have been briefed on the infestation and when?
- (3) What Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development resources have been applied to containing the outbreak?
- (4) What practical actions have been set in place to contain the infestation to the Perth metropolitan area?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has undertaken an extensive communication campaign since the detection of polyphagous shot-hole borer in the Perth metropolitan area in October 2021.
 - (a) Communication mediums used include a communications toolkit for local government authorities and impacted stakeholders to undertake communications through their own channels and networks; in-person meetings and public engagement at events, including several local government forums, a public forum at the 2023 Western Australian Local Government Association Urban Forest Conference, with the Western Australian Tree Canopy Advocates, the Perth Royal Show, and gardening events including the Kings Park native plant sale; over 100 targeted social media posts; press releases; signage; and printed materials including fact sheets. There were also responses to specific media inquiries, such as a 6PR interview with Sonya Broughton on 5 October 2022; *Post* newspaper, 11 January, written response; *Post* newspaper, 25 January, written response; *Post* newspaper, 15 February, written response; 6PR interview with Sonya Broughton on 19 February; *Post* newspaper, 21 February, written response; ABC *Mornings* interview update, 2 March; *Post* newspaper photo opportunity on 27 February at Lake Claremont; and 98.5 Sonshine FM gardening program, booked for 4 March.
 - (b) To date, \$63 000 has been spent on these communications.
 - (c) The target audience includes residents within the quarantine area; local government authorities within and adjacent to the quarantine area; industry stakeholders; ArbWest; Kings Park; Rottnest Island Authority; Perth Zoo; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and universities including the University of Western Australia, Murdoch and Curtin.

Apologies, member. I should have put that in a tabular form.

- (2) In addition to those groups listed in (1)(c), the Horticulture Biosecurity Advisory Committee, which includes state industry representation from berries; citrus; pome, which is apple and pear; stone, which is peach, plum, nectarine and cherries; and the nursery and garden industries, has been briefed on the situation since polyphagous shot-hole borer was first detected in October 2021.
- (3) DPIRD currently has 130 staff working on the response and has now completed over 1.3 million tree inspections since the response began in October 2021. More than 3 000 specific PSHB traps have been deployed across the metropolitan area, which are inspected fortnightly.
- (4) The following activities are being undertaken to control the infestation within the Perth metropolitan area. A quarantine area has been established covering 21 local government authorities and 623 square kilometres; inspection is taking place of all known host trees within the quarantine area; treatment occurring through removal or pruning of the infested material of any host trees identified positive for PSHB; and the deployment of more than 3 000 specific PSHB traps across the metro area, which are inspected fortnightly.

The PRESIDENT: I note that the relatively short question asked elicited a significant amount of information. I invite both the asker and the answerer to think about how the question is framed and answered.