



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Varroa Mite Update – 8th March 2024

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 8th March 2024

Bee 123 Data Surveillance Program 1st February 2024 to 8th March 2024:

Total beekeepers reporting results	183
Total Hives checked	1608
Total hives reported	7686
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	121
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	60
Mites found or suspected	0

QBA Update 8th March 2024

Transition to Management Update:

The QBA and Biosecurity Queensland have attended regional workshops held across 4 key locations during the past week. Reassuringly, we've seen more than 400 attend these workshops to learn more about the next step as we collectively transition to management of *Varroa destructor*.

AHBIC have advised the QBA will receive a copy of the agreed Transition to Management plan in the near future and we will endeavour to share this with our members as soon as physically possible.

In the meantime, we express our sincere appreciation to the Warwick, Wide Bay, Stanley Rivers and Toowoomba branches for their generous contributions to these events and to the Cairns and District Beekeepers' Association for their significant support in covering the costs of the venue hire.

Initial feedback from the workshops has indicated continuing to offer in person and virtual learning opportunities is of significant value to our members. Where we have the means, both in resources and capacity we will investigate offering another round of workshops.

Border permits:

Biosecurity Queensland is now accepting applications for Biosecurity Instrument Permits for moving honey supers from NSW into QLD, and the movement of Apiary Equipment into Queensland. Please email the VMPPP team at BQ (varroa@daf.qld.gov.au) to learn more about making an application and the conditions you will need to meet in order to be considered to move supers or equipment.

Live bees, queens and their escorts from NSW continue to be restricted from entering Queensland. We ask that you direct your enquires to the VMPPP team for all matters related to any movements from NSW.

Bee 123 Update:

The QBA is again calling on **EVERY** Beekeeper in Queensland to complete varroa surveillance and report your results to the Bee 123 portal as soon as possible.

Given the new detection in the Port of Brisbane, beekeepers within the Movement Control Order area and those located outside the area must engage in varroa mite surveillance now.

We recognise changing our beekeeping behaviour to adjust to surveillance and eventually monitoring for the mite is new to every beekeeper across the country. The frustration and disappointment that a beekeeper currently experiences upon coming across a dead-out will be exacerbated once varroa mite arrives in Queensland. And to take a page from Dr Jack's summary at conference last year, if you're not looking for it now, when you eventually realise you have a mite infestation in your hives it may well be too-late to bring a colony or a load of bees back from the brink of certain mortality.

Please refrain from having a false sense of surety relying on the beekeeper managing their apiary up to the road to be looking for varroa and reporting the surveillance, because they're not. Apiarists' who learn to adapt and adjust to the new varroa surveillance and monitoring regime will live on keeping bees well beyond the initial detection in their colonies. Beekeepers who don't test will become bee-havers in addition to being a costly liability to anyone trying to manage varroa.

Test for varroa and report your results.

Miticide Surveillance Expressions of Interest:

The QBA has long advocated for a dedicated and targeted program to increase the accuracy of varroa mite surveillance across the state. In late November Biosecurity Queensland agreed to undertake a miticide and sticky mat surveillance program mainly targeted at migratory hives.

Biosecurity Queensland initially contacted a large number of beekeepers to ascertain their interest in having their hives surveyed using miticide strips and sticky mats. To date only a small number of beekeepers have provided offered their hives to this important program.

The QBA is now calling all beekeepers interested in having their hives tested for varroa using strips and mats to make contact with the VMPPP team as soon as physically possible.

Beekeepers who offer their hives to be tested (50 hives in a load) will have a greater level of confidence their hives are presently free from varroa whilst also contributing critical information to our state surveillance program that may translate to resources being in prepositioned in readiness to rapidly respond in an effective operation once varroa finally hits the ground.

On the plus side, strip and mat surveillance alleviates the number of alcohol washes one needs to undertake.

