



Varroa mite

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Eradication Zones – 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 www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa must notify NSW DPI of the location of their hives.

What is the Eradication (red) Zone (10km)?

The red coloured areas on the live map represent the eradication zones where honeybee hives will be euthanised.

If you have honeybee colonies or hives in an eradication zone, you must tell NSW DPI where they are. This includes queen honeybees in cages and packaged honeybees.

If you find varroa mite in a hive you are responsible for, you must notify NSW DPI by:

Calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, **1800 084 881** (9am to 5pm, 7 days a week) or

Completing the [Beekeeper Notifications - Varroa mite online form](#)

What should beekeepers in eradication zones do?

- Check the latest updates at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa and use the online map to confirm which zone(s) your hives are in.
- 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 I do?

- Harvest honey or honeycomb within 48 hours of being told by an authorised officer that your bees will be euthanised.
- Place empty supers on hives to manage swarming if not infected or suspect premises.
- Take action to manage American Foul Brood, small hive beetle, dead out hives and queenless hives.

All these actions are subject to strict conditions. More information on the red zone conditions can be found at the Varroa information page at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa.

What can't I do?

Beekeepers in eradication (red) zones must not:

- Move hives or honeybees away from their current site
- Move apiary equipment outside the zone

- Euthanise hives, burn or otherwise dispose of equipment (unless directed by an authorised biosecurity officer)
- Tamper with bees and hives, except as permitted above

When will I be visited by DPI?

Targeted surveillance has provided a clearer picture of the current spread of Varroa mite. The priority of the emergency response has now returned to euthanising known infested hives and conducting more intensive surveillance within the red zone to identify any other hives that will require euthanising.

When an authorised officer is tasked to visit you to discuss or work with your bees, they will be in touch via the contact details we have listed for you (phone call, text or email). They will inform you of the address they are going to visit.

You don't have to change your usual schedule in the meantime.

What will happen to my equipment?

Unfortunately, in some circumstances it may be necessary to euthanise honeybee colonies in the eradication zones and destroy internal hive equipment such as brood and honey frames.

However, NSW DPI has completed a risk assessment on options to decontaminate external equipment such as hive boxes, pallets and straps as well as metal ware so they can be retained by beekeepers.

The response plan has been updated so equipment will only be destroyed when a risk assessment deems it necessary.

When can I have bees again in the eradication zone?

The response plan for the eradication of Varroa mite in NSW follows a strategy agreed between the apiary industry, NSW DPI, neighbouring jurisdictions and the Commonwealth.

The aim of the response within the eradication zones is to eradicate all hosts of Varroa and maintain a program of host eradication in each zone for **three years** to minimise the risk of reintroduction of Varroa or survival of Varroa on undetected hosts within the zones.

Reimbursement for registered recreational beekeepers in red eradication zones

Recreational beekeepers affected by varroa mite will be reimbursed for the destruction of their hives and bees and other property. If you are a recreational beekeeper and your hives are to be euthanised within a red eradication zone, there are three options for reimbursement.

- Destruction and disposal of bees and hive ware
- Euthanised bee colony and keep hive ware
- Euthanised nucleus hives

For more information on reimbursements please visit the Varroa information page at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa.