

# Biosecurity (Varroa Mite Dangerous Contact Premises Zone) Emergency Order 2022

under the

## Biosecurity Act 2015

I, SATENDRA KUMAR, Director Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity, NSW Chief Plant Protection Officer, with the delegated authority of the Secretary pursuant to section 379(1) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (**the Act**), make the following emergency order under Part 5 of the Act.

Dated this 26th day of June 2022



### **SATENDRA KUMAR**

Director Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity, NSW Chief Plant Protection Officer  
Department of Primary Industries  
Department of Regional NSW

## **Part 1 Preliminary**

### **1 Name of emergency order**

This emergency order is the *Biosecurity (Varroa Mite Dangerous Contact Premises Zone) Emergency Order 2022*.

### **2 Commencement**

This emergency order commences at the time a copy of the order is first published in the NSW Government Gazette or on the Department's website.

### **3 Duration of emergency order [s 45(e), s 48]**

This emergency order has effect for a period of 6 months from the date of commencement.

### **4 Emergency zone [s 45(b), s 49]**

- (1) The *Varroa mite dangerous contact premises emergency zone*, as shown in red on the map in Schedule 1, is the area within a 10 kilometre radius of the dangerous contact premises, including the dangerous contact premises.
- (2) In this clause *dangerous contact premises* means the location at the coordinates:
  - (a) latitude -31.57569 and longitude 148.02430.

### **5 Biosecurity matter and biosecurity risk [s 44(1), s 45(a)]**

- (1) The biosecurity matter which is the subject of the biosecurity emergency is Varroa mite.
- (2) The biosecurity risk that is the subject of the biosecurity emergency is the risk of an adverse effect on the economy and the community that arises from the introduction, presence and spread of Varroa mite within the State.

**Note:** A biosecurity emergency was declared by the *Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Emergency Order 2022* dated 24 June 2022.

### **6 Grounds for Order [s 44(2)]**

- (1) The basis for being satisfied that there is a current biosecurity risk arising from the presence of Varroa mite in the State, is:
  - (a) Varroa mite is prohibited matter throughout the State.
  - (b) As at 26 June 2022, Varroa mite had been detected at several properties across New South Wales, and it is suspected to be present at several other properties across New South Wales.
- (2) Varroa mite is spread by bees and hives that have been in contact with bees for the previous 10 days.
- (3) The basis for being satisfied that the biosecurity risk arising from the presence of Varroa mite in the State may have a significant biosecurity impact is that Varroa mite will have a significant economic impact on the beekeeping industry, which

will in turn will significantly impact pollination dependant industries and the production of horticulture in Australia.

## 7 Definitions

In this emergency order:

***apiary equipment*** means anything that has been used or is designed to be used in relation to the acquisition or keeping of bees or in relation to the processing, handling or storing of apiary products, but does not include a hive.

Note: hive is separately defined

***apiary product*** means anything produced by bees and includes pollen collected by bees, but does not include honey that has been processed.

***dangerous contact premises*** means a premises containing bees for which a direct epidemiological link with the biosecurity matter (varroa mite) has been established.

***feral bees*** mean bees in the wild that have returned to a wild state.

***hive*** means an artificial receptacle designed for housing living bees and its contents.

***bee*** has the same meaning as in the Act.

***person in charge***, in relation to premises, an animal or thing includes:

- (a) the owner of the premises, animal or thing,
- (b) a person who has the premises, animal or thing in their possession, care, custody or control.

***processed***, for honey, means:

- (a) honey that is for human consumption and suitable for retail sale or purchase at a food business, as defined in section 6, *Food Act 2003*, and
- (b) any other honey that has been processed and packaged in such a way as to exclude Varroa mite.

***surveillance action*** means any of the following:

- a) sugar shake: the of process of shaking bees in fine sugar to enable the dislodgement of varroa mite so to be able to detect the presence of varroa mite
- b) brood uncapping: the process of uncapping the bee brood to inspect the brood for the presence of varroa mite
- c) ethanol wash: washing bees in ethanol to detach varroa mites to inspect for the presence of varroa mite

***the Act*** means the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

***Varroa mite*** means *Varroa destructor*.

## **Part 2 Emergency Measures – Varroa mite dangerous contact premises emergency zone**

### **8 Persons or class of persons to whom the measures in this Part apply [s 45(d)]**

- (1) All persons in charge of bees, hives, apiary equipment or premises in the Varroa mite dangerous contact premises emergency zone must comply with and implement the emergency measures specified in this Part.
- (2) If this Part specifies that another person or class of persons must comply with and implement an emergency measure, then the measure applies to that person or class of person.

### **9 Notification of bees [s 50, s 51(a)]**

- (1) A person in charge of any bees must notify the Department of the location of those bees.
- (2) A person in charge of premises who becomes aware of a colony of feral bees which is located on the premises must notify the Department of the location that colony.
- (3) A person who becomes aware of, or suspects the presence of, a colony of feral bees because of any consultation or other professional work carried out at premises must notify the Department of the location of that colony.
- (4) Notifications under this clause must be made:
  - (a) by telephone, to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881,
  - (b) by email, to [hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au), or
  - (c) by electronic transmission, at the location at [Report a Biosecurity Concern \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/report-a-biosecurity-concern).

**Note:** Section 30 of the Act imposes a biosecurity duty on the owner or person in charge of an animal or thing to immediately notify the Department if the person suspects the presence of prohibited matter in the State.

Notifications may be made by telephone to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881 or by email to [hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au).

## **10 Prohibitions on movement [s 50, s 51c]**

A person must not move apiary equipment into or out of the Varroa mite dangerous contact premises emergency zone, unless the person is undertaking a surveillance action and the bees remain on the same premises.

## **11 Apiary products [s 50, s 51(c)]**

- (1) A person in charge of a hive must not remove honey from a hive.
- (2) A person in charge of a hive must not harvest comb honey by removing it from the hive.

## **12 Destruction of bees and hives [s 50, s 51(l), s 55(l), s 91(1)(a), s 122(1)(a)]**

- (1) A person to whom this Part applies must make the bees and any hive of which they have care, custody or control available for destruction and removal by an authorised officer for the purposes of disposal and eradication.
- (2) An authorised officer is authorised to destroy the bees and a hive by:
  - (a) euthanising the bees,
  - (b) making the dead hive bee-proof,
  - (c) cleaning the location of the hive at the premises to remove the dead bees and any apiary products,
  - (d) burning or destroying the hive at the premises or at other premises for burning or destruction at another location, and
  - (e) any other destruction, disposal or eradication functions necessary to eradicate all hosts of Varroa mite and to prevent the survival of undetected hosts within the emergency zone.

## **13 Fipronil Baiting [s 50, s 51(e), (l), s 91(1)(a), s 122(1)(a)]**

- (1) An authorised officer may place fipronil baits on any premises in the Varroa mite dangerous contact premises zone.
- (2) The fipronil baits must be used in accordance with all Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority label directions and permit conditions.

**Note:** Access to residential premises for the purpose of this measure is governed by the Act.

# Schedule 1 – Emergency Zones

