



Varroa mite

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Fact Sheet

Reimbursement for registered recreational beekeepers in the red eradication zone

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is continuing efforts to contain and eradicate Varroa mite.

If you are a recreational beekeeper and your hives need to be euthanised there are three options for financial reimbursement.

- Euthanasia of bees and destruction and disposal of hive ware
- Euthanasia of bees and retention of hive ware
- Euthanasia of nucleus hives

An Authorised Officer will arrive on site and work closely with you, recording details of the hives, taking photos and completing the relevant paperwork.

Reimbursement will be managed by the [NSW Rural Assistance Authority](#) (RAA) who will be in contact with you.

You must be [registered with NSW DPI](#) to be eligible for reimbursement.

Euthanasia of bees

Euthanasia may be managed by DPI, actioned by the beekeeper or occur by fipronil which is used to manage wild European honey bees. Contact DPI on 1800 084 881 to discuss the options for your hive. Hive destruction by euthanasia is ideally performed in the evening when bees have returned to their hive. Once a hive has been euthanised it will need to be wrapped in plastic and sealed for a minimum of 21 days before it is inspected, and euthanasia confirmed by an Authorised Officer.

Disposal of hives

After the bees have been euthanised, you can have your hives disposed of by NSW DPI or keep and clean them yourself. The Authorised Officer on site will discuss this process further.

Hive-ware able to be retained includes the super hive body, frames, lid, hive base and accessories.

Reimbursement

The value of reimbursement in each case has been calculated based on market value of new standard hives and colonies.

- Destruction and disposal of a full-size hive: \$550 dollars per hive.
- Euthanised hive - retention of hive ware: \$200 per hive.
- Euthanised Nucleus hives - \$200. (You can either keep or destroy and dispose of the nucleus hive ware. The amount of reimbursement will be the same).

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* states that compensation is to be paid for bees and property destroyed under an emergency order at market value unless agreed. Recreational beekeepers who retain hives must not restock a hive with bees without approval.

For more information visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa