

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Exotic wood borer found in Perth

The Department of Agriculture has confirmed a wood borer found in a house in suburban Parkerville is European House Borer (EHB).

Department entomologist Peter Davis said this was the first time this serious timber pest had been found in WA.

"It is a quarantine pest that is exotic to Australia. There have been infestations in the Eastern states that have been successfully eradicated, the most recent being in Sydney in 1990," Mr Davis said.

"It is a destructive pest of untreated seasoned softwood timbers commonly used for structural purposes in Australia. Furniture made from pine and other softwoods is also susceptible to attack.

"Early detection is difficult as the larvae tunnel through the wood, without showing obvious signs of their activity. The first sign appears as oval shaped holes measuring about 5mm by 10mm in size from which adult beetles have emerged.

"On the floor below the holes there may also be evidence of a powdery substance called frass," he said.

Adult beetles maybe seen between October and March and are 18-25mm, have a dark brown to black body and a slightly flattened appearance. The surface of the first body segment behind the head has two raised black, shiny knobs, which look like eyes. Their wings are usually all black and may have distinctive white patches.

Two timber beams from the Parkerville house have been removed and treated and surveillance is being undertaken at strategic locations in and around Perth.

Mr Davis said surveillance to date had found no other cases of EHB. He said that timber traps would be set up at a number of surveillance sites and monitored for at least five years.

"While eradication of this pest has been 100 per cent successful in the past, success depends on good reporting from the public, the pest control industry, and the timber industry, whenever they find something suspicious," he said.

Anyone who suspects they have either detected an adult beetle, larvae, exit holes, or evidence of frass, should contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on free call 1800 084 881 during office hours.

A pest fact sheet has also been developed on EHB and is being made available to the Pest control industry and via [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au) using search reference European House Borer.

**ENDS**

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