



Our ref: CORP F2025/000270 IR
Receipt No: 22021931
Obj No: A7206781

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EXECUTIVE

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The Hon John Gardner MP
Member for Morialta
163 St Bernards Road
ROSTREVOR SA 5073

Dear Mr Gardner

Internal Review Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application for Internal Review made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 4 November 2025.

Your original application received by PIRSA on 22 August 2025 sought access to the following:

"All correspondence, including documents, meeting minutes, memos, or briefings for the following in regard to Giant Pine Scale (GPS):

- *Assessment activities planned or undertaken.*
- *Detection/confirmation of the existence of GPS.*
- *Remediation activities (cutting down of infested trees), planned or undertaken).*
- *Internal correspondence/correspondence with the Department of Treasury and Finance regarding funding activities*
- *Revegetation activities.*
- *Any higher-level plans or mitigation strategies developed.*
- *Correspondence between the Minister and the Department.*
- *Correspondence between the Department and third parties."*

Timeframe: 1/01/2024 to 22/08/2025

On 25 August 2025, your office was contacted by PIRSA's Records Management and Freedom of Information Support Officer inviting you to refine the scope of your application.

On 26 August 2025, your office responded with a refined scope. Further clarification was required and on 27 August 2025, your application was amended and confirmed as follows:

"All documents, meeting minutes, memos, or briefings for the following in regard to Giant Pine Scale (GPS), specifically:

- All meeting minutes of the GPS Inter-agency Taskforce/Working Group.*
- Assessment activities planned or undertaken and their respective findings (e.g. detection confirmation of the existence/non-existence of GPS and the quantity of infestations), including the date of the assessments (including third party assessments provided to the Government).*
- Any plans/consideration of remediation (cutting down of infested trees) or revegetation activities, planned or undertaken.*
- Any template correspondence or documents relating to public communication plans regarding GPS."*

Timeframe: 1/01/2024 to 26/08/2025

It is noted that you have proceeded to Internal Review as you did not receive a determination within the legislative timeframe, pursuant to Section 14A of the Freedom of Information Act.

Internal Review

Following an independent internal review of your application, I advise the following:

Issues in this review

PIRSA did not make its determination on your initial application within the legislative timeframe, pursuant to Section 14A of the FOI Act. The thirty-day timeframe for access to documents had been extended until 3 November 2025.

Accordingly, PIRSA was deemed to have refused access in full to all documents relevant to your application.

Consideration

On 3 November 2025, PIRSA's Records Management and Freedom of Information and Support Officer contacted your office by email apologising that a determination was unable to be made by the legislative due date. Although it was indicated that the application was still being processed due to a high number of documents, the advice omitted to indicate that the determination was very near completion.

Upon final review of the determination by PIRSA's Accredited Freedom of Information Officer, advice was received indicating that some of the documents for release contained exempt material relating to Cabinet deliberations. Accordingly, the following actions were required to be undertaken which resulted in the determination not meeting the legislative timeframe:

- A number of documents were reviewed to identify the exempt material, pursuant to Clause 1(1)(e) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

- The relevant redactions to the documents concerned were made.
- The determination was reviewed and amended to substantiate the reasoning for refusing access to the information.

The following determination has now been finalised.

Seventy-three documents have been captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
6	Email from Director, Forestry, Forest Industries, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 2/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
6a	Attachment to Document 6 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections and completed tree removals	1
7	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 3/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
7a	Attachment to Document 7 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections and completed tree removals	1
8	Email from A/Director, Forest Industries, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 4/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
9	Email from A/Director, Forest Industries, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 5/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
10	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 9/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
11	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 10/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
12	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 11/12/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	2
13a	Attachment to Document 13 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections and removals	1
15	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 18/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	2
16	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 19/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
16a	Attachment to Document 16 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections including tree removals	1

17	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 20/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
17a	Attachment to Document 17 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections	1
18	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 21/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
18a	Attachment to Document 18 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections	1
19a	Attachment to Document 18 – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections and removals	1
20	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships PIRSA dated 25/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
21	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 26/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
22	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 27/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
22a	Attachment to Document 22a – Map of Giant Pine Scale detections and removals	1
23	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 28/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
24	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 29/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
51a	Attachment to Document 51 – Draft letter to residents dated August 2025 re Giant Pine Scale	2
51c	Attachment to Document 51 – Proposed sign for no entry at Hope Valley Reservoir	2

The information removed from Document 6 is outside of the scope of your request.

Determination 2

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
37	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 13 dated 4/4/2025	3
39	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 15 dated 6/6/2025	3
40	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 16 dated 3/7/2025	3

46	Email from Manager, Forestry, Forest Industries, Industry Strategy and Partnerships PIRSA dated 6/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Working Group meeting notes	2
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The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 1(1)(e) and Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Clause 1(1)(e) states:

"1 – Cabinet documents

(1) A document is an exempt document –

(e) if it contains matter the disclosure of which would disclose information concerning any deliberation or decision of Cabinet;"

The information removed pursuant to Clause 1(1)(e) would reveal details of deliberations of matters considered by Cabinet.

Clause 6(1) states:

"6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."

The information removed pursuant to Clause 6(1) consists of the names of staff members of other agencies, organisations and third parties. Document 46 also removes the mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer.

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the name of the staff members concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Determination 3

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Forest Industries re Giant Pine Scale Response	4
2	Minute from Executive Director, Industry Strategy and Partnerships to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Forest Industries dated 2/5/2025 re Giant Pine Scale Removal	3
4	Email from Manager, Forestry Forest Industries, Industry Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA to third party dated 14/2/2024 re Giant Pine Scale debrief/workshop	2
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – PIRSA Communications Plan – Giant Pine Scale Response Program dated November 2023	9
5	Record of the Giant Pine Scale Stakeholder Workshop dated 6/6/2024	5
14	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 15/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	2
14a	Attachment to Document 14 – Letter to residents at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve re Giant Pine Scale	1
19	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 22/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	1
25	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 1 dated 18/9/2024	3
26	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 2 dated 15/11/2024	3
28	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 4 dated 28/11/2024	2
29	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 5 dated 5/12/2024	2
31	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 7 dated 10/1/2025	2
33	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 9 dated 7/2/2025	2
34	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 10 dated 21/2/2025	2
36	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 12 dated 14/3/2025	2
38	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 14 dated 2/5/2025	3
41	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 17 dated 29/7/2025	3

42	Email from ForestrySA to Department for Environment and Water and City of Tea Tree Gully dated 21/1/2024 re Giant Pine Scale remediation	1
42a	Attachment to Document 42 – Risk Assessment – Giant Pine Scale control works	2
45	Email from Manager, Forestry, Forestry Industries, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 7/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Working Group - Communications plan	1
45a	Attachment to Document 45 – PIRSA Communications Plan - Giant Pine Scale Response Program dated November 2024	10
49	Emails between City of Tea Tree Gully and PIRSA officers dated 8/4/2025 re residential letter re Giant Pine Scale	2
49a	Attachment to Document 49 – Letter to residents – City of Tea Tree Gully	2
50	Email from Senior Media Adviser, Industry Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA dated 27/2/2024 re draft Giant Pine Scale media release	1
51	Email from Media Manager, PIRSA dated 12/8/2025 re Giant Pine Scale Hope Valley Response Group – Initial Communications Materials - Giant Pine Scale	2
51b	Attachment to Document 51 – Communications Summary: Giant Pine Scale Tree Removal - Hope Valley Reservoir (August – October 2025)	3
52	Email from Senior Media Adviser, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships, PIRSA to Department for Environment and Water officers dated 18/11/2024 re draft media release re Giant Pine Scale	1

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed consists of the following:

- Document 1:
 - Mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer
- Document 2:
 - Names of constituents
 - Mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer
- Documents 4, 4a, 5, 14, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 41, 45, 50, 51 and 52:
 - Names of staff members of other agencies, organisations and third parties
 - Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
- Documents 14a, 19, 42a, 49a and 51b:
 - Names of staff members of other agencies and organisations

- Document 42:
 - Names of staff members of other agencies, organisations and third parties
 - Mobile telephone number and landline number of a staff member from an organisation
- Document 45a:
 - Names and email addresses of staff members of other agencies and organisations
- Document 49:
 - Name and mobile telephone number of a staff member of an organisation

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the staff members concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Members of the public should be able to correspond with Members of Parliament without fear that their identities are released into the public domain.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

The remaining information removed from Documents 1, 5 and 49 is outside of the scope of your request.

Determination 4

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Minute from Chief Executive, PIRSA to Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Minister for Forest Industries dated 2/5/2025 re Giant Pine Scale response	3
13	Email from Director, Forestry, Industry Strategy and Partnerships PIRSA dated 15/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale Update	3
27	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 3 dated 22/11/2024	3
30	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 6 dated 12/12/2024	2
32	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 8 dated 24/1/2025	2
35	Giant Pine Scale Working Group South Australia – Meeting Minutes – Meeting 11 dated 6/3/2025	3
53	Attachment to Document 51 - Draft PIRSA Communications Plan – Giant Pine Scale Tree Removals – Hope Valley Reservoir 2025	10

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 6(1) and Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed pursuant to Clause 6(1) consists of the following:

- Document 3:
 - Mobile telephone number of Departmental officer
- Document 13:
 - Names of staff members of other agencies, organisations and third parties
 - Mobile telephone number of Departmental officer
- Documents 27, 30, 32, 35, 53:
 - Names of staff members of other agencies, organisations and third parties

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the staff members concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Clause 9(1) states:

“9—Internal working documents

(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—

(a) that relates to -

(i) any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or

(ii) any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and

(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

The information removed pursuant to Clause 9(1) consists of details relating to matters for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.

- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- High level of community and media interest in the topic.

Contrary to the public interest:

- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- Public sector agencies should be able to brief its Minister without fear that sensitive information is released into the public domain.
- Some matters in meeting discussions are to remain confidential.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during deliberative processes.
- Preserving the integrity of information gathering processes leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, where the discussion may be sensitive.
- The information relates to ongoing matters and premature disclosure may have a negative effect on the management of Giant Pine Scale.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Determination 5

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
43	Cabinet Note dated 14/4/2025 re Giant Pine Scale in South Australia	33
44	Cabinet Note dated 17/7/2025 re Giant Pine Scale Tree Removal Operations	13

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 1(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“1 – Cabinet documents

(1) A document is an exempt document –

(a) if it is a document that has been specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet (whether or not it has been so submitted);”

The documents consist of Cabinet Notes (and their attachments) which were specifically prepared for submission to Cabinet, whether or not they had been submitted.

Determination 6

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Draft letter re Giant Pine Scale concerns	1
3a	Attachment to Document 3 – Draft letter re threat of Giant Pine Scale at Highbury	2
50a	Attachment to Document 50 – Draft Media Release for Minister Scriven dated February 2024	2
52a	Attachment to Document 52 – Draft Media Release Giant Pine Scale	2

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents 2a and 3a consist of letters which are in draft format for consideration of a Minister. The final versions had not been sent to the addressee.

Documents 50a and 52a consist of draft media releases which were not issued.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

In favour of the public interest:

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- High level of community and media interest in the topic.

Contrary to the public interest:

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during deliberative processes.
- Preserving the integrity of information-gathering processes leading up to the finalisation of decisions.

- The confidentiality of some subjects must be maintained for internal decision-making purposes of Government.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, where the discussion may be sensitive.
- Documents 2a and 3a: As the internal decision-making process had not been finalised, it would be inappropriate to release the contents of a draft letter prior to receipt of the final version by the intended recipient.
- Documents 50a and 52a: The media releases were draft documents prepared for consideration and were not finalised and issued.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of the documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Determination 7

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
47	Parliamentary Briefing Note dated 26/11/2024 re Giant Pine Scale and General Biosecurity Plan	3
48	2025 PIRSA Budget and Finance Committee Briefing Note dated 14/8/2025 re Giant Pine Scale	4

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 17(c) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

“17 – Documents subject to contempt etc

*A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the public disclosure of which would, but for any immunity of the Crown –
(c) infringe the privilege of Parliament.”*

The documents consist of briefing notes which were specifically prepared for the purpose of use in proceedings in Parliament. Disclosure of this information would infringe the privilege of Parliament.

Internal Review Determination

In light of the above, as PIRSA was deemed to have refused access to all documents relevant to your initial application, PIRSA's determination has been reversed.

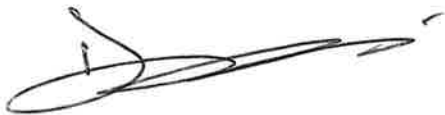
If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within thirty calendar days of receiving this determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 7322 7020 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mehdi Doroudi PSM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14/11/2025



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA201905

For	Signature
Critical Date	November 2024 (to prevent further spread)
Subject	Out of scope Out of scope Giant Pine Scale response

Synopsis

Giant Pine Scale (GPS) has been detected in 16 trees at the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve in an area adjacent to the 2023 detections.

Out of scope

The new detections are on Department for Environment and Water (DEW) managed land. DEW is seeking quotes to remove of approximately 120 infested and adjacent trees.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the brief
- Out of scope

SIGNED / NOT SIGNED

2. Out of scope
- Out of scope

.....
Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries
/ / 2024

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- Giant Pine Scale is a pest that feeds exclusively on plants of the family Pinaceae, which includes pines, firs and spruces and causes branch dieback and tree death.
- Out of scope
- As you are aware, management of GPS rests with land managers, landowners, and industry. In South Australia, people are required under the *Plant Health Act 2009* to report infestations to PIRSA as it remains a declared pest. This was done to allow affected stakeholders to assess new detections and act.
- PIRSA provided a briefing (A6468153) in September to update you on GPS. Further information is provided below.

Discussion

- On 18 September 2024, an expanded GPS Working Group met to discuss the risk considerations, further surveillance, and possible management options for GPS detections that have been persisting near and at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve and Highbury Aqueduct Reserve. New Working Group members are from local councils.
- A draft Response Plan has been developed by the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) on behalf of the Working Group which outlines a six-point approach. PIRSA understands this draft has been shared with your office.
- Recent trials at the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve of alternative methods to achieve 100 percent eradication have been unsuccessful.
- Removing trees is critical for reducing impacts and risk to other urban trees and commercial softwood plantations.
- SA Water detected GPS on a tree adjacent Hope Valley Reservoir. This has been removed along with an adjacent tree in October 2024.
- The City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) reported a suspected infested tree on Lyons Road opposite the Reservoir but diagnosis in October 2024 confirmed it was not GPS.
- The Response Plan is summarised in the table below:

Action	Status
1. Undertake risk-based surveillance of pines within a 5 km zone from previous points of GPS	Underway. SA Water and CTTG have undertaken further surveillance training.
2. Support public awareness within the Surveillance Zone and broader Adelaide, encouraging public reporting of symptomatic pine hosts.	Underway.
3. Respond to suspected GPS reports and confirm GPS presence.	16 trees in Highbury Aqueduct Reserve adjacent to a 2023 detection area have confirmed GPS.

4. If GPS presence is confirmed, develop an Operational Plan for the infested site.	Developed for Highbury Aqueduct Reserve. Includes removal of known infested trees and others to establish a 50 metre buffer. The removals will involve about 120 trees over 1 hectare.
5. Remove infested and at-risk trees around GPS infestation. Removal of trees will be the responsibility of the landowner.	DEW is leading the tree removal activities.
6. Declare Adelaide GPS free following no detections 3 years after the last tree removal.	Any declaration would be informal due to the endemic status of the pest in Australia

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- Responsibility for the removal of trees and site remediation rests with landowners. Landowners need to approve the removal of trees.
- This can present challenges as to who bears the costs of these, particularly if the landowner differs from the land manager.
- In the case of Highbury Aqueduct Reserve, the landowner is the Department for Housing and Urban Development, although its management is delivered by National Parks and Wildlife Service (DEW), with funding from Renewal SA.
- Out of scope

- DEW is seeking tree removal quotes from contractors by 12 November 2024.
- The actual removals may not occur for another week or two as it will be subject to the availability of the contractors.
- A subset of GPS working group members (DEW, PIRSA, ForestrySA, AFPA, Arbor Carbon) are finalising an Operational Plan for the tree removals. The Plan includes estimated costs which will be replaced by quoted costs once received.
- PIRSA has prepared a Communications Plan on behalf of the GPS working group. This will be updated before tree removal commences.

Management of key risks

- Management of GPS rests with land managers, landowners, and industry due to the endemic status of the pest in Australia.
- Industry, through AFPA, is investing in and supporting a comprehensive surveillance program across Adelaide including contributions by an independent expert on GPS from Arbor Carbon.
- The pest develops an adult stage where up to 400 eggs retained within the female body will hatch after the death of the female from November.
- Removing the infested trees and establishing a buffer represents best practice to control the pest.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- Quotes are being sought by DEW.
- The 2023 response to the pest resulted in the removal of 913 trees, with an estimated \$1 million in operational and in-kind costs shared variously across the GPS response members.

Attachments

Out of scope
Out of scope

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

/ / 2024

CONTACT	Jo Collins
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Industry, Strategy and Partnerships
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1) / 8429 2190
Cleared by	Rob Robinson, Director Forest Industries



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA202787

For	Signature
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Correspondence from Scott Kennedy, Liberal Candidate for Morialta on Giant Pine Scale at Silverlake Reserve

Synopsis

Mr Scott Kennedy, Liberal Candidate for Morialta, wrote to you on behalf of his constituents Clause 6(1) of Highbury, regarding their concerns on giant pine scale at Silverlake reserve. He requested further information on the removal and replacement of the trees so that he can advise his constituents.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Consider and sign the attached letter to Mr Scott Kennedy.

SIGNED / NOT SIGNED

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Hon Clare Scriven MLC
**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**
Minister for Forest Industries
/ / 2025

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- On 11 April 2025 the Liberal Candidate for Morialta wrote to you regarding concerns by Morialta constituents regarding the removal of Silverlake reserve trees infested with GPS and if there are any plans to replace the trees.

Discussion

- Giant pine scale (GPS) is a declared insect pest which is a threat to urban amenity trees and South Australia's \$1.4 billion softwood plantation estate. Tree removal is currently the most effective method for eliminating GPS and preventing its spread.
- PIRSA continues to convene regular Giant Pine Scale Response Group (GPSRG) meetings of potentially affected land managers and other stakeholders representing government and non-government agencies. These meetings discuss the developments and appropriate response measures surrounding incidences of GPS.
- PIRSA investigates suspected GPS detections, informs the forest industry and other stakeholders of the detection, and provides technical, quarantine, and communications advice to support the response group.
- Comprehensive surveillance across Adelaide in 2024-25 has only detected GPS in the northeastern suburbs adjacent to recent (2023-24) control areas. Following further tree removals, areas known to have GPS are Silverlake reserve, Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, and private land at Holden Hill.
- The City of Tea Tree Gully Council (CTTG) manage Silverlake reserve and are members of the GPSRG. Following discussions at GPSRG meetings, it is understood the CTTG approved tree removals and revegetation at Silverlake reserve.
- PIRSA understands tree removals at Silverlake reserve commenced on 22 April 2025. All pine trees have been felled and the material is to be transported for quarantine and processing into compost at Peats Soil and Garden Supplies, Brinkley.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- PIRSA is implementing a communications plan to support the response group. It ensures consistent and timely information-sharing with media and the public about GPS management activities. This included review of a CTTG letter to neighbouring residents advising of planned tree removals.
- It is understood the Dernancourt Kindergarten community are concerned about GPS spreading from Silverlake reserve to the large stone pine in the adjacent kindergarten, which is a feature incorporated in their play structures.

Management of key risks

- The forest industry is showing ownership and leading an eradication process by committing resources and planning.
- PIRSA continues to respond to calls from the public about suspected cases of GPS through its Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- None

Attachments

A. Letter to Mr Scott Kennedy



for
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

2/5/2025

CONTACT	Jo Collins
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Industry, Strategy and Partnerships
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1) / 8429 2190
Cleared by	Rob Robinson, Director Forest Industries



Minute to
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

Ref: eA202801

For	Signature
Critical Date	Routine
Subject	Correspondence from Scott Kennedy, Liberal Candidate for Morialta on Giant Pine Scale at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

Synopsis

Mr Scott Kennedy, Liberal Candidate for Morialta, wrote to you on behalf of local residents, regarding their concerns on giant pine scale at Highbury and surrounding areas. He seeks answers to several questions focused on tree removal at the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and the risk of GPS spread.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Consider and sign the attached letter to Mr Scott Kennedy.

SIGNED / NOT SIGNED

.....

Hon Clare Scriven MLC

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Regional Development**

Minister for Forest Industries

/ / 2025

Ministerial Comments -

Background

- On 21 April 2025 Mr Scott Kennedy, the Liberal Candidate for Morialta, wrote to you regarding concerns by local residents regarding the threat of giant pine scale (GPS) to pine trees within Highbury and surrounding areas. He seeks answers to several questions.
- Mr Kennedy previously wrote to you on 11 April 2025 regarding GPS at nearby Silverlake reserve (eA202787).

Discussion

- GPS is a declared insect pest which is a threat to urban amenity trees and South Australia's \$1.4 billion softwood plantation estate. Tree removal is currently the most effective method for eliminating GPS and preventing its spread.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manage Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and are members of the Giant Pine Scale Response Group (GPSRG). Regular updates are provided by NPWS at GPSRG meetings.
- Tree removal operations in late 2024 removed 120 trees, and another 150 trees were removed in early 2025 under the supervision of the NPWS. Stump grinding to further reduce the risk of any remaining giant pine scale has also been completed, along with the removal of numerous smaller pine trees and seedlings.
- Areas are usually quarantined for at least three months after tree removals.
- Clause 9(1)

- Comprehensive surveillance across Adelaide in 2024-25 has only detected GPS in the northeastern suburbs adjacent to recent (2023-24) control areas. Following further tree removals at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve, remaining areas known to have GPS are Silverlake reserve, Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, and private land at Holden Hill.
- As you are aware, trees have also been felled at Silverlake reserve and the infested material will be moved off-site. The forest industry is supporting the removal of trees at a Holden Hill which is planned in the coming weeks. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve remains the only area known to have infested trees.
- Best practice control involves creating a 50-metre buffer around infested trees, which means that susceptible nearby trees are also removed. This prevents undetected scale from remaining as they can crawl up to 50 metres to find another host.

Stakeholder / regional impacts, consultation and engagement

- PIRSA is implementing a communications plan to support the response group. It ensures consistent and timely information-sharing with media and the public about GPS management activities.
- This included review of a NPWS letter to neighbouring residents advising of tree removal operations.
- NPWS have provided nearby residents and park users with details of the operations as necessary.

Management of key risks

- PIRSA continues to respond to calls from the public about suspected cases of GPS through its Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

Legislative and/or financial implications

- None

Attachments

A. Letter to Mr Scott Kennedy



for

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

2/5/2025

CONTACT	Jo Collins
POSITION	Executive Director
DIVISION	Industry, Strategy and Partnerships
MOBILE and LANDLINE	Clause 6(1) / 8429 2190
Cleared by	Rob Robinson, Director Forest Industries

From: [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)
Cc: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: Giant Pine Scale debrief/ workshop - facilitation opportunity
Date: Wednesday, 14 February 2024 5:19:00 PM
Attachments: [2023-10 - Giant Pine Scale - Communications Plan.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

It was great to talk with you last week and to hear your interest in being a facilitator for a Giant Pine Scale (GPS) workshop.

As discussed, Giant Pine Scale pest was detected in pine trees within SA Water's Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, nearby Elliston Reserve managed by the City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG) and the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in early 2023. PIRSA has been assisting with the response led by industry (ForestrySA) which involved the early removal of affected trees.

The removal of over 900 pine trees is now complete and while there have been no further detections, monitoring will continue. Publicly accessible sites were fenced off during tree removal and remained during quarantine. A risk assessment was conducted to determine the end of the quarantine period of the public sites, which occurred in late January 2024.

As discussed, I am planning to hold a debrief for GPS Working Group members in early March, with plans for a workshop in late April with [Clause 6\(1\)](#), Australian Forest Products Association. I have attached a copy of the Communications Plan which provides a good summary of the background and response.

It has been suggested that wider stakeholders be invited to the workshop and that it focus on ongoing surveillance, technical procedures in the event of a future detection, and work towards a MOU on responsibilities. This is what we need a facilitator for. [Clause 6\(1\)](#) has offered to assist with preparing the technical procedure and outline the contents of a MOU.

At this stage details of the proposed workshop looks like this but is subject to change including to accommodate your suggestions:

- **Purpose:**
 - Discuss and agree on technical response procedure including decontamination, tree removal and destruction
 - Consider a MOU on responsibilities for ongoing surveillance, notifications, stakeholder engagement, tree removals on public or private land, costs involved
- **Time:** 5 hours (TBC)
- **Date:** April 29th or May 2nd or 3rd (TBC)
- **Location:** in person in Adelaide (TBC)
- **Participants:** GPS Working Group members (about 15 people), plus other stakeholders

I'll send through a meeting request for us to discuss this with David Hubbard next week.

Kind regards,

Amy McMurren | Manager, Forestry
 Forest Industries | Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
 Government of South Australia | Level 21, 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide, SA
 GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: 08 8429 0434 | **M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** amy.mcmurren@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

Giant Pine Scale Response Program

Responsible directorate/division: Giant Pine Scale Working Group (PIRSA involvement – Industry, Strategy and Partnerships/Biosecurity Divisions)

Date: November 2023

Background

This communications plan has been prepared to guide the inter-agency Giant Pine Scale Working Group (also known as Response Team) with media and communications activities relating to the 2023 eradication program for the pest plant giant pine scale (GPS) within the City of Tea Tree Gully LGA.

To manage the latest outbreak affecting Pine trees in the Hope Valley and Highbury areas, a response team comprised of potentially affected stakeholders and land managers has been formed. The team includes representatives of State Government agencies, the South Australian Forest sector, Local Government, and others as appropriate. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is providing appropriate technical advice to the response.

Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) is a sap sucking insect that only feeds on trees from the Pinaceae family, such as pines, firs and spruces. An infestation can cause branch dieback, gradual desiccation and tree death.

A priority of the response program has been to protect the thousands of amenity trees in streets, parks, and gardens through the urgent removal of infested trees, reducing the risk of further spread of the pest. Previous GPS outbreaks at Dernancourt and North Adelaide in 2014 and Highbury in 2018 were successfully controlled using this same approach.

Removal of affected trees remains the best-known option for eliminating giant pine scale, regarded as the quickest and most effective eradication method against the pest. Tree removal also assists in stopping the pest spreading onto other unaffected pines.

The current phase of the GPS response involves:

- Assessing the extent of trees infested with the pest in the affected and surrounding areas, through active surveillance.
- Responding to pest reports provided by community members through the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Nationally giant pine scale is now regarded as an established pest in Australia, most notably in parts of outer Melbourne.

As the extent of the pest in South Australia currently appears to be limited and given the risk giant pine scale poses to South Australia's \$1.4 billion forest industry, the Giant Pine Scale Working Group continues to take steps to protect South Australia's plantation forests and amenity trees from this pest. In addition to the eradication operations occurring at Hope Valley and Highbury, surveillance is also being



undertaken to determine if the pest has spread further. To date no further concerns have emerged elsewhere in South Australia.

Following the removal of infested trees as part of the eradication program. Felled tree material is being processed into landscaping grade product then quarantined for a minimum of six months. Future use of this product will be oriented around assisting the upcoming remedial works, which includes the establishment of replacement local indigenous tree plantings, on the affected reserve areas.

This communication plan is being implemented to guide the giant pine scale working group members in ongoing communications and community engagement elements as the eradication program, remedial works and surveillance program continues. It is also aimed at ensuring property owners in affected areas, relevant local and state government, and industry stakeholders, along with the general public, are aware of the risk giant pine scale poses to the local community and industry and what their individual responsibilities are in mitigating this pest.

Strategic alignment

- Collaborating across government [and industry] for better outcomes.
- Building better relationships with Industry and regions.

