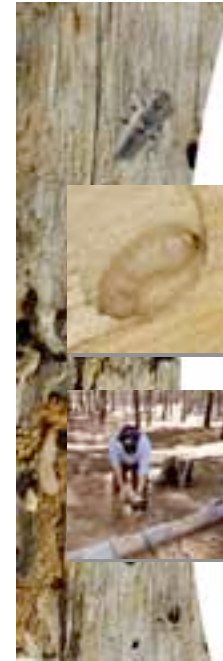


# EUROPEAN HOUSE BORER

Waste and Recycling Conference  
25 August 2005

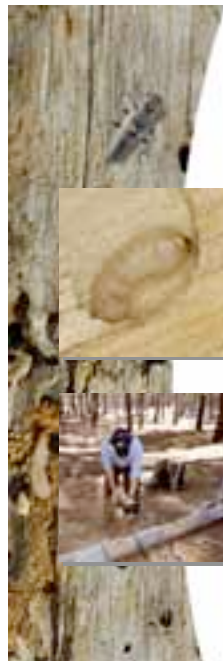
Prepared by  
**Deanne Johnson**  
Acting Communications Manager  
EHB Program



## Introduction

The paper will cover:

- What is European House Borer (EHB)?
- Where has EHB been found?
- What risk does EHB present to WA?
- What steps the state government is taking to contain and hopefully protect WA from the problems EHB may cause in the future?
- Why do waste management professionals need to know about EHB?
- How can waste management providers assist with containing the spread of EHB?



## Getting to know EHB

- EHB is recognised as one of the world's most destructive pests of seasoned softwood timbers (untreated pine).
  - The pest is responsible for enormous economic damage in all countries where it has become established by damaging susceptible timbers and causing structural collapse.
  - The borer can live in affected timber 2-12 years before emerging as an adult beetle to lay clutches of 30-60 eggs back into untreated pine timber (same or new material).
- In WA we think EHB is more likely to live in affected timber for 3-6years.
- 5-10mm oval shaped exit holes (running with the grain) are the main sign of EHB activity.



Adult EHB beetle



EHB exit hole



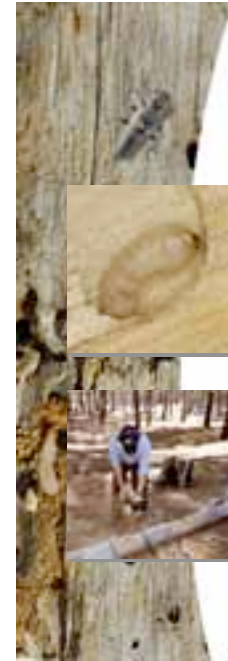
EHB affected wood



## EHB in Western Australia



- EHB found in WA in Jan 2004. The State Government implemented extensive surveillance and commenced some containment activities (across the South West of the state).
- To date 65 affected materials have been detected within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area. 2 main clusters (Perth Hills and the Gnangara/Ellenbrook area), 5 isolated sites (Oldbury, Serpentine, Murdoch, Rottneest Island, Karnup, Southern River) and 4 pine plantations.
- No finds to date regionally
- No finds in structural timber (found mainly in dead pine trees, logs and dead branches on living trees)
- EHB detected early and may have a chance to eradicate



## EHB potential impact



### Case Study - South Africa:

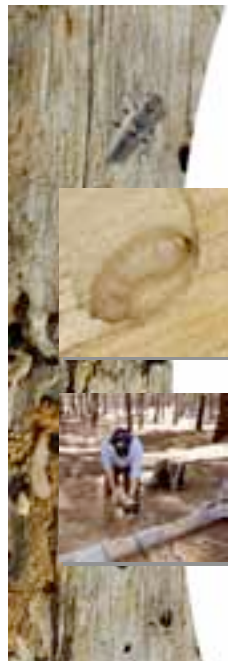
Comparisons may be drawn between the South African experience with EHB given similarities between climate and timber use to WA.

- 1879 - EHB detected in Cape Town in forest debris
- 1920's - Gradual switch from EHB resistant to local EHB susceptible timbers for structural use
- 1940's - Serious infestation of roof structures

SA research indicates that widespread dispersal of EHB occurs via movement of infested material by humans and EHB activity increases in cooler climates.

