



Varroa mite detection at the Port of Brisbane – QBA Member update 05/03/2024

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*.

No further mites have been found.

Biosecurity Queensland has confirmed the presence of Asian honey bees and multiple European honey bee nests within the Port of Brisbane.

Genetic testing has indicated this is a new exotic incursion of Asian honey bee.

All bees have tested negative for exotic bee viruses.

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.

Planning is underway to remove the European honey bee nests. Biosecurity Queensland and Industry continue to conduct surveillance in the Port of Brisbane.

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. (Map attached on the following page)

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.**
- **report any sightings of Asian honey bees**, feral nests/swarms or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to Biosecurity Queensland.
- 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 suspect 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.
- Immediately report unexpected hive deaths, deformed bees, bees with parasites, poor brood patterns and dead brood to Biosecurity Queensland.
- **If you find a swarm of bees, do not collect, touch or move the swarm and report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.**

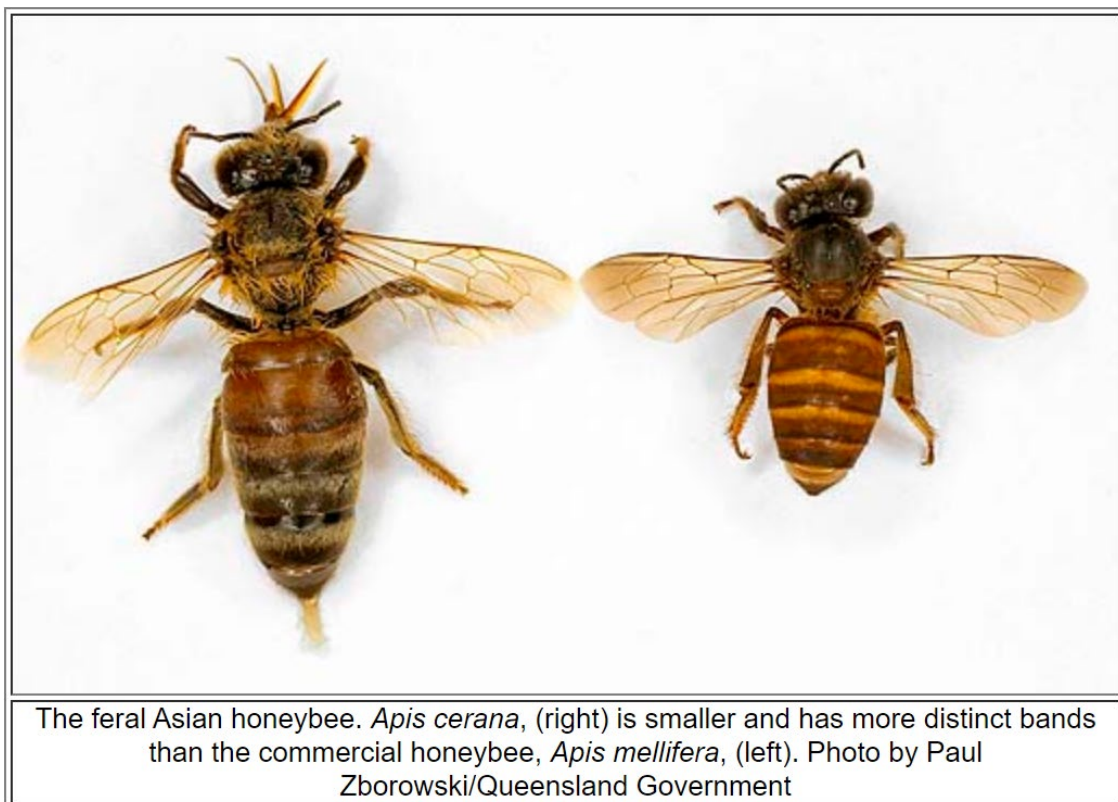
Biosecurity Queensland encourages beekeepers to continue accessing their hives.

All beekeepers are urged to:

- ✓ regularly check your hives for varroa mite and other pests and diseases. Use the alcohol wash method and repeat testing every 16 weeks.
- ✓ Report the results of your varroa mite surveillance to the [Bee 123 portal](#) or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 to report your results by phone.
- ✓ Call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 if you have any questions.

For information about the pest and what to look out for visit www.daf.qld.gov.au/varroa