Market context

- South Australia's forest industry has played an important role in the economic development of our state, especially in our regions.
- Timber production in South Australia is 100% plantation based, with more than 2.9 million cubic metres of logs harvested from South Australian plantations in 2020-21 (11% of Australia's total).
- In 2020-21 the South Australian forest and wood products industries recorded a revenue of around \$1.4 billion.
- The South Australian portion of the Green Triangle forestry and forest products industry contributes more than \$860 million to South Australia's gross regional product.¹
- Forestry and forest products industries in South Australia directly employ about 5,200 people and indirectly support employment for another 12,500 people, totalling almost 18,000.²

Situational analysis

- Following the discovery of giant pine scale in South Australia and Victoria for the first time in 2014, a decision was made at the national level to implement an eradication plan under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).
- In 2017, a review of the EPPRD program concluded that it was not technically feasible to eradicate GPS from Australia. A one-year Transition to Management Plan was developed to assist industry to manage the pest in Australia.
- GPS is listed as a declared pest in the Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS), and as a result PIRSA must be informed of any detection within South Australia. The PQS does not regulate the movement

¹ *Forest and Wood Products Australia (2017) Socioeconomic impacts of the forest industry - Green Triangle*

² *REMPAN Economics as at June 2021.*

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of host material into SA, thus there is an open pathway for the pest to move between other states and SA.

- Industry decided against any regulatory controls at the border due to the significant movement of material within the Green Triangle and the possible disruption to industry.
- The endemic status of the pest in Australia means that PIRSA Biosecurity will not initiate an eradication response to this pest and management of GPS rests with land managers, landowners and industry.
- With the sale of forestry goods and services generating revenue of around \$2.6 billion each year, giant pine scale is potentially a pest of great significance to South Australia's softwood plantation industry.
- As a result, the 2023 eradication response in the Hope Valley/Highbury area has been funded and driven by the forest industry with PIRSA Biosecurity providing appropriate technical advice.
- Prior to the latest detection in the Hope Valley/Highbury area, ongoing surveillance had indicated that GPS had been eradicated from all previous outbreak sites at Dernancourt, North Adelaide and Highbury. In Victoria, where ongoing activity has been occurring, the forest industry has been active in containing its spread. To date it has not been found in other parts of Australia and has not been detected in any pine plantations.
- The Giant Pine Scale Working Group comprising representatives from PIRSA, SA Water, ForestrySA, City of Tea Tree Gully, the Australian Forest Products Association, University of South Australia, the Department of Environment and Water and an independent expert has been formed to coordinate the management of the response and surveillance activities.

Objectives

Project/business objectives

To mitigate the risk of giant pine scale reaching South Australia's softwood plantation estate.

Communications objectives

- Increase awareness of the potential threat of giant pine scale to the state, particularly to South Australia's pine plantation forest industry
- Illustrate the importance of eradicating giant pine scale in South Australia
- Increase awareness by the general public, property owners, local government and industry stakeholders of the giant pine scale eradication program and what they can do to assist in ensuring the elimination of this pest plant.
- Increase the public's understanding of what GPS looks like and the need to report any suspected detections to PIRSA

Spokesperson(s)

- Media enquiries are to be referred to PIRSA Media pirsa.media@sa.gov.au for triage, then PIRSA will contact the most appropriate spokesperson via media contacts on Page 9 of this Plan.
- A spokesperson is determined depending on the context, for example, industry response, technical advice, remediation
 - Industry response – AFPA and SAFPA
 - Rehabilitation following tree removals – landowners and managers
 - Policy advice – PIRSA Forestry

- Technical advice – Biosecurity SA

Target audience

Priority	Audience	Why we are communicating with them/ Desired positioning statement
Primary	Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development/Minister for Forest Industries.	Primary stakeholders in the current eradication response. Media and communications overseen by the GPSWG considers and addresses where possible potential concerns of stakeholders
	Other relevant State Government Ministers	
	ForestrySA	
	Australian Forest Products Association	
	SA Water	
	Department of Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife Service)	
	City of Tea Tree Gully (Elected members and staff)	
Community	Local Residents (City of Tea Tree Gully)	Advising people in close proximity to the detection locations (and other local residents) on the eradication program, including tree removal. Emphasising the risk posed by Giant Pine Scale and the importance in controlling it and why tree removal remains the only effective eradication tool. Advising them on the role they can play in helping to mitigate the risk of spread. (what to look out for, how to report it).
	General Public	Reminding the public (non CTTG residents) on the risk posed by the pest and what role they can do to mitigate the risk of spread (what to look out for, how to report it).
	Arborists and gardening services	Advising arborists and professional gardeners of the latest detection, reminding them on the risk posed by the pest and activities that can lead to spread. Reminding them on the need for good biosecurity measures if working in the area, what to look out for and how to report it.
	Other recreational reserve users	Advising potential recreational reserve users impacted by the current eradication response on the need for reserve closure. Emphasising the risk posed by Giant Pine Scale and the importance in controlling it and what they can do to help mitigate spread.
Stakeholder	South Australian Forest Products Association	Keeping them in the loop on response activities

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	Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub	Providing forestry technical advice. Keeping them in the loop on response activities
--	--------------------------------------	--

Barriers/critical success factors

Issue/risk	How this will be managed
Concerns over the potential removal of significant and regulated trees and associated animal welfare concerns	• Reminder that the pest only attacks exotic trees species particularly those from the Pinaceae family and therefore only introduced tree species are being targeted as part of the eradication response. • Advise that as part of remedial works replacement trees will be local indigenous species • Promote the fact that ALL affected trees need to be removed to ensure the desired outcome of the eradication program (that is, removal of Giant Pine Scale from South Australia) • Advise that if left untreated, giant pine scale will kill affected trees. This response is targeted a relatively small number of affected trees to protect large numbers of amenity and commercial plantings • Advise that the response team are working on mitigating any risks to native wildlife
Risk of outbreak of giant pine scale in another area	• Assurance that ongoing surveillance of the pest is occurring. • Reminder why ongoing vigilance is important and why everyone has a role to play and how to report if suspicious of GPS presence. • Should outbreak occur: ○ Liaison with relevant stakeholders and affected landholders to commence immediately. ○ Implementation of any eradication program to commence as soon as possible.
Complexity and timeliness of communications approvals processes	• GPSWG spans a number of agencies, many with their own media, communications and engagement staff. • Process to be established on approvals processes for GPSWG, keeping in mind State Government approvals protocols. • Determine spokespeople for GPSWG

Key messages

- Gardeners and residents in the Hope Valley area are being asked to report any signs of the plant pest giant pine scale (GPS).

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- Giant pine scale can be detected by looking for masses of the characteristic white cotton-like secretions the pest leaves on the trunks and branches of pine trees when it feeds.
- If you see or suspect giant pine scale, report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. Further information on the pest is also available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- This follows a recent detection of the pest within the Hope Valley and Highbury areas, the first detection of the pest in South Australia since 2018.
- To manage this current detection, a response team made up of potentially affected stakeholders and land managers are meeting regularly, including representatives of state government agencies, the South Australian forest sector, local government, and others as appropriate. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is providing technical advice to the response.
- Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) causes branch dieback, gradual desiccation and tree death. It feeds exclusively on plants from the pine family, such as pines, firs and spruces.
- A priority of the response program is to protect our forest industries and the thousands of amenity trees in streets, parks, and gardens through the urgent removal of infested trees, reducing the risk of further spread of the pest. Previous giant pine scale detections at Dernancourt and North Adelaide in 2014 and Highbury in 2018 were successfully controlled using this same approach.
- Removal of affected trees remains the best-known option for eliminating giant pine scale, regarded as the quickest and most effective eradication method against the pest. Tree removal also assists in stopping the pest spreading onto other unaffected pines.
- The current phase of the giant pine scale response involves:
 - Assessing the extent of trees infested with the pest in the affected and surrounding areas, through active surveillance.
 - Responding to pest reports provided by community members.
 - Removing infested trees.
- Nationally giant pine scale is now regarded as an established pest in Australia, notably in parts of outer Melbourne.
- Given the risk giant pine scale poses to Adelaide's street, park and garden trees, along with South Australia's \$1.4 billion forest industry; the South Australian forest sector, state government agencies and local government will continue to take steps to protect our trees from this pest.
- In addition to this current eradication operation, surveillance is also being undertaken to determine if the pest has spread further. To date no further concerns have emerged elsewhere in South Australia.
- Following the removal of infested trees as part of the eradication program. Felled tree material is being processed into landscaping grade product then quarantined for a minimum of six months to ensure that there is no more living giant pine scale in the product. Giant pine scale cannot survive for long periods away from a living host tree.

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- Prior to the felling of any infested trees, any wildlife that have been found to be present, including protected animals and the eggs of protected animals, have been managed appropriately in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Giant pine scale is often spread by human contact, particularly by the pest sticking onto shoes, clothing or equipment.
- Vigilance remains key in the fight against giant pine scale, and the public can play an important role. It is why we are asking everyone to check their pine trees, particularly on the trunks and canopy of trees and if they see anything unusual to report it as soon as possible.
- While all steps are being made to ensure no risk of spread by the pest, particularly through ongoing surveillance, it is possible that any further detection of Giant Pine Scale may require the removal of additional trees to protect the remaining unaffected trees.
- SA Water is currently developing a rehabilitation plan for priority areas within its Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, including where infected pines are being removed. This work, which will take place after the quarantine period, will focus on establishing native vegetation as part of the Utility's broader land management program.
- The occurrence of Giant Pine Scale poses no health risk to the local community, or to water quality in the Hope Valley reservoir.

Communications tactics/channels

Media releases

1. Commencement of eradication program (Joint PIRSA/AFPA release)

Topic - Advising people of the eradication program in the Hope Valley area and why Giant Pine Scale is such a concern, what people should watch out for and how to report it.

Distribution – Metropolitan media outlets. Issued – Tuesday, 1 August 2023

2. Any updates on eradication program

As identified/required (currently being driven through media responses).

3. Future use of affected Crown Land, particularly Elliston Reserve. Possible call to action involving Your Say community engagement process (see Community Engagement section)

(Joint Ministerial Media Release with Member for Newland and possibly City of Tea Tree Gully)

Distribution – Metropolitan media outlets. Date TBC

4. Conclusion of eradication program

(Ministerial – TBC – possible joint release with AFPA)

5. Media talking points (provided to Minister, identified PIRSA staff and GPSWG members)

Proactive media activity

Gardening talkback

ABC Weekend Breakfast (Deb Tribe/Jon Lamb)³

5AA Weekend Mornings (Michael Keelan)

Newsletters/Media articles

- City of Tea Tree Gully³
- Local Government Association
- Forest Industry publications
- Arborists/Garden industry publications
- Any other GPSWG stakeholder newsletters/communications channels.

Fact Sheets

- Current fact sheet on giant pine scale available from www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale

Signage

- Improving signage around sites affected by tree removals – signs to include information on GPS and a focus on revegetation plans [note request from DEW to keep signage messaging high level and only state that sites will be remediated including revegetation].

Community Engagement

- One on one engagement by PIRSA Biosecurity staff with residents located near eradication zones in August 2023 ahead of tree removal operations. Ongoing residential advice been provided by PIRSA Biosecurity through the Plant Health Hotline.
- MyPestGuide Reporter – for citizen science reporting (to be developed)
- Green Adelaide/City of Tea Tree Gully/You Say – seeking feedback on future use of affected crown land, in particular Elliston Reserve. (Details still to be finalised).

Website information

- PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- ForestrySA website www.forestrysa.com.au/2023/08/01/giant-pine-scale/
- City of Tea Tree Gully website [Latest news | City of Tea Tree Gully](#)

Social media

Ongoing social media reminder on Giant Pine Scale, the eradication program in the Dernancourt area and what people should watch out for on PIRSA's Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts. To be also disseminated and amplified through City of Tea Tree Gully social media channels and when required by other GPSWG social.

³ Any external messaging must include consultation with CTTG who will then share the final approved content to residents/local community through their channels.

Budget

Currently resourcing for media and communications activities will be met within existing staffing allocations among GPSWG members.

Project management (Giant Pine Scale Working Group)

- PIRSA Media and Communications: Fontella Koleff, Senior Media Adviser - *pirsa.media@sa.gov.au*
PIRSA Forestry: Rob Robinson, Amy McMurren
PIRSA Biosecurity: David Hubbard, Adrian Harvey, Ben Page
- Australian Forest Products Association: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @ausfpa.com.au
- ForestrySA: Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @forestrysa.com.au
- City of Tea Tree Gully: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @cttg.sa.gov.au
- SA Water: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @sawater.com.au
- Department of Environment and Water: Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au
- University of South Australia: Clause 6(1)
- Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub: Clause 6(1)
- OneFortyOne: Clause 6(1)
- Independent Adviser: Clause 6(1) (Arbor Carbon)

Approval Processes:

PIRSA: Nathan Rhodes (Executive Director, Biosecurity), Jo Collins (Executive Director, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships), Rob Robinson (Director, Forest Industries), Nick Secomb (Director Plant and Invasive Species Biosecurity), David Hubbard (Manager, Plant Biosecurity Operations), Amy McMurren (Manager, Forestry)

Giant Pine Scale Working Group (Response Team): Clause 6(1) (Australian Forest Products Association), Clause 6(1) (Forestry SA). In most cases the remainder of group members to be sent any advice on collateral, media responses or activity for noting only. Approvals only to be sought if agency/stakeholder are being named or there is a need for collateral/activity be generated by them.

Evaluation

TBD

Record
of the
Giant Pine Scale Stakeholder Workshop

Thursday 6th June 2024
Adelaide

Participants

Staff and representatives from; Adelaide Hills Council; Australian Forest Products Association; City of Burnside; City of Port of Adelaide, Enfield; City of Tea Tree Gully; Department for Environment and Water; Department of Primary Industries and Regions, ForestrySA; Green Adelaide; Green Triangle Bark and Mulch Supplies; Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub; SA Water; UniSA

Facilitator

Clause 6(1)

Prepared by Clause 6(1)

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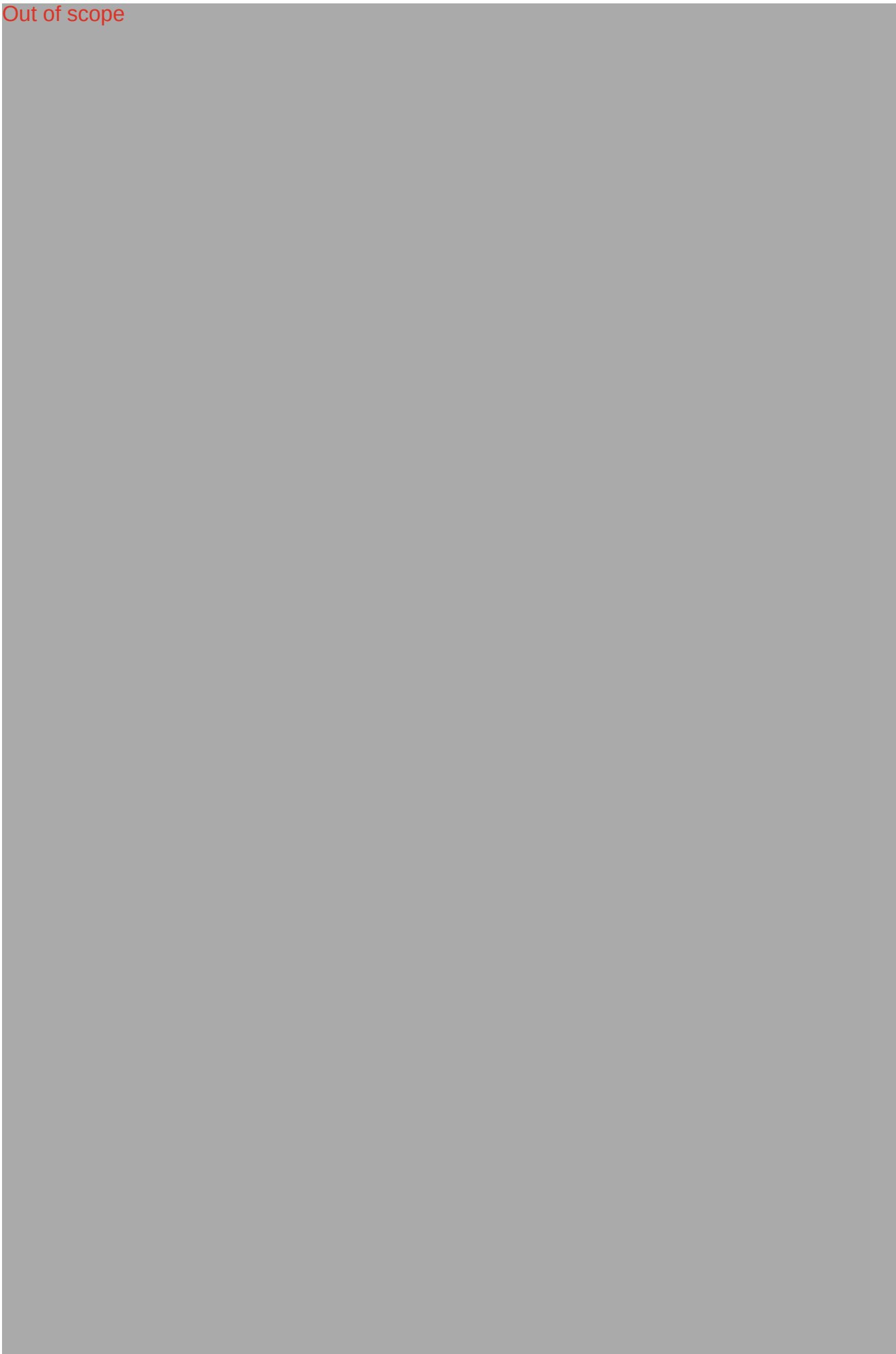
GIANT PINE SCALE: THE RISKS, COSTS AND BENEFITS 3

KEY ACTIONS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES 3

WHAT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT WILL A RESPONSE REQUIRE? 4

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Out of scope

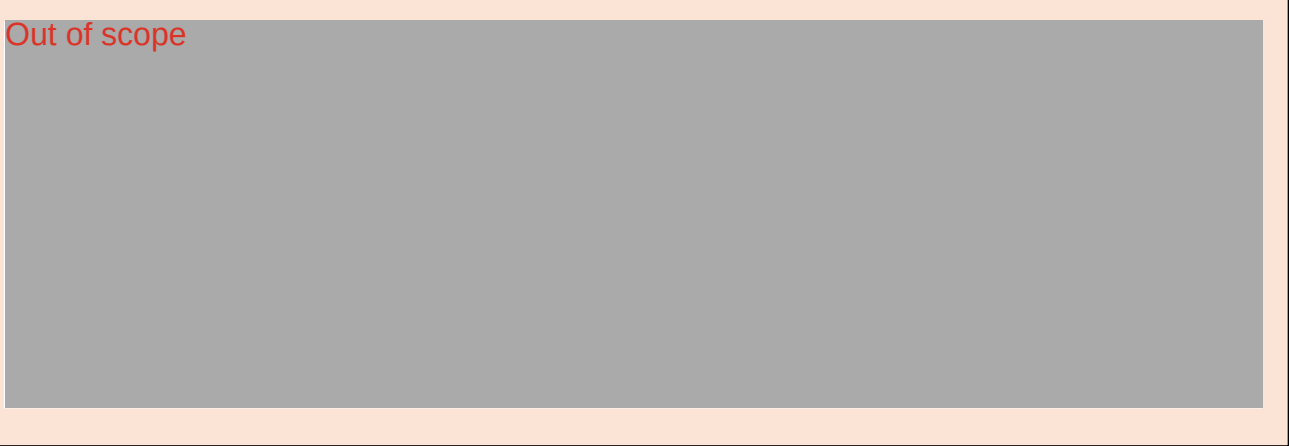
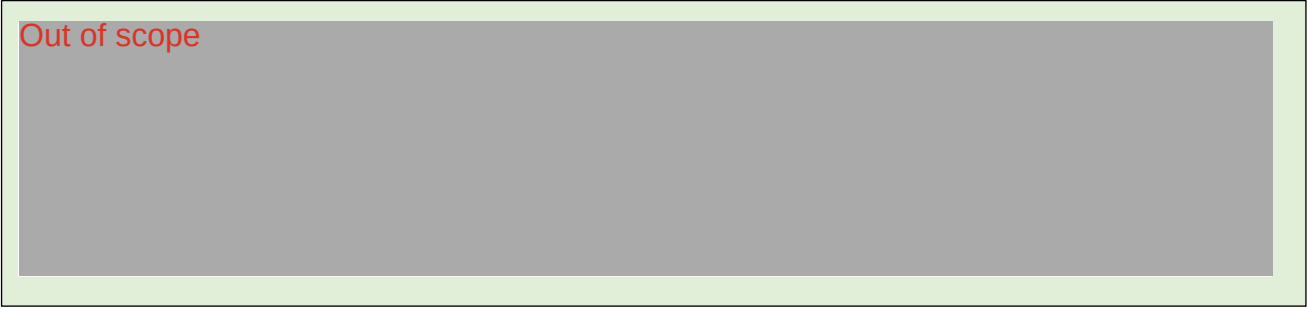


Out of scope

Communications and Engagement

- Need a Communications Plan upfront; PIRSA Communications team are happy to share the draft Communications Plan with stakeholders
- Need a Communications Plan to drive unity and consistency of messaging
- What needs to be worked through is the question of who takes the lead to ensure consistent messaging – there are different views on this – need the right people in the room to have this discussion; scale of the outbreak will be part of this
- Need to sort out the leadership roles – the Working Group – and expectations of what the group is to do – have the right people in the room
- Community information put out from a coordinating agency
 - ♦ Include risks, need for vigilance, opportunity/costs; generate buy-in
- Separate out a general awareness campaign from the need for communications in an outbreak
- Technical information to come from PIRSA; who is project managing the work on the ground? The asset owner – it's their space to do the communications
- Landholders shouldn't have to talk about 'why' tree removals/ operations are occurring, they communicate about 'what' is occurring
- Realities of levels of capacity and resourcing will play a part in determining who does what.

Out of scope



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Monday 2 December
Date: Monday, 2 December 2024 4:29:50 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-12-02 152719.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Monday 2 December

Updated map attached

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- Almost all (120) trees have been felled. Tree material is being transported to Peats Soils at Brinkley for mulching and composting/quarantine.
- Aqueduct walking trail continues to be closed.

City of Tea Tree Gully Council – Silver Lake Reserve

- Giant pine scale detection at Silverlake Reserve news story has been published on the CTTG website.
- Barrier mesh and signage has been installed to prevent access to the reserve.

Communications

- PIRSA-led meeting of agency and CTTG media contacts to be held on tomorrow 3 December.
- DEW shared an enquiry they received from a Highbury resident. PIRSA assisted by suggesting talking points.
- DEW will be delivering further letters to residents near Valley View drive near where buffers have been marked with flagging tape. The letter was shared with PIRSA for feedback.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

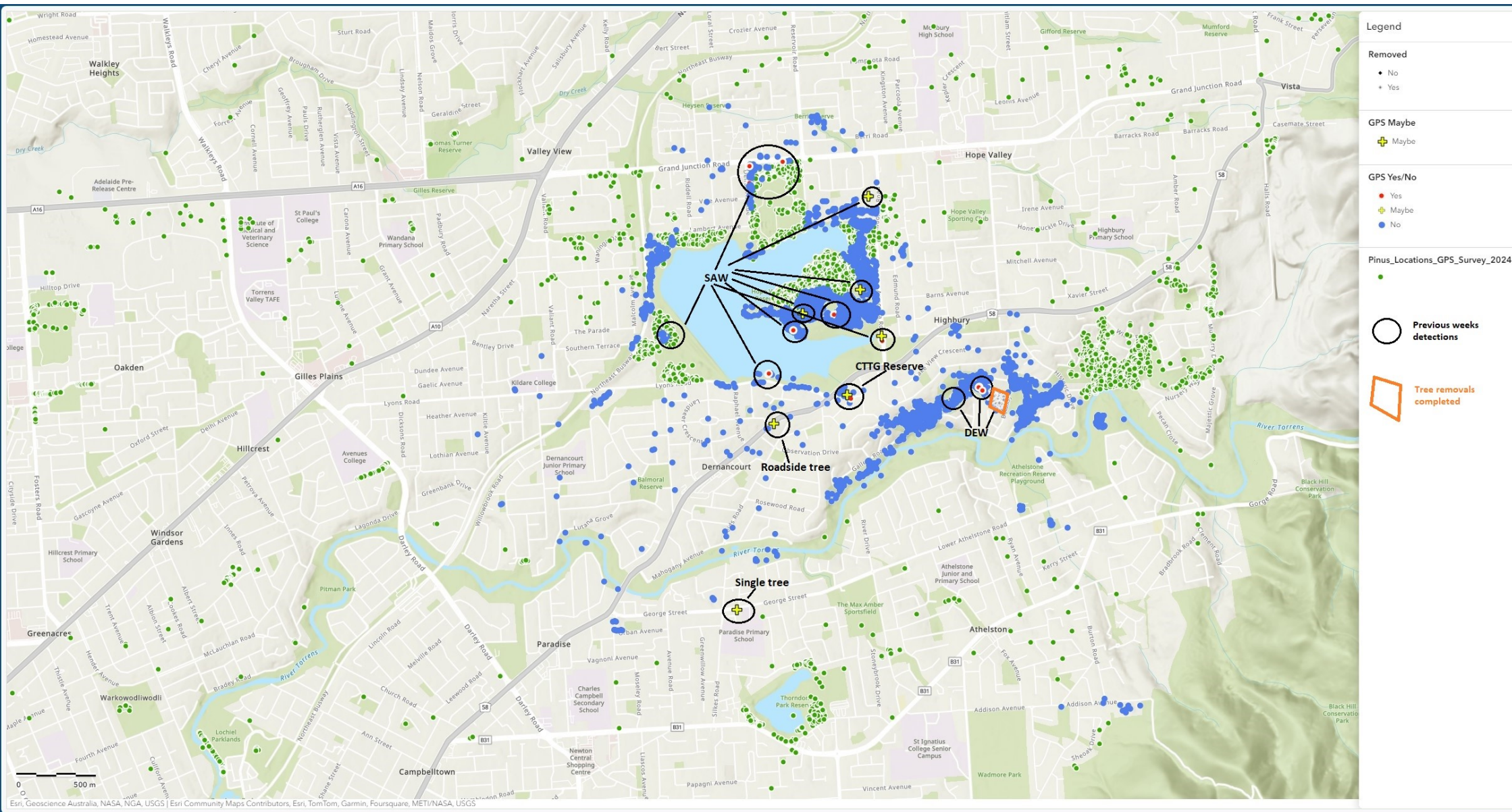
- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 16 trees affected. A further 4 trees marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 8 remaining trees affected. The other 16 trees have been removed along with a buffer.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to investigate 1 tree near George St, Paradise marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to further investigate 1 tree at Lower North East Rd.
- Silver Lake Reserve - No change. Up to three contain GPS.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 5 December

Other

- Out of scope



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Tuesday 3 December
Date: Tuesday, 3 December 2024 5:42:20 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-12-03 141328.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Tuesday 3 December

- Updated map attached
- New table on affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	8	0	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	5	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
North East Rd, Dernancourt	DIT	0	1	0
Boronia Ct, Paradise	Private (TBC)	0	1	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	0	2	0
Total		42	10	120

Highbury Aqueduct site

- As per previous update

City of Tea Tree Gully Council – Silver Lake Reserve

- As per previous update

Surveillance – new detections

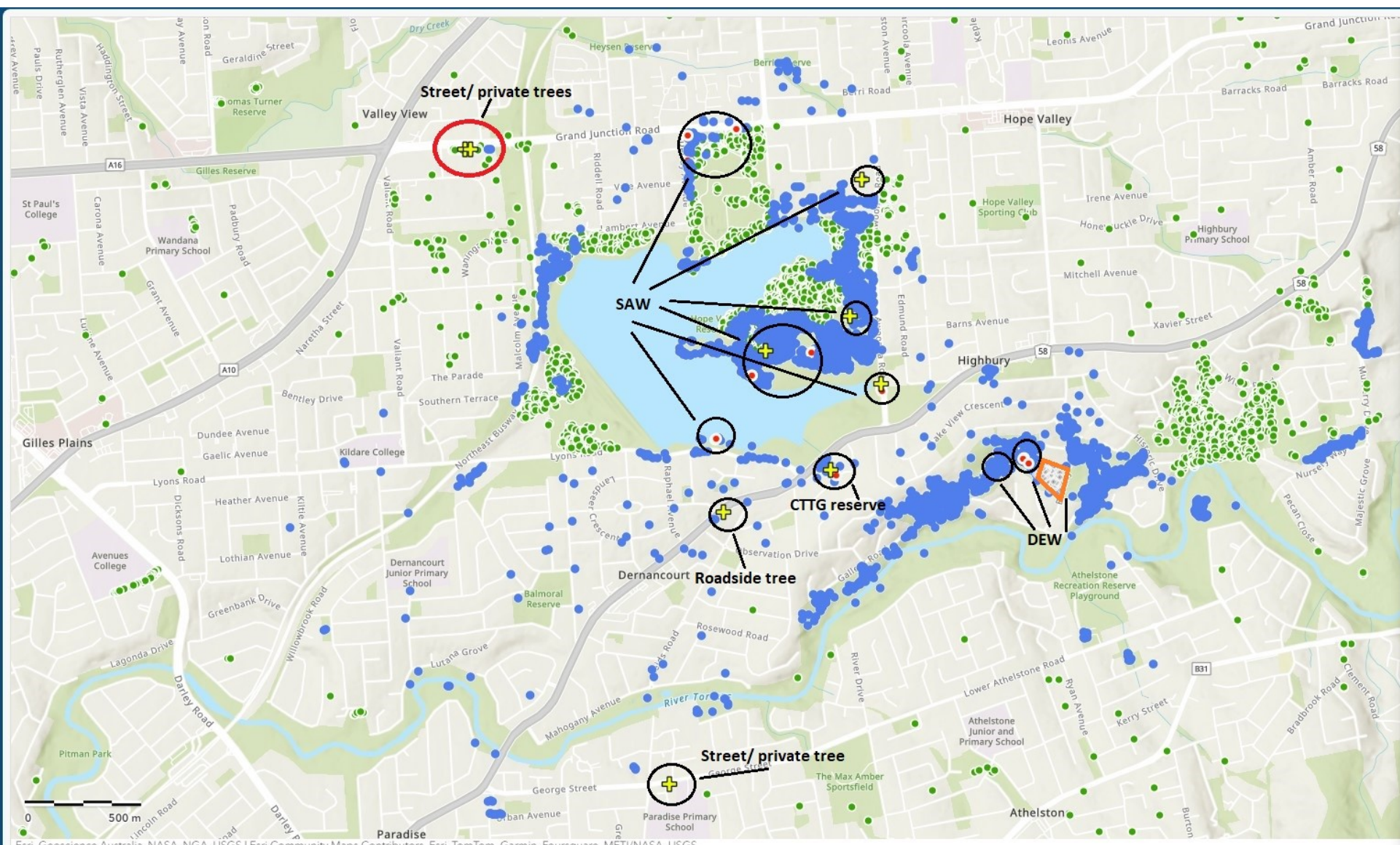
- Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill – 2 trees 'maybe GPS'

Communications

- Agency and media contacts met to discuss GPS situation and potential messaging if required.

