



Department of  
Primary Industries

Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee

**Bee Industry Biosecurity Compliance Report: April 2021**

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First published April 2021

**Authorised by: Director Compliance and Integrity Systems**

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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**Contents**

Executive Summary ..... 3

Biosecurity compliance activities ..... 3

Biosecurity compliance operations conducted: July 2020 to March 2021..... 5

Enforcement actions..... 7

Complaint investigations ..... 12

Beekeeper registrations ..... 13

## Executive Summary

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) acts in partnership with industry and other public-sector organisations to foster profitable and sustainable development of primary industries in New South Wales. DPI delivers a wide range of services to primary industries and rural communities. Services to the beekeeping industry include research, development, education, training, biosecurity, compliance and diagnostics.

## Biosecurity compliance activities

The biosecurity compliance services to beekeepers are provided through Biosecurity & Food Safety's Compliance and Integrity Systems team, overseen by the Director Compliance and Integrity Systems.

The bee industry compliance snapshot on the following page has been developed to provide stakeholders with an overview of some of Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance and Integrity Systems' broad and diverse compliance activities under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#), including:

- coordinating compliance advice and information to beekeepers,
- market access services,
- assisting in the detection, control and eradication of exotic diseases and pests,
- targeted investigations (including bee health investigations, nuisance bee investigations, export certification),
- nuisance bee complaints, and
- emergency management activities.



Bee Industry Compliance Activity: July 2020 - March 2021

**16,564**  
Hives observed

**12,131**  
Registered  
beekeepers

**59**  
Enforcement  
actions

**1**  
Industry  
Committee  
meeting

**238**  
Bee  
complaints

**4**  
Targeted operations



BFS Compliance conducted targeted operations during pollination seasons identifying notifiable pests and diseases, unregistered beekeepers and bee pollination movements in regional & metro NSW



## Biosecurity compliance operations conducted: July 2020 to March 2021

<b>Operation Griffith &amp; Hillston pollination</b>	
Location	Hillston & Griffith districts
Date	August 2020
Objectives	The Hillston & Griffith districts have a large commercial almond industry. This annual apiary compliance operation was developed to assess the biosecurity risk imposed to commercial apiary enterprises by situating substantial numbers of beehives in close proximity in an intensive pollination event. The operation was successful in identifying and minimising or eliminating several biosecurity risks associated with notifiable apiary diseases.
Apiary sites inspected	132
Hives inspected	11,818
Enforcement actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Biosecurity Directions</li> <li>• 2 Penalty Notices</li> </ul>

<b>Operation Sunraysia</b>	
Location	Sunraysia region on the border of NSW and Victoria
Date	September 2020
Objectives	The Sunraysia region on the border of NSW and Victoria has a large commercial almond industry dependent on the Murray River irrigation system. Operation Border Patrol was developed as an annual compliance event to assess the biosecurity risk imposed to commercial apiary enterprises. The operation was carried out jointly by the NSW Departments of Primary Industries and Agriculture Victoria. The operation was successful in bringing together the efforts of the two jurisdictions to address the risks with this pollination event.
Apiary sites inspected	29
Hives inspected	2,530
Enforcement actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Biosecurity Directions</li> <li>• 3 Written Warnings</li> </ul>

<b>Operation Tablelands</b>	
Location	Northern Tablelands regions
Date	November 2020
Objectives	Operation Tablelands was developed to assess the incidence and biosecurity risk of honey bee diseases around the Northern Tablelands districts of Glen Innes and Inverell NSW. The operation was successful in identifying beekeepers who fail to comply with their Biosecurity Duty associated with the monitoring and reporting of notifiable disease within apiaries.
Apiary sites inspected	20
Hives inspected	1,736
Enforcement actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Biosecurity Directions</li> </ul>

<b>Operation Blind Melon</b>	
Location	Sunraysia region
Date	December 2020
Objectives	This was the first apiary operation conducted within melon pollination in the Sunraysia region. This operation was successful in identifying and minimising or eliminating several biosecurity risks associated with notifiable apiary diseases within the melon pollination areas.
Apiary sites inspected	14
Hives inspected	480
Enforcement actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Biosecurity Directions</li> </ul>

## Enforcement actions

From July 2020 to March 2021, the Compliance and Integrity Systems Authorised Officers issued the following enforcement sanctions:

- 31 Written Warnings,
- 18 Biosecurity Directions,
- 7 Biosecurity Undertakings,
- 2 Penalty Notices, and
- 1 Seizure Notice

Further details about these individual sanctions are outlined below:

**Written warnings:** issued July 2020 to March 2021

Date	Location	Reason	Number issued
Aug 2020	Orange	Unregistered beekeeper	1
Sep 2020	Cooperabung	Failed to notify endemic apiary brood disease	1
	Cooperabung	Unregistered beehives	1
	Tabitta	Beehives tested positive for American Foul Brood (AFB)	1
	Griffith		1
Oct 2020	Mildura	Unregistered beehives	1
	Elsmore	Beehives tested positive for American Foul Brood (AFB)	1
	New Buildings		1
	Theresa Park		1
	Young		1
	Lismore		1
	New Lambton		1
	Neutral Bay		1



Date	Location	Reason	Number issued
	Davidson		1
	Redbank		1
	Queanbeyan		1
	Shortland		1
Nov 2020	Yatte Yattah	Beehives tested positive for American Foul Brood (AFB)	1
	Woodville		1
	Clarence Valley		1
	Bathurst		1
	Gerringong		1
	North Epping		1
	Glen Innes		1
	Bundarra		1
	New Lambton		1
	Nimbin		1
	Orange		1
Jan 2021	Springwood	Beehives tested positive for American Foul Brood (AFB)	1
Feb 2021	Gerringong	Beehives tested positive for American Foul Brood (AFB)	1
	Berkeley	Unregistered beehives	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>31</b>

**Biosecurity Directions:** issued July 2020 to March 2021

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Number issued</b>
Sep 2020	Beelbangera	To prevent and control the spread of American Foul Brood (AFB) within apiaries	1
	Griffith		1
	Tabitta		1
	Cooperabung		1
	Blayney		1
		Orange	Remove all unsuitable hive material that can cause exposure of honey to robber bees
Sep 2020	Dubbo	To prevent, eliminate and minimize the threat of bees to the community and address the risk to public safety	1
	Anna Bay		1
Oct 2020	Mildura	To prevent and control the spread of American Foul Brood (AFB) within apiaries	1
	Mount Pritchard	Offence of engaging in registrable dealing without biosecurity registration	1
	Maitland	Unregistered beehives	1
	Rozelle	To prevent, eliminate and minimize the threat of bees to the community and address the risk to public safety	1
	Narraweena	Remove or contain all biosecurity risks being exposed hive material, honeycomb, old frames, wax and any other item that may pose a biosecurity risk	1
Nov 2020	Pyrmont	To prevent, eliminate and minimize the threat of bees to the community and address the risk to public safety	1
	Mount George		1
Dec 2020	Tenambit	To prevent, eliminate and minimize the threat of bees to the community and address the risk to public safety	1

Date	Location	Reason	Number issued
	Kenthurst	Remove or contain all biosecurity risks being exposed hive material, honeycomb, old frames, wax and any other item that may pose a biosecurity risk	1
	Nowra	To prevent and control the spread of American Foul Brood (AFB) within apiaries	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18</b>

**Biosecurity Undertakings:** issued July 2020 to March 2021

Date	Location	Reason	Number issued
Oct 2020	Cessnock	Remove beehives from residential address on a voluntary basis	1
	Fishing Point		1
Dec 2020	Laguna		1
	Mudgee		1
Jan 2021	Wallsend		1
Mar 2021	Corbie Hill		To prevent and control the spread of American Foul Brood (AFB) within apiaries
	Leeton	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>7</b>

**Penalty Notices:** issued July 2020 to March 2021

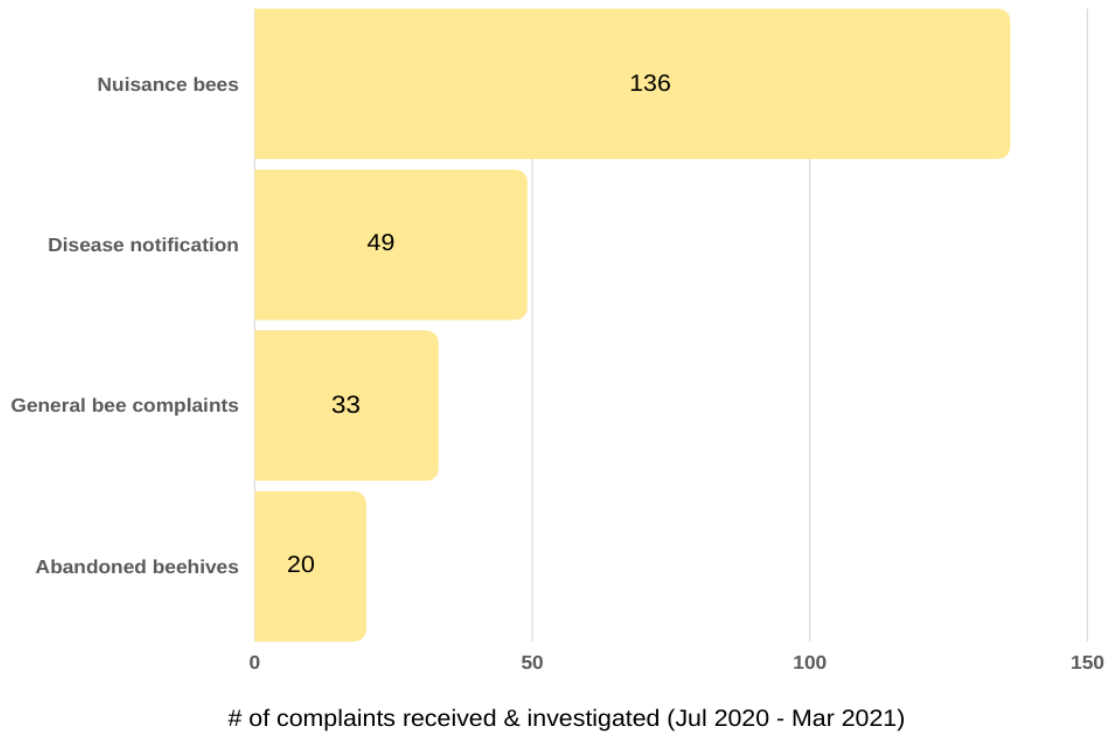
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Number issued</b>
Aug 2020	Koonadan	Failed to comply with mandatory measures (Honey exposed to robber bees).	1
		Failed to discharge biosecurity duty when dealing with American Foulbrood in bee hives.	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2</b>

**Seizure Notices:** issued July 2020 to March 2021

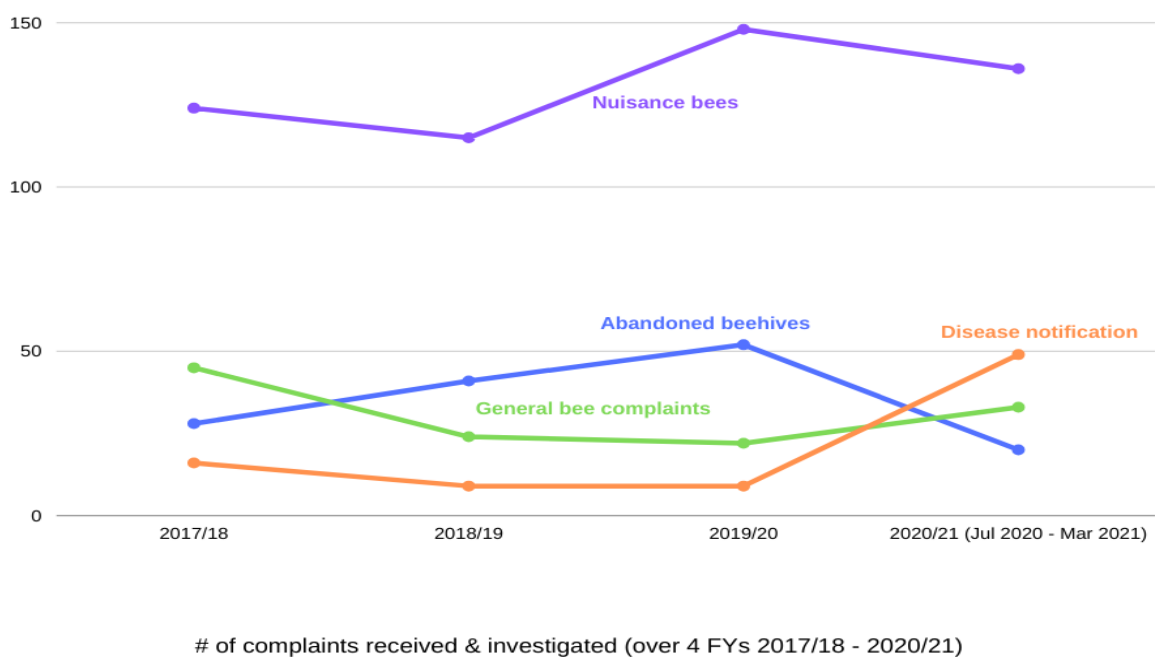
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details of seized item</b>	<b>Number issued</b>
Oct 2020	Murrawombie	281 bee hives and associated apiary equipment reasonably suspected of being infected with American Foulbrood (Notifiable apiary pest).	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>

## Complaint investigations

For the reporting period (1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021), the Biosecurity Food Safety Compliance and Integrity Systems team received 238 complaints relating to the apiary industry. The breakdown of the bee complaint categories is represented in the graph below:



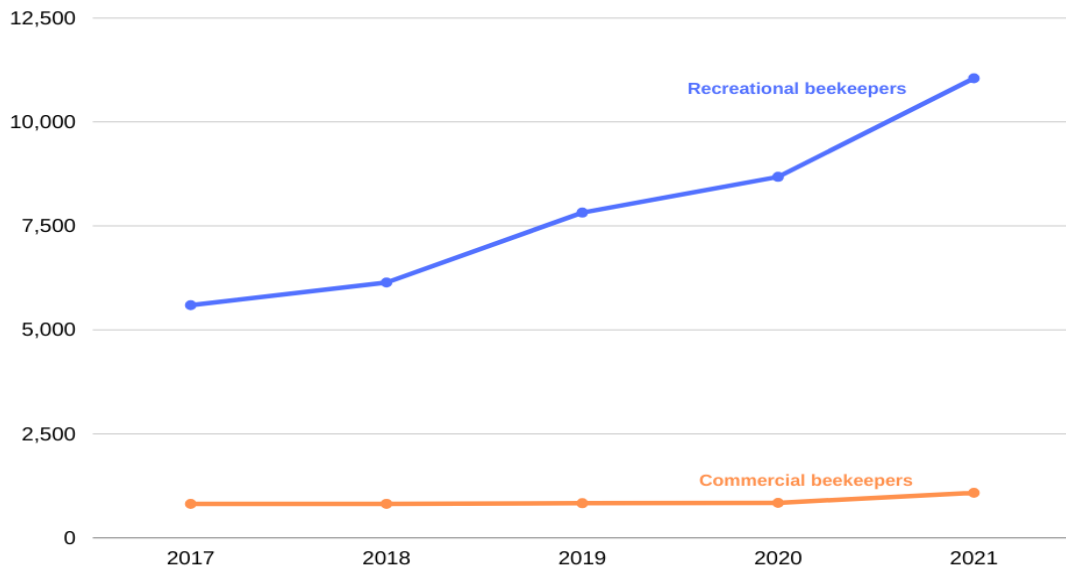
The graph below shows the trend of the number of complaints investigated over the last four (4) financial years i.e. from 2017/18 to 2020/21.



## Beekeeper registrations

Over the past four (4) years there has been a continual growth in the number of registered beekeepers in NSW. This growth has occurred within both the commercial and recreational sectors. During this time, recreational beekeeper registrations have shown 97% growth from 5,592 registrations (in the year 2017) to 11,051 (to March 2021).

During the same period there has been a 33% growth in commercial beekeeper registrations from 814 (in the year 2017) to 1,080 (to March 2021).



**Beekeeper registrations (commercial and recreational beekeepers)**

As at March 2021, there are currently 12,131 registered beekeepers in NSW. The graph below represents the current number of registered beekeepers showing both recreational and commercial registration numbers.

