



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 6 October 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.

Update 6 October 2023

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

Total beekeepers reporting results	139
Total Hives checked	1992
Total hives reported	12046
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	70
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	69
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 6 October 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 6/10/2023

- The National Management Group (NMG) met on 19 September 2023 and agreed that eradicating *Varroa destructor* (varroa mite) is no longer feasible based on technical grounds.
- The NMG acknowledged the significant and sustained efforts of the New South Wales (NSW) Government and impacted industries over the eradication response phase since June 2022 and the contribution of both government and industry representatives in guiding response activities.
- A revised response plan (including transition to management activities) is currently being developed. Until a revised plan is approved by the NMG, NSW will operate under an interim strategy. NSW strategy [Varroa mite emergency response \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-safety/animal-diseases-and-zoonoses/varroa-mite-emergency-response)
- Last week, a meeting was held in Canberra of national representatives from both Industry and Governments to discuss a national plan for transition to management. There were robust conversations in this meeting, with NSW agreeing to hold a series of workshops to develop the Transition to Management plan this will then be reviewed by the CCEPPP. The aim is to have this completed in the coming weeks.

What this means for Queensland

- Biosecurity Queensland has paused issuing Biosecurity Instrument Permits for varroa mite carriers into Qld.
- This pause will remain in place whilst Biosecurity Queensland, in consultation with industry, establishes protocols of how Queensland will move forward in a transition to management.
- It is more important than ever that Qld Beekeepers continue looking at their hives, testing and reporting the results.
- The VMPPP operations staff have conducted miticide and sticky mat testing of selected hives in Wrattens and Toolara state forests, that have returned from almond pollination in Victoria. Approximately 100 hives were tested using miticide and sticky mats which will be analysed by Nata-accredited Government laboratories.
- Next week the VMPPP team will continue with miticide and sticky mat testing in the Barakula State Forest. It is expected that approximately 200 hives will be tested.
- The miticide strips and sticky mats are placed in the brood box and remain in position for 24-48 hours before they are removed and packaged for laboratory testing. We would like to thank the affected beekeepers for their support in the conduct of this testing.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 6 October 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 113 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 – 6 October 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.](#)