

POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER

**224. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

I refer to the outbreak of polyphagous shot-hole borer in Perth.

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing on the severity of the pest?
- (2) When did the outbreak occur?
- (3) How did the borer enter Western Australia?
- (4) What is the existing budget to control and eradicate the borer?
- (5) Can the borer feasibly be eradicated in Western Australia?
- (6) What percentage of urban trees will be impacted by the borer?
- (7) Will the borer impact on banksia woodland and/or other native species across WA?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I note that the question was redirected to me as the relevant minister in charge of biosecurity.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It was first reported to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on 6 August 2021.
- (3) It is unknown how and when the pest entered Australia.
- (4) This is a three-year, cost-shared national response plan, with an associated budget of \$41.29 million.
- (5) The national Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests, or CCEPP, has determined that polyphagous shot-hole borer is feasible to eradicate.
- (6) This is undetermined.
- (7) Native trees are not considered natural hosts of the polyphagous shot-hole borer and, to date, have only been found to be infested when in close proximity to heavily infested non-native hosts.