Next Working Group meeting

- Thursday 5 December



Legend

Removed

- ◆ No
- ◆ Yes

GPS Maybe

- ✚ Maybe

GPS Yes/No

- Yes
- ✚ Maybe
- No

Pinus_Locations_GPS_Survey_2024

-

Tree removals completed

-

Previous weeks detections

-

This weeks detections

-

From: [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PIRSA GPS Update - Wednesday 4 December 2024
Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2024 3:23:00 PM

Hi Mehdi and Lucas,

I'm sending today's GPS update on behalf of Rob.

Kind regards, Amy.

GPS Update - Wednesday 4 December

Surveillance – new detections

- Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill – 1 tree with GPS, 3 trees 'maybe GPS'

Affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	9	0	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	7	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
North East Rd, Dernancourt	DIT	0	1	0
Boronia Ct, Paradise	Private (TBC)	0	0? (marker missing from map)	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	1	3	0
Total		44	12	120

Communications

- Minister Scriven approved the updated letter to be provided to further residents affected by the closure of the aqueduct walking trail. DEW to notify PIRSA when the letter drop occurs.
- DEW shared their updated holding statement with PIRSA.
- ABC Adelaide's Breakfast program did a short report on GPS this morning at Silver Lake Reserve.
- ABC 891 Breakfast has requested a telephone interview about GPS tomorrow morning. PIRSA is seeking clarification on the context.

Highbury Aqueduct site

- Another tree within the buffer has GPS. There is no need to extend the buffer.

Next Working Group meeting

- Thursday 5 December

From: [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Thursday 5 December 2024
Date: Thursday, 5 December 2024 5:34:40 PM

Hi Mehdi and Lucas,

I'm sending the update below on behalf of Rob.

Regards, Amy

GPS Update - Thursday 5 December

Surveillance – new detections

- Boronia Ct, Paradise – 1 suspected tree confirmed by PIRSA as not having GPS.
- North East Rd, Dernancourt – 1 suspected tree confirmed by PIRSA as not having GPS.
- Aqueduct, Country Ln – 2 suspected trees.
- Hope Valley Reservoir, Awoonga Rd – latest suspected trees are likely to be woolly aphid, not GPS. To be confirmed by PIRSA.

Affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	9	2	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	7	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
North East Rd, Dernancourt	DIT	0	0	0
Boronia Ct, Paradise	Private (TBC)	0	0	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	1	3	0
Total		44	13	120

Communications

- The second batch of letters to residents along the aqueduct have been hand delivered by DEW. A copy of the letter was posted on the Member for Morialta's social media.
- DEW has received a few enquiries about tree removals from local residents, these have been shared with PIRSA.
- PIRSA's GPS webpage has been updated to include info on current detections and links to further information from DEW and CTTG.

GPS Working Group meeting

- Meeting held today. Chair – FSA. Participants from AFPA, CTTG, SAW, PIRSA, and Green Adelaide.
- SAW is meeting with AFPA tomorrow to discuss the development of their operational plan.
- CTTG is seeking ballpark quotes to remove up to three trees, although nine would need to be removed to form a 50 m buffer.
- DEW inspected sites where stage 2 removals are to occur with the contractor. A quote is to be provided within two weeks, with works planned to commence in January 2025.
- Detector dogs are learning the exudate scent well, field-based training to commence soon.
- Members are keen to know when the agency CE's are meeting and have requested that funding support for local council/ private tree removals is on the agenda.
- Members discussed the need for alternative site to store and manage the infested tree residue. Peat's Soils may not be an option next time due to the larger amounts of material.
- Next meeting Thursday 12 December.

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Monday 9 December 2024
Date: Monday, 9 December 2024 6:55:17 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Monday 9 December

Surveillance – new detections

- No new detections since last Thursday.

Affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	9	2	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	7	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	1	3	0
Total		44	13	120

Communications

- DEW have advised the following organisations have been notified of the closure of the Highbury Aqueduct Walking Trail:
 - Walking SA, Trail Running SA, Adelaide Trail Running, Bike SA, Adelaide Mountain Bike Club.

GPS Working Group meeting

- Next meeting Thursday 12 December

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PIRSA GPS Update - Tuesday 10 December 2024
Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 5:24:22 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update – Tuesday 10 December

- Note it is now unlikely that any further tree removals will be undertaken before January with contractor availability being a factor.
- Areas with confirmed detections will be managed as best is possible to minimise spread.

Surveillance – new detections

- No new detections this week so far.

Affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	9	2	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	8	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	1	3	0
Total		44	14	120

Communications

- SAW to share with PIRSA, a draft letter to residents near the Reservoir that informs them of potential tree removals.

GPS Working Group meeting

- Next meeting Thursday 12 December

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Wednesday 11 December 2024
Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2024 5:08:18 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update – Wednesday 11 December

Surveillance – new detections

- No new detections this week so far.

Affected trees

Location	Land manager	Trees - confirmed GPS	Trees - suspected GPS	Trees - removed
Aqueduct – Boundy Rd	DEW	16	0	120 approx
Aqueduct – other	DEW	9	2	0
Hope Valley Reservoir	SAW	17	8	0
Silverlake Reserve	CTTG	1	1	0
Grand Junction Rd, Holden Hill	Private (TBC)	1	3	0
Total		44	14	120

Communications

- PIRSA to update talking points on GPS to include information on completed revegetation at 2003 tree removal sites.
- SAW to share with PIRSA, a draft letter to residents near the Reservoir that informs them of potential tree removals.

Operations

- Note it is now unlikely that any further tree removals will be undertaken before January with contractor availability being a factor.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 12 December
- PIRSA will seek to understand the mechanism by which industry will help with tree removals from private land
- Are there policies/procedures being used in Victoria which can be adapted for SA? What are the key elements? Does the program have a name? Who arranges the removal? Who pays who and when?

CEs Meeting

- Prof Mehdi Doroudi, Ben Bruce and Tim Ryan have confirmed their availability to meet 22

January

- Aim is to provide an update on the current situation and to confirm approaches to managing the pest now and into the future

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PIRSA GPS Update 14 November 2024
Date: Friday, 15 November 2024 9:29:47 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-14 161846.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

[Resent with my map made in Paint](#)

From: Robinson, Rob (PIRSA)
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>; Jones, Lucas (PIRSA) <Lucas.Jones@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au>; Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>
Subject: RE: PIRSA GPS Update 14 November 2024

[Resent with correct map this time.](#)

From: Robinson, Rob (PIRSA) <Rob.Robinson@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 5:57 PM
To: Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>; Jones, Lucas (PIRSA) <Lucas.Jones@sa.gov.au>
Cc: Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au>; Barclay, Ann (PIRSA) <Ann.Barclay@sa.gov.au>
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update 14 November 2024

Mehdi and Lucas,

The GPS situation has become more complex with new detections on the aqueduct land and at the Hope Valley Reservoir land.

Jo and I propose that you be provided with daily updates. I understand DEW is preparing daily updates about their current works.

Regards,

Rob.

Existing detections on the aqueduct lands

- We knew that there were 16 trees on the aqueduct reserve managed by DEW
- DEW are planning to remove these along with others to create a 50 metre buffer
- DEW has received a quote for Clause 9(1) (GST inc) from a contractor to remove and dispose of the trees
- DEW is finalising procurement and start date (TBC but likely to be days rather than weeks)

New Detections at the aqueduct and on the reservoir lands

- GPS is more easily detected at this time of the year and more is being found. Surveillance activities continue to be coordinated by the Australian Forest Products Association and land managers. The attached map is from the online system where detections are loaded in real time. The map is from today and shows new detections.
- 6 more trees have been detected in the aqueduct reserve. These are outside of the area planned to be cleared. DEW could consider extending the scope of its contract to deal with these, which should involve establishing a buffer.
- 12 more trees have been located on SA Water land at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve. Some of these are yet to be confirmed by PIRSA Biosecurity. Some are in areas adjacent to the 2023 tree removals, while others are in different sections of the Reserve. SA Water are considering their options, which include tree removals. They have an excellent track record on this.

<< File: Screenshot 2024-11-14 161846.jpg >>

Working Group

- A subset of the Working Group is meeting tomorrow with a focus on current detections and response.
- Invited: Clause 6(1) (FSA - Chair), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW), David Hubbard, Rob Robinson, Amy McMurren, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Arbor Carbon), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (TTG), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (SAW)
- Agenda

	Item	Lead
1	Welcome/ Intro	FSA
2	Surveillance updates	AFPA/ SAW
3	Highbury Aqueduct Reserve	

Operations Plan

- Tree removal quotes NPWS
- 4 Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

- Management options SAW
- 5 Communications Plan PIRSA
- 6 Other business All
- 7 Close FSA

Regards,

Rob.

Rob Robinson | Director Forest Industries

Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide

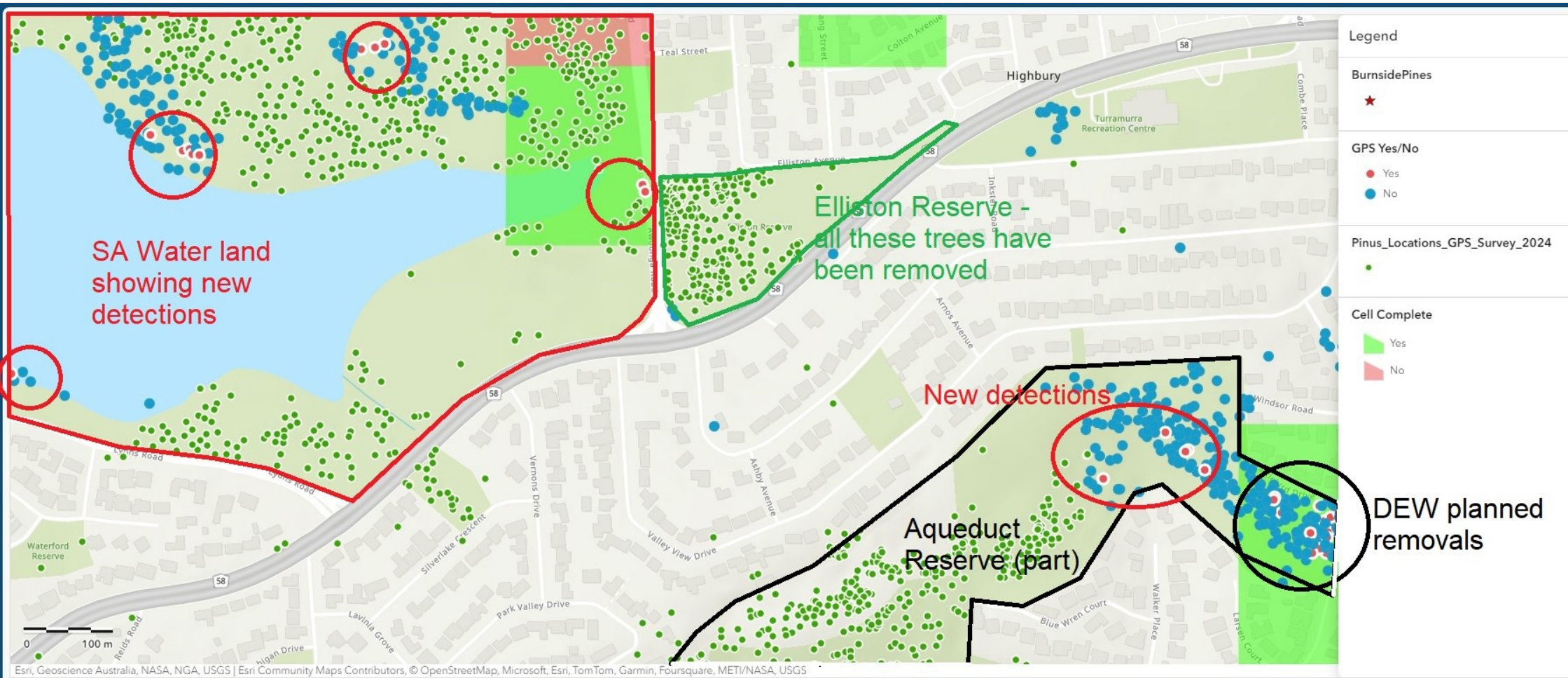
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

P: +61 8 8429 0432 | **M:** Clause 6(1) **E:** www.pir.sa.gov.au

<< OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >>

**Service | Professionalism | Trust | Respect | Collaboration & Engagement | Honesty & Integrity
| Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability**

Disclaimer: The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - 15 November 2024
Date: Friday, 15 November 2024 6:09:13 PM
Attachments: [202411 - Proposed DEW Highbury Aqueduct residents letter - GPS_Min office edits.docx](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon Mehdi and Lucas,

Here is today's GPs update. It builds upon previous updates rather than replicating them. Yesterday's map is unchanged.

Regards,
Rob.

DEW tree removals at the Aqueduct Reserve (16 infested trees plus 50 metre buffer)

- DEW has notified their preferred contractor who will be on site from Monday. Tree removals are expected to start a day or two after that. Trees will be cut to 2.5 m lengths and transported in a covered truck to Peats Soils, Brinkley for mulching and quarantine.

-

Communications

- A letter advising of tree removals at the Aqueduct Reserve trees will be hand delivered this weekend. DEW will deliver to 300 residences closest to the operations. The letter was drafted by the Working Group and has been approved by Minister Scriven's Office. Copy attached.
- PIRSA and DEW media are drafting a joint media release for consideration by Minister Scriven and Minister Close. Needs to be issued before tree removals begin. Associated communications is being determined.
- PIRSA has updated the Communications Plan and circulated to agencies via the Working Group.

New Detections at the Aqueduct Reserve (the 6 reported yesterday)

- No new detections reported today.
- Surveillance of all trees near these detections will be completed next week. This will inform the areas to be cordoned off and including buffer areas. A new Operations Plan will be developed then implemented by DEW.
- DEW advise there are about 1000 residences near other sections of the Aqueduct Reserve.

New Detections at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve (the 12 reported yesterday)

- Figure now adjusted to 13 infested trees.
- PIRSA Biosecurity is confident the SAW staff are correct in their identification of GPS (based on photos and SAW's experience with the pest). Nonetheless Biosecurity staff will inspect the reservoir and the aqueduct sites early next week.
- SAW advise about 100-150 trees will need to be removed to form 50-metre buffers. AFPA will assist SAW to develop an Operational Plan. SAW plan to use a different tree removal contractor to

DEW - operations could occur concurrently. They plan to mulch the trees on site as previously.

Working Group meeting today

- A subset of the GPS Working Group met today to discuss surveillance, current detections, and response actions. Participants were [redacted] (FSA - Chair), [redacted] (FSA CEO), [redacted] [redacted] (DEW), David Hubbard, Rob Robinson, Amy McMurren, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), [redacted] (AFPA), [redacted] (TTG), [redacted] [redacted] (SAW).
- The focus of the meeting was: tree removals, communications and surveillance.
- DEW and all agencies have access to the online system where detections by surveillance crews are uploaded in real time. Improvements to this will be made so that trees already removed do not appear.
- The urgent need for agency/council/industry CEO-level agreement was discussed. AFPA will share a draft framework for consideration.
- Next meeting - Friday 22 November.



15/10/2025

National Parks and
Wildlife Service
115 Maryvale Road
Athelstone SA 5076
Tel (08) 8207 7900

Dear Resident

This letter is to notify you that there have been recent detections of giant pine scale in your local Highbury Aqueduct Reserve, resulting from the ongoing surveillance occurring in the area following the removal of affected trees at various locations in the local area in 2023.

Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) is a pest insect that causes branch dieback, gradual desiccation, and tree death. It feeds exclusively on plants from the pine family, such as pines, firs and spruces. The pest can be detected by looking for masses of the characteristic white cotton-like secretions the pest leaves on the trunks and branches of pine trees when it feeds. Giant pine scale poses a significant risk to the Australian softwood plantation forest industry.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is responsible for managing the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and is working closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and the forest industry to manage this outbreak. To protect the amenity trees in streets, Australian softwood plantation industries, parks, and gardens within the Highbury area, there is a need to contain the pest insect through the removal of affected and surrounding trees, reducing the risk of further spread of the pest.

Tree removal at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve (near Boundy and Wattlebird Drive) is planned to occur between shortly. A restricted area has been established around the infestation site, including closure of the Aqueduct Trail.

We seek your understanding during the tree removal process. We understand that removing these mature trees may be a significant loss to some, however the removal of affected trees is required to protect other pine trees from the spread of the destructive pest insect. This eradication method remains the best-known option for eliminating the pest and in assisting any potential spread onto other unaffected pines.

Once the tree removals are complete, the restricted area will remain in place for up to three months to ensure that there are no live giant pine scale remaining onsite prior to re-opening for public access. The tree removal site will be remediated including revegetating with local native species of trees, shrubs, and grasses when seasonal conditions are optimal for planting.

Visitors to Highbury Aqueduct Reserve are advised not to enter the restricted area or remove any wood material from the reserves. DEW will continue to monitor Highbury Aqueduct Reserve for giant pine scale and the health of other pine trees within the reserve.

To report any observations of giant pine scale please contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

For enquiries regarding the management of giant pine scale at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve, please email NPWS-AMLR-PLS@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Clause 6(1)

Senior Project Manager

Public Land Stewardship Team - National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department for Environment and Water

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - 15 November 2024
Date: Monday, 18 November 2024 4:46:28 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon Mehdi and Lucas,

Here is today's GPs update. It builds upon previous updates rather than replicating them. Recent map is unchanged.

Regards,
Rob.

GPS Update Monday 18 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW met with their tree removal contractor this morning for a site induction.
- A fence, including a visual barrier mesh, is currently being installed. It was identified that this would assist with reducing the impacts of dust and visual amenity to neighbours. A mesh was not used in the 2023 removals.
- Tree removals are still planned to commence tomorrow Tuesday 19 November unless otherwise advised by DEW.
- One of the pine trees in the 50-metre buffer has been identified as being on private property adjacent to the Reserve. The tree is leaning onto and overhanging the resident's fenceline and access would be difficult.

Communications

- A letter advising of tree removals was delivered to 300 residences on Saturday 16 November. No queries have been received by DEW yet.
- Ministers Scriven and Close have decided against a joint media release. PIRSA is awaiting further information from Minister Scriven's Office on the type of community messaging that will occur.
- PIRSA Biosecurity will contact the resident adjacent to the Reserve to inspect the pine tree and discuss the tree removals and the risk of leaving trees in the 50-metre buffer.

Surveillance

- As per previous update/s.

New Detections at Highbury Aqueduct Site (the 6 further west reported last week)

- As per previous update/s.

New Detections at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve (the 13 reported last week)

- As per previous update/s.

Governance

- DEW and PIRSA in daily contact re operations and communications.
- Working Group will next meet formally on Friday 22 November.
- Potential for the CEs of PIRSA, FSA, SAW and DEW to meet to confirm high level commitment to removals.

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - 19 November 2024
Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2024 5:34:02 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-19 171229.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good afternoon Mehdi and Lucas,

Here is today's GPs update. There's a new map attached.

Regards,
Rob.

GPS Update Tuesday 19 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW advised tree removal works commenced today.
- A contractor that was not selected by DEW for the work has raised what they believe to be a serious safety issue with guarding on the equipment. Their letter to DEW was copied to other government agency staff including FSA, PIRSA, and SAW.
- DEW informed PIRSA the contractor selected for the work has provided documents stating their equipment meets the ISO requirements.
- DEW intends to discuss the selected contractor's safety certificates with FSA as they engaged the contractors for work at the Aqueduct Reserve last year. DEW is considering halting works due to the issue.

Communications

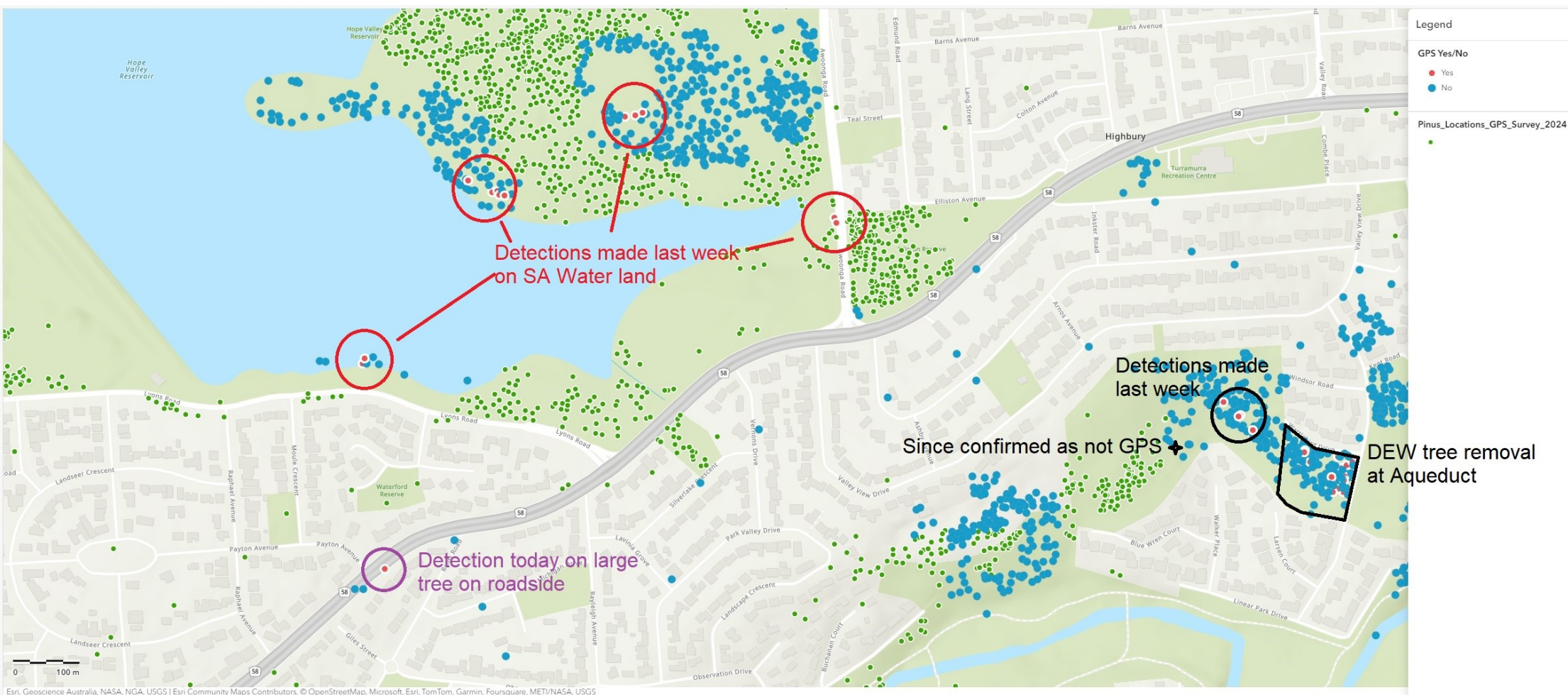
- PIRSA Biosecurity spoke with the resident adjacent to the Aqueduct Reserve and confirmed a pine tree in their fence line does not contain GPS. The resident stated it is a Reserve tree on the property boundary line and they are open to it being removed.
- PIRSA drafted Ministerial Media Talking Points based on the draft media release, Communications Plan, and the letter to residents.
- PIRSA understands the Minister's Office is seeking to share a social media post on the tree removal at the Aqueduct Reserve from the Government of SA Facebook site.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected, as per last update.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – 1 of the 6 new trees reported was assessed by PIRSA as not containing GPS. Total of 21 trees affected.
- Lower North East Rd, Dernancourt – 1 street tree has been assessed by surveillance contractors as GPS positive. This is yet to be inspected by PIRSA Biosecurity.

Governance

- As per previous update/s.



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: GPS Update Wednesday 20 November
Date: Wednesday, 20 November 2024 4:50:16 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-20 161641.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update Wednesday 20 November

- **Updated map attached**

Highbury Aqueduct site

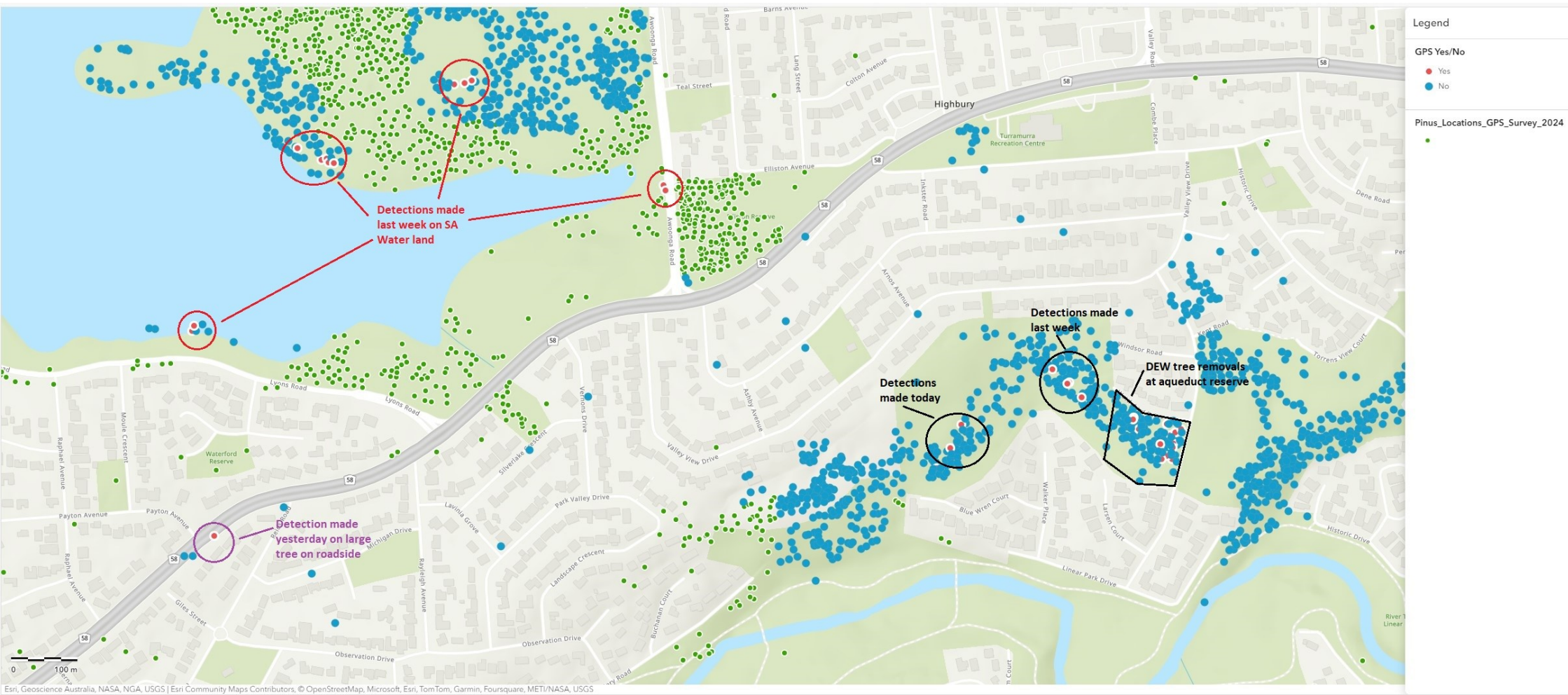
- DEW overseeing tree removal works underway.

