



Queensland Beekeepers' Association

Weekly Varroa Mite Update – Week Ending 30 June 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.

Weekly Update 30th June 2023

Bee 123 data to date:

Total beekeepers reporting results	867
Total Hives checked	12498
Total hives reported	67101
Total No. of Recreational Beekeeper Surveys:	498
Total No. of Commercial Beekeeper Surveys:	364
Mites found or suspected	0

Biosecurity Queensland and QBA weekly update 30 June 2023

QBA Weekly Update - 30/06/2023

- Biosecurity Instrument Permits (BIP) for the movement of bees and related carriers into Queensland continue to be issued although the level of enquiries has slowed
- The VMPPP continues to monitor compliance with BIP movement conditions. When a potential breach of BIP conditions has been reported, the VMPPP team will investigate the circumstances of this alleged breach.
- The VMPPP team will take immediate action upon the reporting alleged breaches and take actions to mitigate the risk posed by potential breach.
- Biosecurity Queensland has provided additional funding to the VMPPP to extend the program for a further 12 months ensuring the Qld Governments commitment to work with industry to combat the threat of Varroa mite to the honey bee industry.
- NSW SITREP number 125 issued 28/06/2023 states number of Infected Premises is 174. This is an increase of 7 from the previous sitrep. This has resulted in a minor increase in the Red and Purple zones in the Hunter and Central Coast regions.

Biosecurity Instrument Permit applications completed

○ Approved	176
○ In progress	17
○ Not approved/available	11
○ Total completed	148

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 30 June 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 **867** varroa mite surveillance activities reported to the Bee 123 portal since the 13th of July 2022.

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.

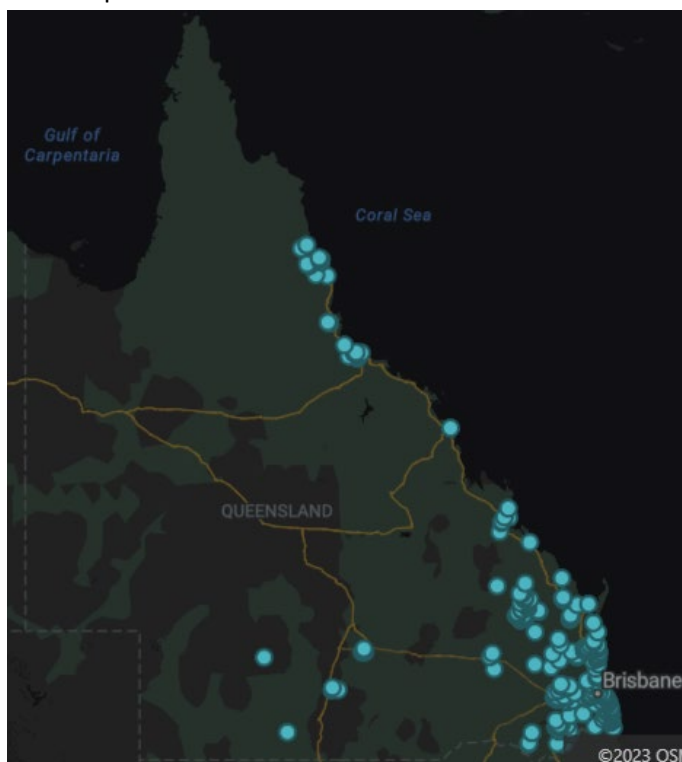


Figure 1 - Bee 123 Surveillance Reports – 30th June 2023

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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