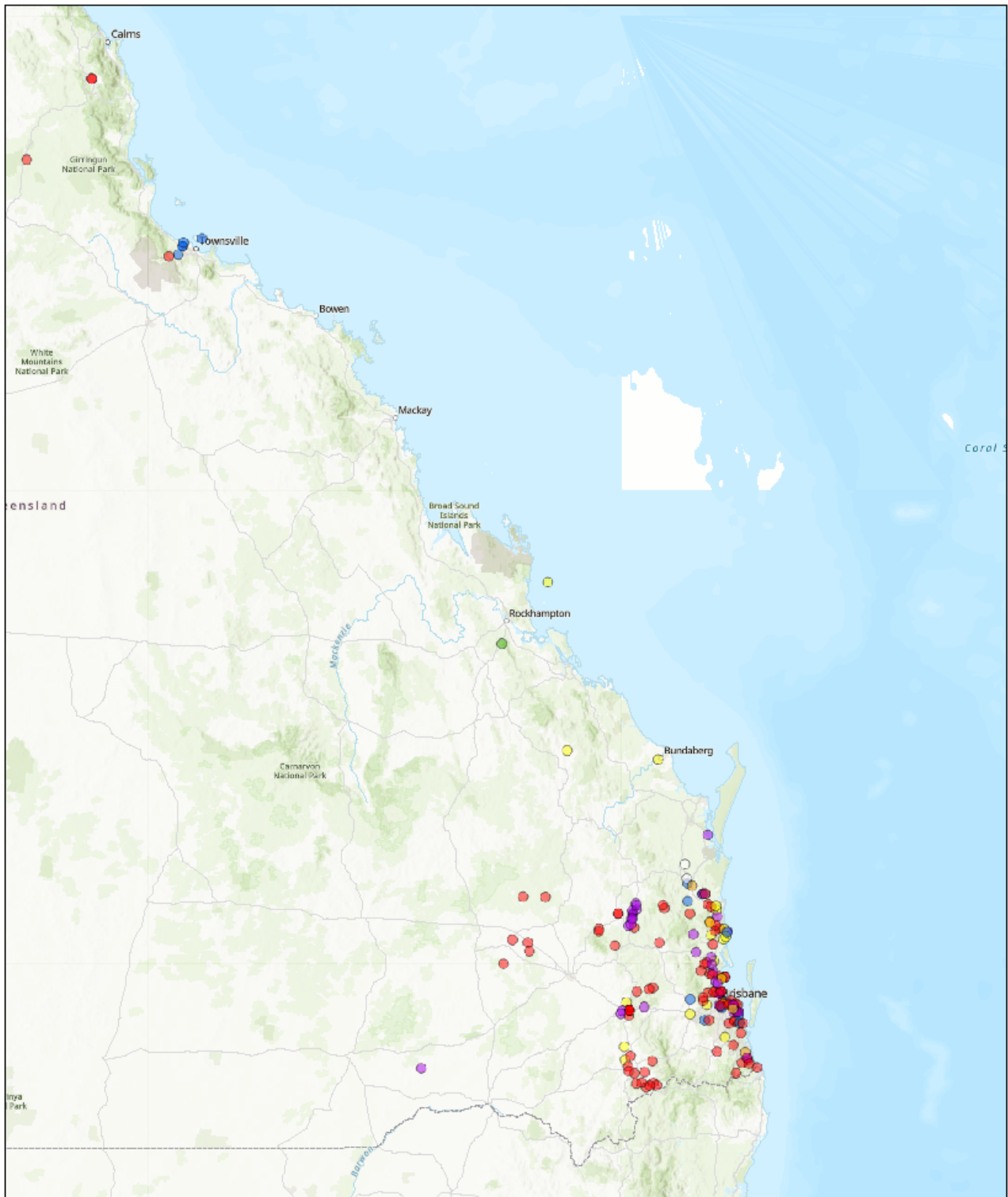
If you're interested in offering your hives to this program, please contact the varroa mite prevention and preparedness team via email varroa@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 8th March 2024

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 **183** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1st February 2024. 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.

Bee123



Legend

Bee Public Surveillance

- Alcohol wash
- Drone uncapping
- Sugar shake
- Alcohol wash and Drone uncapping
- Alcohol wash and Drone uncapping
- Drone uncapping and Sugar shake
- Sugar shake and Alcohol wash
- Alcohol wash, Drone uncapping and Sugar shake

BIOSECURITY QUEENSLAND

0 240
km Scale: 1:4,622,324

Coordinate system: Web Mercator

Created: 08/03/24 17:58:13

Template: A3 Portrait

ALL ENQUIRIES: 13 25 23



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community, S

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>

Want to learn more about the enemy?

In 2023, the QBA made the decision to film presentations from our 2023 State Conference. We are now pleased to advise the recordings of 7 presentations (including the Bee Biosecurity Panel) will be published to our member website in the coming days. Members who attended the conference will be in a position to access these videos for free (as the cost was included within the tickets to conference). The 7 videos and more than 5 hours of content is available to purchase at a cost of \$30.00 per member. This content is exclusive to QBA members only.

QBA Toolbox Talk Episode 7 – Wednesday 24th January 2024

Watch the recording of the talk on [YouTube](#).

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 Varroa Mite Management Hub: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/animal/industries/bees/varroa-mite/manage>

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

Need more information about varroa mite in Queensland?

Call DAF: 13 25 23

Email your inquiry straight to the VMPPP team: varroa@daf.qld.gov.au

Or check the Varroa Management Website from DAF: [Biosecurity Queensland - Manage Varroa Mite](#)

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