Communications

- PIRSA understands the Minister's Office is seeking to share a social media post on the tree removal at the Aqueduct Reserve from the Government of SA Facebook site as well as the We Are SA website.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – **3 new trees reported by surveillance contractors as containing GPS today**. Total of 24 trees affected.
- Lower North East Rd, Dernancourt – 1 street tree has been assessed by surveillance contractors as GPS positive. This is yet to be inspected by PIRSA Biosecurity.



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: GPS Update Thursday 21 November
Date: Thursday, 21 November 2024 5:07:58 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-21 161948.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update Thursday 21 November

- Updated map attached

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW overseeing tree removal works underway.
- Arrangements have been made for tree material to be transported to Peats Soils, Brinkley for mulching, composting and quarantine.

Communications

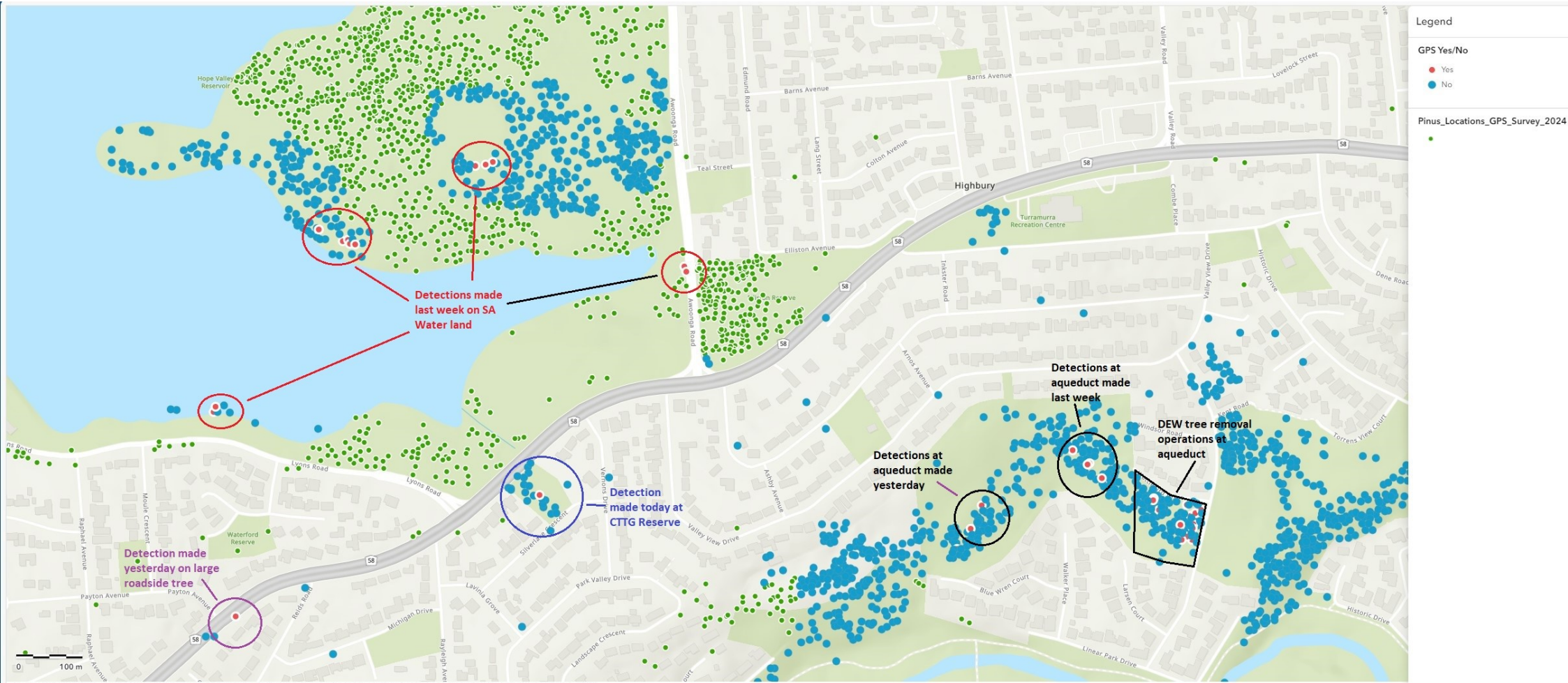
- John Gardner MP Morialta shared the letter to residents from the Working Group on his social media page.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- Lower North East Rd, Dernancourt – 1 street tree reported. No change.
- Private residence, Boundy Road, Dernancourt - 1 private tree reported to PIRSA via DEW.
- Silver Lake Reserve, Silverlake Cres, Highbury – 1 City of Tea Tree Gully reserve tree reported.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to cross check new detections over next two days.

GPS Working Group

- Meeting tomorrow



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: GPS Update Friday 22 November
Date: Friday, 22 November 2024 5:44:17 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-22 170858.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update Friday 22 November

- Updated map attached

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW overseeing tree removal works underway.

Communications

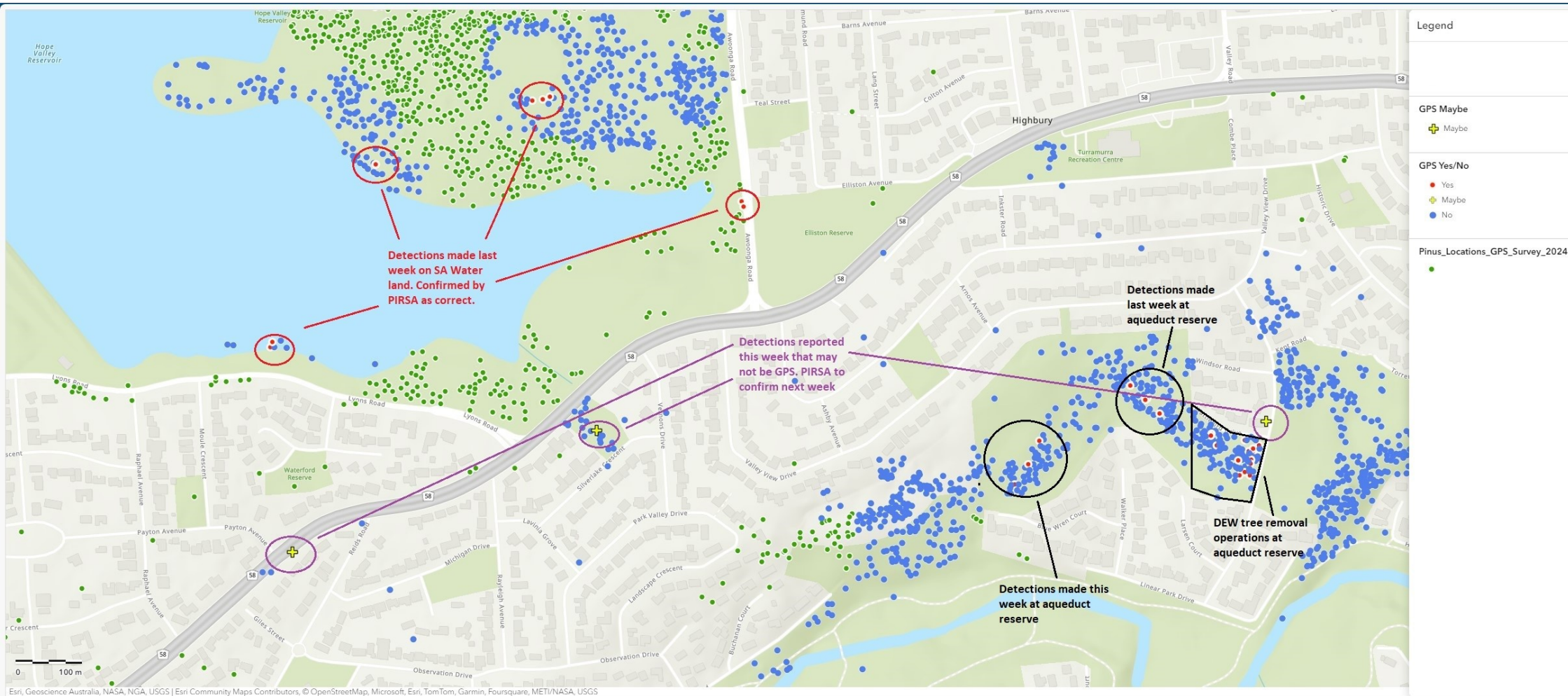
- PIRSA/DEW to date have not received any media enquiries.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected. These have been confirmed by PIRSA as GPS.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected. These have been confirmed by PIRSA as GPS.
- Lower North East Rd, Dernancourt – 1 street tree reported. After discussion with CTTG, this may instead be woolly aphid.
- Private residence, Boundy Road, Dernancourt - 1 private tree reported to PIRSA via DEW.
- Silver Lake Reserve, Silverlake Cres, Highbury – 1 City of Tea Tree Gully reserve tree reported. After discussion with CTTG, this may instead be woolly aphid.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to cross check new detections next week.

GPS Working Group

- Meeting held today. Clause 6(1) chaired.
- Participants were Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Rob Robinson, Ben Page, Tom Dougherty, Amy McMurren (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (SAW), and Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide).
- Members provided an update on surveillance. The online real time map has been updated to mask trees that were removed in 2023 and to mark trees to be cross checked.
- DEW and SAW provide updates on their operations and plans for future tree removal work.



From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: GPS Update Monday 25 November
Date: Monday, 25 November 2024 5:21:06 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update Monday 25 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- DEW has closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road.
- This will reduce foot traffic, while a fully restricted area is established around the detections made in the last two weeks.

Communications

- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- Three trees to be checked by PIRSA Biosecurity at Lower North East Rd, Silver Lake Reserve, and Boundy Rd.
- No further detections reported.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 28 November

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PIRSA GPS Update - Tuesday 26 November
Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2024 5:44:21 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Tuesday 26 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- DEW has closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road.

Communications

- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 13 trees affected.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- PIRSA Biosecurity inspected trees at Silver Lake Reserve and confirmed these to have woolly aphid and not GPS.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to inspect trees at Lower North East Rd and Boundy Rd this week
- No further detections reported.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 28 November

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Wednesday 27 November
Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2024 5:02:28 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2024-11-27 120348.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Wednesday 27 November

New map attached.

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- DEW has closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road.

Communications

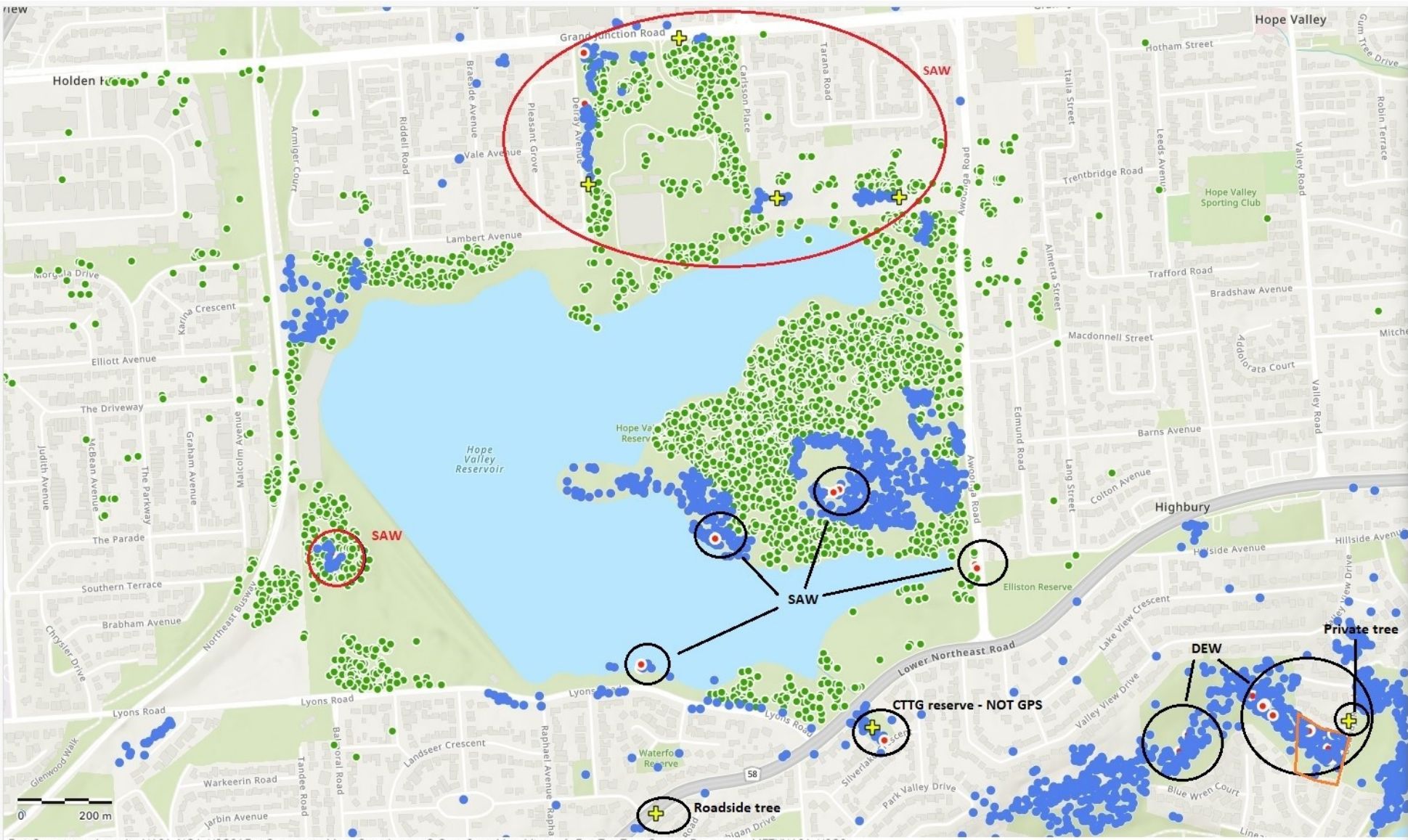
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – 4 new detections in various areas of the reserve, total of 15 trees affected. A further 4 trees marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to inspect 1 tree at Lower North East Rd and 1 tree at Boundy Rd this week.
- PIRSA Biosecurity inspected trees at Silver Lake Reserve and confirmed these have woolly aphid and not GPS.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 28 November



Legend

GPS Maybe

+ Maybe

GPS Yes/No

• Yes

+ Maybe

• No

Pinus_Locations_GPS_Survey_2024

•



Previous weeks
detections



New detections this
week



Tree removals
underway

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: PIRSA GPS Update - Thursday 28 November
Date: Thursday, 28 November 2024 5:51:45 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Thursday 28 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- DEW has closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road. This now includes all access points and signage stating the trail is closed.
- Surveillance is now complete for trees in the reserve and no further detections were found.
- 50-metre buffers around the detections, west of the current tree removals, has been marked with flagging tape.
- Stage 2 Operational Plan for this area is being scoped.

Communications

- DEW updated their media holding statement to include state there may be further tree removals.
- DEW will be delivering further letters to residents near Valley View drive near where buffers have been marked with flagging tape. PIRSA has requested a copy of the letter.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – 5 new detections in various areas of the reserve, total of 16 trees affected. A further 4 trees marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to further investigate 1 tree at Lower North East Rd.
- PIRSA inspected 1 tree at Boundy Rd and it does not contain GPS.
- PIRSA Biosecurity inspected further trees at Silver Lake Reserve and confirmed up to three contain GPS. CTTG has been notified as it is a Council Reserve.

GPS Working Group

- Meeting held today. Chair – FSA. Participants from SAW, DEW, AFPA, ArborCarbon, PIRSA, CTTG, and Green Adelaide.
- AFPA, SAW, and FSA met prior to the working group meeting to discuss the development of an operational plan for Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, a summary was provided.
- AFPA advised industry is willing to fund tree removals if GPS is found on private resident's land, similar to what is occurring in Melbourne.
- Much of the priority areas to be surveyed across Adelaide is now complete.
- Action for CTTG to brief their management on the detections on council land, seek thoughts on next steps and report back to PIRSA. PIRSA offered to provide an information session to council members and executive. The working group offered to develop an operational plan for Silver Lake Reserve.
- Next meeting Thursday 5 November.

From: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Doroudi, Mehdi \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: PIRSA GPS Update - Friday 29 November
Date: Friday, 29 November 2024 4:44:22 PM

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

GPS Update - Friday 29 November

Highbury Aqueduct site

- DEW continues to oversee tree removal works underway.
- DEW has closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road. 50-metre buffers around the detections, have been marked with flagging tape.
- A Stage 2 addendum to the Operational Plan for the new area has been drafted by DEW and shared with the working group.

City of Tea Tree Gully Council – Silver Lake Reserve

- Barrier mesh and signage has been installed to prevent access to the reserve.
- CTTG shared a copy of the info about the detection that will feature in the latest news section of their website.
- The CTTG executive leadership team and elected members have been advised of the GPS situation at Silver Lake Reserve and the adjacent Kindergarten has been notified.

Communications

- PIRSA will coordinate a meeting of media contacts next week.
- DEW will be delivering further letters to residents near Valley View drive near where buffers have been marked with flagging tape. PIRSA has requested a copy of the letter.
- PIRSA is awaiting further information from the Minister's Office on social media/ website posts.

Surveillance – New detections

- Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve – No change. Total of 16 trees affected. A further 2 trees still marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – No change. Total of 24 trees affected.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to investigate 1 tree near George St, Paradise marked as 'maybe GPS'.
- PIRSA Biosecurity to further investigate 1 tree at Lower North East Rd.
- Silver Lake Reserve - up to three contain GPS.

GPS Working Group

- Next meeting Thursday 5 December

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Meeting Number: GPSWG-01 Location: Online Date: 18 Sept 2024
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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	1
Date and Time	18 September 2024, 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (NPWS), David Hubbard (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (UniSA)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (GTFIH), Clause 6(1) (NPWS), Rob Robinson (PIRSA), Kevin Powis (SARDI)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 2.30pm.

2. Previous meeting

The Chair noted contributions to, and outcomes of the Giant Pine Scale Workshop held 6 June 2024, and the establishment of a new Giant Pine Scale Working Group (GPSWG). It is proposed the new group will nominate representatives and they will be the key contact for their organisation. Other participants are welcome to join and participate in meetings.

3. Draft GPS Terms of Reference

The ToR have been drafted by PIRSA and circulated to participants for review and feedback. Initial feedback received to date has been minor and will be incorporated into a final draft for members to endorse.

4. Discussion on small number of persisting GPS detections

The Working Group discussed the risk considerations and possible management options for GPS detections that have been persisting at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve and Highbury Aqueduct Reserve.

Regarding the Hope Valley Reserve, SAW discussed the need to remove wild pine seedlings on a weekly basis over the last few months in the area where infested trees were removed. GPS have been found on the stem of seedlings that were present when the infested trees were removed. Insects were squashed and seedlings left on site. It has been more than 25 days since GPS was detected. The risk of remaining GPS is low, so the mulch is to be removed soon and it is likely to be cost neutral. It was suggested that trees within 50 to 100 metres of the area should be surveyed. The State Government has announced opening this area to the public and constructing a walking trail.

Regarding the Highbury Reserve, participants noted the presence of GPS on four, maybe six trees in an area adjacent to previous tree removals. The trees have been monitored the last few months and various treatments have been trialled to remove the exudate and insects. Potential signage and cordoning off the area were discussed.

The insects are in the last two stages of their life cycle and will transition to a stagnant adult stage until early November when eggs hatch and first instars emerge. By around December, the insects will be very active, can hide in bark crevices, produce no exudate, and move up to 40 metres naturally and even further with vectors.

If the infested trees were to be removed prior to November before eggs hatch, it could be done 'surgically' with the area monitored for any further signs of GPS. If the trees were to be removed during or after November, all host trees within a 50-metre buffer should also be removed.

CTTG are working with PIRSA to examine a large pine tree near powerlines that may have GPS.

5. Discussion on trialling other methods of controlling GPS

The Working Group discussed methods that have been trialled in an effort to remove GPS from the Highbury Reserve. This includes using a hot water pressure sprayer or wax remover on the exudate. Anecdotally, the wax remover appears to reduce GPS numbers. To date, scientific research on various chemical controls (insecticides) has not found any methods to be effective at removing GPS, only reducing numbers. It was suggested the use of wax remover could be explored in a more scientific way.

Tree removal remains the only effective method. This may be costly but if other unproven methods are used, there will be a need to continually monitor the site, which has ongoing costs. A decision needs to be made on whether the working group wants to locally eradicate or only contain GPS.

NPWS are to consider what a smart response to this detection would be and noted it would need to consider community engagement. AFPA recommends the surgical removal of the infested trees and offered to assist with developing a response plan.

The Working Group discussed how and where the trees could be taken for quarantine. Potential options include taking logs directly to SAW land, Peats, Brinkley waste facility, or the decommissioned Highbury landfill site. Alternatively, the tree material could be processed on site into a small, closed truck before being moved. Participants were to consider any other potential storage areas.

6. Surveillance

The Working Group noted AFPA, ArborCarbon and PIRSA have been supporting the City of Burnside Volunteer Surveillance group to undertake GPS surveillance using ArcGIS Field Maps loaded with remote sensing data on pines. There is scope for CTTG and FSA to also undertake surveillance with this in coming weeks.

7. Communications

The Working Group discussed the need for PIRSA to draft a general media release on being vigilant and reporting any suspected cases of GPS to PIRSA. If there are to be tree removal operations at the Aqueduct, those communications would be led by NPWS.

8. Other Business

ArborCarbon and AFPA noted they are supporting a social licence research project on attitudes to tree removals.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is to be scheduled as required.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 4:00 pm.

NEW ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 18 September 2024	Who	When
1.1	Provide feedback to PIRSA on the draft Giant Pine Scale Working Group ToR	All	Fri 20 Sep
1.2	Incorporate feedback into a final draft and circulate to Working Group.	PIRSA	Fri 27 Sep
1.3	Consider what a smart response to the persisting GPS detections at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve looks like and AFPA's offer to assist with developing a response plan.	NPWS	Fri 4 Oct
1.4	Provide further ideas to NPWS on methods to dispose of the infested material.	All	Fri 4 Oct
1.5	Draft a general media release about the GPS surveillance season and call for the community to report any cases of suspected GPS	PIRSA	Fri 4 Oct
1.6	Subset of Working Group to meet to discuss target surveillance around the Aqueduct and Hope Valley Reserves	DR,PT, PM, DS, DH, DJ, AM	Tue 24 Sep

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-02
Location: Online
Date: 15 Nov 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	2
Date and Time	15 November 2024, 1.30 pm – 2.45 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Rob Robinson, Fontella Koleff, David Hubbard (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) ArborCarbon)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.30pm.

2. Previous meeting

Working Group members received and Out-of-Session update on 5 November 2024.

The Chair noted today's meeting was initially arranged for a subset of the Working Group to discuss the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve Operational Plan for tree removals. Due to further detections at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, the meeting Agenda was broadened to include SA Water.

3. Surveillance update

The Working Group discussed 6 new GPS detections at the Aqueduct Reserve, bringing the total affected trees to 22. Further surveillance by the contractors engaged by AFPA will be completed next week. This will inform the additional areas of the Reserve to be cordoned off.

SAW provided an update on their surveillance activities, including 13 new trees suspected to contain GPS. Two of these, near Awoonga Rd were not removed in 2023 due to their proximity to powerlines. PIRSA is confident SAW staff are correct in their identification of GPS (based on photos and SAW's experience with the pest). Nonetheless, Biosecurity staff will inspect the reservoir and aqueduct sites early next week.

All agencies have access to the online GPS survey map where detections by surveillance crews are uploaded in real time. Suggested improvements include masking trees that have already been removed in 2023.

4. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve Operational Plan

Members were advised, DEW has notified their preferred contractor, and they will be on site next Monday. Tree removals including and around the initial 16 affected trees are expected to start a day or two after that. Trees will be cut to 2.5 m lengths and transported in a covered truck to Peats Soils, Brinkley for mulching and quarantine. Decontamination procedures will be required before leaving the site.

DEW advised a new Operational Plan would need to be developed for the 6 new detections as the terrain and access point are different. Members noted Bushcare volunteer groups are active in the local area adjacent to these detections and should be notified.

5. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve Operational Plan

SAW advised members, about 100-150 trees would need to be removed to form 50-metre buffers in the Reservoir Reserve. SAW plan to use a different tree removal contractor to DEW, so operations could occur concurrently. They plan to mulch the trees on site as previously.

AFPA, on behalf of the Working Group will assist SAW with developing an Operational Plan for tree removals.

DEW offered to share the scope and requirements documents they have improved to assist SAW with engaging with their contractor.

6. Communications

DEW advised members that a letter drafted by the Working Group advising of tree removals at the Aqueduct Reserve will be hand delivered this weekend to 300 residences, closest to the operations. DEW advised there are about 1000 residences near other sections of the Aqueduct Reserve.

PIRSA and DEW media will draft a joint media release for consideration by Minister Scriven and Minister Close.

PIRSA has updated the Communications Plan and will circulate it to the Working Group.

7. Other Business

Working Group members raised the need to plan for tree removals if GPS is found on private residences. The urgent need for agency/council/industry CEO-level agreement was discussed.

AFPA is to share a draft framework they have developed with SAFPA on how government and industry could work together to manage tree pests in the urban environment. It is not specific to GPS.

8. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 22 November at 1.30 pm.

9. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 2:45 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 15 November 2024	Who	When
2.1	Draft an Operational Plan for tree removal at the Reservoir Reserve	SAW/ AFPA	22 Nov 2024
2.2	Share contractor scope and requirements documents	DEW	22 Nov 2024
2.3	PIRSA to arrange communications with DEW and keep WG informed	PIRSA	22 Nov 2024
2.4	Share draft framework on managing tree pests in the urban environment	AFPA	22 Nov 2024

DRAFT

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-02
Location: Online
Date: 22 Nov 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	3
Date and Time	22 November 2024, 1.30 pm – 2.45 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Rob Robinson, Tom Dougherty, Ben Page (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (Burnside), Dave Hubbard (PIRSA)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.30pm.

2. Previous meeting

Working Group members accepted the Minutes from meetings 1 and 2 as true and accurate records, providing any requested improvements are made in the next week.

3. Terms of Reference

Working Group members accepted the Terms of Reference (Attachment A).

Members discussed which agency representative is best placed to be Chair. It was suggested the current arrangement continue until further discussions within government.

4. Surveillance update

CTTG, SAW and AFPA contractors are inspecting pine trees across Adelaide in order of priority as shown on the GPS Survey 2024 online dashboard. Surveillance crews at the Aqueduct Reserve have been delimiting from the outer areas, working inwards towards the current confirmed detections. Trees with GPS are marked with two paint crosses on the trunk and circles around the exudate.

PIRSA confirmed the 13 trees at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve contain GPS. Some of these were smaller trees below those marked on the map or other trees that were not shown on the map.

It was noted the roadside tree on Lower North East road and trees at Silver Lake Reserve may have woolly aphid instead of GPS. PIRSA will inspect these trees next week to confirm.

