



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 15th March 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 15th March 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	500
Total Hives checked	5175
Total hives reported	22392
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	342
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	153
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA weekly update 15 March 2023

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

- 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.
- Two detections reported due to suspected illegal movement of hives from the NSW Eradication Zone (red zone) remain under investigation by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSWDPI).
- Queensland DAF is working with NSW DPI to recommence issuance of movement permits for entry of live bees into Queensland.
- Queensland DAF is also working towards permit conditions allowing movement of live queen bees in the near future.
- Movement of used bee keeping equipment and supers for extraction and irradiation treatment are still being permitted on a case-by-case basis from the GEZ as risks of transporting varroa mites are mitigated through the conditions specified in the permit, including secure transport and irradiation treatment.
- 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.

Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer will be attending:

- Brisbane Amateur Beekeepers meeting 6th April 2023, Sunnybank

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	85
○ In progress	10
○ Not approved/available	11
○ Total completed	64

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 9 March 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 **500** 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 – 15 March 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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