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## **Change to EHB movement zone**

A boundary change has been made to the European House Borer (EHB) Restricted Movement Zone (RMZ) for the Oldbury region.

EHB Response Director John van Schagen said the boundary change would increase the size of the Oldbury RMZ area, due to a new EHB discovery.

The new boundary description was published in recent Comment News and Weekend Kwinana newspapers. The Oldbury RMZ includes the suburbs of Baldivis, Wellard, Cardup, Casuarina, Byford, Oakford and Forrestdale.

RMZ boundaries describe areas in which the movement of untreated pinewood is restricted, and subject to regulations under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection (European House Borer) Regulations 2006*.

“EHB is a serious pest that can cause significant structural damage, particularly if it finds its way into untreated roof structures,” Mr van Schagen said.

“While EHB to date has been found mainly in the dead parts of pine trees, and other untreated pinewood material, there has been one case of infestation in the structural timbers of a Perth home.”

The new EHB find was made in Mundijong, about 5km away from existing EHB infestation sites. This indicates the risks of spreading EHB through human assisted movement, such as transporting untreated pinewood out of RMZ areas.

Mr van Schagen said there was a growing need to adhere to strategies to reduce EHB spread, and prevent further infestation.

“The EHB Response has made significant progress over the past six years in reducing EHB populations within RMZ areas,” he said.

“However, these populations cannot be contained without increased awareness of the regulated restrictions relating to the movement, disposal, storage and treatment of untreated pinewood.

“Most importantly, the regulations state that untreated pinewood that has been exposed to a RMZ environment for more than 72 hours must not be removed from the RMZ without appropriate treatment or proper authorisation.”

Residents and businesses also need to follow guidelines for the management of untreated pinewood waste, and use EHB non-susceptible materials when building or renovating in RMZ areas (as mandated by Building Commission Advisory Notes 2009/02 and 2009/04).

Where homes have already been built with untreated structural pinewood in RMZ areas, regular inspections should be undertaken by EHB accredited pest controllers. A list of accredited inspectors can be found on the Department of Commerce website [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au) Further information can also be obtained from the Building Commission on 1300 489 099 or [info@buildingcommission.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@buildingcommission.wa.gov.au)

As of April 2011, RMZ areas cover 181 infested sites, which are spread across 60 Perth suburbs, and the City of Albany. Detailed RMZ maps can be found on the EHB website at [www.ehb.wa.gov.au](http://www.ehb.wa.gov.au)

Further information on RMZ regulations and information on EHB containment options can also be found on the website.

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