Members noted it was difficult to correct input mistakes to the Field Maps app and sometimes trees were accidentally deleted from the system. It was agreed there should be an option to record trees as 'maybe GPS'. AFPA will work with SAW to update the map and mask those that were removed from their reserve in 2023.

5. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve Operational Plan

DEW advised that tree removal operations commenced on Tuesday 19 November. An excavator is being used to remove mid-sized trees, large trees will be hand felled, and a specialist arborist will remove specific trees.

An Operational Plan for the 8 other detections and buffer trees further west of Boundy Rd will be developed. It is likely to contain much the same information as the current plan, and could be considered Stage 2 of the Boundy Road west plan.

6. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve Operational Plan

SAW advised they would likely mulch and quarantine any trees removed from the Reservoir Reserve on-site in areas that were cleared of infested trees in 2023.

A preliminary Operational Plan has been developed.

7. Communications

DEW confirmed a letter advising of tree removals at the Aqueduct Reserve was hand delivered to 300 residences in the area. Members noted a copy of the letter was posted on a local MP's social media.

PIRSA/DEW advised that the Ministers decided against a joint media release, and another form of community messaging would occur, possibly via the whole-of-government social media page.

Members noted that no media enquiries have been received to date.

8. Other Business

Green Adelaide updated members on their GPS detector dog project. The dogs are decontaminated with a brush down and paw check. They are investigating access to exudate samples from Victoria to train the dogs, PIRSA is assisting. It was noted the scent profile of exudate may change when samples have been frozen.

PIRSA advised that Chief Executives of state government agencies are expected to meet soon to discuss a collective response to GPS if it is detected on crown land.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28 November at 1.30 pm.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Attachments

- A. Giant Pine Scale Working Group ToR – finalised 22 November 2024

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 22 November 2024	Who	When
2.1	Draft an Operational Plan for tree removal at the Reservoir Reserve	SAW/ AFPA	Next meeting
2.3	PIRSA to arrange communications with DEW and keep WG informed	PIRSA	Next meeting
2.4	Share draft framework on managing tree pests in the urban environment	AFPA	Next meeting
3.1	Draft a Stage 2 operational plan for Boundy Rd, Aqueduct Reserve	DEW/ AFPA	Next meeting

DRAFT

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-04
Location: Online
Date: 28 Nov 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	4
Date and Time	28 November 2024, 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Rob Robinson, David Hubbard, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (NPWS)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 1.30pm.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members accepted the Minutes from meeting 3 as a true and accurate record.

Completed actions were noted by members.

3. Surveillance update

Much of the priority areas to be surveyed across Adelaide have now been completed. There are 41 trees identified as having GPS and 7 further trees marked as 'maybe GPS' that need to be cross checked by PIRSA.

The pine tree locations layer has been improved for the Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve area.

GPS is confirmed to be at Silverlake Reserve, managed by CTTG.

Surveillance is now complete for trees in the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and no further detections were found.

4. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve Operational Plan

DEW advised they have closed the aqueduct walking trail from Boundy Rd towards the west at Gallery Road. It includes all access points and signage stating the trail is closed. There have been issues with the signs being removed and ignored. 50-metre buffers around the detections have been marked with flagging tape.

Stage 2 Operational Plan for this area is being scoped by NPWS.

Felled tree material is being loaded for transport to Peats Soils at Brinkley for mulching and composting/quarantine.

5. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve Operational Plan

Members were advised that AFPA, SAW, and FSA met prior to the working group meeting to discuss the development of an operational plan for Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve. A summary was provided to the working group.

6. Communications

DEW advised their media holding statement has been updated to allude to further tree removals. DEW will be delivering further letters to residents (who have backyard gates that enter the reserve) near Valley View drive, where buffers have been marked with flagging tape.

PIRSA advised that another form of community messaging is still to occur, possibly via the whole-of-government social media page. PIRSA will provide further updates to members as they occur, via email.

7. Detector Dogs project update

GA advised dog training is continuing with exudate samples that have been frozen. Arrangements to import exudate material from Victoria have been confirmed.

8. Other Business

PIRSA advised the meeting of state government agency Chief Executives to discuss a collective response on GPS is still to occur. Members noted it is likely that they may be requested to brief their respective agencies once the meeting is set.

Members discussed how local councils/others can be involved in a collective response. PIRSA offered to provide an info session on GPS to CTTG management/ elected members. The Working Group suggested an Operational Plan could be developed for Silverlake Reserve. The CTTG member is to discuss these options with their management and provide feedback on next steps to the Working Group.

AFPA advised industry is willing to fund tree removals if GPS is found on private resident's land, similar to what is occurring in Melbourne.

Members discussed but were not aware of any emergency grant arrangements available for tree removals.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5 December at 12.00 pm.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 2:30 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 28 November 2024	Who	When
2.4	Share draft framework on managing tree pests in the urban environment	AFPA	Next meeting
4.1	Send update email to group on communications activities/arrangements	PIRSA	Next meeting
4.2	CTTG to brief their management on the detections on council land, seek thoughts on next steps and report back to the group via PIRSA	CTTG/ PIRSA	Next meeting
4.3	Members to investigate available grants to assist with GPS tree removals/ remediation	All	Next meeting

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-05
Location: Online
Date: 5 Dec 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	5
Date and Time	5 December 2024, 12.00 pm – 1.15 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), David Hubbard, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (Burnside Council), Rob Robinson (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.00 pm.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members accepted the Minutes from meeting 4 as a true and accurate record.

Completed actions were noted by members. In relation to action 2.4, AFPA's draft framework on managing pests in the urban environment, PIRSA was asked to followup on the date of the meeting of agency CE's.

3. Surveillance update

There are 44 trees on the online map marked as having GPS and 13 marked as 'maybe GPS'. The maybe trees are gradually being cross-checked by PIRSA. It was noted it can be hard to differentiate GPS exudate from woolly aphids if the tree cannot be inspected closely.

The surveillance team contracted by AFPA will finish the aqueduct area and then survey areas next to Hope Valley Reservoir before moving to priority areas in North Adelaide. CTTG to assist with contacts regarding access to land next to the O-Bahn.

4. Communications

PIRSA advised a meeting of media contacts was held on Tuesday to ensure there is consistent messaging. PIRSA's GPS webpage has been updated to include info on current detections and links to further information from DEW and CTTG. Yesterday, ABC Adelaide's Breakfast program did a short report on GPS at Silverlake Reserve, the transcript will be circulated to members.

DEW advised the second batch of letters to residents along the aqueduct have been hand delivered. A copy of the letter was posted on the Member for Morialta's social media. DEW has received a few enquiries about tree removals from residents and will share these with PIRSA.

5. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised they have cordoned off the area and installed signage. CTTG have sought ballpark quotes to remove up to three trees, although nine would need to be removed to form a 50 m buffer. AFPA have prepared an initial draft response plan for the area. Members discussed the need for funding and a secure area to take the infested material before actions can be implemented.

CTTG are considering using chemical sprays on the ground to reduce the likelihood of GPS crawling to the large stone pine in the adjacent kindergarten.

CTTG advised they have been unsuccessful in securing revegetation funding for Elliston Reserve.

6. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised all trees to be removed in the Wattlebird Dr area have been completed except for the tree that borders on the fence of a private residence. Most of the tree material has been moved to Peats Soils.

DEW inspected sites where stage two removals are to occur with the contractor. A quote is to be provided within two weeks, with works planned to commence in January 2025. Narrow access points and remnant SA bluegums mean that more hand felling will be required.

Transporting tree material to Peats Soils may not be an option this time so alternatives are being considered. The old Highbury landfill site is to be investigated, with CTTG to contact the manager.

DEW advised revegetation of the aqueduct area affected by 2023 tree removals has been completed and the plants are growing.

7. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

Members were advised AFPA, SAW, and FSA will meet tomorrow to discuss the operational plan for Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve.

8. Other Business

GA advised the detector dogs are learning the exudate scent well, samples have been supplied from Victoria, and field-based training will commence soon. It was noted the Minister may be interested in promoting the use of the dogs, which have also been trained to detect other insects.

FSA is considering investing in a chipper to assist with future management.

DEW to seek ArborCarbon's advice on what appears to be GPS exudate on underground parts of felled trees.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12 December at 11.30 am.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 1.15 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 5 December 2024	Who	When
4.3	Members to investigate available grants to assist with GPS tree removals/ remediation	All	Next meeting
5.1	PIRSA to inform WG of date of state government agency CE meeting to discuss a collective response to GPS.	PIRSA	Next meeting
5.2	CTTG to provide contact details of O-Bahn land to AFPA	CTTG	Next meeting
5.3	CTTG to contact the manager of the old Highbury landfill regarding its use to store infested tree material.	CTTG	Next meeting

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-06
Location: Online
Date: 12 Dec 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	6
Date and Time	12 December 2024, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (NPWS), David Hubbard, Rob Robinson, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members accepted the Minutes from meeting 5 as a true and accurate record.

Completed actions were noted by members.

3. Surveillance update

There are 44 trees on the online map marked as having GPS and 14 marked as 'maybe GPS'. The maybe trees are gradually being cross-checked by PIRSA.

AFPA advised the surveillance team contracted by them has completed surveying the priority areas in and around the Highbury Aqueduct and Hope Valley Reservoir, except for an area near the O-Bahn (a track notification form is required from Torrens Transit). The surveillance team has commenced surveying priority areas around North Adelaide. Once the above-mentioned areas have been done, this round of surveillance will be complete.

4. Communications

PIRSA advised they provided feedback to DEW regarding draft responses to public enquiries on aqueduct tree removals. DEW has also notified Walking SA, Trail Running SA, Adelaide Trail Running, Bike SA, and Adelaide Mountain Bike Club of the aqueduct reserve closure.

SAW will share a draft letter to residents near the Reservoir, notifying them of upcoming tree removals. PIRSA will review and provide feedback, with letters planned to be delivered in January 2025.

PIRSA advised the next meeting of inter-agency communications representatives is scheduled for next year.

5. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised the area remains cordoned off and funding is still required for tree removals. The draft operational plan is to be discussed with AFPA later today.

CTTG advised they contacted the Highbury Landfill Authority regarding its potential use for storing infested tree material and were informed it was not viable due to the nature of the area.

PIRSA advised CTTG, the likelihood of GPS crawling from Silverlake trees to the stone pine in the adjacent kindergarten is low due to the distance between them (over 50 m), so chemical sprays on the ground are unlikely to reduce that risk any further.

6. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised the final tree on the boundary of the reserve has been removed and all stumps have been ground except for the one on the boundary as it would affect a resident's fence. The risk of leaving the stump is low as the tree was not infested and is at the edge of the buffer. The final load of tree material has been transported to Peats Soil and the contractor will return to work on stage two aqueduct removals from 6 January 2025.

Clause 9(1)

7. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

SAW advised the grinded material from last year's tree removals will be transported to Peats Soil. The material has completed quarantine and will therefore be easier to transport and store.

SAW advised tree removal contractors will be engaged early next year to remove infested trees in the Reservoir Reserve. They are continuing to work with AFPA on an operational plan.

8. Other Business

PIRSA advised the meeting of government agency Chief Executives has been set and a draft agenda will be shared with the working group for their feedback.

AFPA informed members there have not been many instances in Victoria where industry assisted private landholders with tree removals. When it did occur, it was on a case-by-case basis and a contract was drawn between a certified arborist and the householder. The invoice was then paid by AFPA, and any liabilities were the responsibility of the arborist.

Members discussed the potential need for an MOU to implement this arrangement in South Australia, and the need to compile a list of certified arborists. Members also discussed using DEW's improved 'request for quotation template' for this arrangement as it outlines all aspects that need to be considered, including decontamination procedures.

GA advised that GPS detector dog training is continuing, with field-based training to commence soon.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 10 January 2025 at 11.30 am.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 12 December 2024	Who	When
4.3	Members to investigate available grants to assist with GPS tree removals/ remediation	All	Next meeting
5.1	PIRSA to draft and share CEs GPS meeting agenda with members for feedback	PIRSA	Next meeting
5.2	Members to compile a list of certified arborists, utilising any existing lists	All	Next meeting
5.2	DEW to consider sharing their 'request for quotation' template for contracting arborists for private resident tree removals.	DEW	Next meeting

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-07
Location: Online
Date: 10 Jan 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	7
Date and Time	10 January 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Clause 6(1), Rob Robinson (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Fontella Koleff (PIRSA)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members were provided the Minutes from meeting 6.

Completed actions were noted by members.

3. Surveillance update

Land managers summarised GPS detections on their land. DEW reported no new detections. SAW has completed surveying their land and a couple of trees previously thought to be free of GPS two months ago now have GPS. Surveillance of North Adelaide and the busway have also been completed with no detections.

PIRSA confirmed the suspected tree on a Holden Hill private property contains GPS. There is a nearby pine tree that does not have GPS. AFPA to contact the landholder regarding the removal of the two trees and may offer funding assistance.

4. Communications

PIRSA advised the GPS article on the We Are.SA website is now live.

5. Silverlake Reserve

PIRSA advised that CTTG wrote to them regarding funding for tree removals at Silverlake reserve. Working Group members agreed to discuss funding options after the inter-agency Chief Executives have met on GPS.

CTTG requested a copy of the draft operational plan prepared for Silverlake Reserve.

6. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised they are preparing for further tree removals in the reserve along Valley View drive and plan to start next week. Tree removals are likely to take two months. There is a need to move around native vegetation carefully to minimise damage to it. There are a few trees in the outer area of the buffer that would be difficult to remove. Working Group members discussed potential ways to manage this, including PIRSA/ DEW reinspecting the trees for GPS, increased surveillance, and removing outer trees first.

DEW raised the need to be mindful of using completed GPS operational plans as a template for other sites and to remove/ update any site specific information.

7. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

SAW advised the three infested trees on Awoonga Rd were removed early in the year. The road was swept, treated with metho and steam cleaned. Tree material has been moved into a quarantine area and will be grinded later.

SAW advised the removal of trees near powerlines along Grand Junction Rd will require a power shut down and setting up generators. They are seeking quotes for this work, including the removal of other trees in the reserve.

8. Other Business

Working Group members discussed briefing their respective agencies in preparation for the inter-agency Chief Executives meeting on 22 January 2025. PIRSA advised the purpose of the meeting is to confirm agencies will remove trees as the need arises. PIRSA and AFPA will discuss what industry plan to present at the meeting, noting that modelling on GPS spread would be useful.

Members noted surveillance needs to occur for about two years after tree removals, due to the pest's life cycle, before the area can be considered free from GPS.

Members discussed consideration of triggers that indicate eradication in South Australia is no longer feasible.

Members noted AFPA's assistance for private landholder tree removals would occur on a case-by-case basis and discussed the potential to formalise the support in a policy.

AFPA advised they will be lobbying for additional funding under the Forest Watch program to include amenity trees.

GA advised that GPS detector dog training is continuing, with field-based training to commence soon.

9. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 24 January 2025 at 11.30 am.

10. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 10 January 2025	Who	When
7.1	Contact private landholder at Holden Hill about the removal of two trees	AFPA	24 January 2025
7.2	Reinspect buffer edge trees at Aqueduct Reserve for GPS	DEW/ PIRSA	24 January 2025
7.3	Discuss preparations for inter-agency CE meeting on GPS	PIRSA/ AFPA	21 January 2025
7.4	Provide draft Silverlake Reserve operation plan to CTTG WG member	AFPA	24 January 2025

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-08
Location: Online
Date: 24 Jan 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	8
Date and Time	24 January 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Ben Page, Rob Robinson (PIRSA), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (SAFPA)
Apologies	Fontella Koleff (PIRSA)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members discussed the Actions from meeting 7 and noted the Minutes were in draft.

Completed actions were noted by members, in summary, the private land holder at Holden Hill will remove the two trees and PIRSA will assist with guidance on hygiene; PIRSA reinspected buffer edge trees at the aqueduct and no GPS have been found, preparations for the CE GPS meeting, and a draft operation plan including estimated costs was shared with CTTG.

3. Outcomes of Inter-agency CE meeting

Clause 9(1)

Working group members noted the following actions from the CE meeting:

- AFPA to meet with the Local Government Association of South Australia to discuss GPS management and eradication.
- Agency members of the GPS Working Group to escalate future detections on government land and proposed control measures to their Chief Executives for consideration.
- PIRSA to commence government process to seek commitment to a policy position and budget to eradicate GPS in conjunction with industry.

4. Surveillance update

There are 55 trees on the online map marked as having GPS and 4 trees marked as 'maybe GPS'. The maybe trees are being cross-checked by PIRSA. The maybe tree at Modbury has been cleared by PIRSA.

AFPA advised the surveillance team contracted by them has completed surveying the priority areas across Adelaide. GPS has not been found in any new areas. Another round of surveillance is planned for September 2025, and will consider how to utilise the detector dogs.

PIRSA/ Green Adelaide has been conducting in-field training of the detector dogs in Highbury Aqueduct Reserve. The program is going well. Procedures are in place to prevent the spread of GPS by the dogs and a written outline of the procedure will be provided to the Working Group. Green Adelaide will be given access to Field Maps to record their surveillance data.

5. Communications

Green Adelaide advised they drafted a media release on the detector dog program and has been shared with PIRSA. A copy will be circulated to Working Group members along with recent general queries received by DEW. PIRSA will work with Green Adelaide, Minister Scriven's Office and SAFPA on the media release.

PIRSA advised the next meeting of inter-agency communications representatives is scheduled for February. Green Adelaide has been invited to the group.

6. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised the area remains cordoned off and funding is still required for tree removals. CTTG advised they sprayed bifenthrin in the area to reduce GPS numbers.

Working Members were advised most insects will be in their second instar phase by March which means they will be highly mobile within the buffer area.

7. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised further tree removals has commenced and work will continue until March.

Clause 9(1)

8. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

SAW advised the grinded material from last year's tree removals will be transported to Peats Soil after PIRSA completes a final quarantine check. It is uncertain if the material will be composted or reprocessed into smaller pieces. Either is fine if the material is 'clean'.

SAW advised tree removal contractors will commence works in early February. Members noted the GIS map needs to be updated to reflect the removal of the three Awoonga road trees earlier this month.

9. Other Business

PIRSA will respond to the letter to them from CTTG regarding Silverlake Reserve and arrange a meeting with CTTG, industry, PIRSA and ForestrySA.

10. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 7 February 2025 at 11.30 am.

11. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12.30 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 24 January 2025	Who	When
8.1	Draft letter to private landholder at Holder Hill, offering technical support and attaching hygiene procedures.	PIRSA	7 February 2025
8.2	Circulate outline of detector dog decontamination procedure to members.	PIRSA	7 February 2025
8.3	Circulate general enquiries and draft GA media release to members	PIRSA	7 February 2025
8.4	Respond to CTTG letter and suggest a meeting	PIRSA	28 January 2025

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-09

Location: Online

Date: 7 February 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	9
Date and Time	7 February 2025, 11.30 am – 12.45 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Ben Page, Rob Robinson, Tom Dougherty (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (SAFPA)
Apologies	Fontella Koleff (PIRSA)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members accepted the Minutes from meeting 7 and 8 as true and accurate records, noting some actions from meeting 8 are to be updated to reflect the action more accurately.

Progress on actions 8.1 and 8.2 were discussed. Completed actions noted by members were 8.3 and 8.4.

3. Outcomes of Inter-agency CE meeting

PIRSA informed members the government process to seek commitment to a policy position and budget to eradicate GPS has commenced. An eradication plan developed with industry will support this. It is envisaged the eradication plan would highlight current work, what needs to continue, reasoning behind increasing surveillance from 2km buffers to 5km, public awareness campaign for areas beyond this, and extending the surveillance time from 2 years to 3 years before considering SA free from GPS.

PIRSA advised a draft template briefing for the escalation of new detections to CEs is being prepared. It is intended it will include key background on GPS, location of the detection and estimated costs, and be submitted to the relevant CE and copied to other CEs. It will be shared with other agencies for comment.

4. Surveillance update

AFPA advised that following a review of surveillance recently completed across Adelaide, they have re-engaged the surveillance team to inspect additional sites over the next couple of weeks.

PIRSA/ Green Adelaide is continuing to inspect areas within Highbury Aqueduct Reserve with the detector dogs. The hybrid of in-field training and active detection work is going well.

Members noted the need for AFPA/ Arbor Carbon, SAW and DEW to update the online map that have been removed

5. Communications

PIRSA advised they have been corresponding with SAW's media team on a media release about rehabilitation in Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve.

6. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised the area remains fenced off and there appears to be no unauthorised access. Members discussed the need for a letter drop to nearby residents about future tree removals, with a request for PIRSA to assist, similar to what occurred for Elliston Reserve.

7. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised tree removals are continuing, with tree climbing teams assisting with complex removals.

DEW advised they are planning remediation activities to occur at the reserve before the end of financial year and queried the timing of the quarantine process required.

8. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

SAW advised the formal quarantine clearance has started with PIRSA for the 2023 tree material.

SAW advised that targeted tree removals will be underway at the Reserve.

9. Other Business

Working Group members discussed the progress/ outcomes of the FWPA funded GPS biological control project.

10. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 21 February 2025 at 11.30 am.

11. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12.45 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 7 February 2025	Who	When
8.1	Draft letter to private landholder at Holder Hill, offering technical support and attaching hygiene procedures.	PIRSA AFPA	21 February 2025
8.2	Circulate outline of detector dog decontamination procedure to members.	PIRSA	Completed
9.1	PIRSA to draft a template GPS briefing to CE for escalation of new detections and circulate to agencies for comment.	PIRSA SAW FSA DEW	21 February 2025
9.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with DEW and SAW to update GPS online map	AFPA DEW SAW	21 February 2025
9.3	PIRSA and CTTG to discuss letter drops for nearby residents to Silverlake Reserve before tree removals occur.	PIRSA CTTG	21 February 2025

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-10
Location: Online
Date: 21 February 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	10
Date and Time	21 February 2025, 11.30 am – 12.55 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Dave Hubbard, Rob Robinson, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon)
Apologies	Nil
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members discussed the Minutes from meeting 9 noting an action is to be added regarding discussion between AFPA and DEW on the actual costs of tree removals in 2024.

Progress on all actions were discussed. Action 8.2 was noted as a completed action.

3. Outcomes of Inter-agency CE meeting

PIRSA informed members the government process to seek commitment to a policy position and budget to eradicate GPS is continuing. Industry input via the drafting of an eradication plan will assist with the process.

An action from the Inter-agency CE meeting included a meeting between PIRSA, SAFPA and CTTG. PIRSA confirmed the meeting has now occurred and the CTTG CEO was well briefed, and the Council is expected to reach out to PIRSA for specific information to take to elected Council members.

4. Surveillance update

AFPA advised additional surveillance is currently being completed by the contract surveillance team.

PIRSA/ Green Adelaide is continuing to inspect areas within Highbury Aqueduct Reserve with the detector dogs. Field Maps functionality to track the pathway of the dogs will be added. Working Group members discussed using the detector dogs to survey the pine in the kindergarten next to Silverlake Reserve.

Members noted the online map is to be updated to reflect trees that have recently been removed on SAW and DEW land. Trees marked as 'Maybe GPS' also need updating.

5. Communications

PIRSA advised they will follow-up on the drafting of a letter to residents regarding Silverlake Reserve with the media and comms group.

6. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised the area remains fenced off and there are no concerns on unauthorised access.

7. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

DEW advised tree removals are continuing, with large quantities of tree material to be moved offsite, and that the contractor is considering heat treating their machine afterwards.

8. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

SAW advised the formal quarantine clearance period for the 2023 tree material was restarted, following inspections by PIRSA.

SAW advised that quotes for tree removals have been finalised, with operations to commence at a date to be determined.

Working Group members discussed concerns that infested trees located along Grand Junction Rd of the Reserve may present a risk similar to that of infested trees removed urgently along Awoonga Rd.

9. Other Business

Working Group members discussed estimated tree removal costs borne by Melbourne Water, as a case study, noting differences in some figures discussed.

10. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 6 March 2025 at 12.30 pm.

11. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12.55 pm.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 21 February 2025	Who	When
8.1	Draft/send letter to private landholder at Holder Hill, offering technical support and attaching hygiene procedures <i>(action updated)</i>	PIRSA, AFPA	6 March 2025
9.1	PIRSA to draft a template GPS briefing to CE for escalation of new detections and circulate to agencies for comment.	PIRSA, SAW, FSA, DEW	6 March 2025
9.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with DEW and SAW to update GPS online map	AFPA, DEW, SAW	6 March 2025
9.3	Comms and Media Group to discuss letter drops for nearby residents to Silverlake Reserve before tree removals occur <i>(action updated)</i>	PIRSA, CTTG	6 March 2025
9.4	DEW and AFPA to discuss tree removal costs incurred by DEW in 2024 <i>(action not previously recorded)</i>	DEW, AFPA	6 March 2025
10.1	Working Group members to consider if Grand Junction Rd infested trees present a similar risk to the Awoonga Rd trees that were removed urgently	All	6 March 2025
10.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with GA to update FieldMaps functionality for detector dog tracking.	AFPA, GA	6 March 2025

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-11
Location: Online
Date: 6 March 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	11
Date and Time	6 March 2025, 12.30 pm – 2.15 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Dave Hubbard, Rob Robinson, Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1),
Apologies	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (DEW/NPWS), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.30 pm.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members accepted the minutes from meeting 10. Progress on actions were discussed.

3. Outcomes of Inter-agency CE meeting

Clause 9(1)

4. Surveillance update

PIRSA inspected trees near the stone pine in the Dernancourt Kindergarten (Dept for Education), which were found to have cottony cushion scale, not giant pine scale.

CTTG are inspecting Silverlake reserve trees weekly and spraying with insecticide monthly to reduce to risk of spread to adjacent trees, including the stone pine in the kindergarten.

AFPA advised additional surveillance is underway.

5. Communications

PIRSA advised of a media query about the Dernancourt kindergarten tree containing GPS. The Working Group discussed an appropriate response including that it is being checked regularly and is not infested with GPS.

A meeting of the GPS media and comms group is to be scheduled.

6. Silverlake Reserve

CTTG advised they are regularly engaging with the kindergarten community as they are very concerned about their stone pine getting GPS. They are likely to involve them in the future revegetation of Silverlake reserve. Working Group members discussed the worst-case scenario of removing the stone pine, possibly without impacting on the surrounding play infrastructure built around it.

PIRSA advised they responded to further questions from the CTTG CEO regarding GPS in Silverlake reserve and understand the info (to be available on the Council website soon) will be considered by elected members at

CTTG advised the area remains fenced off and there are no concerns with unauthorised access.

7. Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

Prior to the meeting, DEW provided a written update on tree removal operations that was shared at the meeting - all medium to large pines trees within the buffer zones at Highbury have been felled. There are still some smaller saplings and many seedlings to be removed. Stump grinding is still to be completed across the western section along with a few stumps closer to Wattlebird Drive. Works will continue for the next 1.5 to 2 weeks.

DEW has collated information regarding the costs of GPS tree removals and are seeking approval from the DEW CE to release it to AFPA.

8. Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve

Prior to the meeting, SAW advised they support having an assessment / site visit to inspect the Grand Junction Rd trees to determine if they present a similar risk to the Awoonga Rd trees.

FSA will arrange a site visit next week and invite Working Group members.

9. Other Business

Members discussed the use of ladybugs to control cottony cushion scale and if it would work for GPS. Further discussion is required.

10. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next meeting is scheduled for Friday 14 March, specifically to finalise input to the draft Eradication Plan, rather than a regular meeting.

11. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 2.15 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 6 March 2025	Who	When by
8.1	Draft/send letter to private landholder at Holder Hill, offering technical support and attaching hygiene procedures (<i>action updated</i>)	PIRSA, AFPA	Complete. List Holden Hill as agenda item

9.1	PIRSA to draft a template GPS briefing to CE for escalation of new detections and circulate to agencies for comment.	PIRSA, SAW, FSA, DEW	Complete. Feedback incorporated.
9.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with DEW and SAW to update GPS online map	AFPA, DEW SAW	Next regular meeting
9.3	Comms and Media Group to discuss letter drops for nearby residents to Silverlake Reserve before tree removals occur <i>(action updated)</i>	PIRSA, CTTG	Next regular meeting
9.4	DEW and AFPA to discuss tree removal costs incurred by DEW in 2024 <i>(action not previously recorded)</i>	DEW, AFPA	Next regular meeting
10.1	Working Group members to consider if Grand Junction Rd infested trees present a similar risk to the Awoonga Rd trees that were removed urgently	All	Complete. Related action 11.1.
10.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with GA to update FieldMaps functionality for detector dog tracking.	AFPA, GA	Next regular meeting
11.1	FSA to arrange site inspection/ risk assessment of Grand Junction Rd infested trees	FSA, all	14 March
11.2	Provide technical advice on using ladybugs to control GPS.	ArborCarbon, PIRSA	Next regular meeting

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-12
Location: Online
Date: 14 March 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	12
Date and Time	14 March 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (DEW), Amy McMurren (PIRSA), Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (AFPA).
Apologies	Nil
Support	Sharn Lucas (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 11. Progress on actions were discussed.

