

## National Bee Biosecurity Program steering committee - Meeting 11

### Communiqué

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) Steering Committee was held on Wednesday 27 May 2020. The Committee includes representatives from the Australian Government, the state and territory government, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), and Plant Health Australia (PHA).

Below is a brief description of the items discussed and the major outcomes of the meeting.

#### Biosecurity for Beekeepers online training course

The Committee noted that the state and territory governments have agreed to provide funding in partnership with AHBIC for the delivery of the Biosecurity for Beekeepers online training course. This funding arrangement allows the course to be provided free to all Australian beekeepers for the 2020-21 financial year.

For more information about the Biosecurity for Beekeepers course visit: [beeaware.org.au/training/](https://beeaware.org.au/training/)

#### Varroa incursion scenario workshop

The Committee discussed outcomes from Exercise Bee Prepared, a varroa mite incursion simulation exercise delivered by PHA. The Committee noted that most of the major outcomes from the exercise had been completed or were currently being addressed, significantly improving the national capacity to respond to a varroa mite detection in a peri-urban setting.

For more information on Exercise Bee Prepared visit:

[planthealthaustralia.com.au/resources/training/simulation-exercises/](https://planthealthaustralia.com.au/resources/training/simulation-exercises/)

#### National American foulbrood minimisation strategy

The Committee considered the development of a nationally focused American foulbrood (AFB) minimisation strategy. The proposed strategy would provide a framework for reducing the impact of AFB on the Australian honey bee industry. It was agreed that the proposed strategy would be discussed further with the honey bee industry before being progressed.

#### National Bee Biosecurity Program review

The honey bee industry currently contributes \$400,000 per year to the NBBP through the honey levy. The amount of funding received by the states is determined by the number of commercial beekeepers (50 or more hives) in each jurisdiction. The Committee was advised that the NBBP funding allocations would be adjusted from 1 July 2021 to reflect the current numbers of commercial beekeepers within each jurisdiction.

The Committee was also advised that the Bee Biosecurity Officer workplans for the 2020-21 financial year had been developed in consultation with the State Advisory Groups and AHBIC to meet individual state requirements and align with the objectives of the NBBP.

For more information on the NBBP visit [planthealthaustralia.com.au/national-programs/national-bee-biosecurity-program/](https://planthealthaustralia.com.au/national-programs/national-bee-biosecurity-program/)

#### Next meeting

The next meeting of the NBBP Steering Committee will be held in November 2020.