



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 20 October 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 20 October 2023

Bee 123 data Spring Blitz Surveillance Program 1st September to current day:

Total beekeepers reporting results	220
Total Hives checked	3218
Total hives reported	19973
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	103
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	117
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 20 October 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 20/10/2023

- A revised response plan (including transition to management activities) is currently being developed. Until a revised plan is approved by the NMG, NSW will operate under an interim strategy. NSW strategy [Varroa mite emergency response \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-safety/animal-diseases/varroa-mite-emergency-response)
- 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 VMPPP operations team have completed sticky mat testing on a select group of hives that have recently returned from almond pollination in Victoria. Over the 2-week period approximately 300 miticide strips and sticky mates were placed in these hives. The mats were then tested in the laboratory in Brisbane with all returning a negative result. We would like to thank the affected beekeepers for their support in the conduct of this testing
- The hives that returned from Victoria under permit conditions have now been released from the specific location contained in the permit. These hives are still under other conditions, ongoing testing and record keeping, for another 12 months.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 20 October 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 220 varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 1st 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.

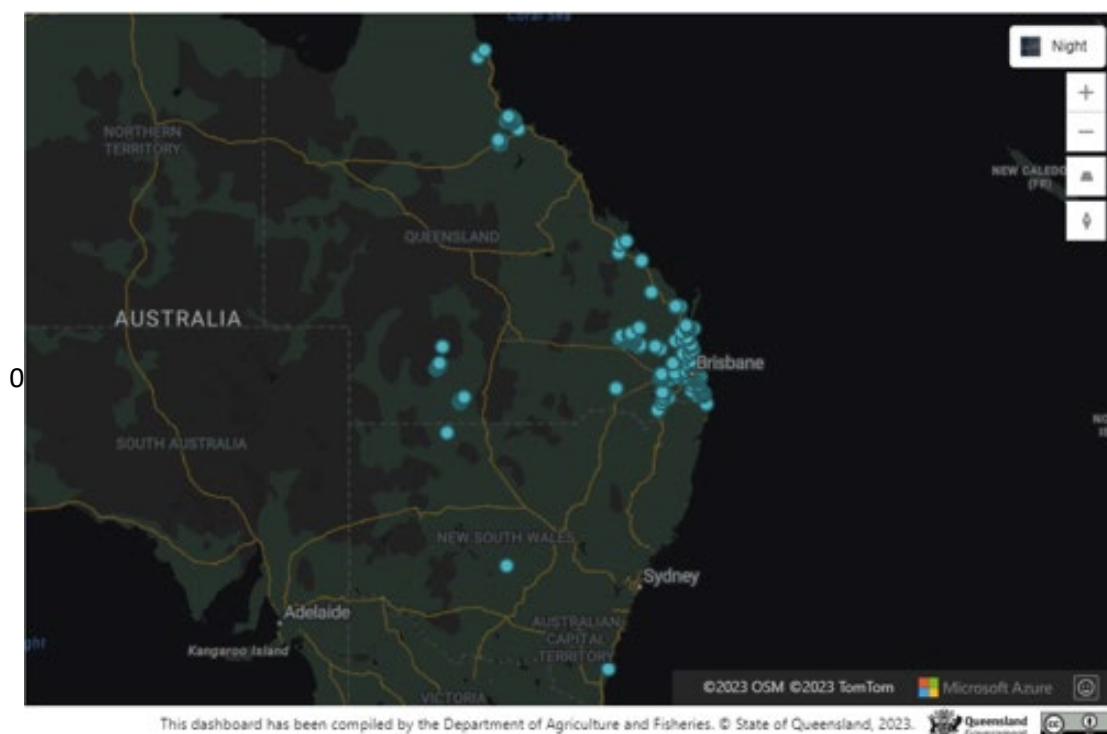


Figure 1 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports – 20 October 2023

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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