3. Updates provided on control sites

Highbury Aqueduct: Contractor continuing potentially for a few weeks at Highbury. Others to consider possible strain on contractor given their engagement has been ongoing since December. Coir use for erosion control noted as low risk for GPS site as it is not a pine product. Seeking to leave mid and understorey intact, DEW considers dry conditions minimise risk of leaving material on the ground. DEW would like to meet with PIRSA Biosecurity on site to confirm risk is low. Patch burning will be undertaken in winter.

Discussed white masses found on fallen bluegum branch. GPS can be found on Eucalyptus as a temporary hiding place but are not a reproductive host. Also found on pine posts, even on a BBQ. It was noted that native scale can be similar. A photo could help with identification.

Silverlake Reserve: Council meeting minutes released. Acknowledge the response undertaken to date and approved 50k in the 2024/25 budget for removal of trees at Silverlake on the basis of reimbursement following Minister's meetings. Council approved \$200k for revegetation as well as continued applications for assistance in funding for these aspects. A representative from the Education Department spoke at the Council meeting and Council acknowledged their interest in protecting the stone pine.

Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve: Civil works required for site access will be carried out over the next couple of weeks. Mulch pile on site to go to Petes. No update on trees to remove, no change in budget to do so.

4. Other business

Eradication Plan discussed, including timing of finalising a suitable draft to support government consideration. Working Group discussed meeting to progress next week, with a view to finalising a draft on Friday. Cost estimates are required from organisations.

Extent of works discussed for estimates in the Eradication Plan, with the suggestion to assume similar works level to this year while hopeful that control works have been successful and less future works will be required.

It was noted that CE's have not been updated from GPSWG since their January meeting. Given the dynamic situation, a draft minute to the CE's group was circulated to members for feedback. It was noted that CE's were being updated as required internally so would be aware of the situation, however a general update from the Working Group would be good practice. The possibility of involvement from the Department of Education CE and Tea Tree Gully Council was also raised.

Proactive measures were discussed such as ForestrySA's declaration for volunteers and contractors. Tree removal in vehicle movement corridors was also noted, as well as understanding common contractors used across sites that may increase the risk of spread. Members to consider proactive measures for discussion at a general meeting.

The significant costs of quotes to minimise the impact of works on Dernancourt Kindergarten were noted. To support efficiency of work, material could be stockpiled on SA Water land. It was suggested that CTTG discuss with SAW.

5. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for Friday 28 March 11:30am.

An out-of-session meeting is set for Thursday 20 March at 10am to consider the Eradication Plan, AFPA to Chair.

6. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 1 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 14 March 2025	Who	Status
8.1	Draft/send letter to private landholder at Holder Hill, offering technical support and attaching hygiene procedures	PIRSA, AFPA	Complete. AFPA negotiated approval, will now progress works
9.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with DEW and SAW to update GPS online map	AFPA, DEW SAW	Complete. Working to keep up-to-date
9.3	Comms and Media Group to discuss letter drops for nearby residents to Silverlake Reserve before tree removals occur	PIRSA, CTTG	Meeting proposed for Monday 17 March
9.4	DEW and AFPA to discuss tree removal costs incurred by DEW in 2024	DEW, AFPA	By meeting on 20 March
10.2	AFPA/ Arbor Carbon to work with GA to update FieldMaps functionality for detector dog tracking.	AFPA, GA	Complete
11.1	FSA to arrange site inspection/ risk assessment of Grand Junction Rd infested trees	FSA, all	Complete
11.2	Provide technical advice on using ladybugs to control GPS.	ArborCarbon, PIRSA	28 March
12.1	DEW to initiate meeting with PIRSA Biosecurity on site to determine options for sensitive tree removal without site raking	DEW	28 March
12.2	DEW to send photo of white mass on bluegum branch for identification to ArborCarbon	DEW	28 March
12.3	OoS meeting 10:00am Thursday 20 March to provide comments on Eradication Plan	All	20 March
12.4	Members to provide feedback on drafted minute to CE's	All	28 March

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-13
Location: Online
Date: 4 April 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	13
Date and Time	4 April 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Amy McMurren (PIRSA), Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), David Hubbard (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (AFPA)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (DEW), Clause 6(1) (AHC)
Support	Sharn Lucas (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 12.

Progress on actions were discussed.

3. Government process towards a policy position

Clause 1(1)(e)

4. Updates provided on control sites

Scaling down control works at Aqueduct. Largely complete, cleaning up remaining stumps.

Contractor visited Supashock at Holden Hill, is a shared understanding of what needs to happen. Works likely for next weekend, just waiting on a final quote.

Silverlake. Council aiming to letterbox drop on Monday 7 April, commencing removals on first day of school holidays. Undertaking works to assist with site access. Council undecided where material will go, respect SA Water's reasons for not accepting material, are looking at other options including taking material to Elliston reserve and fencing off, using material on site with revegetation works. Peats option increases costs considerably. Regardless, removals will commence. Working Group acknowledged council efforts in progressing works.

Letter sent to working group from Council 21 March. Working Group yet to respond.

SA Water to remove mulch piles in a week or two. Will be in touch with PIRSA to ensure process is suitable. DH noted area is clear, truck access should be fine. Peats will be processing into finer chip again.

Discussion on walkways through SA Water site and options for foot baths or closure. Continue conversation outside of meeting and formulate Working Group recommendation. Can then take recommendations back to management.

Communique to chief executives helpful in stating risks of active biosecurity issue. Feedback on communique sought from working group.

5. Other business

Discussed members' interest in a workshop on mitigating risks of open pathways – how GPS spreads from Hope Valley to surrounding areas. Walkways, cycle ways, common contractors. Could hold a workshop to discuss proactive measures, for example, ForestrySA introduced questionnaire before new operations. Agreed to hold a workshop on this topic in the next few weeks, noting holidays may push it out to May. Discussed need for preparatory work prior to the workshop.

Discussed opportunity for combined meeting with Melbourne Water and SA Water. AFPA noted an equivalent meeting occurs with Victorian stakeholders. Members were interested in a meeting to share lessons learnt.

PIRSA assisted with a presentation to local MPs to help with understanding. Question raised around health risks. Check with Clause 6(1) regarding any studies that confirm health risk or absence thereof. CTTG noted queries on pollen and dust from machinery during operations.

Members agreed there was a need to update the Comms Plan FAQ's for internal use regarding benefits of replanting with natives and main health risk is falling branches. PIRSA to progress an update.

AFPA noted SAFPA were drafting a media release on the industry collaboration for tree removal at the Holden Hill site. Will be shared for members information when available.

6. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2025 at 11:30am.

7. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12:35 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 4 April 2025	Who	Status
9.3	Comms and Media Group to discuss letter drops for nearby residents to Silverlake Reserve before tree removals occur	PIRSA, CTTG	Complete
9.4	DEW and AFPA to discuss tree removal costs incurred by DEW in 2024	DEW, AFPA	Completed during eradication plan meeting
11.2	Provide technical advice on using ladybugs to control GPS.	ArborCarbon, PIRSA	Complete. Discussion held at previous general meeting
12.1	DEW to initiate meeting with PIRSA Biosecurity on site to determine options for sensitive tree removal without site raking	DEW	Complete. Discussion held via email, no further need for raking.
12.2	DEW to send photo of white mass on bluegum branch for identification to ArborCarbon	DEW	28 March
12.3	OoS meeting 10:00am Thursday 20 March to provide comments on Eradication Plan	All	Complete
12.4	Members to provide feedback on drafted minute to CE's	All	28 March
13.1	CTTG to send through final letter drop letter to PIRSA	BM	When available
13.2	CTTG to send figure for remediation to PIRSA	BM	ASAP
13.3	Share updated draft Eradication Plan with Working Group	PT	ASAP
13.4	Letter response to council from their 21 March letter	PIRSA/ FSA	ASAP
13.5	Continue discussions on footpath access and draft recommendations from Working Group for land manager consideration	All/DH	ASAP
13.6	Workshop on proactive measures for mitigating risk	All	In next couple of weeks
13.7	Consider opportunity for relevant SA stakeholders to attend meeting sharing Victorian lessons learnt (Melbourne Water suggested initially).	PT	May
13.8	Studies to note any health risks regarding GPS	PT/DS	Next meeting
13.9	Update Comms plan/FAQs noting queries being received on health and risks	FK/AM	Next meeting
13.10	Share SAFPA industry media release once drafted	PT	When available

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-14
Location: Online
Date: 2 May 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	14
Date and Time	2 May 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (DEW), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Rob Robinson, Dave Hubbard (PIRSA)
Apologies	Fontella Koleff (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 13.

Progress on actions were discussed, specifically:

- Regarding Action 13.7, members discussed including a MS Teams link up with Melbourne Water at the workshop on possible proactive measures to mitigate the risk of GPS spread. Melbourne Water could provide a brief history of their response and how they are managing open pathways. AFPA to followup.
- Regarding Action 13.8, it was noted that sooty mould could form on the exudate over time, and exudate may attract more bees increasing the risk of beestings, however a more immediate risk is brittle branches leading to falling limbs.

3. Government policy position update

- Matters are progressing at Ministerial level. The input from agencies is appreciated, so is industry's work on the draft Eradication Plan.
- Ministerial correspondence received and responded to regarding GPS at Silverlake and Highbury Aqueduct Reserves.
- Questions were raised on GPS in Parliament yesterday, a copy of Hansard will be circulated by PIRSA.

4. Operational updates

- Highbury Aqueduct** - all works completed since April. There has been limited access to the site to assess it for remediation. A boot hygiene wash is being used after entering the site. DEW have received enquiries on when the reserve will be reopened. DEW plan to keep the area fenced for two more months to fix trails and conduct erosion control works. Members discussed the biosecurity risk of allowing resident's contractors in to

do work on the boundary of their properties. Members considered the risk to be minimal as 28 days since the removal of infested material has been observed, the detector dogs have been through and not found anything, and it is far away from where the infested trees were.

- **Silverlake Reserve** - All trees felled last week, stumps have been ground and material transported off site yesterday. A third tree was found to have GPS in the upper canopy. Temporary fencing is still in place, with plans to replace with bunting next week. Some residents responded to the letter drop, with some wanting backyard trees not at risk to also be removed. Final wash down (hot water/ methylated spirits) of the contractor's machinery is to occur soon. Members discussed the need to manage the risk of the contractor working in other areas with pines (e.g. linear park) for 28 days unless the machinery is thoroughly decontaminated i.e heat treated. PIRSA to inspect the machinery and consider how risks can be minimised.
- **Hope Valley Reservoir** - No change to tree removal plans, still on hold. Mulch removal commenced this week and is going to Peats Soil. Infested trees are being monitored, observed spread of exudate on tree limbs. Members noted that now that trees at Silverlake have been removed, the only remaining infested trees those on SAW land. Once there is approval to commence operations, it is recommended the site be surveyed again to capture additional infested trees and update buffer areas. Industry offered to assist with the surveillance.
- **Holden Hill** – A letter drop informing others around Supashock of the tree removals/ traffic management will go out. Two pine trees (one infested) and other nearby trees are to be removed by the end of next week. SAFPA drafted a media release on industry's assistance. PIRSA requested a copy of the letter for info only.

5. Surveillance updates

- **Dernancourt Kindergarten** - Members discussed the need for a follow-up inspection of the stone pine at the kindergarten next door and the challenges with inspecting the large tree. Drones have insufficient resolution. The use of binoculars along with the detector dogs is the best available option. It was suggested the tree may require an arboreal assessment from time to time and the kindy may consider scheduling one asap to include surveying for GPS.
- **Annual surveillance** – AFPA broad surveillance by contractors due in August/ September 2025. Note that in Victoria, GPS is moving through its life cycle faster due to drier conditions – moving from smaller branches to trunks of trees or to new trees if heavily infested.

6. Other business

- At the previous meeting, members discussed holding an internal workshop focussed on mitigating the risks of open pathways; how it could potentially spread from Hope Valley to surrounding areas via walkways, cycle ways, or common contractors; and how it could be prevented by proactive measures.
- Members agreed to meet at the CTTG Council to workshop ideas on 23 May. Agenda to be drafted by FSA and PIRSA prior to the day.

7. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for **6 June 2025** at 11:30am. A workshop to discuss how to mitigate risks of open GPS pathways is planned for **23 May 2025** at 9.00am at the CTTG Council office.

8. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12:55 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 2 May 2025	Who	Status
12.2	DEW to send photo of white mass on bluegum branch for identification to ArborCarbon	DEW	Completed?
12.4	Members to provide feedback on drafted minute to CE's	All	Completed
13.1	CTTG to send through final letter drop letter to PIRSA	BM	Completed
13.2	CTTG to send figure for remediation to PIRSA	BM	Completed
13.3	Share updated draft Eradication Plan with Working Group	PT	Completed
13.4	Letter response to council from their 21 March letter	PIRSA/ FSA	Completed
13.5	Continue discussions on footpath access and draft recommendations from Working Group for land manager consideration	All/DH	Completed
13.6	Workshop on proactive measures for mitigating risk	All	Workshop to be held on 23 May at 9am at CTTG Office
13.7	Consider opportunity for relevant SA stakeholders to attend meeting sharing Victorian lessons learnt (Melbourne Water suggested initially).	PT	Consider incorporating into above workshop.
13.8	Studies to note any health risks regarding GPS	PT/DS	Completed
13.9	Update Comms plan/FAQs noting queries being received on health and risks	FK/AM	By next meeting
13.10	Share SAFPA industry media release once drafted	PT	Completed. Media release went out on 6 May.
14.1	PIRSA to circulate copy of Hansard regarding GPS questions raised in Parliament.	AM	Completed
14.2	Silverlake Reserve – PIRSA to meet with CTTG to inspect tree removal contractors' machinery and consider risk management.	PIRSA/ CTTG	Asap before leaving Silverlake
14.3	Holden Hill – AFPA to share copy of letter drop with PIRSA	PT	By next meeting
14.4	Demancourt Kindergarten – CTTG to discuss with kindergarten, the potential to inspect for GPS as part of an arboreal assessment.	BM	By next meeting
14.5	FSA and PIRSA to draft an agenda for the upcoming workshop on proactive measures to mitigate risk of GPS spread	PM/ AM/ DH	Before workshop

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-15
Location: Online
Date: 6 June 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	15
Date and Time	6 June 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Rob Robinson, Dave Hubbard, Troy Bowman (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Clause 6(1) (DHUD)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (DEW), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Fontella Koleff (PIRSA)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 14. Progress on actions were discussed.

3. Government policy position update

• Clause 1(1)(e)

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• It may be helpful if the CE group reconvene as they last met in January 2025.

4. Operational updates

Highbury Aqueduct –

- Remediation works are underway at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve – 40% complete. Erosion control devices have been installed and walking trail repairs have commenced (expected to be largely complete by the end of next week). Once the trail repairs are complete, the security fence around the restricted area will be removed (likely by 30 June 2025). May also still burn off some of the branch debris in June (weather permitting). Revegetation is likely to occur in very late June or early July, we need some decent rainfall prior to planting. Will also look to put some small signs through the western Boundy Road site that advise park users to stick to the designated walking trails and not remove pinecones, branches etc.
- Note gully trees were not removed due to low risk and difficult access. There is a need for more surveillance in August to check for low level infestations.

Silverlake Reserve

- People have been accessing the site for illegal dumping.
- Suggested another site visit with PIRSA to discuss the quarantine period.

Hope Valley Reservoir

- In the process of carting out mulch from previous tree removals. Checking site regularly and removing wild seedlings. Stumps are still to be removed. Following discussion at the recent workshop, vehicle movements between Hope Valley and South Para sites have been reduced. Contractors working at Hope Valley have agreed to not take machinery off site until cleared by SAW staff. Further tree removal plans still on hold.

Holden Hill

- Tree removal operations have been completed.

5. Surveillance updates

Dernancourt Kindergarten

- CTTG discussed having an arboreal assessment with the kindergarten; they have plans for an annual inspection and it can include looking for GPS.

Annual surveillance

- AFPA broad surveillance by contractors due in August/ September 2025; planning to include sites where GPS could have been spread inadvertently.
- Green Adelaide's detector dog contract with has ended. Dogs need training every month to maintain the scent and there is a cost for this.

6. Other business

- Info collated from the workshop could be used to develop further guidelines for minimising the risk of spread.
- PIRSA provided a presentation on GPS identification and risks to NPWS rangers at their annual meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for **3 July 2025** at 11:30am.

8. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12:30 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 6 June 2025	Who	Status
13.6	Workshop on proactive measures for mitigating risk	All	Completed on 23 May
13.7	Consider opportunity for relevant SA stakeholders to attend meeting sharing Victorian lessons learnt (Melbourne Water suggested initially).	PT	Completed on 23 May
13.9	Update Comms plan/FAQs noting queries being received on health and risks	FK/ AM	By next meeting

14.2	Silverlake Reserve – PIRSA to meet with CTTG to inspect tree removal contractors' machinery and consider risk management.	PIRSA/ CTTG	Completed
14.3	Holden Hill – AFPA to share copy of letter drop with PIRSA	PT	Completed. Operations completed as well.
14.4	Demancourt Kindergarten – CTTG to discuss with kindergarten, the potential to inspect for GPS as part of an arboreal assessment.	BM	Completed
14.5	FSA and PIRSA to draft an agenda for the upcoming workshop on proactive measures to mitigate risk of GPS spread	PM/ AM/ DH	Completed
15.1	Progress minute to agency member's respective CE's	DEW, PIRSA,FSA, DHUD, SAW	13 June 2025
15.2	Develop guideline from info gathered at pathways workshop		
15.3	Include additional areas in the upcoming surveillance season	PT/ DS	August/September
15.4	Re-issue PIRSA Media release on keeping an out for GPS during upcoming surveillance season		August/September

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-16
Location: Online
Date: 3 July 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	16
Date and Time	3 July 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (AFPA), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Dave Hubbard (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Fontella Koleff (PIRSA)
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (DHUD), Clause 6(1), Rob Robinson (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (DEW)
Support	Amy McMurren (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.30 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 15. The action list was discussed and completed actions were noted. Key outstanding items are captured below:

- Action 13.9 – Comms group haven't met in a while, PIRSA will request a copy of Melbourne Water's comms plan to assist with updating the GPS Comms Plan.
- Action 15.1 – Minute to CEs from working group still to be progressed. The most recent draft is to be circulated and a response is required from all members before it can be progressed.
- Action 15.2 – Following the workshop, a document summarising discussion on pathways of spread and potential solutions at various scales was shared. Existing or new guidelines to assist with implementing the solutions were discussed. Clause 6(1) will share a one page general guideline on quarantine for GPS.
- Action 15.3 – Surveillance in August will include South Para and is likely to involve the detector dogs.

3. Government policy position update

- Clause 1(1)(e)
- PIRSA has received ministerial correspondence on giant pine scale regarding letters querying revegetation at Highbury Aqueduct, Hope Valley Reservoir, and Elliston and Silverlake. The draft responses point to information on relevant websites including DEW's and SA Water's.
- PIRSA is preparing a briefing to our CE regarding the discussion and outcomes from the workshop and our CE may write to other agencies to provide copies of the biosecurity hygiene protocols that have been used during surveillance and tree removal operations, to reinforce their use.

4. Operational updates

Highbury Aqueduct

- Remediation works are continuing, including revegetation by planting a seedling mix of tall trees, shrubs and grasses. Further planting will occur in coming years as the plants become established.

Silverlake Reserve

- Silverlake was surveyed again recently with assistance by the detector dogs. The tree in the kindergarten next door was also inspected and nothing was detected. Bunting will remain at Silverlake.
- Info boards have been developed to assist with discussions with MPs regarding the remediation of CTTG sites affected by GPS tree removals. A copy will be circulated to members.

Hope Valley Reservoir

- More surveillance is occurring around Hope Valley Reservoir, no detections found in other areas so far.
- Mulch from previous tree removals is continuing to be moved off-site. Emerging pine seedlings are being removed regularly as required.
- Stump grinding has commenced in the area along Lower North East Rd. Revegetation and the establishment of new trails are planned to be completed by the end of 2025. Weed management will be ongoing.

Holden Hill

- Tree removal operations have been completed. Nothing new to report.

5. Surveillance updates

Annual surveillance

- AFPA broad surveillance by contractors due in late August/ September 2025; planning to include sites such as South Para where GPS could have been spread inadvertently.
- AFPA are planning to utilise the detector dogs in the upcoming surveillance.

6. Other business

- DEW provided PIRSA with a copy of the social media content Adelaide Tree Services are planning to use regarding their work at the Aqueduct.

7. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 29 July 2025** at 11:30am.

8. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12:30 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 3 July 2025	Who	Status
13.9	Update Comms plan/FAQs noting queries being received on health and risks	FK/ AM	Before next meeting

			PIRSA to seek a copy of Melbourne Water Comms Plan
15.1	Progress minute to agency member's respective CE's	DEW, PIRSA, FSA, DHUD, SAW	Before next meeting AM to recirculate the draft minute for member responses, then a decision can be made on how to transmit it to CEs
15.2	Develop guideline from info gathered at pathways workshop	PT	Further work to be done. Clause 6(1) to share an overarching guide on GPS biosecurity considerations.
15.3	Include additional areas in the upcoming surveillance season such as South Para	PT/ DS	August/September
15.4	Issue a similar PIRSA media release on keeping an eye out for GPS during upcoming surveillance season, could incorporate info on detector dogs	AM/ FK	August/September
16.1	Distribute to working group members a copy of information developed to assist discussions with MPs	CTTG	Before next meeting

GIANT PINE SCALE WORKING GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Number:
GPSWG-17
Location: Online
Date: 29 July 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	17
Date and Time	29 July 2025, 11.30 am – 12.30 pm
Venue	MS Teams
Chair	Clause 6(1) (FSA)
Participants	Troy Bowman(PIRSA), Tom Dougherty (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (DEW), Dave Hubbard (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (CTTG), Amy McMurren (PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (SAFPA), Clause 6(1) (Green Adelaide), Rob Robinson(PIRSA), Clause 6(1) (ArborCarbon), Clause 6(1) (SAW), Clause 6(1) (AFPA),
Apologies	Clause 6(1) (DEW)
Support	Mike Powell (PIRSA)

1. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11.32 am.

2. Previous meeting/ actions

Working Group members noted the minutes from meeting 16. Discussion of the action list was as below:

- Action 13.9 (INCOMPLETE). - TD noted that there has been progress on the Comms Plan accounting for Hope Valley Reservoir meeting last week. Haven't sourced Melbourne comms plan yet. Will chase up today. **ACTION.**
- Action 15.1 (STALLED/COMPLETE) – Minute to CEs has suffered due to lack of consensus on what to present. Stalled! Likely best action now is for internal reporting by each agency.
- Action 15.2 (COMPLETE) – PT advised that best practice guides on how to deal with GPS are in shared folders. Can reshare – the guides are good for contributing to operational plans. PT/AM can provide link (**ACTION**). Everyone should review the status of the docs and advise suggestions to the next meeting (**ACTION**).
- Action 15.3 (COMPLETE) – PT – Current thinking is surveillance will be underway mid-August, starting with contractor resurvey of Hope Valley Reservoir to ensure operations are based on the latest information. Then the same as last year – High, Medium, Low classification of current infestation sites and other sites across Adelaide. Also include SAW high risk sites, e.g., Milbrook and South Para. May use dogs from time to time. Emphasised August start. SAW staff can be involved, if available, and would be good for upskilling.
- Action 15.4 (INCOMPLETE) – PIRSA Media release not finalised but will be something general. On target for August/September release.
- Action 16.1 (INCOMPLETE) – AM advised that BM did circulate something but uncertain about the intention of the information. [Did not clarify when BM joined meeting].

3. Government policy position update

- RR advised another group has been formed for over-sight of current works at the Hope Valley site. They will be meeting tomorrow – AM mentioned that actions to manage the Hope Valley site will be known to members of that group here today – CI 6(1) (not present today), PT, RR, PM. Feedback can be provided to GPSWG after tomorrow's meeting (**ACTION**).

4. Operational updates

SAW

- PM- Grand Junction Road bunting and signage. Has been high level discussion on what standard should be applied for public information. PM to send email to DS and BM, regarding this, who advised will support.
ACTION
- DJ wants to look into bunting disappearing. Maybe put/use something harder to remove – temporary fencing?. PM talked about more signage including some from CTTG.

DEW

- DF - aqueducts and reservoirs are open to the public. Taken fencing down and things back to normal and revegetation going in. Have been many questions from the public so putting up some signage and putting together a newsletter.
- Question to PT about surveillance at Highbury Aqueduct starting in late August? Yes, and offered to assist or advise as requested – refreshing skills, methods etc.. Discussion about the importance of going with buffers at the start of surveillance
- AM – has been following up with CI 6(1) (DR) about contractor request for social media post. OK from PIRSA viewpoint and cross-checked with Minister's Office. DF will follow up with DR upon return next week (**ACTION**).
- TD was asked about the perspective for comms with local community - is it appropriate for DEW to lead? TD - Yes, PIRSA can provide advice or feedback if requested. Landholder is responsible for reveg so can lead comms.
- DJ asked who is appropriate PIRSA contact – DH advised is TB.

CTTG

- Silverlake. BM reported that dogs had been used and found nothing. Removed quarantine signage and replaced with revegetation signage. Working on a plan looking at needs of the kindergarten and general community. Noted a concern with all the work happening that there is the potential for further spread.

5. Surveillance

- Dealt with in previous discussion.

6. Other business

- PT. Not other business but wondering if dog teams will be used for Hope Valley surveillance. DH – Yes, will have access to dogs. Need to understand the costs over 3-4 months – and any requirement for scent training. Understands CI 6(1) sent a contact for them?. PT advised yes, had discussions with them and if dogs are used in August all should be good – scent re/training on the day. DH commented costing will likely come back to “pay by the hour” depending on how we want to utilise them.
- Entomology update. DS commented that in Victoria things are transitioning through different life stages in different places. – up to 3rd instar now. Climate in May has resulted in slower progression but some places may move into adults in coming weeks. Then we will have 1½-2 months in egg phase before they start hatching in mid-November. So, for a couple of months now they won't be actively moving.

Chair commented that meeting was hopefully useful and expecting good work at Hope Valley Reservoir will continue.

7. Next Meeting

The Working Group's next general meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 04 September 2025** at 11:30am.

8. Close

The Chair thanked members for participating and closed the meeting at 12:02 pm

NEW AND OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Ref	Actions as at 29 July 2025	Who	Status
13.9	Update Comms plan/FAQs noting queries being received on health and risks	TD	Before next meeting Working on. PIRSA to check progress on Melbourne Water Comms Plan request.
15.4	Issue a similar PIRSA media release on keeping an eye out for GPS during upcoming surveillance season, could incorporate info on detector dogs	AM/ FK	August/September. On target.
16.1	Distribute to working group members a copy of information developed to assist discussions with MPs	CTTG	Clarify before next meeting. Noted something was circulated but not clarified during meeting.
17.1	GPS best practice guides. Resend link to these.	PT/AM	ASAP
17.2	GPS best practice guides. Guides are available. Review status of shared docs and advise suggestions	Everyone	Next Meeting
17.3	Feedback from Hope Valley management group meeting 30/07/2025.	AM	Next Meeting
17.4	PM to email DS and BN re Grand Junction Road signage	PM	Next Meeting
17.5	Contractor social media request – advise them of outcome.	DF	Next week. Decide and implement.

