

# Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

The Australian  
Honey Bee Industry  
Council (AHBIC)  
is the national  
representative  
body for the honey  
bee industry.

AHBIC works to protect the long-term economic viability, security and prosperity of the sector and promote the important link between the honey bee and healthy Australians.

AHBIC advocates nationally for its members in each state plus a state-based amateur group and three national associations, which represent individuals and businesses from across the supply chain, including recreational beekeepers.

## **Focus areas Policy**

AHBIC works with all levels of government to ensure industry's needs are reflected in policy. Priority issues include protecting beekeepers' access to, and security of, floral resources, mitigating pesticide and biosecurity risks, accessing foreign labour and navigating border restrictions during COVID-19, as well as securing market access and optimising trade.

## **Biosecurity**

AHBIC monitors biosecurity threats and works to protect the bee industry from exotic pests and diseases by collaborating with governments to ensure safeguards are put in place. AHBIC also partners with government departments and Plant Health Australia to communicate vital biosecurity information to member organisations and beekeepers and develops a range of supporting educational resources.



**1998**

Established on  
11 February 1998



**10**

Member groups



**29,000**

Beekeepers represented  
(commercial and recreational)



## Education

AHBIC conducts education, promotion and public relation campaigns, and works with organisations such as AgriFutures, to implement extension programs to encourage the adoption of best practice in production, quality assurance, presentation and promotion of honey bee products. Engaging and informing consumers and the agricultural industries reliant on pollination of the importance of the honey bee industry is also an important part of the organisation's work.



If this imported adulterated beeswax is used as a foundation in frames by beekeepers then it is highly likely Australian honey will be contaminated by chemical residues. It also threatens products made with beeswax such as beeswax wraps, an alternative to plastics in covering food, as well as lip balm, hand creams, face creams and lipstick.

AHBIC is challenging the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), and the state and territory government food regulators,

to enforce stricter legislation around the importation of beeswax. However, the Australian honey bee industry also need to do its part and avoid purchasing cheap imported beeswax that may be adulterated. To find out more information on this issue, visit [honeybee.org.au](http://honeybee.org.au).

## Funding

AHBIC manages honey levy income to fund research, as well as biosecurity and honey residue testing. As an organisation which operates on contributions, it has built strong relationships with both industry and non-industry groups and individuals who invest in supporting a sustainable and strong future for the honey bee industry.

## Community support

In collaboration with Rural Aid, AHBIC provides vital support to the beekeeping community through initiatives such as Hive Aid, which offers practical and financial assistance to professional beekeepers impacted by drought, bushfires and natural disasters. This help is delivered through counselling services, financial help and access to Farm Army volunteers.

In 2021, AHBIC partnered with Woolworths to deliver the Discovery Gardens Program to promote our industry and educate customers on the importance of the honey bee in pollination.

## Imported beeswax threatens industry

AHBIC is campaigning to stop the use of imported beeswax. Australian beeswax is pure and needs to stay that way. Imported beeswax is threatening the integrity of Australian honey and beeswax products. Independent tests undertaken by AHBIC has shown 100% of all imported beeswax tested is adulterated with chemicals and paraffin.

## Become a friend of AHBIC

Bees, and beekeepers, play an invaluable role in producing what the world eats and already contributes \$14.2 billion annually to the Australian economy. Importantly, the Australian agriculture industry aims to reach \$100 billion of farm gate production by 2030 and bees will play a critical role in achieving that target.

Honey bees are at the heart of a healthy Australia, however the industry does have challenges it must manage to grow its prosperity and resilience, protect the health of the species and ensure nutritious foods continue to be produced to nourish communities across the country.

To do this, AHBIC needs the support of people and businesses who also appreciate the importance of the Australian honey bee and highly values the voluntary contributions of its 'Friends of AHBIC' to ensure the organisation can effectively advocate on behalf of the industry.

**To become a friend of AHBIC, and make a voluntary contribution, go to [www.honeybee.org.au](http://www.honeybee.org.au)**

## Strategic partners



**Sign up** to the monthly AHBIC newsletter and receive the latest industry news to your inbox.

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