

Submission to Quarantine & Bio Security Review

From

The NSW Apiarists' Association

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The Honeybee Industry of New South Wales is the largest in Australia. 45% of total Australian Industry and for this reason is very concerned about exotic pests and diseases impacting the productivity, viability and sustainability of the Honeybee Industry.

Some time ago African Small Hive Beetle was discovered in New South Wales for the first time.

After a response team's work in and around the Sydney Basin region, where the beetles were first found, a quarantine zone was established and eventually it was decided the pest was too entrenched and widespread to eradicate. Hence the pest was declared endemic. This pest is now becoming quite an economic burden for Industry. Queen Bee rearing in the Coastal regions is becoming extremely difficult with nucleus colonies very hard to maintain against beetle attack (destruction of bees and hive components).

There was never an inquiry as to how the beetle may have entered Australia. All previous efforts by the Honeybee Industry to effect an inquiry were rebuffed.

How can we have effective Quarantine or Bio Security for Australia when we do not know how exotic pests can enter Australia?

Given the importance of the Honeybee Industry to other Agricultural Industries (horticulture, seed production, vegetables and even pastures for the grazing industry) being estimated at \$2.7 billion, the Honeybee industry requests its' right to have an inquiry into how the African Hive Beetle entered Australia.

Australia is the only country using Apis Mellifera (European Honeybee) which is free of the destructive pest, Varroa destructor.

This pest may enter by a similar path to the African Small Hive Beetle.

There must be a mandatory and automatic inquiry into every incursion of Australia by an exotic pest or disease regardless of who it might embarrass.