



Varroa mite detection at the Port of Brisbane – QBA Member update 27/02/2024

Current Situation

On the 19th of February 2024, a single varroa mite has been found in a sentinel beehive at the Port of Brisbane after a routine inspection by Biosecurity Queensland. Diagnostic testing has confirmed the species is *Varroa jacobsoni*, not *Varroa destructor*.

Secondary testing is being conducted to determine if the mite is carrying exotic viruses of honeybees, and if any other exotic bee pests are present.

Biosecurity Queensland is undertaking tracing activities to identify the potential source and likelihood of spread. Surveillance is being conducted in conjunction with the Queensland bee industry and the Australian Government to determine if there are any more varroa mites in the surrounding area.

Movement restrictions in place

As a precautionary measure to minimise the risk of varroa mite spread, a movement control order (MCO) is in place.

The MCO applies to all beekeepers who (a) have hives in or (b) have had hives in, these localities within the last 90 days:

Ascot, Balmoral, Banyo, Belmont, Birkdale, Boondall, Brisbane Airport, Bulimba, Cannon Hill, Carina, Carindale, Chandler, Clayfield, Eagle Farm, Geebung, Gumdale, Hamilton, Hemmant, Hendra, Kalinga, Lota, Lytton, Manly, Manly West, Moreton Bay, Morningside, Murarrie, Northgate, Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Nundah, Pinkenba, Port of Brisbane, Ransome, Shorncliffe, Thorneside, Tingalpa, Virginia, Wakerley, Wavell Heights, Wynnum, Wynnum West.

Beekeepers in these areas must:

- **not move any varroa mite carrier** (hives, bees and all associated beekeeping equipment) **into, out of, or within these localities.**
- apply for a [Biosecurity Instrument Permit](#) to move any varroa mite carrier that has been within the localities covered to which the MCO relates in the last 90 days.
- notify Biosecurity Queensland without delay about:
 1. the presence of varroa mite
 2. if you reasonably expect the presence of varroa mite
 3. any hive movements into or out of the localities in the previous 90 days
 4. any bees bought or sold in the last 90 days.
- Biosecurity Queensland encourages beekeepers to continue accessing their hives.
- For information about the pest and what to look out for visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/varroa

