



# Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC)

AHBIC is the peak body supporting a small  
industry, with a **BIG** impact

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.



# AHBIC REPORT

Presentation to the  
2021 New South Wales Apiarists Association Conference

by Trevor Weatherhead AM, Chair  
Helen Goodall, Chief Executive Officer



# WELCOME

- We welcome our new Chief Executive Officer, Helen Goodall, to AHBIC
- Helen replaced Sarah Paradise who unfortunately, had to resign due to family circumstances
- Helen has fitted in very well with our Management Committee





# WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF AHBIC

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- Queensland Beekeepers Association Inc.
- New South Wales Apiarists Association Inc.
- Victorian Apiarists Association Inc.
- Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Inc.
- South Australian Apiarists Association Inc.
- Bee Industry Council of Western Australia Inc.
- Honey Packers and Marketeers Association of Australia Inc.
- National Council of Crop Pollinators Inc.
- Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.
- Amateur Beekeepers Association of New South Wales Inc.





# YEAR IN REVIEW

- 2020-21 has been another busy year
- Some beekeepers have produced a reasonable crop – others have not
- AHBIC continues to work on behalf of all beekeepers in Australia
- Thank you to the AHBIC Executive for their work







# BEESWAX

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- AHBIC has been campaigning for Australian beekeepers to use Australia beeswax
- We have had overseas foundation and block wax tested
- In all cases it has been adulterated with paraffin and contains chemical residues
- AHBIC has written to Minister Littleproud to implement the testing of imported beeswax
- AHBIC has lodged complaints with the ACCC
- Contamination of our beeswax will result in the loss of our premium price overseas



# INQUIRIES

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- AHBIC has made several submission to Government Inquiries or papers this year
- Shelf registration and setting of an MRL for amitraz
- FSANZ setting an MRL for glyphosate
- National Agricultural Workforce Strategy
- Agvet Chemicals Regulatory Systems review

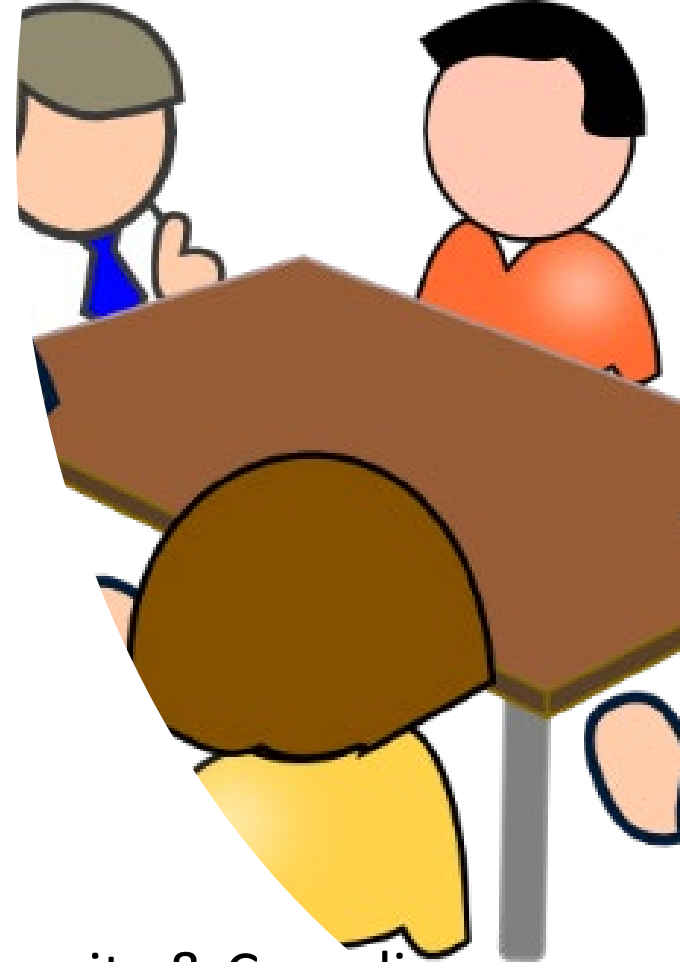




# MEETINGS

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- Plant Health Australia
- Bushfire Recovery section
- Levies Collection Unit
- Food Import section
- Minister Littleproud and staff
- Andrew Tongue, Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity & Compliance Group
- Almond Board of Australia
- Working group on getting hives into almond pollination
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
- FSANZ







