



## Queensland Beekeepers' Association

### Varroa Mite Update – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and the subsequent notice the eradication program will transition to management announced on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Bee 123 Data Surveillance Program 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

Total beekeepers reporting results	327
Total Hives checked	2593
Total hives reported	10994
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	242
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	83
<b>Mites found or suspected</b>	<b>0</b>

### QBA Update 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### Transition to Management Update:

At the present time the QBA executive continue to prioritise the roll out of the *Varroa destructor* transition to management program for the more than 10,000 registered beekeepers of Queensland. We are continuing our engagement with DAF and Biosecurity Queensland in order to deliver all objectives as listed in the National Varroa Mite (*Varroa destructor*) Response plan. A copy of the plan has been posted to our Varroa mite portal, [please click here to download a copy of the plan.](#)

#### 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](mailto: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.

Should you have any questions with relation to border movements, please make contact with the VMPPP team by emailing [varroa@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au).

**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 recent detection of *Varroa jacobsoni* in the Port of Brisbane and the increasing distribution of *Varroa destructor* across NSW, we urge beekeepers to act now and complete varroa mite surveillance, reporting their results to the Bee 123 portal.

At the present time the data reported by the sector falls well short of the 15,000 hives testing target (undertaken every 16 weeks), with the total number of hives tested since 1 February 2024 sitting at 2,593.

With destructor now being reported in Byron Bay, it remains critical beekeepers incorporate varroa mite testing into their regular husbandry practices, especially whilst we have a short window of time to practice these techniques in order to provide best practice care for our bees moving forward. All Queensland based beekeepers are urged to regularly check the NSW DPI heat map to stay across new infested areas within NSW. [Click here to investigate the NSW DPI 'heat-mapping'](#).

Upon the initial detection of Varroa destructor in Queensland, the Bee 123 data will serve as a tool to understand the volume of negative surveillance recently completed within that area and help to the department on the next steps it may take to slow the spread of the mite.

Please, test for varroa and report your results to Bee 123.

### **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.

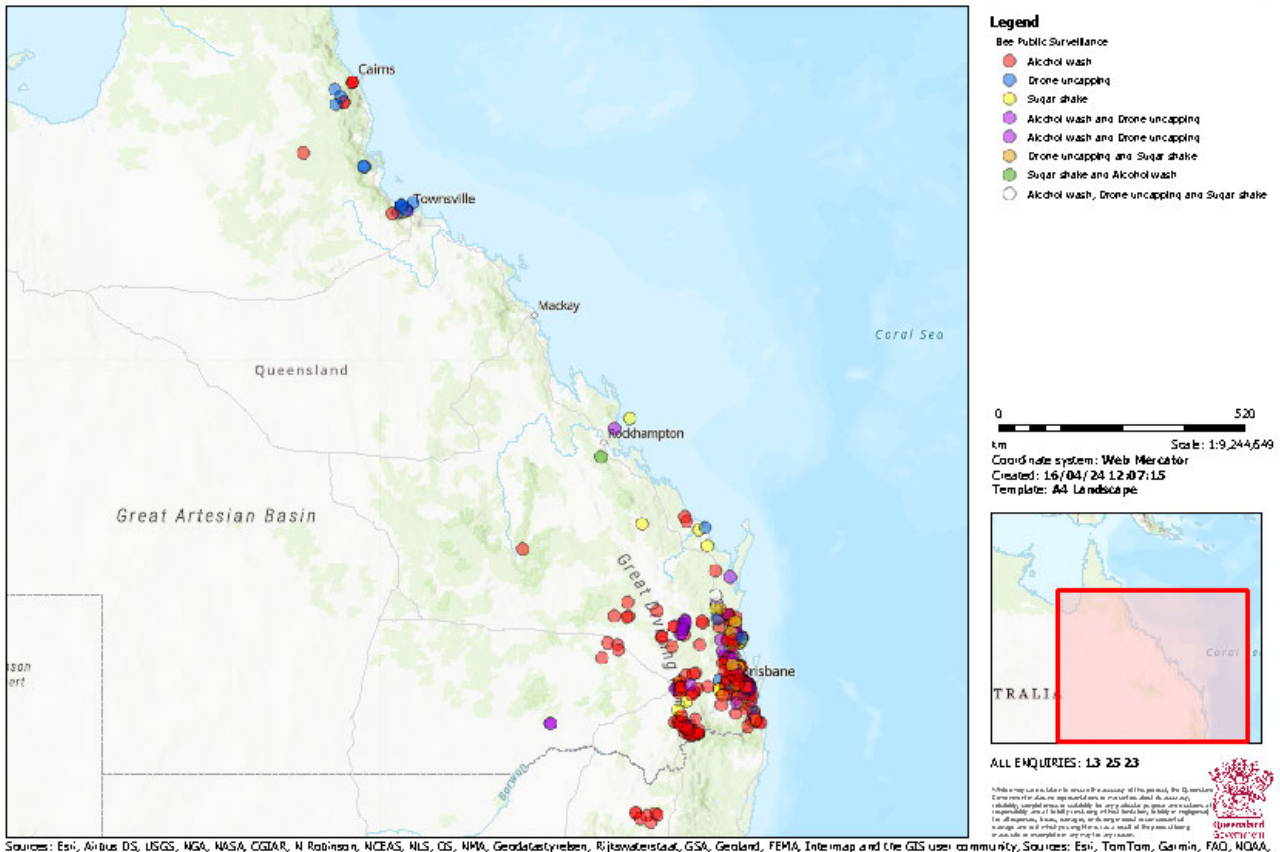
On the plus side, strip and mat surveillance alleviates the number of alcohol washes one needs to undertake.

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](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.

### **Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 15<sup>th</sup> April 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 **327** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:varroa@daf.qld.gov.au)

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

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