

Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program

Progress Summary Report, May 2013

This publication has been compiled by Russell Gilmour of Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.

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Other relevant documents provided separately include:

- *DRAFT – Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program, July 2011 – July 2013, Final report*
- *North Queensland apiarist survey report*
- *Asian honey bee (Apis cerana) remote nest treatment report*



Program Highlights

Detections

There have been 828 detections of Asian honey bee (AHB) nests and swarms since May 2007.

Note: The known infested area of Asian honey bee is restricted to an area around Cairns; north to Bonnie Doon (near Mossman), west of Atherton and Mareeba and south to South Johnstone. The program has ceased surveillance and responding to public reports in the Known Infested Area (KIA), unless the report is considered a new incursion, or where there is a risk of aided spread, or on the edge, or outside of the KIA. In these instances officers respond in accordance with 'Responding to public notifications of Asian honey bee' policy. These detections are referred to as Detections of Interest and since the last TMG meeting they are:

Outside the KIA

Nil detections. The Queensland Bee Surveillance program covers key ports of Queensland. Public reports are responded to in accordance with the *Responding to public notifications of Asian honey bee* policy.

On the edge of the KIA

Nil detections. Surveillance has been conducted on the northern, southern and western edges of the KIA since the previous April 2013 report.

Public reports

41 public reports of AHB have been received since 16 April 2013 bringing the total number of reports since 1 July 2012 to 495.

Industry engagement

- Continued to meet and engage with industry at a local and state level.

Community engagement

- Asian honey bee destruction techniques video completed and approved for publishing on YouTube.
- Final draft of AHB Manual completed and sent to editor.
- AHB content provided to the Transport Workers Union (TWU) who will be running a general awareness campaign around the AHB transport industry poster through their website and journal.
- AHB article provided to Trevor Weatherhead, Executive Director Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, for distribution to various industry publications.
- *North Queensland Apiarist Survey Report* completed and submitted to SAG and TMG.
- Draft of new website modifications and content developed and in review process.

- Draft content prepared for Queensland Government Business Industry Portal (BIP) website, targeted at stakeholder focused information for pest control operators and industry.
- Final social media posts to be run through June finalised and approved.

Science

- Drafts of the following were prepared for SAG:
 - Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) detection and destruction efficacy reports
 - Behaviour and ecology report
 - Bait station/attractant improvement report
 - Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) spread modelling report.
- The following reports were completed for TMG:
 - Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) remote nest treatment – Final report
 - Far North and North Queensland Apiarist Survey Report.
- All results received for samples sent away for parasitological tests were negative for *Varroa*, *Tracheal* and *Tropilaelaps*. Some results received for *Nosema* disease testing were positive for *Nosema ceranae*, AHBIC have been advised of the results.
- Provided pollen samples to Professor Caroline Gross to aid in determining which plants AHB collect pollen from.

Current and future program activities

Community engagement


- The *Guidelines for industry destroying nests or swarms Asian honey bees* reviewed and re-published on the QDAFF website.
- Detection and destruction video is scheduled to be published on YouTube and linked to the QDAFF AHB website in early June.
- Final new website content loaded into RedDot in preparation for handover and maintenance by QDAFF Apiary Officers post 30 June 2013. Final content sent to BIP web team to be loaded.
- Asian honey bee manual that incorporates detection and destruction procedures and other considerations to be completed by 30 June 2013.

Operations

- A workshop is planned to hand over AHB operational activities to QDAFF Apiary Officers from 1 July 2013, e.g. responding to public reports and suspect new AHB incursions.
- Surveillance for AHB around the edge of the KIA.

Science

- Report writing is on track.

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- Presentations to stakeholders at Far North Queensland Pest Advisory Forum, 'Pest Fest, and AHB lecture night at Cairns Botanic Gardens.
 - Continue collaboration with external researchers.