***Apis mellifera* & *Apis cerana* comparison.**



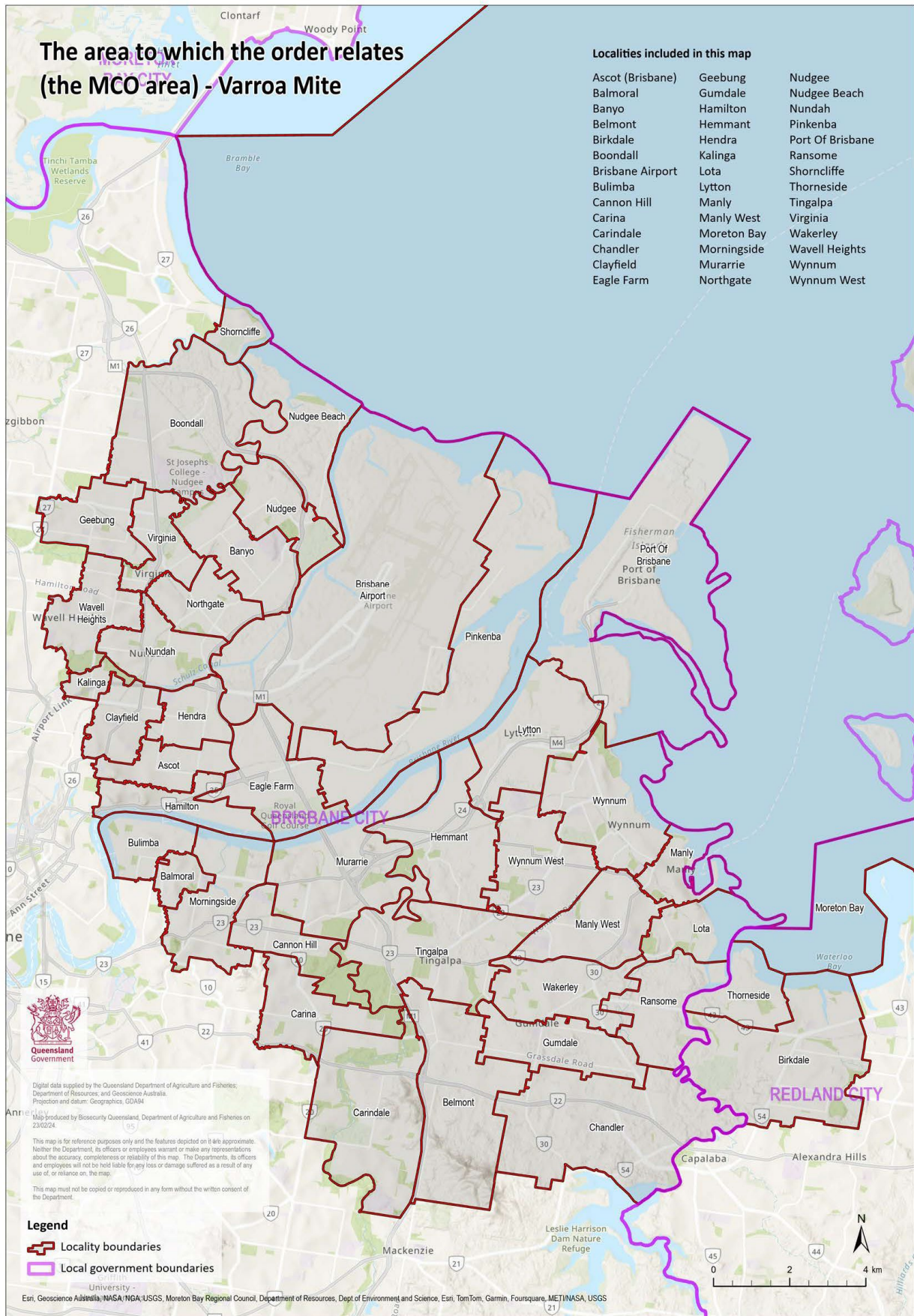


Figure 1 - Movement Control Order Map (26/02/2024)

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

- 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 has attend the following events:

Bayside Beekeepers Information Night – Wednesday 28/02/2024 – DAF Research Station Cleveland.

Meeting Report:

Approximately 80 beekeepers attended this event. Our sincere appreciation to the Bayside Beekeepers for their interest in supporting Biosecurity Queensland and the QBA to brief beekeepers from the club and surrounding areas. Attendees received updates from BQ. All attendees were provided with:

- the 'Movement and Apiary Records withing Queensland' record keeping book
- Alcohol wash jars (provided by the club)
- 'Check your hives for varroa mite' quick reference card
- Copies of the Movement Control Order
- Other general biosecurity and best practice collateral

QBA Actions:

- Consolidate (with BQ) a frequently asked questions (FAQ) quick information guide for beekeepers to explain the MCO in plain English. **COMPLETED. To be distributed via the QBA website and via email 01/03/2024.**

Northside Beekeepers meeting - Thursday 29/02/2024 – Lawnton Showgrounds Pavilion

Meeting Report:

Approximately 80-90 beekeepers attended this event. Our sincere appreciation to the Northside Beekeepers Association for their interest in support Biosecurity Queensland and the QBA to brief beekeepers from the club and surrounding areas. Attendees received updates from BQ. All attendees were provided with:

- the 'Movement and Apiary Records withing Queensland' record keeping book
- Alcohol wash jars (provided by the club)
- 'Check your hives for varroa mite' quick reference card
- Copies of the Movement Control Order
- Other general biosecurity and best practice collateral

QBA Actions:

- Distribution of the BQ FAQ quick information guide for beekeepers to explain the MCO in plain English. Paper copies distributed at the event. **To be distributed via the QBA website and via email 01/03/2024.**

Future Events:

- **QBA Brisbane Branch Meeting – Friday 1st March 2024 – [see QBA events page for additional information. New Members welcome.](#)**
- **QBA Varroa mite Workshops – Monday 4th March to Friday 8th March 2024 – [See QBA events page for more information.](#) **Registrations for Bundaberg & Cairns remain open.****

QBA Resources

- Visit the QBA's [Port of Brisbane Incursion Portal](#) to access additional resources for beekeepers.
- Read the FAQ's: The detection of varroa mite at the Port of Brisbane which can be found on the [QBA Port of Brisbane Incursion Portal](#).
- 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.