



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 4th June 2023

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22nd 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.

Weekly Update 4th June 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	810
Total Hives checked	11000
Total hives reported	45011
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	482
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	323
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA weekly update 2 June 2023

QBA Weekly update 2 June 2023

- The Queensland hive check campaign is ongoing, with Facebook ads restarting today until next Friday. The ads will be targeted beekeepers in Mackay, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Townsville and Cairns to encourage reports to Bee123 from beekeepers located in these areas. Another burst of Facebook ads will be undertaken in mid-June with Queensland wide targeting.
- Biosecurity Queensland is requesting that all beekeepers keep records of all hive movements. This is required under legislation as a livestock movement record. BQ is developing a record book as an optional tool to assist beekeepers with recordkeeping which contains information on legislative requirements, general biosecurity obligations, equipment maintenance register and biosecurity checklist. The record book will be launched and available to beekeepers from the middle of June.
- Additional promotional materials are being produced to provide a quick and easy reference to the Bee123 form and steps to take if a suspect mite is found.

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	160
○ In progress	20
○ Not approved/available	11
○ Total completed	129

Permit condition compliance inspections

The Varroa Mite Prevention and Preparedness Program (VMPPP) continues to manage ongoing permitting and compliance requirements for the movement of bees and related varroa mite carriers into Queensland. The VMPPP includes two dedicated Senior Biosecurity Officers whose operational duties encompass surveillance and compliance activities, as well as a dedicated Permitting Officer to oversee bee-related movement applications.

Communications

- Additional communication material is being prepared to encourage beekeepers to check their hives and report to Bee 123:
- DAF continues to meet with the QBA and industry partners fortnightly to discuss progress with prevention activities to support keeping Queensland free of varroa mite.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 4th June 2023

The map below illustrates 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 represent negative surveillance results from **810** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 13th of July.

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 – 4th June 2023

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>

Subscribe to Biosecurity E-Alerts – [Click here.](#)