



Varroa mite

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Surveillance and Notification Zone – Fact Sheet

Different restrictions apply depending on where your honeybees and hives are located.

Note: beekeepers in all emergency zones which can be seen on the live map at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** must notify NSW DPI of the location of their hives.

What are the surveillance and notification zones?

The purple shows the 25km surveillance zones, where officials are monitoring and inspecting managed and feral honeybees to limit the likelihood of incursion into this zone.

The yellow represents the 50km biosecurity notification zones and beekeepers within that area must notify NSW DPI of the locations of their hives.

What can beekeepers in surveillance and notification zones do?

Beekeepers with hives in the surveillance and notification zones are allowed to work those hives.

Those beekeepers can:

- Remove honey from hives provided:
 - The beekeepers shed and apiary are within the same emergency zone.
 - The beekeeper must take all practicable measures to clear all bees from the supers.
 - Honey supers on vehicles must be bee proof before leaving site and remain bee proof until arriving at the shed.
 - Supers must be transited directly to their shed and supers must be stored in an enclosed, bee proof shed.
 - Vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned of any honey and wax once unloaded.
- Place empty supers on hives provided:
 - The supers have been in the shed for 21 days prior and have had no contact with bees during the 21 days.
 - Supers may not go from a shed to an apiary if the shed and apiary are in different zones.
- Feed bees using permitted bee feeders (a device for feeding bees that can only be accessed from inside that hive – includes top hive feeders and frame feeders. Permitted feeders must be new or not have been in contact with bees for 10 consecutive days before installation.
- Move food grade (processed) honey between zones.
- Conduct alcohol washes or sugar shake tests on your hives to check for Varroa mite.
- Remove honey from a flow hive via a tap.

Beekeepers must:

- Notify NSW DPI of any hives you are responsible for within the eradication (red), surveillance (purple) or notification (yellow) zones, preferably online by completing the [Beekeeper Notifications - Varroa mite online form](#).

- Notify the Department of any colonies of feral honeybees that you are aware of.
- If you detect Varroa mite in a hive you are responsible for, call the **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline to report your detection on 1800 084 881** (9am to 5pm, 7 days a week).

What can't I do?

Beekeepers in surveillance and notification zones must not:

- Move hives, brood boxes, nucleus hives, packaged bees or queen bees anywhere, including within the same zone.

Your wellbeing

Stressful events can cause feelings of worry and unease, especially where there are levels of uncertainty involved, but there are things you can do to take care of yourself.

In tough times we need to remember to look after ourselves. As much as possible, maintaining routines with good diet, exercise, and sleep will increase your capacity to deal with stress.

This is the time to stay connected with family and friends and seek for support when you need it.

- Mental health support is available through
- NSW Mental Health Line, 1800 011 511 (24/7)
- [Beyond Blue](#), 1300 22 46 36
- [Lifeline](#), 13 11 14
- [Rural Adversity Mental Health Program](#)