



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 17th 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 17th August 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	1029
Total Hives checked	18393
Total hives reported	86964
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	519
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	505
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA fortnightly update 17th August 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 17/08/2023

- As of 16th August 2023, the total numbers of IP's are at 202
- New detection in the Kempsey region. NSW DPI conducting extensive surveillance in this area to understand spread of mite within this area
- Total area of EEZ is 1,305,000 Ha
- Baiting is active in 12 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.
- Staff were 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!" Gary and Helen Hibbard joined the staff at the stall. Students were very appreciative of the presentation.
- VMPPP staff attended the Ekka supporting QBA and DAF presence.
- VMPPP have improved the mapping capabilities and can now quickly show the source and destination of all movements into Qld.

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	197
○ In progress	16
○ Not approved/available	12
○ Total completed	169

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 17 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 **1029** 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 – 17th 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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