### Benefit Cost Analysis for WA:

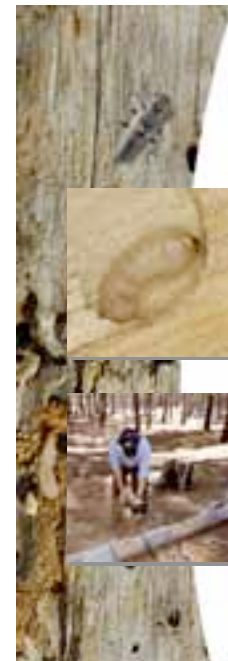
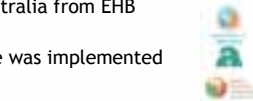
The estimated potential cost of impact for WA alone could be up to \$2.5b. If allowed to become established, the impact for the whole of Australia would be significantly greater.



## Government Response PHASE ONE: Jan 04 - Present



- **Jan 2004** Discovery of EHB in Parkerville area.
- **Jan-Aug 2004:** Trace back, development of surveillance protocols, research & planning.
- **Aug 2004:** WA Government funds \$7.626M to conduct initial surveillance and containment. 27 EHB affected sites detected in Greater Metro Perth.
- **OPERATIONAL: Sept 2004 - present:**
  - Approximately 45,000 properties to be surveyed. Over 39,500 have been visited and 25,000 surveys have been completed.
  - Second state-wide surveillance has commenced.
  - Trap pole placement to be completed by end of August 2005.
  - 156 roof inspections conducted, no positive finds to date.
  - Building Notes Issued by DHW
- **POLICY: January 2004 - Present:**
  - Ongoing National liaison and consultation to secure national cost sharing.
  - Development of Phase Two to limit human spread and reduce EHB habitat to protect WA and Australia from EHB
- **MONITORING: May 2005:** External Review reported Phase One was implemented effectively.



## Government Response Phase One transition to Phase Two



### Government taking steps now to protect WA and Australia from a possible future problem:

- Proposal for containment strategies to include movement restrictions on untreated pine (Phase Two).
- Commenced engagement with affected stakeholders June/July/August 2005 to develop processes for minimising the movement of untreated pine and managing waste untreated pine through the waste stream to destruction.





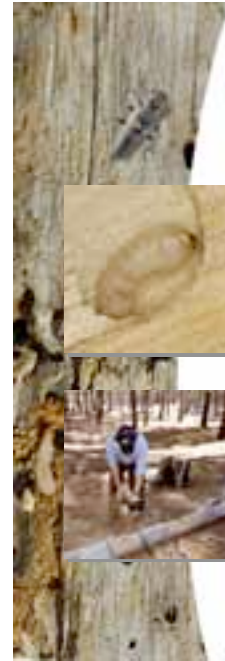
## Phase Two

### Proposed Containment Strategies



The containment strategies will aim to:

- **Reduce the risk of EHB establishment**
  - destroy pine wood (no commercial value)
  - treat pine wood (commercial value)
- **Reduce the risk of EHB spread**
  - restrict the movement untreated seasoned pine from affected areas



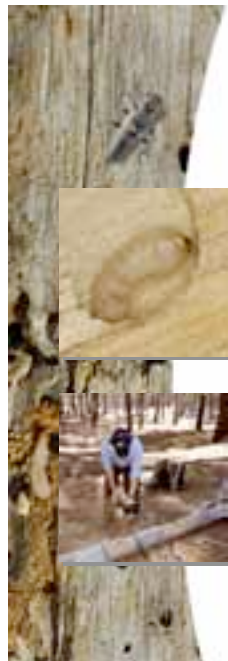
## Phase Two

### Proposed Containment Strategies



Proposed containment strategies may:

- Prescribe classes of pine (genus pinus)
- Establish management zones around known EHB affected areas
- Establish obligations on landholders and other persons to prevent establishment & spread
- Prescribe standards - treatment, destruction, storage etc
- Penalties may apply to the unauthorised movement of EHB infested pine wood



## Phase Two

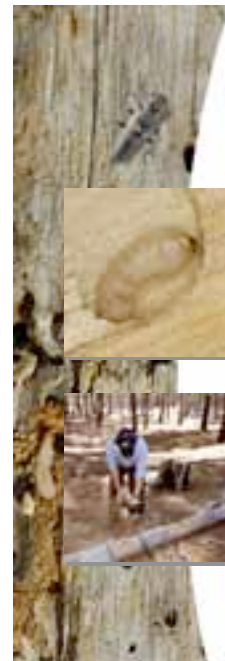
### Proposed Destruction



**Prescribed methods of destruction**

- Chipping pine to less than 5cm wide 10cm long
- Burning
- Deep burial - greater 1m below surface

