



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 21st September 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 21st September 2023

Bee 123 data to program start date of 13th July 2022 to current day:

Total beekeepers reporting results	1188
Total Hives checked	20783
Total hives reported	100023
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	588
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	597
Mites found or suspected	0

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

Total beekeepers reporting results	62
Total Hives checked	1227
Total hives reported	8301
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	18
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	44
Mites found or suspected	0

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided below is indicative of the date of issue of the 15th September 2023 and does not represent the new changes to the national plan to transition from eradication to management as announced on the 20th September 2023. The QBA will issue new information from Biosecurity Queensland as soon as physically possible.

If you have missed the announcement on transition to management, please click on the link below to read the statement from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/communiques/varroa-destructor-19-sept-2023>

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA fortnightly update 15th September 2023

QBA Weekly Update – 15/09/2023

- As of 14th September 2023, the total numbers of IP's are at 277
- NSW DPI has confirmed an additional 10 detections of Varroa mite in the Kempsey area, and 1 within the Western Sydney Eradication (red) zone.

- The CCEPP continues to meet regularly to consider the current state of the response and ongoing response strategy for varroa mite.
- Queensland, in conjunction with Victoria and South Australia, have put a pause on all live bee movements from NSW into these states.
- A communication and engagement campaign started on Monday 11th September. The 'Spring Blitz' campaign will be run on radio, social media, and digital display ads.
 - The campaign will build awareness and encourage beekeepers to undertake hive checks and report to Bee 123, even if they do not find any suspect mites. The aim is to reach 15,000 hive checks to support Queensland's claim of area freedom for varroa mites.
 - The radio ads will be played in radio stations in Southeast Queensland, Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton regions.
 - The digital display ads will be shown on websites and online articles, using targeting options to reach the beekeeping audience.
 - Targeted social media advertising will run concurrently to ensure a coordinated approach and broader reach to beekeeping audiences across Queensland.

Queensland hives returning from Victoria.

- Queensland remains free of varroa mite.
- The whole of the state of Queensland is a Varroa mite biosecurity zone, regulating the movement of any Varroa mite carrier into Queensland from a state or territory where Varroa mite has been detected.
- As no detections have been made in Victoria, on 30 Aug 2023, a [Movement Control Order](#) (MCO) was placed on the beekeepers who had provided pollination services to the almond industry. Due to their proximity to detections in Sunraysia and Riverina, they were placed in a surveillance zone by Victoria.
- Permits were issued to 11 beekeepers to bring 9260 hives back into Qld.
- Extensive negotiations were held with these beekeepers to decide on the locations these hives were allowed to locate on arrival in Qld.
- These hives are under strict conditions of entry, continuing testing, and movement controls.
- These hives were on the outer edge of the 25 km surveillance zone within Victoria.
- These hives are all now back in Queensland.
- These hives have all undergone or are undergoing their compulsory alcohol wash after arrival.
- There will be a round of Government led surveillance on selected hives in addition to the testing requirements prior to their release into the general bee population within Qld.

Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 15th September 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 first map represent negative surveillance results from **1188** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 13th of July 2022.

The blue dots on the second map represent negative surveillance results from 62 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.

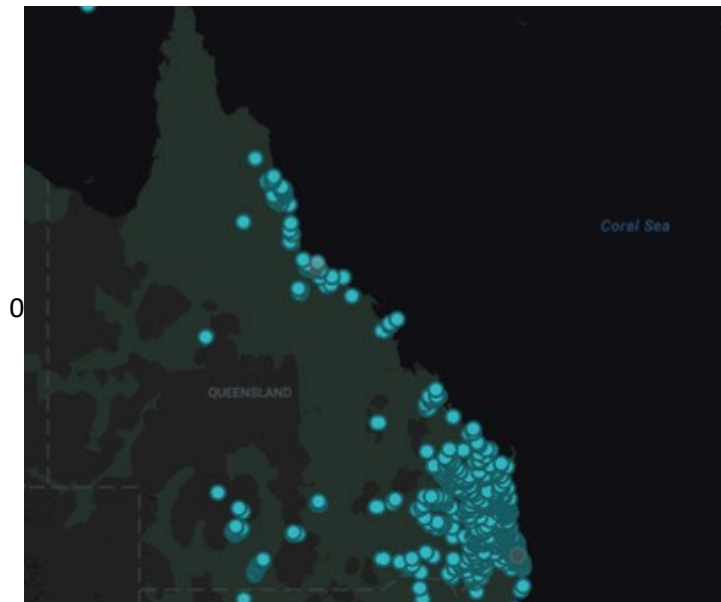


Figure 1 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports – 14th September 2023

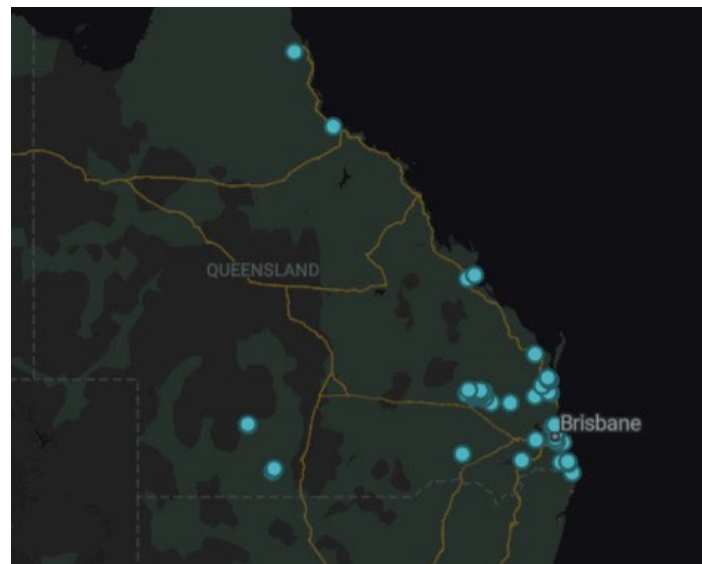


Figure 2 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports 1st September - 21st September 2023

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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