



## **Building Commission**

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### **Supplementary Information To:**

#### **AN002**

#### **Use of Resistant Timber in Areas Where European House Borer (EHB) Has Been Found**

### ***High Resolution Maps of Restricted Movement Zones (RMZs)***

Maps are available to download from the Department of Agriculture and Food's EHB website ([www.ehb.wa.gov.au](http://www.ehb.wa.gov.au)). Currently, due to technical issues, high resolution maps of the larger RMZs have not been accessible on the website. However, a solution is currently being tested and it should be available from 21 September 2009. Please check the EHB websites for updates.

### ***Requirements for treated timber are only for RMZs***

The requirement for treated (H2) timber is only applicable to RMZs. RMZs are a 2km buffer zone around all EHB infested sites. This requirement is specific to EHB, and does not alter the need for all structural timber to be durable in the relevant climate and against relevant insect attack. The particular requirements for EHB are NOT applicable to areas outside an RMZ.

### ***Lifetime of treated timber warranties***

Some treated timber comes with a warranty for a particular period. As the eradication program is expected to last to at least 2015, a warranty/guarantee for the effectiveness of timber treatments of 20 years or more will meet the requirements of the BCA for durability against EHB attack.

### ***Home-buyers under contract before the release of AN002***

Contracts signed before 11 August 2009, when AN002 was released, may not include requirements for structural materials that are resistant to EHB. Builders and local governments were aware from previous Building Notes of the presence of EHB and the recommendation to use resistant materials, but until the extent of infestation and length of time for eradication were confirmed, may have reasonably interpreted the threat as short-term and not requiring the use of resistant materials to comply with the BCA, Section 3, Part 3.4.3 - Timber Framing, which references AS1684.2, Clause 1.8 - Durability.

Where a person seeking a building licence demonstrates that the contract was signed before 11 August 2009 it is reasonable for a local government to issue a building licence without requiring the use of durable materials. However, builders should offer owners the opportunity to change the contract to include resistant materials.

Peter Gow

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BUILDING COMMISSION**