

# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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## ***APIS CERANA AND VARROA JACOBSONI IN TOWNSVILLE – NO. 12***

Below is a press release put out by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Where the foraging cerana bees have been found in North Ward is about 4 kilometres north west from IIP which was the original find at the Port of Townsville.

I will be away from 11-20 October 2016 so there will not be any information updates during that time.

Trevor Weatherhead  
Executive Director  
6 October, 2016

### ***Queensland Government***

### ***Department of Agriculture and Fisheries***

5 October 2016

### ***New movement restrictions for bees in Townsville***

*Changes have been made to the previous biosecurity restricted zone that was declared around the Port of Townsville to now cover the entire Townsville City Council area.*

*The restricted zone was first put in place after varroa mites were found on Asian honey bees at the Port of Townsville in June. The zone was established to restrict the movement of potential carriers of varroa mite to prevent further spread.*

*Biosecurity Queensland Varroa Mite Response Coordinator, Craig Jennings, said the zone has been extended to help with the eradication of varroa mites in Townsville.*

*“We initially had a Movement Control Order that spanned 10 kilometres around the initial varroa mite detection,” Mr Jennings said.*

*“We have now amended that Movement Control Order to include the whole of the Townsville City Council area.*

*“This has occurred following the additional detection of a varroa mite on Asian honey bees at Annandale and the approval of a national eradication program for varroa mite in Townsville,” he said.*

*“The types of items that the restrictions apply to have also changed. The restrictions now only apply to live bees, bee hives or any part of a bee hive that may be carrying live bees, including adults, brood, larvae and eggs.*

*“This amendment was based on advice from a panel of scientific and technical experts on what items had the greatest risk of spreading the mite.*

*“Townsville beekeepers who want to move live bees, bee hives or any other item that may contain live bees out of the City Council area, will need to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit.*

*“The restrictions do not apply to bees or bee hives that have originated from outside the Townsville City Council area and that are simply transiting through the area.*

*“Queen bees and escorts can travel through Townsville by mail without a permit provided they are in sealed, unopened packages. Closed hives can also travel through the area as long as they do so without stopping,” he said.*

*“We are asking Townsville residents to remain vigilant and keep reporting bees to us, as foraging Asian honey bees have recently been found at North Ward, which is outside of the Townsville Port and Hyde Park areas where foraging Asian honey bees have previously been sighted.*

*“If you see a swarm or nest, or just a couple of unusual bees, make sure you let us know by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.”*

*Varroa mites have the potential to significantly damage the Australian bee industry, disrupting honey production and pollination services.*

*For more information about the Movement Control Order, to apply for a biosecurity instrument permit or to see a map of the affected area, visit [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or call 13 25 23.*