



## Queensland Beekeepers' Association

### Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 17 November 2023

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 17 November 2023

##### Bee 123 data Spring Blitz Surveillance Program 1<sup>st</sup> September to current day:

Total beekeepers reporting results	282
Total Hives checked	4107
Total hives reported	23095
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	141
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	141
<b>Mites found or suspected</b>	<b>0</b>

## Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 17 November 2023

### QBA Weekly Update – 17/11/2023

- A draft response plan (including transition to management activities) has been developed and will be discussed at a CCEPP meeting on the 17.11.2023. Biosecurity Queensland has provided feedback on his draft to be discussed at the CCEPP meeting.
- Biosecurity Queensland has paused issuing Biosecurity Instrument Permits for the movement of bees and varroa mite carriers into Qld. This pause will remain in place whilst Biosecurity Queensland, in consultation with industry, establishes protocols of how Queensland will move forward in a transition to management.
- The results from the miticide and sticky mat testing carried out by the VMPPP team on hives as part of an ongoing investigation were received back from the Laboratory and were negative.
- Rob Stephens, Manager of the VMPPP Team, spoke at the recent Beekeeping Field Day conducted by the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers at Nerang on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.
- Distributed industry update to RBE's outlining Queensland's framework (re transition to management) - sent to approx. 9400 beekeeping RBE's.
- Updated external facing content on DAF websites (including a [new transition to management website](#))

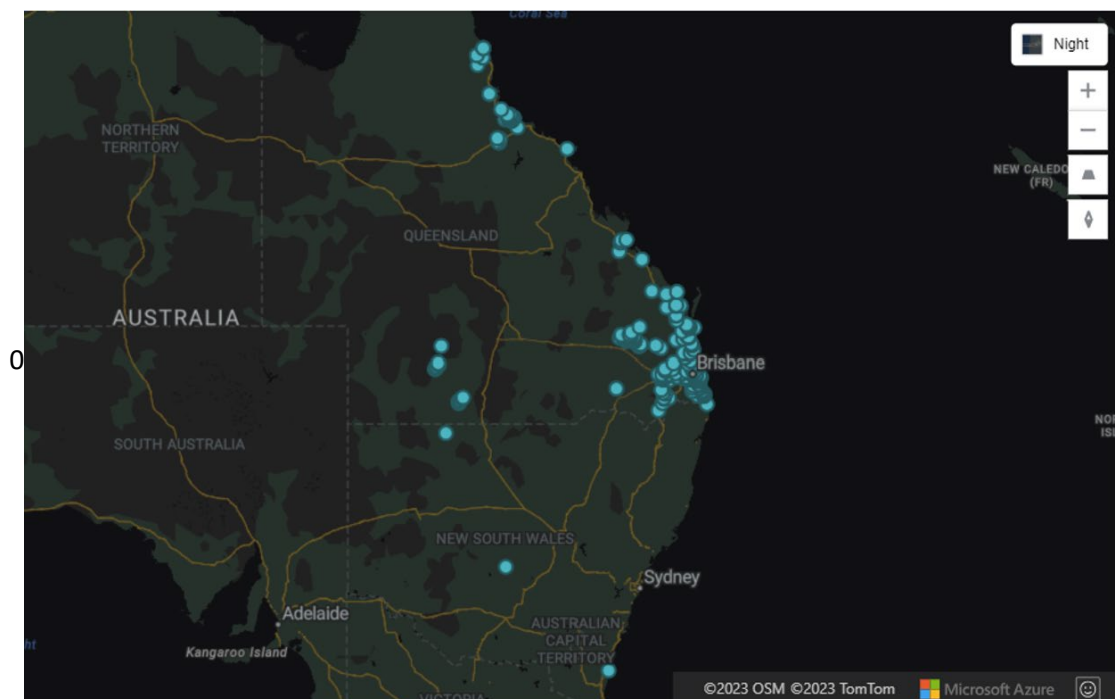
- Responded to social media feedback and direct messages to BQ
- Continued with Spring blitz social media campaign aimed at increasing reports of hive checks. Campaign concludes 18/11/23.

### **Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 17 November 2023**

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 282 varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2023

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 – 17 November 2023*

### **AHBIC Industry Briefing – 19 October 2023**

As previously communicated, AHBIC held another Industry Briefing detailing the latest information with regards to the current varroa mite situation, providing some clarity for industry members on the transition to management phase.

If you missed watching the webinar, we strongly urge all beekeepers to watch the recording at their earliest convenience. Please click [here](#) to access the recording.

Below is a list of some of the websites referred to in the webinar.

[NSW Department of Primary Industries – Varroa Response](#)

[Agriculture Victoria – Varroa Situation](#)

For information related to the response in QLD, please visit:

[Queensland Government - Biosecurity Queensland - Varroa Mite Response](#)

#### **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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