From: Clause 6(1)
To: Clause 6(1) (DEW); Clause 6(1) - City of Tea Tree Gully
Cc: Hubbard, David (PIRSA); McMurren, Amy (PIRSA)
Subject: GPS Control Works & handover of treatment sites to DEW / CTTG [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Sunday, 21 January 2024 6:49:37 PM
Attachments: Risk Assessment form GPS Elliston and Aqueduct Reserves 12.01.2024.pdf

Hi Clause 6(1) & Clause 6(1)

Tomorrow marks handover day for the two GPS insect treatment sites at Elliston & Aqueduct Reserves & the removal of the security fence around both ex-work sites. This feels like it has been a long time coming.

Thanks for your patience & support throughout the undertaking of control works. Hopefully the hard work, the investment etc. does pay off & we achieve success.

Time scale wise:

- 11/07/23 – GPS surveyed as being present at Elliston Reserve
- 4/08/23 – GPS surveyed as being present in Aqueduct Reserve
- 23-31/08/23 – Trees felled & material removed Aqueduct Reserve (125 trees)
- 6-28/09/23 – Trees felled & material removed Elliston Reserve (188 trees)
- 4-7/12/23 – Stumps grinded Elliston Reserve
- 13-15/12/23 – Stumps grinded Aqueduct Reserve
- 8-11/01/24 – Remedial work – soil and mulched material post stump grinding spread in dryer site conditions at Elliston Reserve
- 12/01/24 – Risk assessment completed – residual risk assessed as acceptable to remove security fencing and permit general public access back onto both reserves from 22/01/24
- 22/01/24 – Return of sites to DEW / CTTG

Control work – tree material grinding – is set to continue at SA Water Hope Valley Reserve, over the next 3-4 weeks.

Please find attached notes from the risk assessment that I captured. The main residual work relates to on-going control of wild pine seedlings & surveillance for presence / absence of insects.

Any queries please call.

(David & Amy – I'll be in contact to schedule a meeting to discuss the agenda for the next working group meeting / preliminary discussion re: "GPS management road ahead considerations" to present at the working group meeting)

Regards,

Clause 6(1) | **General Manager Commercial Operations | ForestrySA**
 Phone: Clause 6(1) | Mobile: Clause 6(1) | Fax: (08) 8521 1799
 PMB 2, Meadows, SA 5201 | Web: www.forestrysa.com.au

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Project name:	Giant Pine Scale control works				
Description:	Presence / absence assessment undertaken post completion of GPS control work & prior to re-opening to public access				
Task Locations or possible	Clause 6(1)	Elliston Reserve (Hope Valley) and Aqueduct Reserve (Highbury)			
Responsible Manager:	Clause 6(1)	Phone Number	Clause 6(1)	In an Emergency:	Dial 000
Risk assessment completed by:	PIRSA BIOSECURITY (David Hubbard) (involvement from ForestrySA, City of Tea Tree Gully)				

SPECIAL PERMISSIONS/PERMITS NEEDED BEFORE IMPLEMENTING PROJECT

Description	Date required by
PIRSA Biosecurity post control works site assessment	22/01/2024
ForestrySA site handover to DEW & CTTG	22/01/2024

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Identify potential risks if the task is to be undertaken	Consequences List the consequences to the agency if the event occurred.	Initial Risk Rating	Risk Control Measures List the control measures required to eliminate or minimise the risk of injury arising from the identified hazard. Attach any additional written material including Safety Data Sheets.	Residual Risk Rating
Biosecurity - general				
GPS known incursion site (Elliston Reserve) (Aqueduct Reserve)	- Spread of exotic pest - impact to surrounding pine trees on public reserves & private property amenity plantings - Spread of exotic pest - impact to urban forest metro-Adelaide, hills face zone, Mt Lofty Ranges - Impact to South Australian forestry industry	Almost certain / Catastrophic Extreme	- Undertake surveillance – ascertain extent of infestation - Remove infested trees / process material - Remove (grind) infested stumps - Establish 50m buffer around infested trees – treat in line with infested tree areas - Destroy possible host material on the treatment site including wild pine seedlings - Implement quarantine controls aligned with lifecycle of insect & technical advice (PIRSA Biosecurity) - Undertake post-insect control, risk assessment to critically assess likelihood of present / absence of residual insect activity.	Unlikely / Catastrophic High
Post control work risk assessment				
Presence of residual GPS activity following completion of insect control works	Unwanted spread of exotic pest following completion of control works	Unlikely / Catastrophic High	- Undertake risk assessment prior to re-opening general public access to reserve (complete 12/01/24) - Observe cooling off period following completion of insect control works (+30 days) - On-going practice of good hygiene measures - On-going control of wild pine seedlings (host material) - On-going surveillance - Erect signage discouraging members of the public to remove any wood material from the site and to stay on the reserve's pathway - If DEW wish to undertake the removal of wood / tree root residue from the quarantine site, ForestrySA encourages DEW to discuss this in consultation with PIRSA & City of Tea Tree Gully i.e. locate a sensible location to deposit and process.	Rare / Catastrophic Medium

From: McMurren, Amy (PIRSA)
To: Clause 6(1); "Clause 6(1)"; "Clause 6(1)"@ausfpa.com.au"; "Clause 6(1)"; Clause 6(1) (DEW); "Clause 6(1) (South Para)"; "Clause 6(1)"; "Clause 6(1)"; "Clause 6(1)"; "Clause 6(1)"; Clause 6(1) @safpa.com.au
Cc: Robinson, Rob (PIRSA); Koleff, Fontella (PIRSA); Hubbard, David (PIRSA); Powis, Kevin (PIRSA-SARDI); Clause 6(1) (DEW); Clause 6(1)
Subject: Giant Pine Scale Working Group - Comms Plan 2024
Date: Thursday, 7 November 2024 5:21:00 PM
Attachments: GPS Comms Plan 2024.docx
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png

Dear GPS Working Group members,

Attached is an updated Communications Plan that reflects the current situation at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve.

Please provide your feedback on the Plan by **COB Friday 8th November**.

I apologise for the short timeframe.

Given that tree removals are imminent, we need to ensure we are all clear on what is happening with communications for this.

Kind regards,

Amy

Amy McMurren | Manager, Forestry

Forest Industries | Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Level 21, 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide, SA

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: 08 8429 0434 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: amy.mcmurren@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Giant Pine Scale Response Program

Responsible directorate/division: Giant Pine Scale Working Group (PIRSA involvement – Industry, Strategy and Partnerships/Biosecurity Divisions)

Date: November 2024

Background

This communications plan has been prepared to guide the inter-agency Giant Pine Scale Working Group (also known as Response Team) with media and communications activities relating to the 2023/24 eradication program for the pest plant giant pine scale (GPS) within the City of Tea Tree Gully LGA.

To manage the latest detections affecting Pine trees in the Highbury and Hope Valley areas, a response team comprised of potentially affected stakeholders and land managers has been formed. The team includes representatives of State Government agencies, the South Australian Forest sector, Local Government, and others as appropriate. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is providing appropriate technical advice to the response.

Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) is a sap sucking insect that only feeds on trees from the Pinaceae family, such as pines, firs and spruces. An infestation can cause branch dieback, gradual desiccation and tree death.

A priority of the response program has been to protect the thousands of amenity trees in streets, parks, and gardens through the urgent removal of infested trees, reducing the risk of further spread of the pest. Previous GPS outbreaks at Dernancourt and North Adelaide in 2014 and Highbury in 2018 were successfully controlled using this same approach.

Removal of affected trees remains the best-known option for eliminating giant pine scale, regarded as the quickest and most effective eradication method against the pest. Tree removal also assists in stopping the pest spreading onto other unaffected pines.

The current phase of the GPS response involves:

- Assessing the extent of trees infested with the pest in the affected and surrounding areas, through active and more comprehensive risk-based surveillance within a 5km zone from previous points of detection.
- Responding to pest reports provided by community members through the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Nationally giant pine scale is now regarded as an established pest in Australia, most notably in parts of outer Melbourne.

As the extent of the pest in South Australia currently appears to be limited and given the risk giant pine scale poses to South Australia's \$1.4 billion forest industry, the Giant Pine Scale Working Group continues to take steps to protect South Australia's plantation forests and amenity trees from this pest. In

addition to the eradication operations occurring at Hope Valley and Highbury, surveillance is also being undertaken to determine if the pest has spread further. To date no further concerns have emerged elsewhere in South Australia.

Following the removal of infested trees as part of the eradication program. Felled tree material is being quarantined for a minimum of six months. Relevant land managers will provide advice on their plans for remediation at the respective sites.

This communication plan is being implemented to guide the giant pine scale working group members in ongoing communications and community engagement elements as the eradication program, remedial works and surveillance program continues. It is also aimed at ensuring property owners in affected areas, relevant local and state government, and industry stakeholders, along with the general public, are aware of the risk giant pine scale poses to the local community and industry and what their individual responsibilities are in mitigating this pest.

Strategic alignment

- Collaborating across government [and industry] for better outcomes.
- Building better relationships with Industry and regions.

Market context

- South Australia's forest industry has played an important role in the economic development of our state, especially in our regions.
- Timber production in South Australia is 100% plantation based, with more than 2.9 million cubic metres of logs harvested from South Australian plantations in 2020-21 (11% of Australia's total).
- In 2020-21 the South Australian forest and wood products industries recorded a revenue of around \$1.4 billion.
- The South Australian portion of the Green Triangle forestry and forest products industry contributes more than \$860 million to South Australia's gross regional product.¹
- Forestry and forest products industries in South Australia directly employ about 5,200 people and indirectly support employment for another 12,500 people, totalling almost 18,000.²

Situational analysis

- Following the discovery of giant pine scale in South Australia and Victoria for the first time in 2014, a decision was made at the national level to implement an eradication plan under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).
- In 2017, a review of the EPPRD program concluded that it was not technically feasible to eradicate GPS from Australia. A one-year Transition to Management Plan was developed to assist industry to manage the pest in Australia.
- GPS is listed as a declared pest in the Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS), and as a result PIRSA must be informed of any detection within South Australia. The PQS does not regulate the movement

¹ *Forest and Wood Products Australia (2017) Socioeconomic impacts of the forest industry - Green Triangle*

² *REMPLAN Economics as at June 2021.*

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of host material into SA, thus there is an open pathway for the pest to move between other states and SA.

- Industry decided against any regulatory controls at the border due to the significant movement of material within the Green Triangle and the possible disruption to industry.
- The endemic status of the pest in Australia means that PIRSA Biosecurity will not initiate an eradication response to this pest and management of GPS rests with land managers, landowners and industry.
- With the sale of forestry goods and services generating revenue of around \$2.6 billion each year, giant pine scale is potentially a pest of great significance to South Australia's softwood plantation industry.
- The 2023/24 eradication response in the Hope Valley/Highbury area has been driven by the forest industry with PIRSA Biosecurity providing appropriate technical advice. At the Highbury infestation, the South Australian Government is both the landowner and manager.
- Prior to the 2023/24 detection in the Hope Valley/ Highbury area, ongoing surveillance had indicated that GPS had been eradicated from all previous outbreak sites at Dernancourt, North Adelaide and Highbury. In Victoria, where ongoing activity has been occurring, the forest industry has been active in containing its spread. To date it has not been found in other parts of Australia and has not been detected in any pine plantations.
- To eradicate GPS from Adelaide, Industry (through AFPA) is investing in and supporting a more comprehensive surveillance program across Adelaide, including contributions by an independent expert on GPS from Arbor Carbon
- The pest develops into an adult stage where up to 400 eggs retained within the female body will hatch after the death of the female from about November each year. Removing trees, ideally prior to November when mass egg hatching occurs in the pest's life cycle, is critical for reducing impacts and risk to other urban trees and commercial softwood plantations. An operational plan on removing recently identified infested trees and to establish a 50 metre buffer at the Highbury location is currently being finalised.
- The Giant Pine Scale Working Group comprising representatives from PIRSA, SA Water, ForestrySA, City of Tea Tree Gully, the Australian Forest Products Association, University of South Australia, the Department of Environment and Water and an independent expert has been formed to coordinate the management of the response and surveillance activities.

Objectives

Project/business objectives

To mitigate the risk of giant pine scale reaching South Australia's softwood plantation estate.

Communications objectives

- Increase awareness of the potential threat of giant pine scale to the state, particularly to South Australia's pine plantation forest industry
- Illustrate the importance of eradicating giant pine scale in South Australia
- Increase awareness by the general public, property owners, local government and industry stakeholders of the giant pine scale eradication program and what they can do to assist in ensuring the elimination of this pest plant.

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- Increase the public's understanding of what GPS looks like and the need to report any suspected detections to PIRSA

Spokesperson(s)

- Media enquiries are to be referred to PIRSA Media pirsa.media@sa.gov.au for triage, then PIRSA will contact the most appropriate spokesperson via media contacts on Page 9 of this Plan.
- A relevant spokesperson will be identified depending on the context, for example, industry response, technical advice, remediation
 - Industry response – AFPA and SAFPA
 - Rehabilitation following tree removals – landowners and managers (DEW, SA Water, CTTG)
 - Policy advice – PIRSA Forestry
 - Technical eradication advice – Biosecurity SA

Target audience

Priority	Audience	Why we are communicating with them/ Desired positioning statement
Primary	Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development/Minister for Forest Industries.	Primary stakeholders in the current eradication response. Media and communications overseen by the GPSWG considers and addresses where possible potential concerns of stakeholders
	Other relevant State Government Ministers including Minister for Conservation, Environment, and Water; and Minister for Housing and Urban Development	
	Local MPs including members for Newland, Morialta, and Hartley	
	ForestrySA	
	Australian Forest Products Association	
	SA Water	
	Department of Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife Service)	
	City of Tea Tree Gully (Elected members and staff)	
Community	Local Residents (City of Tea Tree Gully)	Advising people in close proximity to the detection locations (and other local residents) on the eradication program, including tree removal. Emphasising the risk posed by Giant Pine Scale and the importance in controlling it and why tree removal remains the only effective eradication tool. Advising them on the role they can play in helping to mitigate the risk of spread. (what to look out for, how to report it).

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	General Public	Reminding the public (non CTTG residents) on the risk posed by the pest and what role they can do to mitigate the risk of spread (what to look out for, how to report it).
	Arborists and gardening services	Advising arborists and professional gardeners of the latest detection, reminding them on the risk posed by the pest and activities that can lead to spread. Reminding them on the need for good biosecurity measures if working in the area, what to look out for and how to report it.
	Other recreational reserve users	Advising potential recreational reserve users impacted by the current eradication response on the need for reserve closure. Emphasising the risk posed by Giant Pine Scale and the importance in controlling it and what they can do to help mitigate spread.
Stakeholder	South Australian Forest Products Association	Keeping them in the loop on response activities
	Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub	Providing forestry technical advice. Keeping them in the loop on response activities

Barriers/critical success factors

Issue/risk	How this will be managed
Concerns over the potential removal of significant and regulated trees and associated animal welfare concerns	• Reminder that the pest only attacks exotic trees species particularly those from the Pinaceae family and therefore only introduced tree species are being targeted as part of the eradication response. • Advise that as part of remedial works replacement trees will be local indigenous species • Promote the fact that ALL affected trees need to be removed to ensure the desired outcome of the eradication program (that is, removal of Giant Pine Scale from South Australia) • Advise that if left untreated, giant pine scale will kill affected trees. This response is targeted a relatively small number of affected trees to protect large numbers of amenity and commercial plantings • Advise that the response team are working on mitigating any risks to native wildlife
Risk of outbreak of giant pine scale in another area	• Assurance that ongoing surveillance of the pest is occurring. • Reminder why ongoing vigilance is important and why everyone has a role to play and how to report if suspicious of GPS presence. • Should outbreak occur:

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	○ Liaison with relevant stakeholders and affected landholders to commence immediately. ○ Implementation of any eradication program to commence as soon as possible. ○ Ensure residents are advised on any further eradication response/removal of trees as per operational plan.
Complexity and timeliness of communications approvals processes	• GPSWG spans a number of agencies, many with their own media, communications and engagement staff. • Process to be established on approvals processes for GPSWG, keeping in mind State Government approvals protocols. • Determine spokespeople for GPSWG

Key messages

- Gardeners and residents in the Hope Valley area are being asked to report any signs of the sap sucking plant pest giant pine scale (GPS).
- Giant pine scale can be detected by looking for masses of the characteristic white cotton-like secretions the pest leaves on the trunks and branches of pine trees when it feeds.
- If you see or suspect giant pine scale, report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. Further information on the pest is also available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- As part of the ongoing surveillance following the removal of infested trees at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve in 2023, several more infested trees have been recently found at both locations.
- To manage this latest detection, the response team made up of potentially affected stakeholders and land managers are meeting regularly. This includes representatives of state government agencies, the South Australian forest sector, local government, and others as appropriate. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is providing technical advice to the response.
- This Government/Industry working group are closely working together to contain and eradicate these latest detections to ensure no further spread of the pest.
- Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) causes branch dieback, gradual desiccation and tree death. It feeds exclusively on plants from the pine family, such as pines, firs and spruces.
- A priority of the 2023-2024 response program is to protect our forest industries and the thousands of amenity trees in streets, parks, and gardens through the urgent removal of infested trees, reducing the risk of further spread of the pest. Previous giant pine scale detections at Dernancourt and North Adelaide in 2014 and Highbury in 2018 were successfully controlled using this same approach.

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- Removal of affected trees remains the best-known option for eliminating giant pine scale, regarded as the quickest and most effective eradication method against the pest. Tree removal also assists in stopping the pest spreading onto other unaffected pines.
- The current phase of the giant pine scale response involves:
 - Assessing the extent of trees infested with the pest in the affected and surrounding areas, through active and more comprehensive surveillance.
 - Responding to pest reports provided by community members.
 - Removing infested trees.
- Nationally giant pine scale is now regarded as an established pest in Australia, notably in parts of outer Melbourne.
- Given the risk giant pine scale poses to Adelaide's street, park and garden trees, along with South Australia's \$1.4 billion forest industry; the South Australian forest sector, state government agencies and local government will continue to take steps to protect our trees from this pest.
- In addition to this current eradication operation, surveillance is also being undertaken to determine if the pest has spread further. To date no further concerns have emerged elsewhere in South Australia.
- Following the removal of infested trees as part of the eradication program. Felled tree material is being quarantined for a minimum of six months to ensure that there is no more living giant pine scale in the product. Giant pine scale cannot survive for long periods away from a living host tree.
- Prior to the felling of any infested trees, any wildlife that have been found to be present, including protected animals and the eggs of protected animals, have been managed appropriately in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Giant pine scale is often spread by human contact, particularly by the pest sticking onto shoes, clothing or equipment.
- Vigilance remains key in the fight against giant pine scale, and the public can play an important role. It is why we are asking everyone to check their pine trees, particularly on the trunks and canopy of trees and if they see anything unusual to report it as soon as possible.
- While all steps are being made to ensure no risk of spread by the pest, particularly through ongoing surveillance, it is possible that any further detection of Giant Pine Scale may require the removal of additional trees to protect the remaining unaffected trees.
- The occurrence of Giant Pine Scale poses no health risk to the local community, or to water quality in the Hope Valley reservoir.

Communications tactics/channels

Media releases

1. Commencement of operational program for local eradication (Landowner and manager)

Topic - Advising people of the eradication program in the Highbury and Hope Valley area and why Giant Pine Scale is such a concern, what people should watch out for and how to report it.

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Distribution – Metropolitan media outlets. (similar to the release on 1 August 2023/ 1 November 2023)

2. Any updates on eradication program

As identified/required (currently being driven through media responses).

3. Conclusion of eradication program

(Ministerial – TBC – possible joint release with AFPA)

4. Media talking points (provided to Minister, identified PIRSA staff and GPSWG members)

Proactive media activity

Gardening talkback

ABC Weekend Breakfast (Deb Tribe)³

5AA Weekend Mornings (Michael Keelan)

Newsletters/Media articles

- City of Tea Tree Gully³
- Local Government Association
- Forest Industry publications
- Arborists/Garden industry publications
- Any other GPSWG stakeholder newsletters/communications channels.

Fact Sheets

- Current fact sheet on giant pine scale available from www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale

Signage

- Improving signage around sites affected by tree removals – signs to include information on GPS and a focus on revegetation plans [note request from DEW to keep signage messaging high level and only state that sites will be remediated including revegetation].

Community Engagement

- One-on-one engagement, including letter drops by NPWS staff with residents located near eradication zone at Highbury ahead of tree removal operations. Ongoing residential advice on suspect sightings will be provided by PIRSA Biosecurity through the Plant Health Hotline.

Website information

- PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- ForestrySA website www.forestry.sa.com.au/2023/08/01/giant-pine-scale/
- City of Tea Tree Gully website [Latest news | City of Tea Tree Gully](#)

³ Any external messaging must include consultation with CTTG who will then share the final approved content to residents/local community through their channels.

Social media

- Ongoing social media reminder on Giant Pine Scale and what people should watch out for on PIRSA's Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts. To be also disseminated and amplified through City of Tea Tree Gully social media channels and when required by other GPSWG social.
- Advice on tree removal operations to be provided by relevant land management agencies social media channels

Budget

Currently resourcing for media and communications activities will be met within existing staffing allocations among GPSWG members.

Project management (Giant Pine Scale Working Group)

- PIRSA Media and Communications: Fontella Koleff, Senior Media Adviser - pirsa.media@sa.gov.au
PIRSA Forestry: Rob Robinson, Amy McMurren
PIRSA Biosecurity: David Hubbard
- Australian Forest Products Association: Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @ausfpa.com.au
- ForestrySA: Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Media – WSP Australia: Clause 6(1) (Clause 6(1) @wsp.com), Clause 6(1) @wsp.com
- City of Tea Tree Gully: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @cttg.sa.gov.au
- SA Water: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @sawater.com.au
- Department of Environment and Water: Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (media) - Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au
- University of South Australia: Clause 6(1)
- Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub: Clause 6(1)
- Independent Adviser: Clause 6(1) (Arbor Carbon)

Approval Processes:

PIRSA: Mehdi Doroudi (Chief Executive/Acting Executive Director, Biosecurity), Jo Collins (Executive Director, Industry, Strategy and Partnerships), Rob Robinson (Director, Forest Industries), Nick Secomb (Director Plant and Invasive Species Biosecurity), David Hubbard (Manager, Plant Biosecurity Operations), Amy McMurren (Manager, Forestry)

Giant Pine Scale Working Group (Response Team): Clause 6(1) (Australian Forest Products Association), Clause 6(1) (Forestry SA). In most cases the remainder of group members to be sent any

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advice on collateral, media responses or activity for noting only. Approvals only to be sought if agency/stakeholder are being named or there is a need for collateral/activity be generated by them.

Evaluation

TBD

From: [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEW\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEW\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [@ausfpa.com.au](#)
Cc: [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#)
Subject: GPS - Highbury aqueduct reserve - meeting notes - 5 November 2024
Date: Wednesday, 6 November 2024 5:19:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi all,

Thanks for participating in the meeting yesterday. I have typed up my notes below FYI.

Kind regards, Amy

Tue 5 November 2024 – GPS detections at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve - meeting notes

Participants: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) Amy M, [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#) David H, [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Agenda:

1. Ops plan
2. Comms plan
3. Out-of-session working group paper

Discussion:

[Clause 1\(1\)\(e\)](#)

- NPWS have liaised with tree removal contractors and will soon do a site visit with them. Quotes are due back by **12 November**.
- NPWS provided **letters to 20 residents** regarding the presence of GPS, the restricted area of the Aqueduct, and the development of a plan on how it will be managed. A wider letter drop will be required once a decision is made on tree removals.
- The group was reminded to improve the Draft Operations Plan (refer to actions in the draft out-of-session paper) on the AFPA SharePoint site to ensure version control.
- DS will add modelling info on the rate of spread of GPS.
- NPWS will add remediation cost estimates and quoted tree removal costs.
- PIRSA will follow up about the recent briefing on GPS the Minister for FI which suggested she send a briefing to the Minister for CEW.
- PIRSA to circulate a copy of the updated Comms Plan.
- Wax remover will continue to be used by PIRSA in the interim, where practical, to reduce scale numbers i.e. where exudate can be reached and treated, remembering infestations can be low on the trunk or high in branches.
- The group discussed reasons why jurisdictions may choose to locally eradicate when it was nationally agreed that it was not feasible.
- The group was informed Green Adelaide's GPS detector dog project has commenced. PIRSA has assisted by showing the exudate at the aqueduct to the detector dog and then destroying the exudate, and following

decontamination procedures.

Next meeting is on **15 November** at 1.30 pm.

Amy McMurren | Manager, Forestry

Forest Industries | Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Level 21, 11 Waymouth St, Adelaide, SA

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: 08 8429 0434 | **M:** **Clause 6(1)** | **E:** amy.mcmurren@sa.gov.au

pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Collins, Jo \(PIRSA\)](#); [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#)
Cc: [PIRSA:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: FOR NOTING: City of Tea Tree Gully resident's letter - Giant Pine Scale
Date: Tuesday, 8 April 2025 4:28:08 PM
Attachments: [Silverlake Reserve resident letter-FINAL.docx](#)

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Hi Jo and Rob,

Many apologies I have been caught up with Out of scope today and only just spotted this from the City of Tea Tree Gully.

At last week's Working Group meeting Clause 6(1) advised that the tree removals at Silverlake Reserve will be commencing next week, taking advantage of the school holidays and therefore reducing any risks at the kindergarten.

This afternoon they sent to me their final resident's letter which they are planning to letterbox drop tomorrow (Wednesday). This is based on the agreed lines in our communications plan and is very similar to the earlier residents' letters from DEW and SA Water respectively in relation to their tree removal operations.

I am about to send to Roshni and Lucas now for noting.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
P: +61 8429 0488 | **E:** Fontella.Koleff2@sa.gov.au

From: Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)@cttg.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 April 2025 12:02 PM
To: Koleff, Fontella (PIRSA) <Fontella.Koleff2@sa.gov.au>; McMurren, Amy (PIRSA) <Amy.McMurren@sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Public notification letter final.

Afternoon Amy and Fontella, this is the letter that will be delivered tomorrow.

Regards

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1) | Project Officer, Pest Management
 City of Tea Tree Gully
 Service Centre, 1100 Golden Grove Road, Golden Grove

D 08 8265 8626 | **M** Clause 6(1) | **T** 08 8397 7444

Postal Address 571 Montague Road, Modbury, SA 5092
teatreegully.sa.gov.au

8 April 2025

Dear Resident

Giant pine scale detected in Silverlake Reserve, Highbury

The pest species 'giant pine scale' has been recently detected at Silverlake Reserve, on Silverlake Crescent, Highbury. This infestation was found during surveillance and monitoring for the pest species, which has been underway in the area since the initial detection of giant pine scale at Hope Valley Reservoir and Elliston Reserve in 2023.

Giant pine scale is an insect that sucks the sap of pine trees, leading to the tree's death. Removal of affected trees the only permanent and effective treatment to stop the spread of giant pine scale. The insect only effects pine tee species.

As a priority, the City of Tea Tree Gully is working with Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) and other agencies to respond to the giant pine scale infestation at Silverlake Reserve. This is to reduce the risk of further spread that could impact pine trees in neighbouring streets, parks or gardens, along with South Australia's forestry industry.

While giant pine scale poses no health risk to the local community, human contact is often the cause of the pest's spread, particularly from shoes, clothing, and equipment.

As part of our commitment to public safety and environmental protection, access to the affected area at Silverlake Reserve has been restricted in accordance with relevant state government legislation. This measure is crucial in preventing further contamination and ensuring that the area remains secure.

Felling of infected and high-risk trees is expected to commence in the coming weeks, with felled material to be removed from the reserve.

We understand that removing these trees is a significant loss, however their removal is required to protect other pine trees from the spread of the destructive pest insect, and is in accordance with PIRSA guidance.

Once the tree removals are complete, the restricted area will remain in place for up to 30 days to ensure no live giant pine scale remains onsite.

Revegetation of Silverlake Reserve is also to be considered as part of Council's draft capital works program for the 2025-26 financial year.

For enquiries regarding the management of giant pine scale at Silverlake Reserve, please contact Clause 6(1), Project Officer, Pest Management on 8397 7444.

For further information on giant pine scale, visit PIRSA's website at www.pir.sa.gov.au.

