



18 October 2022

## Queensland Beekeepers' Association

### Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 12/10/2022

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 has created much anxiety within the Australian beekeeping industry. In an effort to streamline our communications to our members the QBA will now offer weekly updates to our members and affiliate clubs giving insight into our current areas of focus.

We actively encourage all beekeepers to undertake varroa mite surveillance activities on managed hives and report the results (including negative results) to the Bee 123 portal. For more information on the Bee 123 portal please click [here](#).

### Weekly Update 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

#### Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	337
Total Hives checked	2990
Total hives reported	9837
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	242
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	91
<b>Mites found or suspected</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Bundaberg Pollination Event Varroa Mite Surveillance:

*\*Surveillance activities: alcohol wash, drone uncapping and frame inspection.*

Total Apiaries/Beekeepers tested:	8
Total Hives Inspected:	224
Total Hives Present at surveillance locations:	2413
Total No. locations/properties surveyed:	8

#### Key Points:

- Suspect report of *Varroa destructor* in Queensland (Cardwell area):
  - All the evidence collected to date indicates that the mite was a contamination of a sub-sample collected and that there is no outbreak of *Varroa destructor* in Asian honey bee in Far North Queensland.
  - DAF is awaiting final reports on the surveillance and diagnostic testing conducted around Cardwell, and on an investigation by NSW DPI. Once these are received, Queensland will be seeking agreement from the national Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) to close this suspect incident.

- Biosecurity Instrument Permits have been developed and are being issued for movement into in Qld for:
  - Beehive supers for extraction and used hives for irradiation from the NSW GEZ ('Blue Zone').
  - Apiary equipment and PPE from interstate and NSW blue zone for irradiation for endemic bee pest control and back into NSW and/or to stay in QLD.
  - Used/dead hives from the NSW red and purple zones to QLD for irradiation for endemic bee pest control and back into NSW and/or to stay in QLD.
- Permit conditions and information have been added to the DAF eHub
  - To date (since 9/9/2022): 28 permit applications received
    - 17 permits issued
    - 5 not approved
    - 6 in progress
- Risk assessments for permits currently being developed:
  - Movement of Queen bees from interstate and NSW blue zone.
  - Harmonised movement of hives NSW blue zone to VIC, SA & QLD.
- Braula fly (bee louse) has recently been detected in Victoria and following consultation with industry in each state, it has been agreed by all south-eastern mainland states (SA, VIC, NSW and QLD) to move to not regulating the movement of bees, hives and other carriers in response to this pest. The pest will still remain notifiable in Queensland. BQ will work on legislative amendments required to allow for the proposed change.
- An industry webinar was held on 11 October 2022 in collaboration with the Queensland Beekeepers Association. The webinar was attended by 30 people, with representatives from commercial beekeepers, local councils and hobbyists. The recording of the webinar and the questions has been added to the DAF E-hub, please click [here](#) to watch the webinar.

## AHBIC

AHBIC is seeking further expressions of interest from beekeepers willing to volunteer to assist with control operations for the current Varroa biosecurity emergency.

Volunteer beekeepers have been a vital part of the varroa response, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are not paid for their time, but travel, food and accommodation will be provided, and travel and food costs will be reimbursed.

Operations are currently being carried out at Narrabri, Coffs Harbour and the Hunter region. Volunteers are invited to select their preferred destination, but won't necessarily be deployed to their chosen location.

Please note that volunteers must be members of an AHBIC member body, so please do not share this form publicly.

Beekeepers must register their interest on the on-line form. Click [here](#) to download the on-line form.

## Upcoming Events

- Workshops and Practical Day demonstrations by Biosecurity Queensland's Bee Biosecurity Officer are scheduled:
  - 15 October 2022, Whitsunday Beekeepers at Proserpine
  - 16 October 2022, Townsville & District Beekeepers at Townsville
  - 6 November 2022 with Ipswich and West Moreton Beekeepers at Ipswich.
  - 19 November 2022 with Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers at Nerang

## Past Events:

The recording of AHBIC's online webinar held on 31 August 2022 can now be watched from your computer or electronic device. Please [click here](#) to watch the presentation.

The recording of the Varroa Mite Biosecurity Queensland webinar held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October is now available online and ready for beekeepers to watch at their leisure. This webinar covers topics relating to the current situation update in Queensland, reporting your surveillance results to the Bee 123 app, and applying for a permit to move honey supers, equipment for irradiation and the movement of PPE. Please [click here](#) to watch the webinar.

## QBA Membership:

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association warmly welcome new members to our organisation. To complete an application for membership please visit <https://members.qbabees.org.au/join-us/>

When completing your application, please nominate your preferred branch of the QBA.

## Useful Information Links:

QBA Varroa mite portal - <https://members.qbabees.org.au/QBA-Varroa-Mite-Portal>

DAF Engagement Hub - <https://daf.engagementhub.com.au/varroa-mite>

NSW DPI - <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response>

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