

Check your load



Do not move bees around Australia



Swarm of bees on Cairns wharf next to a Vessel



Swarm of bees on a pallet

Why you should 'bee alert'

- Asian honey bees are an exotic pest bee currently found in Far North Queensland.
- Over time, they are expected to naturally spread throughout Australia.
- You can help slow their spread by being on the look out and checking your vessel/vehicle and trailer before travelling long distances.
- Moving any bees around Australia can also spread bee-related pests and diseases.
- Bees may enter Australia on vessels or freight and early detection helps to limit their impact.

The threat to our beekeeping industry

- The Asian honey bees found in Far North Queensland did not introduce Varroa mites. However, any new bees that enter an Australian port could be carrying bee pests and diseases.
- Asian honey bees are a natural host of Varroa mites and have the potential to aid the spread of the mite (if introduced) throughout Australia.
- Varroa mites can destroy colonies of European honey bees if untreated. This would be a serious economic threat to Australia's honey bee industry and the pollination of crops that rely on managed and feral European honey bees.

Report sightings of suspect bees on any vessel/vehicle or trailer

Contact the **emergency plant pest hotline 1800 084 881** with any suspect bee sightings.

For more information on Asian honey bees visit **www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au** or call **13 25 23**

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