Appendix 1 Cessation Strategy progress

The general community has an awareness of AHB and their role and responsibilities in its management

Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Produce and distribute a 'Fact Sheet' about AHB and how the public should respond to AHB nests and swarms.	AG1 D. (i)	31.12.11	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New AHB T2M brochure printed and in use. Brochure is available on the internet, used at community engagement and industry events and delivered as a letterbox drop to premises in high risk areas and on the edge of the KIA. It is also provided to people throughout Queensland.
Update the Biosecurity Queensland website with comprehensive details on Asian honey bees, including identification, how to manage them, produced and available.	AG1 A. (i), B. (i)	Ongoing to 30.06.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website has been routinely evaluated and updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ October 2011 ~ December 2012 (online reporting tool added to website) ~ April 2012 ~ June 2012 Updates include embedding links to the Remote Nest Treatment video on YouTube, adding completed reports, updating the Known Infested Area (KIA) map and adding a new image gallery. The website continues to be maintained and updated. BQ Apiary Officers to take on responsibility for maintenance of the AHB website following cessation of the AHB T2M Program.
Community engaged through a variety of methods e.g. media releases, TV and radio interviews, attending community festivals and regional shows.	AG1 D. (i) – (vii)	Ongoing to 30.06.13	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness material developed and in use includes brochures, identification cards, variable message signs on roadsides and a poster for display at transport companies.
Stage 2				
Ensure the community and industry are informed and up-to-date regarding the status of the transition to management program and	AG1 D. (i) – (vii)	31.12.11 – 30.6.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cessation Strategy developed and approved by T2M Management Committee December 2012. Implementation of Cessation Strategy commenced. Article provided to pest control industry for publication.



where they can access assistance.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles also planned for transport and bee keeping industries. Presentations planned for Far North QLD Pest Forum and lecture to environmentalists.
The Customer Service Centre processes are updated to provide a clear decision tree regarding AHB, new incursions, those inside and outside the KIA and reflect the current status of government intervention.	AG1 D. (i) – (vii)	31.12.11 – 30.6.13	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer Service Centre procedures developed approved and implemented. Apiary and Animal Biosecurity & Welfare staff informed and participating in reporting process handover of AHB T2M response activities planned for first week in June..

Transport companies are alert to actions that will limit the spread of AHB

Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Intensively engage with transport industries inside the KIA and surrounding edge. Consult and develop a method to incorporate the awareness of AHB into the transport industries to reduce the risk of aided spread of AHB through commercial transport pathways.	AG 6 D	30.06.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension materials such as ID cards, brochures and posters supplied to transport companies. Contact ongoing with the main shipping, rail and freight transport companies in Cairns. Article for publication in Industry magazine planned for June 2013.

Stage 2

Produce and develop a poster with targeted messages for transport industries.	AG 6 D AG1 D. (v)	31.12.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport poster printed distributed inside the KIA with plans for wider distribution.
Develop and deliver awareness campaigns for transport industries within a 200km radius from the edge of the KIA.	AG 6 D	31.3.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and training package developed and provided to transport businesses throughout the KIA and beyond to Townsville.
Engage and increase awareness with transport companies and their industry groups Queensland wide.	AG 6 D	30.6.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport poster printed and distributed inside the KIA , the edge of the KIA and planned for state-wide distribution.
Engage and increase awareness broadly within	AG 6	30.6.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article planned for national publication in June 2013.



the Australian transport industry through the peak industry body and national publications.	D			
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Pest control operators know how to identify and safely respond to reports of AHB

Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Consult, develop and make available a guideline for pest controllers on what tools are available and how to use them when responding to an AHB call for help.	AG 1 D (v)	31.12.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guideline for destruction of AHB nests and swarms published, provided to industry and available on internet. Published on Biosecurity QLD website.
Build awareness of available identification tools on the Biosecurity Queensland website with comprehensive details on Asian honey bees, including identification and how to manage them.	AG1 B. (i) D. (vi)	Ongoing to 30.6.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity website has been promoted at over 30 community and industry events, social media and media interviews. The website continues to be updated and promoted and will be available post 30 June 2013.
Provide hands-on training workshops to pest control operators that are within and on the edge of the KIA.	AG1 AG3 AG6	30.6.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands on training has been provided to pest controllers in the KIA and as far south as Townsville.
Engage and increase awareness with pest management industry in north Queensland, including hands on training	AG3 AG6	30.6.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest control industry representatives have been engaged. Pest controllers are destroying AHB nests and swarms where requested. Article provided to industry organizations for state and national publication.

