



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Biosecurity

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: POLYPHAGOUS SHOT-HOLE BORER

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) What is the Government doing to proactively protect the Territory against polyphagous shot-hole borer?
- 2) What plans are in place to mitigate damage if those proactive efforts fail?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- 1) The ACT Government has taken several proactive steps to protect the Territory against Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer (PSHB). A Biosecurity (Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer) Control Declaration 2025 was notified on 18 November 2025, which applies to the whole of the ACT and aligns with New South Wales. This control declaration puts in place conditions to protect the ACT from the introduction and spread of PSHB, including prohibiting the movement of PSHB carriers (host plants, timber and used equipment) into the ACT and requiring any person who is aware of or suspects the presence of PSHB in the ACT to notify ACT Biosecurity. The potential risks associated with PSHB will continue to be monitored and coordinated with the Commonwealth and other states and territories through national biosecurity management arrangements. The ACT is also developing a plant pest surveillance program to help with early detection of plant pests, including PSHB.
- 2) In June 2025, the National Management Group (NMG) for PSHB (of which the ACT is a member), agreed that it is no longer technically feasible to eradicate PSHB. The NMG agreed to move into an 18-month Transition to Management (T2M) phase. This decision was based on scientific, technical, and economic feasibility advice from the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP). The approach continues to have a strong focus on slowing the spread of PSHB and

movement restrictions will remain in place. The ACT continues to be an active participant in the national response framework.

Noting that the spread of PSHB is associated with over 400 host species including amenity, native and horticultural production trees, the ACT's current management strategies do not include the pre-emptive eradication of any tree species. The ACT's management strategies will continue to be informed by the expert advice of the CCEPP and the Scientific Advisory Panel that are supporting the national response along with the insights gained during the T2M program being managed by the Western Australian Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping loops and a final horizontal stroke.

Signature:

Date: 28/11/25

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA