



Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc

COVID-19 STATE BY STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEEKEEPERS – 13/07/2020

Below please find detailed bullet points and links to online portal for essential border movements. The points are itemised under the respective State Government requirements. This document will be treated as a living document, updates and changes to requirements will be marked in **RED** along with a date change in the title.

Beekeeper operational requirements for working in New South Wales:

- Valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass: <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass>
- Current and lodged Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

Beekeeper operational requirements for working in Victoria:

- Valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass: <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass>
- Valid New South Wales Border Permit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit>
- Current and lodged Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>
- BEES signage to be displayed in the windscreen of truck on approach to border crossings.

The information as follows provides detailed information or border crossing requirements. Please ensure you read this information carefully and ensure all documents are printed prior to departure from Queensland. For any questions please contact QBA State Secretary Jo Martin via email qbainc@bigpond.com or via mobile 0498 000 496.

Beekeeper operational requirements for working in New South Wales

1. Valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass

Please use the following link to access the Queensland Government Border permits portal <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass>

There are two options when applying for a border pass. The first option is a 'General Declaration Pass' which will enable individuals to cross the QLD/NSW border. This option is only available to those who have not been in or transited through a COVID-19 hot spot, this option is not suitable for the Victoria Almond pollination event.

The second option is an Essential Activity Declaration Pass. This is the option which has been advised to be used by the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre (SHECC). Please be aware it doesn't allow you to qualify for a 'Transport and Logistics' exemption unless you indicate that you've been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days.

An example has been provided by SHECC providing specific instructions on how to complete an application for the pass. All beekeepers who have visited any of the COVID-19 hotspots (please see the following link for daily updates) <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19> will need to ensure they have completed an 'Essential Activity Border Declaration pass' in order to re-enter Queensland *without the need to quarantine.

It is recommended that although not all beekeepers will visit or travel through COVID-19 hotspot areas they complete the Essential Activity Declaration Pass. By doing so this will enable beekeepers to be 'waived through' most border entry points into Queensland. Beekeepers can expect to be randomly intercepted by border entry officials, they can also expect to be questioned about their activities and whereabouts. It is commonly understood that not all beekeepers will travel to COVID-19 hotspots as such beekeepers carrying this exemption can be reassured that it is the correct paperwork to carry if you're migrating bees in a commercial operation.

2. Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan

All beekeeping businesses are required to have a current Queensland Workplace Health Plan in place. This is a mandatory requirement for all businesses operating in Queensland. Beekeepers undertaking pollination services to growers located both in Queensland and beyond may be asked to provide a copy of their Health Plan prior to the entry of farms. We urge all members to ensure they have a current plan in place, carry the plan on person and ensure the plan is lodged with Queensland Health. Please use the following link to access the Workplace Health plan. The template can be found under the righthand tool bar under the heading Workplace Health Management Plan Template – Agribusiness and Commercial Fishing. <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

Beekeeper operational requirements for working in Victoria.

1. Valid Queensland Border Declaration Pass

Please use the following link to access the Queensland Government Border permits portal

<https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass>

Beekeepers travelling to Victoria for the Almond Pollination season will require a 'Essential Activity Declaration Pass'. This is the only option for beekeepers undertaking pollination services. Currently the entire state of Victoria has been recognised as a COVID-19 hotspot under the health directive as issued by the Queensland Chief Health Officer.

The State Health Emergency Coordination Centre (SHECC) have provided formal advice that all beekeepers intending to travel to Victoria will require this pass in order to re-enter Queensland without undertaking mandatory quarantine. This pass also relates to beekeepers who may travel through other hotspot areas located in NSW. Beekeepers are encouraged to check the hotspot regions frequently to remain updated on hotspot locations as recognised by the Queensland Government. Please use the following link for daily updates; <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19>

The Queensland Border Declaration Pass is only valid for a time frame of 7 days from the date of issue. Beekeepers will be required to ensure they have valid passes on re-entry to Queensland. Beekeepers will need to complete a new Border Declaration Pass every 7 days. At this stage we await confirmation if digital passes (on phones, tablets or laptops) would be accepted for re-entry. Once this information is clear we will update this document.

Queensland based beekeepers returning from a COVID-19 hotspot are required to comply with the following directions upon approval to re-enter Queensland. Information provided by SHECC.

