



## Varroa mite detection at the Port of Brisbane – QBA Member update 12/03/2024

### Current Situation

On the 19<sup>th</sup> 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*.

Biosecurity Queensland has located a single Asian honey bee nest during enhanced surveillance at the Port of Brisbane. The nest has been destroyed and samples have been sent to examine the nest for mites and exotic viruses. Results of the tests will be communicated once completed.

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.

QBA ILO's are supporting the surveillance efforts in the Port of Brisbane and surrounding areas. At this time only one mite has been found.

### 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, Geelong, 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.**

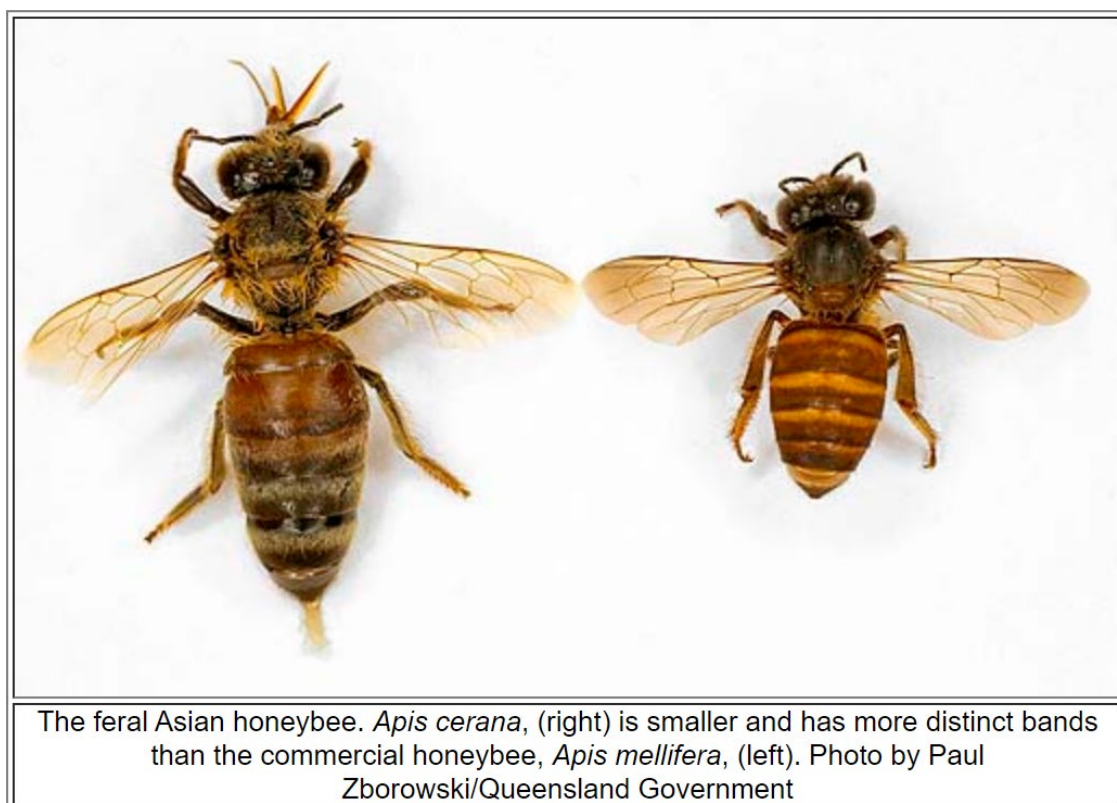
Biosecurity Queensland encourages beekeepers to continue accessing their hives.

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](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/varroa)

