



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 6th April 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 6th April 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	519
Total Hives checked	5302
Total hives reported	23000
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	353
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	161
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA weekly update 6 April 2023

New biosecurity zone for Queensland & Temporary Suspension of Movements of live bees into Queensland.

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- Queensland is now a varroa mite [biosecurity zone](#). To move bees, beehives, used beekeeping equipment, or bee products (including unprocessed honey) into Queensland from states or territories where varroa mite has been found, you must have a permit issued by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- The number of infected premises in NSW has increased to 153 and are all located in the current red zone. For up-to-date mapping please see the NSW varroa response website.
- Issue of permits for entry of live bees into Queensland continues to be temporarily suspended but is expected to resume soon.
- Queensland DAF continues to work towards allowing the movement of live queen bees from interstate.
- You can apply online for a biosecurity instrument permit or by calling the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.
- The Bee Pest Blitz has begun, the website beepestblitz.com.au contains resources to assist beekeepers to conduct alcohol washes on their hives and report their findings.

- Queensland beekeepers are encouraged to check their hives and report online using the [Bee 123 form](#), even if they do not find any suspect mites. Beekeepers can also call us on 13 25 23 to report their results.
- Download the [stakeholder pack](#).

Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer will be attending:

- Brisbane Amateur Beekeepers meeting 6th April 2023, Sunnybank
- Northside Beekeepers Association meeting 27th April 2023, Lawnton

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	91
○ In progress	13
○ Not approved/available	11
○ Total completed	67

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. Since September 2022, 31 compliance checks for permitted movement have taken place.

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 6 April 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 **519** 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 – 6 April 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>

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