Stage 2

Develop training videos showing methods of swarm and nest destruction that the industry can use to help train other members in their business.	AG2 B. (i)	31.12.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming commenced in February and has been completed. Editing, narration etc in progress. The video is scheduled to be published on the website late May - early June.
Engage and increase awareness with the pest controller industry Queensland wide.	AG6 D,	30.06.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest control industry representatives have been engaged. Pest controllers are destroying AHB nests and swarms where requested



Engage and increase awareness broadly with the Australian transport industry through peak industry body and national publications.	AG6 D,	30.06.13	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article provided to industry organizations for state and national publication.
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Indigenous rangers and government officers have knowledge, tools and training in AHB identification and management

Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Provide hands on workshop training sessions to indigenous rangers, local government officers, other government agencies and Biosecurity Queensland staff in the management of AHB.	AG4 A. AG2	31.03.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands on training has been provided to indigenous rangers, local government officers, other government agencies and biosecurity Queensland. 'An evaluation of Asian honey bee workshops conducted in the Known Infested Area for Critical Stakeholders' report has been published.
Increase awareness and availability of produced materials that they can use to deal with AHB situations.	AG 4 B.	Ongoing	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaigns were conducted through workshops held with indigenous rangers and government officers. AHB knowledge, tools and training were delivered to these target audiences at workshops and are being used where necessary and appropriate. AHB manual covering detection and destruction techniques is in design stage prior to publication. The manual will provide affected stakeholders with tools they can use to manage AHB following cessation of the T2M Program
Conduct presentations at local and regional pest management forums to engage with large numbers of local government and state government staff to increase awareness.	AG4	Ongoing	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness has been generated at quarterly FNQ Pest forums throughout Nth Queensland regions. A presentation and nest and swarm removal demonstration was held as part of the Northern Exposure Pest Conference (Townsville). Presented at Far North QLD Pest Forum 21 May 2013.
Provide hands on AHB training to the north	AG1	31.12.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apiary Officer has visited Cairns and worked with



Queensland Apiary Officer in AHB surveillance and destruction.	AG2			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> program staff on 3 occasions. Nth Queensland Apiary Officer has conducted intensive engagement 3klms around the Port of Townsville after the detection of AHB at the port in January 2013.
Involve and consult all Queensland apiary officers and provide them with the tools to implement their responsibilities under the Responding to public notifications of Asian honey bee policy.	AG1 AG2	30.06.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meetings are held with Apiary Officers. Consultation and joint developments of processes to ensure smooth handover of Web, CSC, AHB materials and knowledge is occurring. Apiary officer handover workshop to be conducted 5 June 2013.
Stage 2				
Information is made available to environmental and agricultural departments in other states and territories and the federal government regarding how to manage and control Asian honey bees.	AG5 B. (i)	31.03.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHB information generated to date has been provided to a range of environmental and government stakeholders via the internet and meetings. AHB manual is at design stage prior to publication.
Integrate and document methods of validated detection and destruction techniques into an AHB manual to assist Biosecurity agencies with a toolkit to respond to and manage AHB incursions.	AG5 B. (i)	31.03.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AHB manual is at design stage prior to publication. The manual will provide affected stakeholders with tools they can use to manage AHB following cessation of the T2M Program. Some training provided to ADAFF and Biosecurity QLD officers in North Queensland.

