



# Varroa mite biosecurity emergency zone to be extended to all of NSW

27 June 2022

## **Re: Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Emergency Order 2022 (No. 2) under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015**

NSW Department of Primary Industries has identified suspect hives at a property near Trangie in central west NSW, which has links to a property infested with varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), following the initial detection at the Port of Newcastle.

No varroa mites have been detected at the Trangie site, but NSW DPI is taking every precaution and action needed to eradicate the parasite, *Varroa destructor*. Eradication activities have commenced and will be completed at this property tomorrow, Monday 27 June 2022.

NSW DPI has issued an [emergency order](#) today which bans the movement of bees across the state.

NSW DPI has been working with apiary industry bodies and stakeholders since the detection was first identified to ensure you are informed and empowered to be part of this critical response.

This email is to further update all registered beekeepers of developments and let you know what is required under the new Emergency Order.

## Varroa mite emergency zones and what to do

Within the eradication and surveillance zones:

- no hives, bees or beekeeping equipment can be moved
- no honey or comb can be removed from hives
- hives must not be tampered with unless directed by a NSW DPI officer

Beekeepers must let NSW DPI know the location of all bees and hives within the 50 km biosecurity buffer zone (as mapped) by:

- completing the [Report a biosecurity concern form](#)

- emailing [hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hive.location@emergency.dpi.nsw.gov.au), or
- calling the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline, **1800 084 881** (9 am to 5 pm, 7 days a week).

The eradication plan includes treatment of beehives within a 10 km emergency zone around the infestation and inspection of managed and feral honey bee colonies within 25 km.

To check where your hives are within the emergency zones, visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa) and use the address finder on the interactive map.

Varroa mites are tiny reddish-brown parasites and individual mites can easily be seen with the naked eye.

NSW DPI thanks beekeepers for working side-by-side with government as part of Australia's early warning system to detect exotic honey bee pests, and the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, which includes surveillance hives and catch boxes at strategic locations around our ports and airports.

Australia is the only major honey producing country free from varroa mite. If varroa mite establishes here it could cost Australia's honey industry more than \$70 million a year and adversely impact multibillion-dollar plant industries, which rely on bee pollination.

**NSW DPI has more resources available via the following links:**

- [Varroa mite](#)
- [Hive inspection techniques](#)



Biosecurity and Food Safety

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NSW Department of Primary Industries