# National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

## BIOSECURITY

- The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program is currently being reviewed
- We had an interception of *Apis florea* in Brisbane in November 2020
- AHBIC is asking the States to identify areas with no flora that host fire blight in case of an incursion
- Liaising with DAWE re pre embarkation inspections
- Harmonisation of the movement of live bees in Australia





# FOOD SAFETY

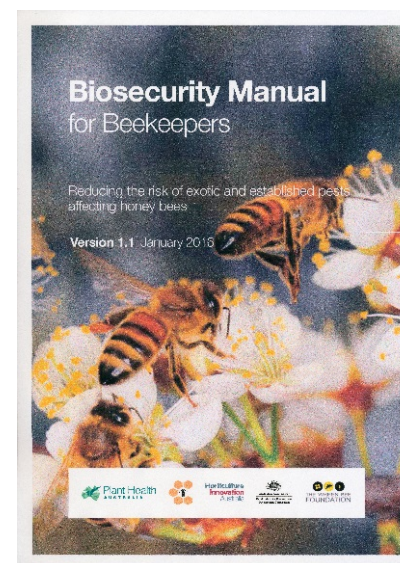
- B-QUAL is active in putting together a program on digitising the B-QUAL program
- AHBIC is continuing conversations with various parties on trying to have an analytical process for honey in place that is enforceable
- AHBIC continues to have some overseas honey that has been supplied by beekeepers analysed





# PLANT HEALTH AUSTRALIA

- AHBIC is a member of Plant Health Australia
- Work currently being carried out by PHA is:-
  - National Bee Pest Surveillance Program
  - PHA levy helps run the National Bee Biosecurity Program
  - Revision of Industry Biosecurity Plan
  - BeeAware website and newsletter
  - BOLT course – now free to all beekeepers





## OTHER ISSUES

- BeeConnected
- Adverse Experience Reports
- Free Trade agreements
- Fall armyworm
- Honey month
- National Varroa Mite Eradication Program







# COMMUNICATIONS

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- AHBIC has received funding to work with Blue Hill PR to implement an industry wide communication plan to promote the crucial role of the honey bee in food production
- Any issues you want to progress can be done through your member body who can bring it forward to AHBIC
- If you wish to receive the monthly AHBIC newsletter, you can subscribe through our website or send an email to the AHBIC office asking to be included to the list
- Email address is:- [ahbic@honeybee.org.au](mailto:ahbic@honeybee.org.au)
- Website is :- [www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)





## BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

- Michael Clark through AgriFutures prepared a an Bushfire recovery plan document
- AHBIC has been lobbying for financial support with meetings held with the Minister, DAWE and the bushfire recovery agency
- To date a one off grant of \$270k has been received to support our biosecurity programs





# CONGRESS

- AHBIC is holding the 4<sup>TH</sup> Australian Bee Congress in 2022
- The venue is Rosehill Racecourse in Sydney from 8 – 11 June
- In 2022 it will be 200 years since the honey bee was successfully introduced into Australia
- Save the date and see you there



# FINANCES

- For AHBIC to represent our industry at a national level ongoing financial support is required
- There has been some confusion between the statutory honey levy and the Friends of AHBIC voluntary contribution
- Thank you to those who are making voluntary contributions as a Friend of AHBIC
- How can you support your national body representing you? If you are not already contributing to AHBIC I would urge you to do so and keep connected with your national body representing you







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# THANK YOU

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Any questions?