

Presented to the Plant
Industries Forum (PIF)
29 November 2022



Australian Honey Bee

INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Danny Le Feuvre

*A small industry with a **BIG** impact*

Background

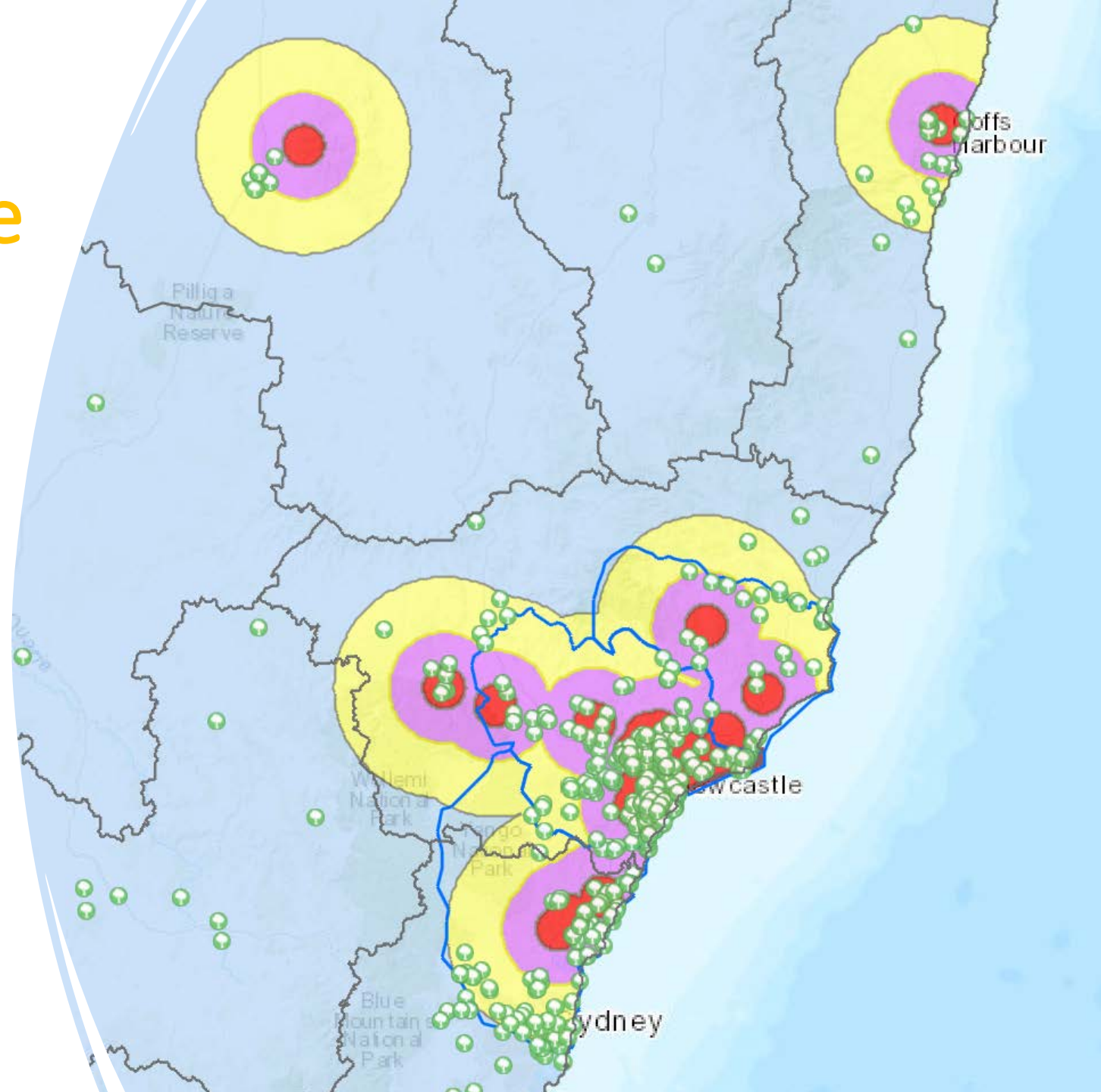
- AHBIC national representative body
 - 1 employee
 - Volunteer board all beekeepers
 - 10 member bodies
- Previous incursions/detections
 - *Apis florea* in Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth
 - 2019 + 2020 Asian Honey Bee with *Varroa jacobsoni*
 - *Apis Cerana* in Cairns, Sydney and Brisbane
 - 2018 *Varroa destructor* Melbourne
 - *Apis Dorsata* in Brisbane



