



Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc.

Correspondence to Members circular 17/10/2019

Sent From: QBA Management Committee

Re: Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer appointment.

Dear Members,

On the 1st of October 2019, Dr Rebecca Laws was appointed as the Queensland Bee Biosecurity Officer. The position is a role within Biosecurity Queensland, and will work closely with the QBA and Plant Health Australia to ensure the objectives of the role are met.



I have recently had the opportunity to informally speak with Rebecca (via phone) in her first few days in the position. She is certainly keen to get started in the role, working with the Queensland Beekeeping industry with specific focus on education within pests and disease.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, an Honours degree and PhD in Zoology, and a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. Rebecca has also undertaken a number of research projects and postdoctoral fellowships in Australia and overseas.

Over the past few years Rebecca has worked on several plant biosecurity projects in BQ. Her most recent project was a federal Dept of Agriculture funded project "National priority plant pests (NPPP) true hose and risk pathways" in which she collated and assessed information on hosts, risk pathways, management and treatment of the NPPP, including bee pests and exotic bees as threats.

Rebecca is also an amateur beekeeper and has a sound understanding of the Australian honey bee industry, beekeeping practices and biosecurity.

In our discussion she expressed her interest in getting out of the office and into the field, meeting both commercial and amateur beekeepers. She is keen to expand her knowledge of the industry and is looking forward to working with QBA and PHA to deliver the Queensland BBO work program and the National Bee Biosecurity Program.

Rebecca will be based at the Ecosciences Precinct at Dutton Park in Brisbane. At the moment Rebecca is away from the BBO role for a short period of time to complete a region tour which was a part of her former role within BQ.

Rebecca and I are working to schedule a meeting in the first few weeks of November, where representatives from the QBA Management Committee will have the opportunity to meet with her and begin work on areas where we feel need attention and focus.

A number of branches and affiliates have expressed interest in meeting with Rebecca in the near future, I have discussed this interest with her and together we will work on a plan for upcoming visits and activities that she could be involved in.

If you are from a branch or affiliate and are keen to see Rebecca at your meeting please ask your Branch or Association Secretary to email me an expression of interest. I have already prepared a list that will be provided to Rebecca.

This is an exciting time for the industry and we are optimistic of fostering a great working relationship with Rebecca.