Scientific and environmental community increase their research interest in AHB and increase collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland

Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Literature review finalised and published.	AG2A	31.7.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TMG group signed off on 19 February 2013.
Undertake research as outlined in the AHB T2M Operations Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficacy of detection and destruction methods, including edge and port 	AG2Bi-iii AG2C(v) AG5A AG5B(i-iii)	30.6.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New target dates agreed to by SAG and TMG. Draft detection and destruction efficacy reports provided to SAG 21 May 2013. Draft bait station and attractant report provided to



surveillance	Q2G2 Q2G2C Q2G2D Q2G2E			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAG 21 May 2013 • Nest and comb data collection completed data analysis on track. • Ecology and behaviour report submitted to SAG 21 May 2013 (incl. nest and swarm attributes, drone flight times, nest observations, floral preferences)
Collaborate with external research scientists on AHB research.	AG2	30.6.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular collaboration with external researchers including Prof Ben Oldroyd, Dr. David Guez and Prof Caroline Gross.
Stage 2				
Outcomes of the research are released.	AG2(i,iii)		ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review released on PHA & BQ website • Research updates presented to NAQS & AQIS
Validate the most effective methods of detection and destruction techniques.	AG2Bi-iii AG5A AG5B(i) Q2G2B	30.6.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficacy trials completed, draft reports provided to SAG 21 May 2013.
Integrate and document methods of validated detection and destruction techniques into an AHB manual to assist Biosecurity agencies with a toolkit to respond to and manage AHB incursions.	AG2(i) AG5B(i)	31.03.13 31.3.12	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual text completed and manual is now in design stage before going to publication.
Guidelines and toolkit are made available for stakeholders.	AG4A.	31.03.12 Ongoing	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines completed and manual at design stage.
Research findings are presented at scientific conferences and other suitable forums, e.g. Apiary industry meetings.			ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with industry occurs regularly. • Contact with stakeholders occurs regularly e.g. Cape York Pest Management Advisory Group. • Lecture presentation at Cairns Botanic Gardens planned for June 2013.