Please also note that paper application forms are available at Queensland border entry points if drivers are unable to access online application forms.

As the almond pollination activities will require the persons transporting the beehives to travel to a COVID-19 hotspot, the following requirements of the Border restrictions Direction (no.8) should be noted:

Any person, who is transporting freight to, from or through Queensland under a commercial freight operation and any other person in the vehicle who is essential for the delivery of the freight, must as far as practicable, remain isolated from the general public in their vehicle or accommodation until the person departs Queensland or for 14 days, whichever period is shorter. When the drivers re-enter Queensland after travelling to a hotspot, they must:

1. *keep and retain written records of close contacts for a 14-day period commencing on their date of arrival in Queensland, or, if they remain in Queensland for a period of less than 14 days, for that period; and*
2. *provide the records to an emergency officer (public health) if directed by an emergency officer (public health) or to a contact tracing officer; and*
3. *minimise contact with the community for a period of 14 days; and*
4. *to the extent reasonably practicable, practice physical distancing including by remaining at least 1.5 metres from other people.*

For the purpose of the requirements above, a person is a close contact of another person if they are in the company of the other person: within an enclosed space for a period of 2 hours or longer; or within 1.5 metres of the other person for a period of 15 minutes or longer; and the records that are required to be kept are the name and phone number and email address of the close contact and the day, time and location at which the close contact occurred; or if the name and phone number or email address are not known or it is not reasonably practicable to obtain them, the day, time and location at which the close contact occurred.

2. Valid New South Wales Border Permit.

Beekeepers crossing the NSW/VIC border to supply hives to Almond orchards will require a valid New South Wales Border Permit. The QBA has received confirmation from NSW authorities that commercial beekeepers are eligible for a critical services permit. Please note, this is the preferred permit to be used at this time.

Please use the following link to access the Service New South Wales border permits portal.

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit>

Beekeepers will be required to hold a valid permit. NSW border permits are valid for a time frame of 14 days from the date of issue. Beekeepers will be required to ensure they have a valid pass on re-entry into NSW from Victoria. Beekeepers will need to complete a new NSW border permit every 14 days. At this stage we await confirmation if digital passes (on phones, tablets or laptops) would be accepted for re-entry. Once this information is clear we will update this document.

3. Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan

All beekeepers crossing the NSW/VIC border are required to have a current Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan in place. This document must be carried on person (in vehicle) and available to be produced on request from NSW border control officials. This document forms an additional requirement to enable beekeepers to re-enter NSW after departure from Victoria.

The QBA has been given written approval that the Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan will be accepted in place of the NSW COVID-19 safety plan (NSW equivalent to the Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan). Approval to use this document in place of the NSW COVID-19 Safety Plan was granted by the NSW DPI Director of Emergency.

Beekeepers who fail to produce evidence of the Health Plan may be required to undertake mandatory quarantine or be refused re-entry into New South Wales.

All beekeeping businesses are required to have a current Queensland Workplace Health Management Plan in place. This is a mandatory requirement for all businesses operating in Queensland. Beekeepers undertaking pollination services to growers located both in Queensland and beyond may be asked to provide a copy of their Health Plan prior to the entry of farms. We urge all members to ensure they have a current plan in place, carry the plan on person and ensure the plan is lodged with Queensland Health.

Please use the following link to access the Workplace Health plan. The template can be found under the righthand tool bar under the heading Workplace Health Management Plan Template – Agribusiness and Commercial Fishing. <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

4. Please print out the A4 BEES sign below

In order to manage the safety of border control operations on the ground on NSW border check points, we have been asked where possible to display a BEES sign on the windscreen of trucks.

Please ensure you have this sign or a similar sign printed and clearly visible to border control officials. We appreciate that these 'signs' will not be easily visible during night time hours. This was a request from NSW police.

Beekeepers are also asked to contact NSW Police on the below mobile number on approach to border check points. It is suggested that the driver contact NSW police a minimum of 30 mins prior to arrival.

All drivers of heavy vehicles carrying bees are to **call NSW Police 0427 421 793** when crossing both the Murray Valley Highway Crossing near Robinvale Vic (also known as the Euston Crossing) and the Tooleybuc Bridge Crossing.

Drivers are to advise police of the prime mover and rear trailer registration numbers and importantly the time of crossing.

Police will turn the lights off at the checkpoints before and until the vehicle passes.

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