Two-year transition strategy

To provide the necessary tools and resources to help community, industry and local government manage West Indian drywood termite (WIDT) from 1 July 2023.

Why is this necessary?



The WIDT program has undergone a significant review over the past two years. As a result, when the prevention and control program expired in early 2021, it was not reinstated.



While the Queensland Government has previously undertaken surveillance and control activities, a transition to a community-based approach is necessary to help manage the long-term impacts and minimise the spread of the pest.



A shared approach to minimise biosecurity risks and manage pests and diseases in Queensland is supported by the *Biosecurity Act* 2014.

Key stakeholders:

Building owners in affected areas

Have a general biosecurity obligation to control and minimise the risk of the pest spreading.

Pest controllers

Need to be better equipped to detect and treat infestations.

Timber and forestry industry

Greater awareness of the pest in timber products and impacts of moving product.

Building and construction industry

Awareness of WIDT and reporting obligations.

Local governments

Awareness of WIDT and protection of social infrastructure and heritage assets.

Second-hand furniture sales and disposals

Greater awareness of the risks of moving affected timber and furniture.

Transport and logistics

Greater awareness of the risks of moving infested timber/furniture.

Other states and territories

Preventing spread of WIDT to other parts of Australia and managing any possible market access impacts on moving timber interstate.

How will we achieve it?



Extensive stakeholder communication, education, and awareness to improve understanding of how to manage WIDT.



Research and development focussing on improved detection techniques, alternative treatments and preferred timber host species.



Training and upskilling pest controllers to provide specialist treatment required to detect and treat WIDT.



Working with biosecurity authorities in other states and territories to manage risk of spread of WIDT to areas outside Queensland.

