

# Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2022 (No 2)

Disallowable instrument DI2022-214

made under the

Animal Diseases Act 2005, s 15 (Import restrictions)

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## 1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2022 (No 2)*.

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

## 3 Declaration

I declare the state of New South Wales to be subject to import restrictions.

## 4 Declared animals

This declaration applies to European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).

## 5 Disease to which declaration relates

This declaration is made in relation to Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*).

*Note* Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*) is declared to be an exotic disease pursuant to the Act, s 12.

## 6 Restrictions on importing

- (1) The import into the ACT of European honey bees, beehives and apiary equipment that have been in the state of New South Wales at any time since 22 December 2021 is prohibited.
- (2) The prohibitions in subsection (1) do not apply to the import of a honey superbox from the New South Wales Varroa mite general emergency zone to an enclosed, bee-proof space for the purpose of extracting honey, subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) at least 7 days before moving, the honey superbox must be cleared of all bees and sealed so that no bees can enter and to prevent leakage of apiary product;

- (b) the sealed honey superbox must remain on the same premises for at least 7 days before being moved and must remain sealed until arrival at the enclosed, bee-proof space;
- (c) at least 48 hours prior to the planned time of arrival at the enclosed, bee-proof space, the ACT must be notified by email to [bees@act.gov.au](mailto:bees@act.gov.au) of the following details:
  - (i) the registration details of the registered beekeeper in charge of the honey superbox;
  - (ii) the address where the hives from which the honey superbox has been removed are located;
  - (iii) the address where the enclosed, bee-proof space is located;
  - (iv) the estimated time and date of arrival at the enclosed, bee-proof space;
- (d) before loading a honey superbox onto the transport vehicle for movement, all practicable measures must be taken to clear bees from the honey superbox;
- (e) before leaving the premises, the transport vehicle must be washed with warm soapy water and all honey, wax and live or dead insect material that has been in contact with apiary equipment removed;
- (f) the honey superbox must be transported to the enclosed, bee-proof space by the most direct route, without unloading and without entering any part of New South Wales that is not in the NSW Varroa mite general emergency zone;
- (g) a honey superbox must not be transported from more than 1 premises at a time;
- (h) immediately on arrival at the enclosed, bee-proof space, a honey superbox must be inspected for live bees and if any live bees are detected, the ACT must be notified of the detection within 24 hours by email sent to [bees@act.gov.au](mailto:bees@act.gov.au);
- (i) any live bees detected must be immediately destroyed, placed in a container and retained at the premises;
- (j) before leaving the premises where the enclosed, bee-proof space is located, the transport vehicle and any apiary equipment or other thing (excluding a honey superbox) used for the extraction of honey or that has had contact with honey or bees must be decontaminated by:
  - (i) scraping and cleaning any honey, wax and any live or dead insect material that has leaked from the honey supers or apiary equipment; and
  - (ii) placing that material into a disposable garbage bag which must be sealed and stored in a way that ensures that the contents of the bag do not come into contact with bees for at least 21 days; and

- (iii) washing surfaces with warm, soapy water to remove honey and apiary product; and
  - (iv) taking reasonable measures to ensure the vehicle and any clothing is free from bees;
- (k) once the honey extraction has been completed, the honey superbox must be isolated from all bees and other apiary equipment and remain at the enclosed, bee-proof space for at least 21 days;
- (l) after 21 days, the disposable garbage bag and its contents referred to in paragraph (j) (ii) must be disposed of in a way that ensures the contents of the bag do not come into contact with bees.
- (3) The prohibitions in subsection (1) do not apply to European honey bees housed in beehives transitioning through the ACT from the NSW Varroa mite general emergency zone, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) before moving into the ACT, the beehives must be wrapped in way that does not allow contact with external bees and must remain in that state while in the ACT;
  - (b) the beehives must transit directly through the ACT without unloading and must be in the ACT for the shortest reasonably practicable time.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to European honey bees, beehives and honey superboxes that have been in the areas within a 25 kilometre radius of an infected premises at any time since 22 December 2021.

*Note* The prohibitions in this clause do not apply to new beehives or new apiary equipment.

## 7 Definitions

In this instrument:

***apiary equipment*** means anything that has been used in relation to the acquisition or keeping of European honey bees or in relation to the processing, handling or storing of apiary products.

***apiary product*** means anything produced by bees but does not include processed honey or other apiary products that have been processed to remove any impurities.

***beehive*** means a receptacle has been used for housing European honey bees and includes the contents of that receptacle.

***honey superbox***—see *Animal Diseases Regulation 2006*, s 47.

***infected premises*** means premises where a mite species of the genus *Varroa* has been detected by either:

- (a) being observed by a person who is a technical expert, or a person who has undergone training by a technical expert, in the field of identification of *Varroa* mite; or
- (b) diagnostic samples from a site being confirmed as positive by a diagnostician at a government laboratory.

*New South Wales Varroa mite general emergency zone* is the State of New South Wales, excluding the areas within a 25 kilometre radius of an infected premises.

*Note* A map of the NSW Varroa mite general emergency zone can be found at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency-response).

## **8 Revocation**

This instrument revokes the *Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2022* (DI2022-172).

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA  
Minister for the Environment  
7 September 2022