



## Varroa mite response update

Varroa mite was first detected by NSW DPI in surveillance hives at the Port of Newcastle on 22 June 2022. Biosecurity zones were then established and the National Varroa mite Emergency Response Plan put in place.

NSW DPI continues to respond to the Varroa mite incursion with teams testing, tracing, carrying out surveillance, and euthanising affected hives.

We thank you for your cooperation, it is only with the collaboration of all involved that we continue to fight against Varroa mite.

As at 10 January 2023 the response has confirmed 109 Infected Premises (IP) in NSW. You can view the interactive map of the emergency zones at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa).

## Actions for beekeepers

- Check the latest updates and use the online map to determine which biosecurity zone you are in.
- All beekeepers within the eradication (red) and surveillance zones (purple) need to report their hive, preferably online by completing the Beekeeper Notifications - Varroa mite online form
- If you detect Varroa mite, call the Varroa mite Emergency Response Hotline to report your detection on 1800 084 881.
- All registered beekeepers must conduct an alcohol wash at least once in every 16-week period to help facilitate surveillance across the State and ensure our industry remains viable and healthy.
- Beekeepers must report results of alcohol washes (positive or negative) to NSW DPI by calling 1800 084 881 or by filling in the form at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/alcohol-wash](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/alcohol-wash).

## Beekeepers reminded that no bees are allowed in the red zone

NSW DPI reminds beekeepers that it's not permitted to keep honeybees in the red zone until further notice. The aim of the emergency response is complete eradication of Varroa mite. For this to happen, the red zone areas of NSW will need to maintain zero Varroa hosts for a number of years in order to prove the destructive pest is gone. We understand this is a difficult time for those in the red zone and appreciate the co-operation of bee keepers



as we all work together to prevent Varroa establishing in Australia. NSW DPI is investigating opportunities to support pollination across the biosecurity zones as part of the Emergency Response.

Surveillance to support proof of freedom has also started in general biosecurity zone (blue) hives. If you are aware of any hives in red zone areas, such a swarms or newly established hives, you must urgently notify the Varroa mite Emergency Response Hotline on **1800 084 881**. Penalties for contravening an Emergency Order can be up to \$1.1 million or imprisonment for 3 years for individuals and \$2.2 million for corporations.



## Meet our new Response Resilience Officers

We welcome Jodie and Jamie to the team as our new Response Resilience Officers who are here to help communities affected by Varroa mite become more resilient to the impacts of this biosecurity emergency.

They work directly with individuals, businesses and communities impacted by Varroa mite to understand their needs, linking those impacted to assistance measures and support services to aid in their recovery and the recovery of the industry.



Jodie is a crazy dog lady, as opposed to crazy cat lady, who loves her Labradors and can be contacted on **M:** 0477 070 453 | **E:** [jodie.magner@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jodie.magner@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Jamie was once was a chef who cooked regularly for famous musicians and can be contacted on **M:** 0477 544 379 | **E:** [jamie.perry-meijer@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jamie.perry-meijer@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Wild European Honey Bee Management Program



The Wild European Honey Bee Management Program includes the complete removal of wild European honey bees from the red eradication emergency zone. This follows the euthanasia of recreational and commercially managed hives within the red zones and is an important part of the national response plan.

Euthanasia of wild European honey bees will be completed using a commonly available insecticide called fipronil. Wild European honey bee feeder stations will be located and operated by NSW DPI within the 10 kilometre zone around each of the premises where Varroa mite was detected.

To ensure the safety of people, animals, livestock and the environment this work is strictly controlled by NSW DPI, in accordance with an Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit [PER84929v2]. The fipronil feeder stations are designed to exclude other animals and insects, and to prevent contamination of soil and water. While the fipronil bait stations are in active use (up to three hours at a time) the baited area will be supervised by trained staff. For more information including a current listing of where the feeder stations are active, visit: **Wild European Honey Bee Management Program** ([nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au))



## Frequently asked questions

Unsure what you can and can't do in your zone? Or perhaps you want more information about current requirements and procedures.

Take a look at our [Varroa frequently asked questions \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) or contact the Varroa mite Emergency Response Hotline on **1800 084 881**.

## Information about hive movement and swarms

Registered beekeepers can submit a Hive Movement Declaration for moving hives within the blue general emergency zone as long as they meet specific requirements.

Movement of hives within the purple surveillance zone is possible subject to a risk assessment and Movement Permit.

Contact the **Varroa mite Emergency Response hotline on 1800 084 881** for more information. and visit [Movement of hives in general emergency zone \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

For information on how to deal with swarms in the red, purple and blue zones visit [How to deal with a swarm. \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

## Beekeeper wellbeing

NSW DPI recognises the impact the varroa mite incursion and eradication process has on our honeybee industry.

Read our [Assistance Guide for Beekeepers](#) for various assistance available to impacted beekeepers to support them through the emergency response.

Please see contacts below that you can use for the wellbeing of yourself, and others affected by this emergency.

### Beyondblue

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Beyondblue offers online counselling, support, and referrals.

Phone: 1300 22 46 36

### Lifeline

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Confidential crisis support is available via phone, text, or online chat.

Phone: 13 11 14

Lifeline Text: 0447 13 11 14

### NSW Mental Health Line

A mental health professional will answer your call about mental health concerns for you or someone you are concerned about, including children, teens, adults, and older people.

Phone: 1800 011 511

### Rural Adversity Mental Health Program

[www.ramhp.com.au](http://www.ramhp.com.au)

Educating, encouraging, and linking rural people to mental health support.

## Reimbursement is available

Registered recreational beekeepers impacted by Varroa mite in the eradication (red) zone and registered commercial beekeepers in the eradication and surveillance (red and purple) zones can now access reimbursement payments via the Varroa Mite Response program.

For more information on how to apply visit [Reimbursement \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).