

National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP) steering committee

Surveillance activities

All state and territories have commenced final wrap up of surveillance activities and data collection for the NBPSP for 2021. The current NBPSP will end in December 2021 and the steering committee noted the significant outcomes that have been achieved over the five-year project, with the collation of over 65,000 surveillance records from the 32 ports targeted under the program. Rainbow bee-eater pellet analysis has been included in Darwin and Townsville activities, following identification as the most effective method in detecting foraging exotic bees. The NBPSP reported no further detection of Asian honey bees or other exotic bees and bee pests at the time of this communiqué.

The future NBPSP

With the conclusion of the current NBPSP occurring in December 2021, PHA, industry and government have been in discussion over the last 12 months to identify activities and ongoing support for implementing the next NBPSP. To maximise best use of resources, the future NBPSP will focus on the highest risk ports and pest risks using surveillance techniques such as sentinel hives, catchboxes, sweep netting for foraging exotic bees, and diagnostics techniques including assessment of rainbow eater pellets and dissection of bees for internal mites.

For information about the future NBPSP 2021-2024 planthealthaustralia.com.au/new-surveillance-project-to-monitor-honey-bee-pests/

Acaricide permits

Australia remains prepared for a possible incursion of exotic external mites with PHA holding various APVMA permits for a range of acaricides to treat mites. PHA works closely with companies in New Zealand to ensure acaricides are readily accessible to Australia for importing.

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 (NBPSP).

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