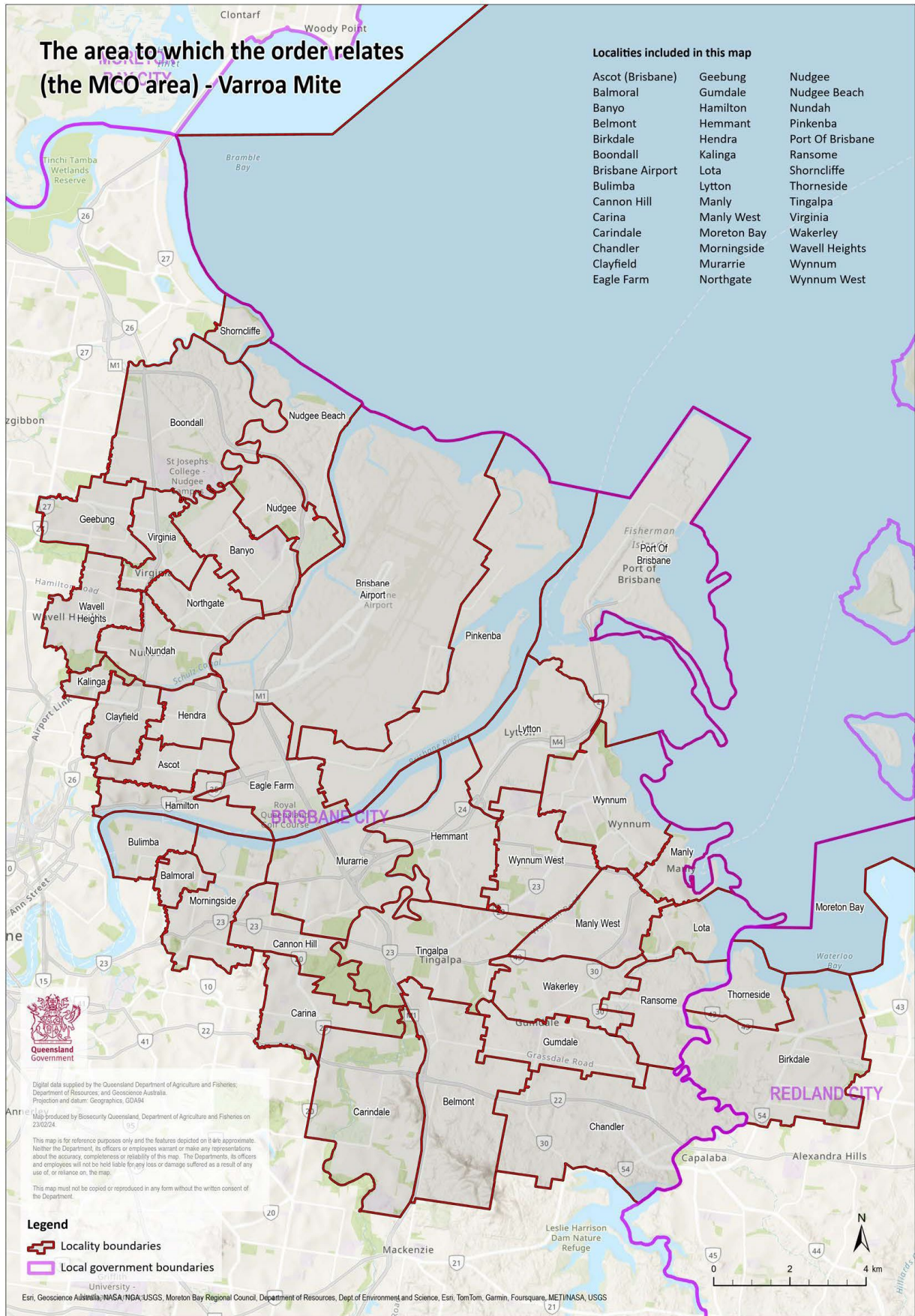


Figure 1 - Movement Control Order Map (26/02/2024)

About Varroa mite

Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*, *V. jacobsoni*) is a tiny parasite that affects Asian and European honeybees. It is considered the greatest threat to Australia's honey and honeybee-pollinated plant industries. Both species are classified as prohibited matter under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014*

What can beekeepers do

- Regularly check your hives for varroa mite and other pests and diseases. Use the alcohol wash method at least every 16 weeks to monitor hives for varroa mite.
- Report the results using the [Bee 123 form](#) or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland's customer service centre [online](#) or on 13 25 23.
- The more checks and reports made by commercial and recreational beekeepers, the more conclusive our information can accurately represent the extent of varroa mite populations throughout the state.
- The QBA stresses early detection is key to containment and tracking of this pest.
- Check your [biosecurity entity registration](#) contact details are up to date and you've listed all apiary sites.
- Stay up to date with the latest varroa mite situation by heading to [managing varroa mite](#) and [subscribing to our e-alerts](#).
- Report varroa mite to Biosecurity Queensland [online](#) or by calling 13 25 23.

QBA Industry Engagement Activities

QBA State Secretary will attend the following events:

- Bayside Beekeepers Information Night – *Wednesday 28/02/2024*
- Northside Beekeepers meeting - *Thursday 29/02/2024*

QBA Resources

- Visit the QBA's [Port of Brisbane Incursion Portal](#) to access additional resources for beekeepers.
- Register to attend one of the [QBA Varroa mite workshops](#) to learn more about Varroa.
- Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) and rewatch past episodes of the QBA's Toolbox talk series.
- Visit our [Varroa Mite Portal](#) for information on the National Transition to Management of *Varroa destructor*
- [Join and support the QBA](#). We are your industry body actively engaged in protecting and preserving beekeeping in Queensland.