NSW Varroa Response Overview

- Detection 22nd June
- Delimited by early August
- Managed colonies removed Nov
- Baiting commenced Oct
- New detection mid-Nov

Current as at PIF, 29 November 2022



Sat 25th June



Tues 5th July



Tues 28th June



Response statistics



- Biggest plant pest response in AU history
 - 7 FCP's or LCC's
- Across all the zones:
 - 3,701 recreational beekeepers
 - 411 commercial beekeepers
- 30,000 hives had surveillance by DPI
- 18,000 hives destroyed
- 2,000 agency staff 300 volunteer beekeepers
- DPI, LLS, RFS, Fisheries, Nat. Parks, interstate

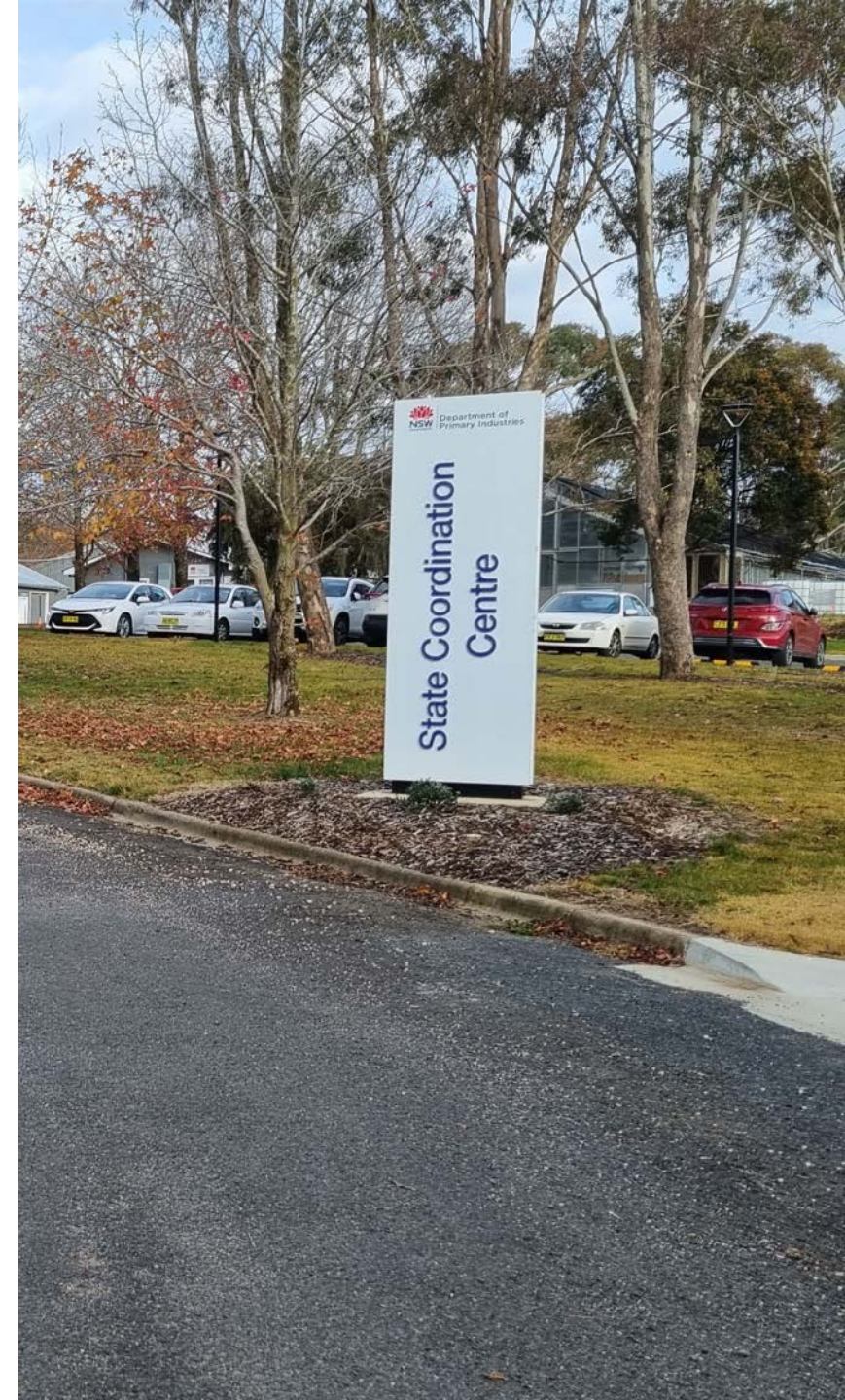


What Bait Stations look like...



Industry Liaison Officers

- 3 ILO roles deployed
 - 1 @ SCC
 - 2 @ LCC
 - 14 ILO's rotated through
- Documentation
 - Varroa Contingency Plan, ORC framework, AHBIC 5 zone policy
 - No appetite for cross jurisdictional sharing
 - Pathways for sourcing miticides and PPE
- Existing linkages with DPI – PHA
- Roller coaster



Finding a place

- ILO sits outside of the IMT – depending on IC
- No chaperon – need to be proactive
 - Need handover
- Vision across whole response
 - Identifying issues and providing solutions
- Feedback from industry
 - ‘piggy in the middle’
- Managing the phone....
 - People with solutions
 - Everyone is an epidemiologist



Staying in Control



Can Control

- Be prepared to walk away from some battles
- Review protocols
 - Don't write them
 - Don't become IMT staff
- Media
 - be weary and play the game
- Reassurance from my executive
- Personal wellbeing

Can't Control

- Personality clashes
 - High staff rotation
- Ministerial intervention
- Media enquiries
 - Play the game and apply the filter
- Direct Beekeeper calls
 - DPI faceless machine
- Differing views of industry
- Negative opinions and media

Comms, Comms, Comms



- Targeted
- Right language
- Detailed
- Timely
- Multi format
- Can't do enough

 Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
3 September · 🌐


