



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 1 December 2023

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22nd June 2022 and the subsequent notice the eradication program will transition to management announced on 20th September 2023 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 (where possible) to our members and affiliate clubs giving insight into our current areas of focus.

Update 1 December 2023

Bee 123 data Spring Blitz Surveillance Program 1st September to current day:

Total beekeepers reporting results	302
Total Hives checked	4230
Total hives reported	23250
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	147
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	155
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 1 December 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 1/12/2023

- This calendar year BQ staff conducted 1060 surveillance activities on 890 hives throughout Queensland including 660 samples.
- BQ continuing to give feed back to the CCEPP on the development of the National T2M response.
- The VMPPP team working with beekeepers and bee clubs on establishing a sentinel hive network on the Qld/NSW border. If any beekeepers would be interested in joining this program please contact the VMPPP team on varroa@daf.qld.gov.au
- The VMPPP team have continued surveillance activities planned for the remainder of the calendar year.
- BQ recommenced the issuing of Biosecurity Instrument Permits for the movement of equipment into Steritech in Brisbane for irradiation.
- The Risk Assessment and Scientific Team evaluating permit conditions for full supers to enter Qld for extraction.
- The social media spring blitz campaign results have shown:
 - Reached over 260,400 people.
 - Total impressions were 510,978 through 6 paid advertisements.
 - Our reach resonated predominantly with males and those aged over 65.
 - Increased ad frequency doesn't necessarily equate to increased engagement.

- Externally facing content on the internet continues to be updated as new information comes to hand.
- Two factsheets will become available in the coming weeks.
 - How to access and use the Bee 123 form
 - Frequently asked questions
- A BQ News article is being developed to increase awareness of the recommencement of some low-risk movement activities from New South Wales into Queensland.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 17 November 2023

The maps below illustrate the current distribution of varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal. The QBA and DAF urge all beekeepers across Queensland to complete varroa mite surveillance activities immediately and report their results (including negative results) to the portal.

The blue dots on the map represent negative surveillance results from 282 varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1st of September 2023

Please see the page below to review the current distribution of varroa mite surveillance reports as collated from data collected from the Bee 123 portal.

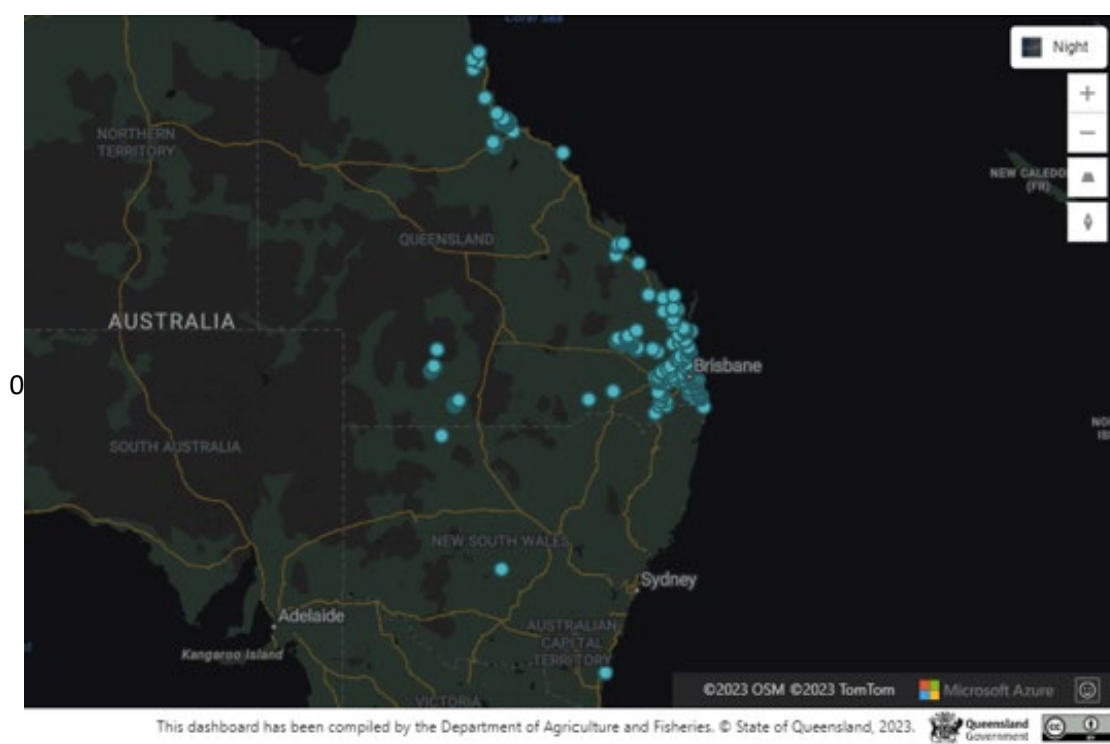


Figure 1 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports – 1 December 2023

AHBIC Industry Briefing – 19 October 2023

As previously communicated, AHBIC held another Industry Briefing detailing the latest information with regards to the current varroa mite situation, providing some clarity for industry members on the transition to management phase.

If you missed watching the webinar, we strongly urge all beekeepers to watch the recording at their earliest convenience. Please click [here](#) to access the recording.

Below is a list of some of the websites referred to in the webinar.

[NSW Department of Primary Industries – Varroa Response](#)

[Agriculture Victoria – Varroa Situation](#)

For information related to the response in QLD, please visit:

[Biosecurity Queensland - Manage Varroa Mite](#)

Video Resources:

The QBA now have a dedicated YouTube channels with multiple playlists offering a dynamic range of subject matter relevant to beekeeping in Queensland. We encourage all members to explore our online video library and recommend members regularly visit our YouTube channel to discover new content from time to time.

If you'd like to visit our YouTube channel, click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/@queenslandbeekeepersassoc>

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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