

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

BEES

The NSW beekeeping industry is estimated to contribute \$36 million annually, representing 40-45% of Australia's honey crop. Australian beekeepers provide an important pollination service for our horticultural and crop industries estimated at \$3.8 billion annually for the Australian economy. Bee pests and diseases, both endemic and exotic, can have a financial impact as a result of lost production or increased costs of production.

The biosecurity framework and tools safeguard our economy, environment and community.

This factsheet provides a summary of management arrangements for bee biosecurity risks in NSW. More detailed information is available in the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017 and other documents at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact



! GENERAL BIOSECURITY DUTY

● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT, ELIMINATE & MINIMISE RISKS

- Any beekeeper or person working with bees, hives, apiary equipment or apiary products has a responsibility for managing biosecurity risks that they know about or could reasonably be expected to know about
- Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice sets out good biosecurity guidelines
- People dealing with bees should know how to minimise the impact and spread of brood disease, for example, by ensuring good hygiene is practised when handling apiary products

! REGISTRATION

- Registration is compulsory for all people who keep honey bees (*Apis mellifera*)
- Even if you only have one hive you must register with NSW DPI
- Any existing registration under the *Apiaries Act 1985* will continue under the Biosecurity Act
- When your current registration expires, you apply for a new registration under the Biosecurity Act
- An important condition of registration is to comply with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice. A copy of the code will be provided to all registered beekeepers

! MANDATORY MEASURES

● OUTCOME IS TO MANAGE AND CONTROL THE RISK OF BEE PESTS AND DISEASES

- Duty to notify within one working day of becoming aware of the presence or suspected presence of American foulbrood, European foulbrood, nose mite, small hive beetle, or chalkbrood
- Prohibit the importation into NSW of certain carriers that are suspected to be infected or known to be infected with American foulbrood
- Prohibit the importation into NSW of carriers from any place where braula fly has been detected
- Carriers include a bee, a hive and its contents, an apiary product and apiary equipment
- Honey not to be exposed to robber bees
- Access to hives must be clear from obstruction that could prevent or impede any inspection of the hive
- Offences apply for failing to meet these obligations

REGISTRATION FEES are used to support good biosecurity management practices and activities such as surveillance and traceability. The registration fee will also contribute to the resourcing of increased communication and engagement across the sector to achieve these outcomes.

! PROHIBITED MATTER

● OUTCOME IS TO PREVENT ENTRY INTO NSW

- Listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act
- Includes acariasis tracheal mite, tropilaelaps mite, varroa mite, braula fly, Africanised honeybee, dwarf honeybee, giant honeybee, Asian honeybee
- Duty to notify presence or suspected presence

- Offence to deal with or possess prohibited matter
- Authorised officers can accept a biosecurity undertaking from a beekeeper or issue a biosecurity direction to manage a disease or pest
- Duty not to test or attempt to test unless certain conditions are met
- Offence to deal with or possess prohibited matter

DEFINITIONS

General biosecurity duty

The general biosecurity duty can apply to anyone. It provides that any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, who knows (or ought reasonably to know) of the biosecurity risk posed (or likely to be posed), has a biosecurity duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised – so far as is reasonably practicable.

Registrable dealings

Schedule 4 of the Act specifies certain dealings as registrable dealings. These include dealing with managed bees and certain non-indigenous animals. A person must be registered under the Act to engage in a registrable dealing.

Mandatory measures

Mandatory measures are requirements set out in regulation for a person who deals with biosecurity matter or carriers to take specified actions to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing.

Prohibited matter

Prohibited matter is biosecurity matter that is listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act. This listed matter is biosecurity matter that could have significant adverse consequences to the economy, environment or community. Examples of prohibited matter include foot and mouth disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, Hendra virus infection (other than in pteropid bats), citrus canker, and parthenium weed. Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

Biosecurity undertaking

If an authorised officer reasonably believes a contravention is occurring, or likely to occur, in relation to a requirement imposed under the Act, a person may give the authorised officer an undertaking that they will take action to remedy the contravention, or suspected contravention. It is generally a written agreement that specifies the agreed actions that a person will take to remedy the situation. Undertakings may be given in certain circumstances instead of a biosecurity direction being issued.

Biosecurity direction

A biosecurity direction is a direction given by an authorised officer, which has legal force. It may be given to an individual, or to a class of persons, and specifies what the person or class of persons are required to do to prevent, eliminate or minimise a particular biosecurity risk or to enforce the requirements of the Biosecurity Act. Non-compliance can attract prosecution and significant penalties.

Biosecurity directions are usually in writing though in some cases may be given verbally. If given verbally, written confirmation of the verbal direction is to be provided within seven days, unless the direction has already been complied with.

Dealing

Dealing is used in the context of 'dealing with' biosecurity matter or a carrier or to 'engage in a dealing'.

A Dealing can include to keep, possess, care for, have custody of, control, produce, manufacture, supply, import, acquire, buy, sell, dispose of, move, release, use, treat, breed, propagate, grow, raise, feed, culture, experiment with, display, enter into an agreement that deals with, agree to deal with, and/or cause or permit a dealing.

For further information about the Act, visit our website or contact us:

W dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact

E biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au