The AHBIC Varroa industry briefing webinar is now available on the AHBIC website.
<https://honeybee.org.au/ahbic-varroa-update-webinar/>

 **Welcome to the Varroa Mite Emergency Response Honeybee Industry Briefing**

Hosted by Australian Honeybee Industry Council
CEO Danny Le Feuvre


Varroa webinar update 31-8-22 The webinar will begin shortly.

HONEYBEE.ORG.AU
AHBIC Varroa update webinar - Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
AHBIC webinar On Wednesday the 31st August, AHBIC hosted an online webinar to update in...

 Australian Honey Bee Industry Council
26 June · 🌐

Update from AHBIC that will be on website and send to all newsletter subscribers.

26/6/22

 **Australian Honey Bee Industry Council**

General Emergency Zone across NSW

On Wednesday the 22nd June an initial detection of Varroa mite was found in sentinel hives at the port of Newcastle. A second confirmed detection in a commercial load of bees occurred within 10km on Saturday 25th.

These have been the 0 10km eradication zone

Due to the second detection activities to determine resulting tracing has de 50km emergency zone

In consultation state Chief Plant Officer sign means the following:-

- Hives must not residence.
- Hives must not supers put on.
- There is an exel washes.

The intent of the order determine the location

This is a biosecurity ord and patrolling. Please


Sugar shake and alcoho detected in your surve

The link to the emergency order is here:
https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1410590/Biosecurity-Varroa-Mite-Emergency-Order-2022-No.-2.pdf

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Beyond the response



- As an ILO/peak body need to engage
- Jurisdictional restrictions
- Multiple IMT's and ILO's
- Impact on 'Business as Usual'



The learning curve



- Incredible experience
- Relationships building
- Incredibly dedicated IMT team
- New appreciation for gov. employees





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