



Media Statement

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European House Borer infests house

The threat of European House Borer (EHB) to Perth homes has been confirmed with an EHB infestation found in untreated structural pine timbers in a Brigadoon house, for the first time as a likely result of nearby infested pine trees.

Brigadoon is a suburb close to Perth's Gnangara/Ellenbrook area. EHB Response Director John van Schagen said the infestation was likely to be a result of beetle migration given the proximity of a nearby infestation, rather than the timber being infested prior to construction.

Department of Agriculture and Food EHB Response Director John van Schagen said at the Brigadoon house, EHB larvae and exit holes were found in untreated pine timber beams supporting a second story floor.

Mr van Schagen said over time the infestation could have caused the floor to collapse if it had not been discovered.

He said it was most likely the EHB beetles had migrated from nearby infestations in pine trees at Ellenbrook and Gnangara. The timber beams did not originate from an area affected by EHB.

"This detection has confirmed the risk of EHB migrating from pine trees to buildings, and we need to continue to take aggressive action to minimise the threat to homes," Mr van Schagen said.

"The Brigadoon house will be fumigated as soon as possible and a Priority Management Zone (PMZ) has been established around the house.

"All pine trees and pine waste materials within the Priority Management Zone - comprising a 100 metre radius of the infestation - will be removed."

The Department of Agriculture and Food is liaising with neighbours affected by the management zone requirements.

Mr van Schagen said the Brigadoon EHB discovery confirmed the urgency of removing pine trees and pine waste material from areas with infestations.

He said the removal of the pine food source would support the eradication of European House Borer from Western Australia.

Mr van Schagen said people in EHB affected areas could still build with pine but it should be treated to prevent infestation.

"People with at risk homes are advised to undergo inspections regularly by a pest control company that is trained in EHB detection," he said

"It is important to be aware of the signs of EHB, like oval shaped exit holes, powdery wood dust and listening for the soft scraping sound made by EHB larvae."

For more information about EHB call the Freecall Hotline on 1800 084 881 or visit the EHB website at www.ehb.wa.gov.au.

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