Beekeepers understand and actively manage the risks and impacts of AHB

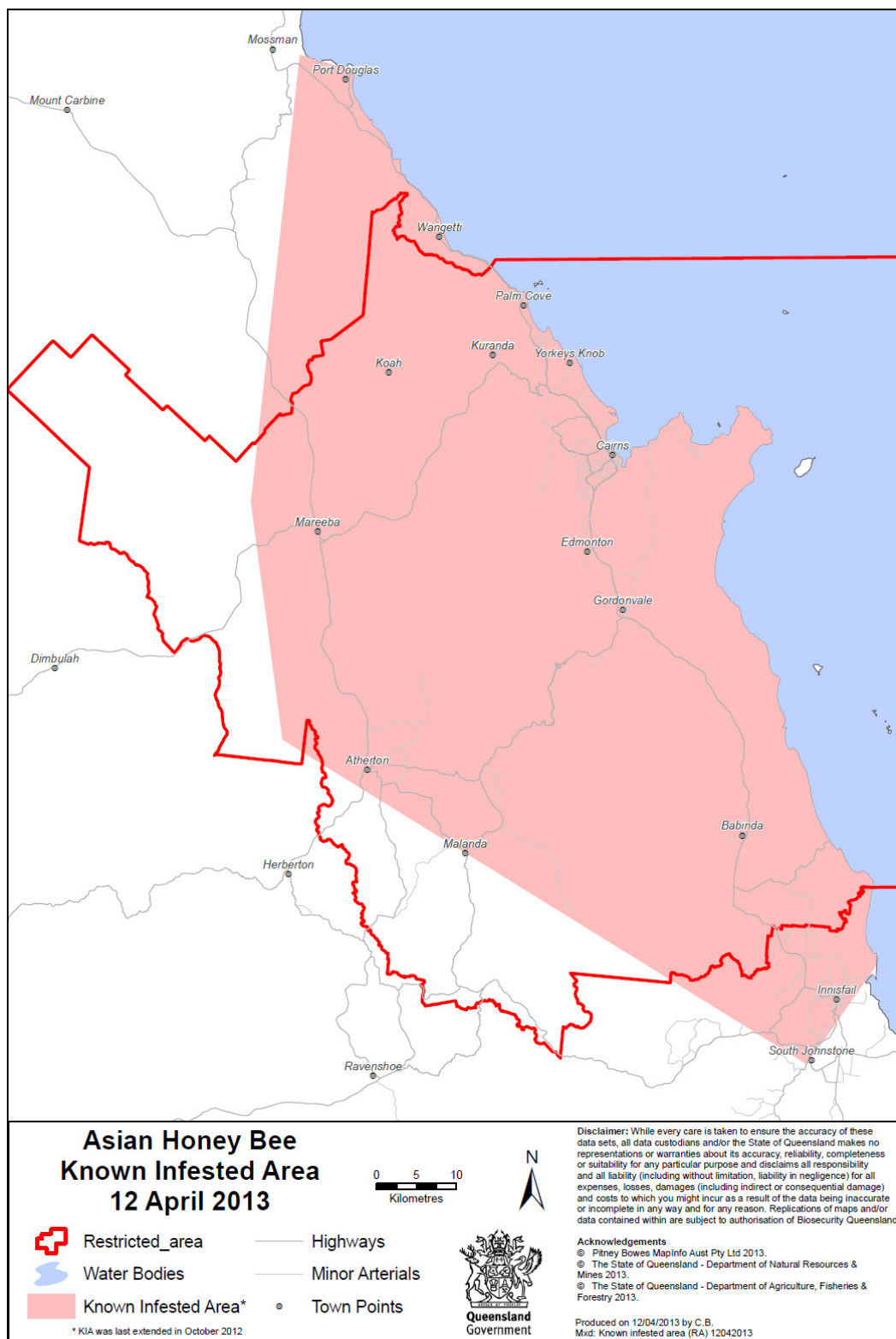
Stage 1

Key Performance Indicator	AHB T2M Project No.	Due Date	Status	Comments and activities since last report
Consult with the beekeeping industry group	AG3	31.12.11	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and state liaison committees established.



and address issues that affect them and what tools they need to manage AHB.	A. (iii)			
Provide hands-on training workshops to beekeepers that are within and on the edge of the KIA as well as to beekeepers that may be called to assist in the identification and sampling of AHB in other areas of Queensland.	AG3 D.	31.03.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provided to members of the Cairns and Tableland Beekeepers Association and Townsville Beekeepers Association.
Provide beekeepers in north Queensland with information and tools needed to identify and manage AHB.	AG3 D.	31.03.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Tableland beekeepers association meeting monthly. • Information provided to Townsville beekeepers Association meeting. • Science update given to local beekeepers (Townsville & Cairns).
Stage 2				
Beekeepers from around Australia are advised and information is provided in how to undertake AHB surveillance through the beekeeper volunteer program.		30.6.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer program is assisting in this. • PHA and QDAFF websites contributing to this. • Collaboration and input into numerous external articles for national and international magazines regarding Asian honey bees. • Provided AHBIC an article re AHB T2m program for distribution to bee keeping industry publications 23 May 2013.
Compliance with movements controls required under legislation is achieved by issuing longer term movement licences.	AG6 A.	31.12.12	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process of applying for movement licenses has been enhanced to reduce the regularity of applying for a license.
In consultation with the honey bee industry, develop and coordinate an industry response list that Biosecurity Queensland staff can utilise for assistance with suspect AHB detections.	AG6 D.	30.06.13	ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An industry group exists and their assistance is limited due to legal liability issues. • Where necessary pest controllers will be used for destruction of suspect AHB.

Appendix 2 **Current Known Infested Area¹**



¹ The last detection which increased the spread of AHB was 15 January 2013.

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