

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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APIS CERANA AND VARROA JACOBSONI IN TOWNSVILLE – NO. 6

I would advise that on Friday 5 August, 2016 a swarm of around 1,000 Asian bees was found at Hyde Park in Townsville. This is about halfway between 1IP and 2IP. It was reported by a member of the public.

Subsequent examination has found no *Varroa jacobsoni* on the bees so because *V. jacobsoni* is the Emergency Plant Pest, this new site is not an Infected Premises but is classed as a Premise of Relevance and will be 3POR.

As part of the surveillance the Birdlife Townsville group are collecting the regurgitated pellets from under rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) roosts. The rainbow bee-eaters, as the name suggests, eat bees. When they come back to roost in a tree at night they regurgitate a hard pellet which contains parts that cannot be digested. The wings of bees are in this pellet and the wings of *Apis cerana* and *A. mellifera* can be distinguished by examining the veins in the wing. To date no cerana wings have been found. These roosts are about 3 kilometres from 3POR and would indicate that the number of cerana nests are low which is a good sign.

Surveillance around 3POR has found foraging cerana within 300 metres. Feeding stations will be set up and bee lining commenced to find this nest.

Trevor Weatherhead
Executive Director
9 August, 2016