



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Ref: O2/1/5/2**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 2570 {NW3081E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 August 2022**

**Ms B M van Minnen (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) What steps is her department taking to combat the Shot Hole Borer beetle in trees in the Republic;
  
- (2) what (a) insecticides and (b) sprays are allowed to be legally applied to (i) plantations and (ii) domestic trees given that many current sprays are only licensed for certain plantation species and not for all trees;
  
- (3) (a) how long will it take to amend current legislation to allow sprays to be licensed for all trees and (b) what steps are taken to expedite the process?

**2570. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) There is coordination between the various departments to ensure that all mitigation measures that are undertaken complement one another and that all aspects of the legal tools available to government across the various mandates are utilised to maximise the control of this highly invasive and threatening species.

The response is coordinated through the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Steering Committee (ISHB Steering Committee). The committee was established in 2019 by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

The composition of the ISHB Steering Committee includes representation from the DALRRD; the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); the Provincial Government of Agriculture and municipalities, researchers, academic institutions, growers' associations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders and industry groups. The PSHB Steering Committee meetings are chaired by the DALRRD.


The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published management measures in respect of the shot-hole borer beetle, *Euwallacea fornicatus* (polyphagous) for public comments on 4 September 2020, and currently finalising management measures to be gazetted for implementation.

Control measures relating to the polyphagous shot hole borer have been approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and published for implementation (*Government Gazette* No. R. 725 of 13 August 2021).

The DFFE is working with South African research institutions to find natural enemies of the shot hole borer (biological control agents). Until then, the key need is to cut and chip (mechanically cut up) infested trees, and to avoid moving and transporting infested wood. To assist with early detection, awareness material will be developed by stakeholders as a joint effort between the different role players and will be distributed to alert and inform the public and all stakeholders.

- (2) (a) and (b) Currently, no insecticides/sprays have been legally accepted in the country, at least for both domestic trees and plantation forestry. The process of approval of insecticides is managed by the DALRRD.
- (3) (a) and (b) First, it needs to be classified as an invasive species and the responsibility of classification of the invasive pest is under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) and falls under the mandate of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
- Under the DALRRD, the PSHB is declared as a quarantine pest in terms of the Agricultural Pest Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) (APA): Import conditions.
  - Furthermore, the DALRRD promulgate the Control Measures relating to PSHB: Control Measures relating to PSHB No. R. 725 of 13 August 2021, focusing specifically on the agricultural host crops such as avocado, pecan nuts and macadamia. These measures provide for regulation on –
    - the compulsory notification of any occurrence and suspicious occurrence;
    - the restriction of movement of infected plants and destruction of infested plants; and
    - focuses on reproductive and non-reproductive hosts.

**Regards**



**MS B D CREECY, MP  
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE:** 6/a/2022