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



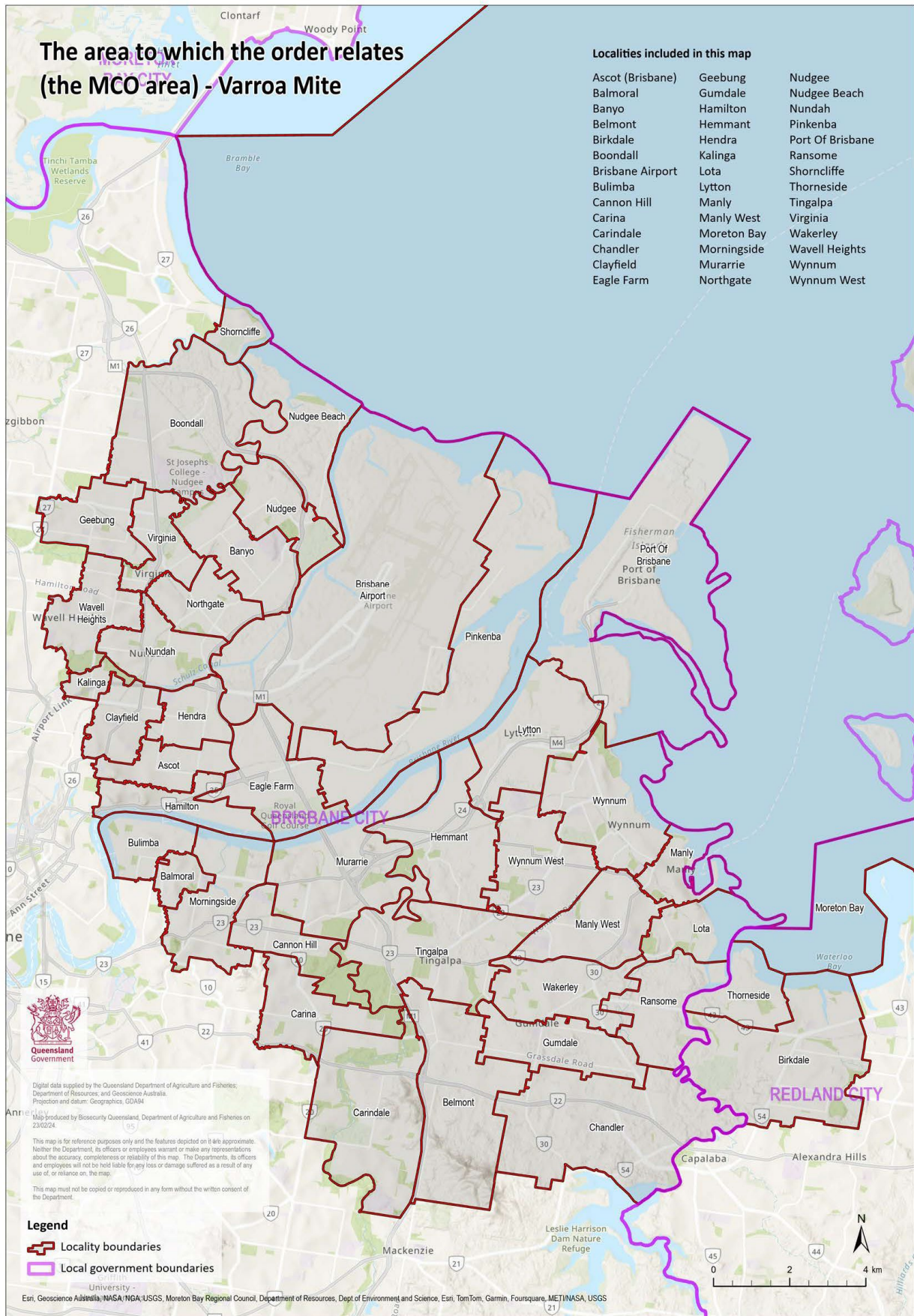


Figure 1 - Movement Control Order Map (26/02/2024)



## 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.
- Continue to monitor hives for varroa mite using the alcohol wash method (at a minimum of 16-weekly intervals)
- Report sightings of Asian honey bees, feral nests/swarms or hives showing symptoms of exotic pests to Biosecurity Queensland.
- DO NOT collect, touch or move any swarming bees within the Movement Control Order Area. Report all swarms and nests within the MCO to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- Immediately report unexpected hive deaths, deformed bees, bees with parasites, poor brood patterns and dead brood to Biosecurity Queensland.
- Check your [biosecurity entity registration](#) contact details are up to date and you've listed all apiary sites.
- Keep accurate and up to date records of hive inspections, hive movements and any bees bought or sold.
- Report varroa mite to Biosecurity Queensland [online](#) or by calling 13 25 23.
- Stay up to date with the latest varroa mite situation by heading to [managing varroa mite](#) and [subscribing to our e-alerts](#).

## 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.