



## Queensland Beekeepers' Association

### Weekly Varroa Mite Update – 27 October 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 27 October 2023

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

Total beekeepers reporting results	232
Total Hives checked	3667
Total hives reported	20622
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	111
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	121
<b>Mites found or suspected</b>	<b>0</b>

## Biosecurity Queensland and QBA Update 27 October 2023

### QBA Weekly Update – 27/10/2023

- 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/topics/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.
- This week members of the VMPPP team carried out miticide and sticky mat testing on hives as part of an ongoing investigation.
- A letter to all registered beekeepers on transition to management has been drafted and it is hoped this will be sent out in the next week.
- Spring blitz campaign continues with the aim of 15,000 hive checks to support Queensland's claim of area freedom for varroa mites. New social media posts will roll out over coming weeks. It is just as important now than ever to report negative test results via [Bee123](https://www.bee123.com.au).
- External facing websites reviewed to include new sample submission pages & post transition mapping.

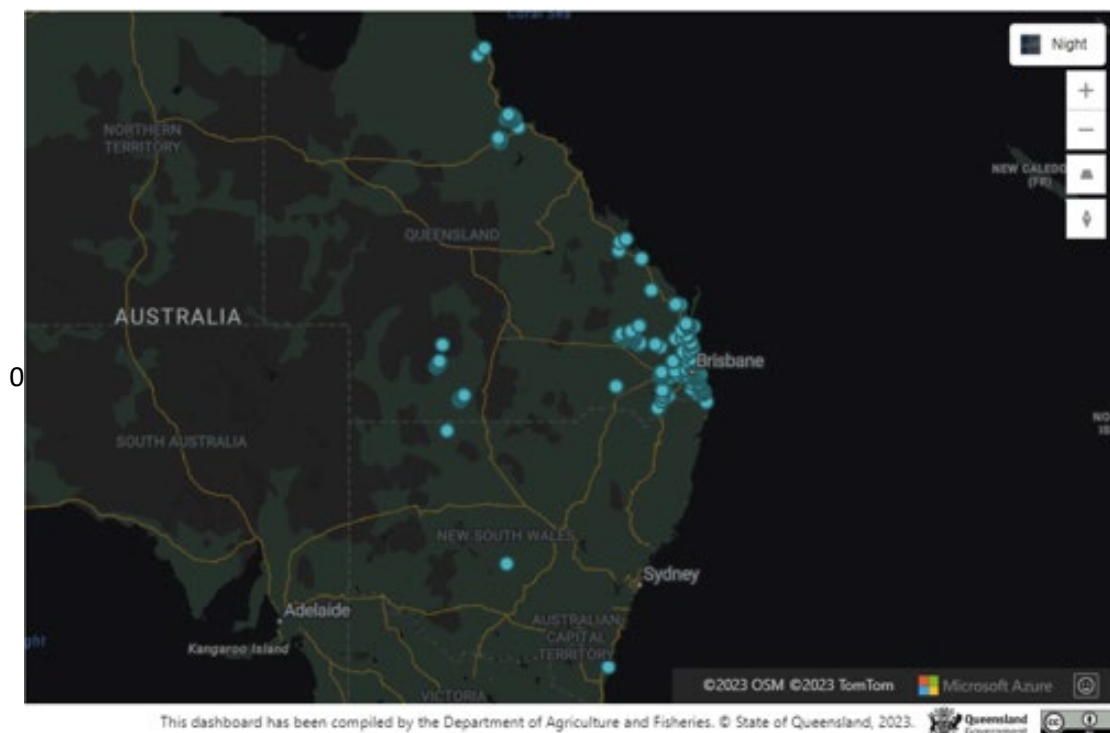
- Rob Stephens, Manager of the VMPPP Team, will be speaking at the upcoming Beekeeping Field Day conducted by the Gold Coast Regional Beekeepers at Nerang on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### Bee 123 QLD Surveillance Dashboard Map 27 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 232 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 – 27 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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