



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 9th August 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 9th August 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	994
Total Hives checked	17309
Total hives reported	84025
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	508
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	481
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA fortnightly update 9th August 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 10/08/2023

- As of 9th August 2023, the total numbers of IP's are at 199
- Total area of EEZ is 1,270.000 Ha
- Baiting is active in 15 EEZ sectors
- Queensland continues to operate as a Varroa mite biosecurity zone.
- When transiting through NSW please ensure you have the appropriate movement declaration requirement approved.
- Currently there is no requirement for beekeepers returning from Victoria or South Australia to have a Biosecurity Instrument Permit. This will change if there is a VM detection within these States and a permit will be required to bring varroa mite carriers back into Queensland. NSW will require notification to transit, please contact NSW, Vic, and SA to make sure of each States relevant position.
- VMPPP staff will be attending various public events over the next month. Staff will be onsite at the Hermitage Awards Day and Ag Science Expo on the 15th of August. The theme of this year's competition was the "The Buzz About Bees - Discover the crucial role bees play in the viability of agricultural and horticultural industries and in supporting our very survival on this planet!"
- VMPPP staff will be attending the Ekka supporting QBA and DAF presence.

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	184
○ In progress	15
○ Not approved/available	12
○ Total completed	157

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 9 August 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 **994** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 13th of July 2022.

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 – 10th August 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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