The Chief Officer may approve alternate methods



## Stakeholders



### Pine Forest Industry

inc: plantation owners/processors/exporters/wholesalers

### Businesses that sell/use untreated pine

inc: builders, pine pallet producers, timber furniture manufactures, timber furniture retailers, hardware suppliers, timber yards

### Businesses that use untreated pine pallets

inc: supermarkets, hardware stores, liquor stores, hotels/pubs, orchardists/vineyards/producers

### Businesses that may move untreated pine (inc pallets)

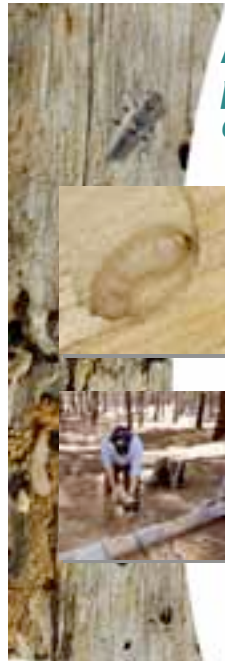
inc: transport companies, tree loppers, landscape gardeners, firewood suppliers, [waste management companies](#)

### Pest Controllers

Residents & Landowners (plus potential home buyers)

Government / [Local Government](#)





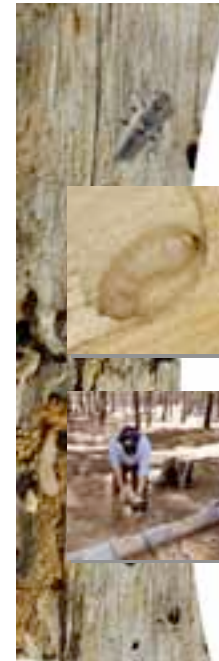
## Managing waste untreated pine may assist with containing EHB



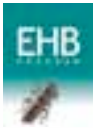
### Perceived Current Situation:

1. Waste untreated pine is taken to disposal sites or transfer stations by either by local government, private waste management contractors, tree loppers or members of the public
2. Timber then disposed/recycled by either:
  - 2.1 Crushing (by tractors etc) and then buried
  - 2.2 Chipping or tub grinding and reused as mulch or buried
  - 2.3 Placed into landfill (either crushed or whole) and not buried
  - 2.4 Placed out for public to collect and recycle

**POINTS 2.3 and 2.4 ARE HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES GIVEN THE TIMBER/WOOD MAY BE EHB AFFECTED AND MAY ALLOW EHB TO BE MOVED TO ANOTHER AREA AND/OR EXIT FROM THE AFFECTED MATERIAL TO SPREAD FURTHER.**

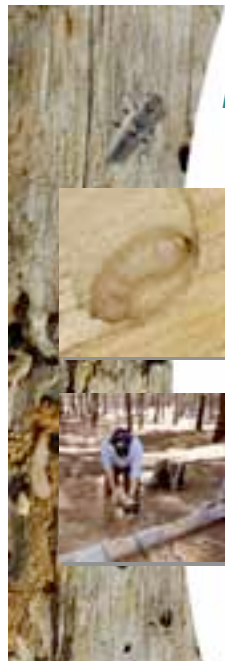


## Managing waste untreated pine may assist with containing EHB



### Potential Modified Practice:

- chip or grind all untreated pine materials to less than 50mm thick and 100mm along the longest axis
- crush all large untreated pine materials and bury to a depth greater than 1 metre (in less than 24 hours)
- Do not allow the recycling of any untreated pine materials, wood or timber.
- Burning untreated pine is effective for destroying waste untreated pine (if permitted and possible)
- If EHB activity is suspected, contact the EHB Program



## In summary...



EHB has the potential to create significant impact on WA and Australia in the future, if allowed to establish.

The EHB Program's response since detecting EHB in January 2004 (Phase One) is considered to have been successful in detecting EHB activity.

Phase Two is required to protect WA and Australia from the potential impacts of EHB.

Support is required from affected stakeholders and industries to contain the movement of untreated pine and reduce suitable habitat for EHB (by destroying any waste untreated pine).

The EHB Program looks forward to working with waste management providers to contain the spread of EHB.

