

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) steering committee

Surveillance activities

All state and territories continue to perform exotic bee pest and pest bee surveillance and work hard to achieve program goals for early detection. The committee agreed due to program constraints in delivering activities and low pest risk factors, the Canberra Airport will be removed from the program for 2021. This decision will be revisited in the new program which is planned to commence from January 2022, subject to availability of funding. Throughout 2021 the NT government will trial evaluation of pellets from Rainbow bird-eaters as a method for early detection of Asian bees, this will continue to build on experiences learned using this technique throughout the incursion of Asian honey bees in Townsville.

The next Program

Discussions continue with industry and government regarding funding support and design for the next NBPSP. The current program will end in December 2021, and discussions have commenced and will continue throughout 2021 to secure the future Program.

Acaricide permits

The committee continues to oversee and ensure the conditions of use, honey testing requirements for acaricide residues and hive honey management are clear in the Program. Ensuring honey extracted from sentinel hives is safe from acaricide residues is a priority for managers and the volunteer participants involved in the Program, whilst still ensuring surveillance outcomes are met.

The committee

The committee includes representatives from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), all state and territory governments, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), Plant Health Australia (PHA) and Hort Innovation and plays a role in overseeing and guiding support in the delivery of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program.

For more information about the NBPSP visit planthealthaustralia.com.au/national-programs/national-bee-pest-surveillance-program/

The NBPSP Steering Committee will meet again in June 2021.