If you see or suspect giant pine scale in the area, please report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Yours sincerely

Clause 6(1)

Project Officer, Pest Management

From: PIRSA:Media
To: Clause 6(1); Clause 6(1) @forestrysa.com.au
Cc: PIRSA:Media; McMurren, Amy (PIRSA)
Subject: FOR URGENT APPROVAL: Media release - DRAFT Scriven CTTG SAPFA - Giant pine scale DEADLINE: C.O.B Today - Tuesday, 27 February
Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2024 11:00:52 AM
Attachments: [Media release - DRAFT Scriven - Giant Pine Scale.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
Importance: High

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Hi Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1),

We have been asked by our Minister's Office to draft a media release on the fact that the quarantine at both Elliston and Highbury Aqueduct Reserves have now ended. Please see attached draft release. This has had feedback and quotes from both DEW and CTTG in regards to the revegetation work and SAPFA quotes from Clause 6(1) for industry comment (I did initially contacted Clause 6(1) but he referred onto Clause 6(1)).

As Incident Controller can you let me know if you are OK with this current version?

As I am going on long service leave at the end of this week and I still have some steps to do to get this finalised I would be most appreciative if you can get back to me by C.O.B today as I would like to try and get a draft release up to the Minister's Office tomorrow (Wednesday, 28 February).

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth Street
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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From: [Dougherty, Tom \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Hubbard, David \(PIRSA\)](#); [Jones, Lucas \(PIRSA\)](#); [Bowman, Troy \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#)
Cc: [Barclay, Ann \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: Giant Pine Scale Hope Valley Response Group - Initial communications materials
Date: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 3:16:05 PM
Attachments: [GPS Letter drop Hope Valley 2025.docx](#)
[GPS Hope Valley Communications Summary.docx](#)
[2025 - GPS Giant Pine Scale - Hope Valley removals - Communications Plan.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[Hope Valley sign mock up.docx](#)

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Hi all, please see attached initial communications materials for review prior to the meeting tomorrow and for discussion.

The items are as follows:

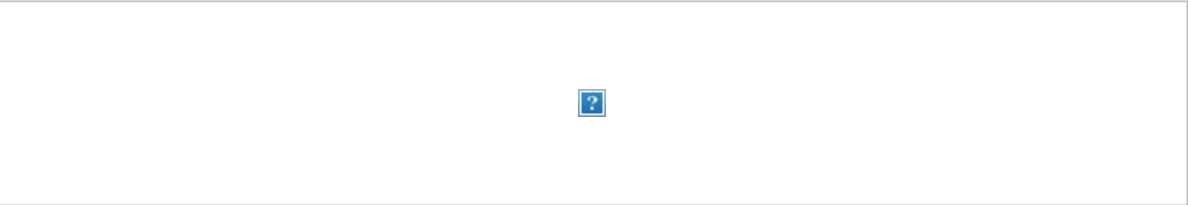
- Communications Plan summary – this is the high level comms summary that has been circulated previously.
- Full communications plan – this is based on the GPS comms plan that had been developed and approved by the wider GPS working group with additional information related to this response added in.
- PIRSA/SA Water letter – letter reviewed by SA Water and PIRSA to distribute to nearby residents. Note some of the operational wording from SA Water has also been reflected in the full comms plan.
- MOCKUP of sign to be installed on site – this is my non-graphically designed mock up of a sign to be installed on site. Once we as a group agree on the wording and content, a graphic designer (either SA Water or a third party) will design it properly. This is based on a sign from Melbourne Water, which is included for reference.

-
Happy to chat through all of this tomorrow.

Thanks

Tom

Tom Dougherty | Media Manager
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth St
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au | **Media Inbox:** PIRSA.Media@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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August 2025

Use both SAW and PIRSA
logos

Dear Resident

I am writing to you about an ongoing serious INSECT PEST incident in your local area.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

In 2023 there was an outbreak of the pest insect giant pine scale (GPS), *Marchalina hellenica*. Since then the State Government has continued to monitor affected areas:

- Highbury Aqueduct
- Hope Valley Reservoir
- Elliston Reserve
- Silverlake Reserve.

Monitoring and management is being implemented through a partnership between the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA), the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), SA Water, ForestrySA, South Australian forest industry stakeholders, and the City of Tea Tree Gully Council.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

- Initial efforts to contain the pest insect involved felling and destroying the infected trees
- This has been largely effective
- Unfortunately there have been recent new detections in Aleppo Pine trees at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve and the area immediately adjacent to its northern boundary along Grand Junction Road. This site is managed by SA Water.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- GPS is a serious biosecurity threat to Adelaide's urban pine trees and the canopy cover, bird habitat and food they provide
- GPS is serious threat to the forestry pine sector that supplies vital construction materials to South Australia's housing industry
- While giant pine scale poses no health risk to the local community, human contact is often the cause of the pest's spread, particularly from shoes, clothing, and equipment.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

- Further tree removals are necessary. To reduce the spread of the insect, restricted areas will be established in the coming weeks within the Reservoir Reserve and along a small section of footpath along nearby Grand Junction Road
- The trees are primarily being removed from an area of the reserve which is not accessible to the public. However, to help reduce the potential for GPS to spread, the restricted areas will incorporate portions of the walking trail within the northern part of the reserve adjacent to Grand Junction Road and Carlsson Place, as well as along Delray Avenue
- During the works, people will still be able to use the public footpaths along these roads
- There will also be an increase in vehicle movements in and out of the area during this work, and we're committed to minimising any impacts to the community where practicable
- A plan for the removal of infected exotic pine trees and any other nearby susceptible pine and conifer species is in development. No native vegetation will be removed
- A plan will also be developed to remediate the affected area after the necessary quarantine period. This will prioritise native vegetation consistent with SA Water's broader land use management approach
- The State Government will continue to monitor Hope Valley for giant pine scale and the health of other pine trees within the Reservoir Reserve.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visitors to Hope Valley Reservoir are requested not to enter the restricted area or remove any wood or pinecones from the reserve
- Report any observations of giant pine scale by contacting the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881
- For enquiries regarding the management of giant pine scale at Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve, please email [\[insert best email contact\]](#).
- Visit pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale

Yours sincerely

SA Water contact person name
TITLE
SA Water

PIRSA contact person name
Title
Department of Primary Industries and Regions

Communications Summary: Giant Pine Scale Tree Removal – Hope Valley Reservoir (August–October 2025)

Feedback from SAW (Clause 6(1)) and Forestry SA (Clause 6(1)) incorporated. AFPA and SAFPA still to respond.

Overview

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is coordinating communications on the removal of approximately 500 *Pinus halepensis* (known as Aleppo Pine or Pinus Tree) trees from Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve and adjacent areas in mid to late 2025 due to the presence of Giant Pine Scale (GPS). This eradication effort targets the last known GPS infestation sites in South Australia.

This operation is critical to protecting South Australia's \$3 billion forest industry—particularly the \$120 million Mount Lofty Ranges plantation estate—from the spread of a pest that, once endemic, cannot be eradicated. If not eradicated, GPS would be an inherent risk to green space trees in metropolitan Adelaide. Tree removal will include a 50-metre buffer around known infested trees to prevent the pest's natural spread before the spring egg hatch.

Communications objectives

- Raise public awareness about the importance of eradicating GPS and the risks it poses.
- Keep local residents informed about operational impacts.
- Coordinate consistent messaging across all partner agencies.
- Provide transparency around safety, environmental management, and work schedules.

Key Messages

- GPS is a serious biosecurity threat to South Australia's pine trees and the forestry industry.
- It also poses an inherent risk to green space trees in metropolitan Adelaide.
- Tree removal is necessary and science-based, targeting *Pinus halepensis* (known as Aleppo Pine or Pinus Tree), and any other susceptible pine and conifer species if present, in affected areas.
- Native pine trees such as Callitris pine are not susceptible to GPS and will not be removed in the operations.
- Given the risk giant pine scale poses to Adelaide's street, park and garden trees, along with South Australia's \$3 billion forest industry; the South Australian forest sector, state government agencies and local government will continue to take steps to protect our trees from this pest.
- Operations will commence once a contractor is engaged and the conditions allow tree removals.
- Community vigilance remains critical—GPS sightings should be reported to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881.

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- Felled material will be quarantined, and revegetation plans are in development for cleared areas. Revegetation will take place after the quarantine period, with the focus on establishing native vegetation.

Responsibilities

PIRSA	Communications lead, comms plan update, media triage, key messaging, and approver of all public info materials.
SA Water	Site management, procurement of removal contractors, on-site signage (printing and installation only), residential letterbox drop (physical delivery only), site access coordination, and movement controls
ForestrySA	Some on-site management, operational oversight
AFPA	Industry coordination, media support, technical surveillance contractor engagement
City of Tea Tree Gully	Comms support

Proposed timeline

Date	Proposed Communications	Responsible agency
Early-mid August	Develop key messaging and procurement timeline prior to bunting installation at Hope Valley and public call on Tenders SA.	PIRSA (with input from all other agencies)
When bunting is installed on site	On-site signage Letterbox drop to nearby residents and businesses	PIRSA (comms lead) SAW (installation and delivery)
Approx. one week prior to first tree removal	Media release announcing removal plans Social media	PIRSA
	Website updates	PIRSA (lead) SAW (basic page linking to PIRSA)
	CTTG newsletter	CTTG
When works commence	Reminder media release about works occurring Social media	PIRSA
When remediation works confirmed/planned to begin	Media release Social media Website updates	SAW

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Media triage

All media enquiries and interview requests to be forwarded to PIRSA Media for response (PIRSA.media@sa.gov.au), with the agency contacted to provide relevant background if available to respond to the questions in their remit.

Interviews will likely be undertaken by PIRSA as the lead agency, though there may be exceptions.

In general, spokespeople will be:

- PIRSA – What we are doing and why, biosecurity, background on GPS, science behind tree removals
- SA Water – Future revegetation plans
- Forestry SA/AFPA/SAFPA – Industry perspective, why industry's preference is eradication.

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Proposed sign – please review content and once approved will be designed properly.



NO ENTRY

Giant Pine Scale infestation in this area

We are removing exotic pine trees in Hope Valley Reservoir to prevent further spread of Giant Pine Scale - a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of pine trees, eventually killing them.

No native trees will be removed.

A revegetation plan is being developed, with the focus on establishing native vegetation.

Scan the QR code for more information or visit pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale



To learn more about Giant Pine Scale and the eradication program, scan the QR code.

To report suspected Giant Pine Scale infestations, please call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 Days a week
Freecall 1800 084 881

For more information, contact:
PIRSA Biosecurity: [DETAILS HERE](#) SA Water: [DETAILS HERE](#).

Melbourne Water sign for information:

The sign is a blue rectangular board with white text and graphics. At the top left are the Melbourne Water and Victoria State Government logos. The main heading 'NO ENTRY' is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Giant Pine Scale infestation in this area' is in a smaller white font. Two columns of text provide details about the tree removal and native tree planting. A QR code is located on the left side, with a note to scan it for more information. The bottom section contains three columns: Acknowledgement, Follow us (with social media icons), and Contact us (with website, phone, and email). A circular inset on the right shows a close-up of a pine tree trunk covered in white scale insects. Decorative blue circles of varying sizes are scattered on the sign.

Melbourne Water | **VICTORIA**
State Government

NO ENTRY

Giant Pine Scale infestation in this area

We are removing pine trees in Cardinia Reservoir to prevent further spread of Giant Pine Scale – a tiny insect that feeds on the sap of pine trees, eventually killing them.

Native trees will be planted in the affected areas, providing habitat and protecting the catchment for generations to come.

Scan the QR code or contact Melbourne Water on 131 722 for more information.

Please scan the QR code or contact us via the below channels for further information.

Acknowledgement
Melbourne Water acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional Owners of this land.

Follow us
f X @
@melbournewater

Contact us
melbournewater.com.au
Phone 131 722
Email enquiry@melbournewater.com.au

Pine with Giant Pine Scale (GPRS)
Image – David Smith

From: [Koleff, Fontella \(PIRSA\)](#)
To: [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEW\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEW\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEW\)](#)
Cc: [PIRSA:Media](#); [DEW:Media](#); [Rodrigues, Sam \(PIRSA\)](#); [Robinson, Rob \(PIRSA\)](#); [McMurren, Amy \(PIRSA\)](#)
Subject: SEEKING URGENT UPDATE: Media release - DRAFT - Close Scriven - Giant Pine Scale - Highbury Aqueduct
Date: Monday, 18 November 2024 9:57:59 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[202411 - Media release - DRAFT - Close Scriven - Giant pine scale - Highbury aqueduct.docx](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#), Amy and [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

This is following on from the flurry of activity late on Friday.

The attached release has now had all relevant PIRSA approvals and is slightly updated on what I sent on Friday night. This has now had all relevant PIRSA approvals.

Minister Scriven’s Media Adviser Roshni Harding has advised me this morning that she should have an answer on whether it will be a ministerial release by late morning (probably around 11am).

So in the meantime I am just seeking at update at your end to see where you are with approvals. I will need to send to working group members too but I am awaiting an outcome of the discussions occurring at the ministerial office level.

Thanks,

Fontella

Fontella Koleff | Senior Media Adviser
Industry, Strategy and Partnerships | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**
Government of South Australia | 11 Waymouth Street
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
T: +61 8 429 0488 | **M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** fontella.koleff2@sa.gov.au
pir.sa.gov.au



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Communications plan

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Giant Pine Scale Tree Removals – Hope Valley Reservoir 2025

Lead agency: Department of Primary Industries and (PIRSA)

Key project partners:

- South Australian Water Corporation (SAW)
- South Australian Forestry Corporation (ForestrySA)
- Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)
- South Australian Forest Products Association (SAFPA).

Key stakeholders:

- City of Tea Tree Gully (CTTG)

Date: August 2025

Background

This communications plan has been prepared to guide the inter-agency Hope Valley Giant Pine Scale Removal Oversight Committee (also known as the Response Team or Oversight Committee) with media and communications activities relating to the 2025 eradication program for the plant pest Giant Pine Scale (GPS) within the Hope Valley Reservoir, which is managed by SA Water.

The removal program involves approximately 500 *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo Pine) and other susceptible species including a 50-metre buffer around known infested trees at the Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve and adjacent CTTG-managed land along Grand Junction Road. The operation is part of the final phase of GPS eradication in SA, targeting the last known infestation sites.

Clause 9(1)

All communications and public information materials to be based on this approved communications plan, and any new messaging or details must be approved by the Oversight Committee before release.

Strategic alignment

- Collaborating across government and industry for better outcomes.
- Protecting South Australia's \$3 billion forest industry, including the \$120 million Mount Lofty Ranges plantation estate, and Adelaide's green space trees.
- Building better relationships with industry and impacted communities.

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Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

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Market context

- South Australia's forest industry has played an important role in the economic development of our state, especially in our regions.
- Timber production in South Australia is 100% plantation based, with more than 3.1 million cubic metres of logs harvested from South Australian plantations in 2022-23.
- In 2022-23 the South Australian forest and wood products industries recorded a revenue of around \$1.57 billion.
- Forestry and forest products industries in South Australia directly employ about 5,200 people and indirectly support employment for another 12,500 people, totalling almost 18,000.

Situational analysis

- Following the discovery of giant pine scale in South Australia and Victoria for the first time in 2014, a decision was made at the national level to implement an eradication plan under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD).
- In 2017, a review of the EPPRD program concluded that it was not technically feasible to eradicate GPS from Australia. A one-year Transition to Management Plan was developed to assist industry to manage the pest in Australia.
- GPS is listed as a declared pest in the Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS), and as a result PIRSA must be informed of any detection within South Australia. The PQS does not regulate the movement of host material into SA, thus there is an open pathway for the pest to move between other states and SA.
- Industry decided against any regulatory controls at the border due to the significant movement of material within the Green Triangle and the possible disruption to industry.
- The endemic status of the pest in Australia means that PIRSA Biosecurity will not initiate an eradication response to this pest and management of GPS rests with land managers, landowners and industry.
- With the sale of forestry goods and services generating revenue of around \$3 billion each year, giant pine scale is potentially a pest of great significance to South Australia's softwood plantation industry.
- In 2023/24 an eradication response was undertaken in the Hope Valley/Highbury area, which was driven by the forest industry with PIRSA Biosecurity providing appropriate technical advice. At the Highbury infestation, the South Australian Government is both the landowner and manager.
- Prior to the 2023/24 detection in the Hope Valley/ Highbury area, ongoing surveillance had indicated that GPS had been eradicated from all previous outbreak sites at Dernancourt, North Adelaide and Highbury. In Victoria, where ongoing activity has been occurring, the forest industry has been active in containing its spread. To date it has not been found in other parts of Australia and has not been detected in any pine plantations.
- Following tree removals at Hope Valley Reservoir in 2023/24, there have been further detections of GPS, requiring a targeted response by PIRSA Biosecurity and the landowner, SA Water.
- To eradicate GPS from Adelaide, Industry (through AFPA and ForestrySA) is investing in and supporting further removals and a surveillance program at Hope Valley, including contributions by an independent expert on GPS from Arbor Carbon.

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- The pest develops into an adult stage where up to 400 eggs retained within the female body will hatch after the death of the female from about November each year. Removing trees, ideally prior to November when mass egg hatching occurs in the pest's life cycle, is critical for reducing impacts and risk to other urban trees and commercial softwood plantations. An operational plan on removing recently identified infested trees and to establish a 50 metre buffer at the Hope Valley location is currently being finalised.
- The Giant Pine Scale Hope Valley Oversight Committee comprising representatives from PIRSA, SA Water, ForestrySA, the Australian Forest Products Association, and the South Australian Forestry Products Association and an independent expert has been formed to coordinate the management of the response and surveillance activities.

Objectives

Project/business objectives

To mitigate the risk of giant pine scale reaching Adelaide's green space trees and South Australia's softwood plantation estate.

Communications objectives

- Raise public awareness about the importance of eradicating GPS and the risks it poses particularly to South Australia's pine plantation forest industry and Adelaide's amenity trees.
- Keep local residents informed about operational impacts and remediation plans.
- Coordinate consistent messaging across all partner agencies.
- Provide transparency around safety, environmental management, and work schedules.
- Raise awareness of the science-based rationale for tree removals, including that native pine species (*Callitris*) are not susceptible to GPS and will not be removed.
- Increase awareness by the general public, property owners, local government and industry stakeholders' understanding of what GPS looks like, the need to report any suspected detections to PIRSA and what they can do to assist in ensuring the elimination of this pest.

Spokesperson(s)

- Media enquiries are to be referred to PIRSA Media pirsa.media@sa.gov.au for triage along with relevant information, then PIRSA will coordinate a response and provide a spokesperson.
- In most cases, the spokesperson will be provided by PIRSA. However, additional spokespeople will be identified depending on the context if appropriate:
 - Industry response – AFPA and SAFPA
 - Rehabilitation following tree removals – SA Water

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- Technical eradication advice – Biosecurity SA

Target audience

Priority	Audience	Why we are communicating with them/ Desired positioning statement
Primary	Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development/Minister for Forest Industries.	Primary stakeholders in the current eradication response.
	Other relevant State Government Ministers including Minister for Housing Infrastructure	Media and communications overseen by the Oversight Committee considers and addresses where possible potential concerns of stakeholders
	Local MPs including member for Newland	
	ForestrySA	
	Australian Forest Products Association	
	South Australian Forest Products Association	
	SA Water	
	Department of Environment and Water (National Parks and Wildlife Service)	
	City of Tea Tree Gully (Elected members and staff)	
Community	Local Residents (City of Tea Tree Gully)	Advising people in close proximity to the detection locations (and other local residents) on the eradication program, including tree removal. Emphasising the risk posed by Giant Pine Scale and the importance in controlling it and why tree removal remains the only effective eradication tool. Advising them on the role they can play in helping to mitigate the risk of spread (what to look out for, how to report it).
	General Public	Reminding the public (non CTTG residents) on the risk posed by the pest and what role they can do to mitigate the risk of spread (what to look out for, how to report it).
	Arborists and gardening services	Advising arborists and professional gardeners of the latest detection, reminding them on the risk posed by the pest and activities that can lead to spread. Reminding them on the need for good biosecurity measures if working in the area, what to look out for and how to report it.
Stakeholder		Keeping them in the loop on response activities
	Green Triangle Forest Industries Hub	Providing forestry technical advice.

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		Keeping them in the loop on response activities
	Green Triangle Forest Health Group (GTFHG), Forestry Centre of Excellence (FCoE)	Providing forestry technical advice.
		Keeping them in the loop on response activities

Barriers/critical success factors

Issue/risk	How this will be managed
Concerns over the potential removal of significant and regulated trees and associated animal welfare concerns	• Reminder that the pest only attacks exotic trees species particularly those from the Pinaceae family and therefore only introduced tree species are being targeted as part of the eradication response. • Advise that as part of remedial works replacement trees will be local indigenous species. • Promote the fact that ALL affected trees need to be removed to ensure the desired outcome of the eradication program (that is, removal of Giant Pine Scale from South Australia). • Advise that if left untreated, giant pine scale will kill affected trees. This response is targeted a relatively small number of affected trees to protect large numbers of amenity and commercial plantings. • Advise that the response team are working on mitigating any risks to native wildlife.
Risk of outbreak of giant pine scale in another area	• Assurance that ongoing surveillance of the pest is occurring. • Reminder why ongoing vigilance is important and why everyone has a role to play and how to report if suspicious of GPS presence. • Should additional outbreak occur: ○ Liaison with relevant stakeholders and affected landholders to commence immediately. ○ Implementation of any eradication program to commence as soon as possible. ○ Ensure residents are advised on any further eradication response/removal of trees as per operational plan.
Complexity and timeliness of communications approvals processes	• This Oversight Committee spans a number of agencies, many with their own media, communications and engagement staff and approvals process. • Process to be established on approvals processes, keeping in mind need for timeliness. • Determine spokespeople ahead of time to be interviewed. • Gain group approval of key messaging to be used where possible.

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Key messages

- GPS is a serious biosecurity threat to South Australia's pine trees and the forestry industry.
- It also poses an inherent risk to green space trees in metropolitan Adelaide.
- Tree removal is necessary and science-based, targeting *Pinus halepensis* (known as Aleppo Pine or Pinus Tree), and any other susceptible pine and conifer species if present, in affected areas.
- Native pine trees such as *Callitris* pine are not susceptible to GPS and will not be removed in the operations.
- Given the risk giant pine scale poses to Adelaide's street, park and garden trees, along with South Australia's \$3 billion forest industry; the South Australian forest sector, state government agencies and local government will continue to take steps to protect our trees from this pest.
- Operations will commence once a contractor is engaged and the conditions allow tree removals.
- The trees are primarily being removed from an area of the reserve which is not accessible to the public, however, to help reduce the potential for GPS to spread, the restricted areas will incorporate portions of the walking trail within the northern part of the reserve adjacent Grand Junction Road and Carlsson Place, as well as along Delray Avenue.
- During the works, people will still be able to use the public footpaths along these roads.
- There will also be an increase in vehicle movements in and out of the area during this work, and we're committed to minimising any impacts to the community where practicable.
- Community vigilance remains critical—GPS sightings should be reported to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881.
- Felled material will be quarantined before being disposed in line with biosecurity considerations.
- Revegetation plans are in development for cleared areas. Revegetation will take place after the quarantine period, with the focus on establishing native vegetation.
- Giant pine scale can be detected by looking for masses of the characteristic white cotton-like secretions the pest leaves on the trunks and branches of pine trees when it feeds.
- If you see or suspect giant pine scale, report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. Further information on the pest is also available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- As part of the ongoing surveillance following the removal of infested trees at Highbury Aqueduct Reserve and Hope Valley Reservoir Reserve in 2023, several more infested trees have been recently found within Hope Valley Reservoir.
- To manage this latest detection, the response team made up of potentially affected stakeholders are meeting regularly. This includes representatives of state government agencies, the South

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Australian forest sector, local government, and others as appropriate. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is leading this response.

- Native to the eastern Mediterranean region, giant pine scale (*Marchalina hellenica*) causes branch dieback, gradual desiccation and tree death. It feeds exclusively on plants from the pine family, such as pines, firs and spruces.
- Removal of affected trees remains the best-known option for eliminating giant pine scale, regarded as the quickest and most effective eradication method against the pest. Tree removal also assists in stopping the pest spreading onto other unaffected pines.
- The current phase of the giant pine scale response involves:
 - Assessing the extent of trees infested with the pest in the affected and surrounding areas, through active and more comprehensive surveillance.
 - Responding to pest reports provided by community members.
 - Removing infested trees.
- Nationally giant pine scale is now regarded as an established pest in Australia, notably in parts of outer Melbourne.
- In addition to this current eradication operation, surveillance is also being undertaken to determine if the pest has spread further.
- Following the removal of infested trees as part of the eradication program. Felled tree material is being quarantined for a minimum of six months to ensure that there is no more living giant pine scale in the product. Giant pine scale cannot survive for long periods away from a living host tree.
- Prior to the felling of any infested trees, any wildlife that have been found to be present, including protected animals and the eggs of protected animals, have been managed appropriately in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Giant pine scale is often spread by human contact, particularly by the pest sticking onto shoes, clothing or equipment.
- Vigilance remains key in the fight against giant pine scale, and the public can play an important role. It is why we are asking everyone to check their pine trees, particularly on the trunks and canopy of trees and if they see anything unusual to report it as soon as possible.
- While all steps are being made to ensure no risk of spread by the pest, particularly through ongoing surveillance, it is possible that any further detection of Giant Pine Scale may require the removal of additional trees to protect the remaining unaffected trees.
- The occurrence of Giant Pine Scale poses no health risk to the local community, or to water quality in the Hope Valley reservoir.

Clause 9(1)

Communications tactics/channels

Media releases

1. Prior to the installation of signage and bunting on site (PIRSA lead, SA Water co-brand)

Topic - Advising people of the eradication program in the Hope Valley Reservoir and why Giant Pine Scale is such a concern, what people should watch out for and how to report it.

Distribution – Metropolitan media outlets.

2. Week prior to works being undertaken (PIRSA lead, SA Water co-brand)

Topic – Reminding people of the eradication works and why the removals are necessary.

3. Conclusion of eradication program

(TBC – to be discussed if this is necessary)

4. Media talking points (provided to Minister, identified PIRSA staff and Oversight Committee members)

Proactive media activity

Gardening talkback

- ABC Weekend Breakfast

Newsletters/Media articles

- City of Tea Tree Gully¹
- Local Government Association
- Forest Industry publications
- Arborists/Garden industry publications
- Any other Oversight Committee stakeholder newsletters/communications channels.

Fact Sheets

- Current fact sheet on giant pine scale available from www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale

¹ Any external messaging must include consultation with CTTG who will then share the final approved content to residents/local community through their channels.

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Signage

- Signage to be developed by PIRSA and installed by SA Water around sites affected by tree removals – signs to include information on GPS and a focus on revegetation plans.

Community Engagement

- One-on-one engagement, including letter drops by SA Water staff with residents located near eradication zone of tree removal operations. Ongoing residential advice on suspect sightings will be provided by PIRSA Biosecurity through the Plant Health Hotline.

Website information

- PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/giant-pine-scale
- ForestrySA website www.forestrysa.com.au/2023/08/01/giant-pine-scale/
- SA Water website [link here](#).

Commented [TD1]: ForestrySA to advise

Commented [TD2]: SA Water to advise link. Suggestion is SA Water has a basic page and then link to PIRSA.

Social media

- Ongoing social media reminder on Giant Pine Scale and what people should watch out for on PIRSA's Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts. To be also disseminated and amplified through SA Water social media channels, and Oversight Committee and CTTG, where required.

Communications budget

- Currently resourcing for media and communications activities will be met within existing staffing allocations among Oversight Committee members.

Project management

- PIRSA Media and Communications: Tom Dougherty, Media Manager - tom.dougherty@sa.gov.au
- PIRSA Forestry: Rob Robinson, Amy McMurren
- PIRSA Biosecurity: David Hubbard
- SA Water: [Clause 6\(1\)](#), [Clause 6\(1\)](#), [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (media) - [Clause 6\(1\)](#) @sawater.com.au
- Australian Forest Products Association: [Clause 6\(1\)](#), [Clause 6\(1\)](#) - [Clause 6\(1\)](#) @ausfpa.com.au
- South Australian Forest Products Association: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)
- ForestrySA: [Clause 6\(1\)](#), [Clause 6\(1\)](#) Media – WSP Australia: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) @wsp.com [Clause 6\(1\)](#) @wsp.com
- City of Tea Tree Gully: TBC
- Department of Environment and Water: TBC

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- Independent Adviser: **Clause 6(1)** (Arbor Carbon)

Approval Processes:

All communications materials to be led by PIRSA with the necessary input from relevant Oversight Committee members, and must have approval by the Committee. Communications materials based purely on approved messaging to be approved by PIRSA and shared with the committee for information.