Phytophthora Dieback: The Importance of Managing Biosecurity Issues within Mining & Restoration

Mrs Lisa-Jane Hults[1]
[1]*Hanson Construction Materials*

The mineral sands in Perth are among the highest quality sands available in the world, and are also one of the most effective transporters of Phytophthera cinnamomi. As the pathogen has spread throughout the Perth Region over the past decades, it has threatened sand supply industries as uninfested sands become increasingly scarce.

Industry guidelines have endeavoured to address working procedures since the 1980's, but it's only due to relatively recent advances in technology that detection and treatment options have become feasible to a wider range of operations. As urban-sprawl continues and the demand for quality materials increases, regulations on the movement and condition of material need to be understood and enforced to ensure that infested areas are contained. Rehabilitated areas within quarrying operations are at particular risk of infestation due to the high movement of external vehicles.

It is important to continue to grow economically, but the preservation and restoration of Western Australia's uniquely bio-diverse landscape and wildlife should hold greater value. If we fail to comprehend the impact of inaction, we will lose so much more than monetary wealth. This presentation will centre on a case study of how Hanson has responded to Phytophthora Dieback, and the associated difficulties within the Basic Raw Materials Industry that all businesses will soon need to address.