



## Queensland Beekeepers' Association

### Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 20th April 2023

The detection of *Varroa destructor* in Newcastle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

#### Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	588
Total Hives checked	5558
Total hives reported	25940
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	395
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	188
<b>Mites found or suspected</b>	<b>0</b>

## Biosecurity Queensland and QBA weekly update 20 April 2023

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

#### QBA Weekly update 21 April 2023

- An Autumn hive check campaign is underway to encourage the beekeeping community to undertake and report checks for varroa mites.
- Queensland beekeepers are asked to report all hive checks, even if they do not find any suspect mites, using the online [Bee 123 form](#) or calling the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23.
- The number of hives you should check depends on the number of hives you keep per apiary site. If your apiary site has:
  - o between 1 and 100 hives – alcohol wash test up to 48 hives
  - o between 101 and 250 hives – alcohol wash test 55 hives
  - o more than 251 – alcohol wash test 62 hives.
- The goal is to reach 15,000 hive checks by the end of May 2023 to help show Queensland is free from varroa mite.
- An industry webinar was held on Wednesday, 19 April 2023, in collaboration with the Queensland Beekeepers Association. Commercial and recreational beekeepers attended the webinar, and attendees heard the importance of reporting hive checks and what beekeepers can do to support the beekeeping community.
- Plant Health Australia has also launched the Bee Pest Blitz campaign from 1<sup>st</sup> April.
  - o This national month-long call-to-action campaign encourages beekeepers to conduct surveillance during the month of April. The Bee Pest Blitz website [beepestblitz.com.au](http://beepestblitz.com.au) went live on 1 April and encourages beekeepers to conduct alcohol washes on their hives and report their findings.

- Queensland beekeepers are encouraged to check their hives and report online using the even if they do not find any suspect mites
- As of Friday 21 April, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has resumed the issuance of permits for live bees travelling from the NSW General Emergency Zone (GEZ) into Queensland. The movement of queen bees from the GEZ into Queensland will also be considered from this date.
  - Beekeepers wanting to move live bees into Queensland 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:**

- Northside Beekeepers Association meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Lawnton
- Cairns and District Beekeepers Association 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Cairns
- Bayside Beekeepers meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Cleveland
- Northside Beekeepers Annual Biosecurity Workshop 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Geebung
- Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023, Nerang

#### **Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed**

○ Approved	103
○ In progress	22
○ Not approved/available	11
○ Total completed	70

#### **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 20 April 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 **588** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 – 20 April 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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