



## **AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

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**ABN 63 939 614 424**

### **AUSTRALIAN HONEY INDUSTRY MONTHLY REVIEW**

**To: The Australian Honey Industry**  
**From Stephen Ware – Executive Director**  
**Re: April 2009 Update**

**AB's Honey**  
**Australian Honey Products**  
**Beechworth Honey**  
**Bees Neez Apiaries**  
**Capilano Honey Limited**  
**Dewar Apiaries**  
**Honey DownUnder**  
**H L & H M Hoskinson**  
**I N & JE Mills**  
**Pollination Association of WA**

**Saxonbee Enterprises**  
**Spring Gully Foods Pty Ltd**  
**Stephens, R**  
**Tasmanian Crop Pollination Association**  
**Tasmanian Honey Company**  
**Walkabout Apiaries**  
**T & M Weatherhead**  
**Weerona Apiaries**  
**Wescobee Limited**

AHBIC acknowledges the **beekeeper suppliers** who contribute via their packer and queen bee supplier to AHBIC. We also urge beekeepers to support those packers/queen bee breeders who contribute to AHBIC.

**Does your honey buyer's or queen bee supplier's name appear on this list?**  
**If not, then ask 'why not?'**

**SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOUR INDUSTRY!**

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## **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ALTER THE AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council will be held at Rydges Parramatta, 116 James Ruse Drive, Rosehill NSW on 12/13 July 2009. The meeting will commence at 1.30pm on Sunday 12 July and reconvene at 7.45am Monday 13 July 2009.

In accordance with Section 19 of the AHBIC Constitution:

The Constitution may only be altered at an Annual General Meeting by a Special Resolution. Member organisations and trade journals are to be advised at least 30 days before the Annual General Meeting of such resolutions.

Details of the Constitutional changes are contained in this edition together with Agenda for the abovementioned meeting.

*The AHBIC Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held on 12 & 13 July 2009 at Rydges Parramatta Hotel. This is to be followed by an AHBIC Executive Meeting on the afternoon of 13 July. Details of accommodation arrangements are as follows:*

**Venue:** Rydges Parramatta Hotel  
116 James Ruse Drive  
Rosehill Sydney NSW  
Phone: + 61 2 8863 7600  
Fax: + 61 2 8863 7601  
Email: [reservations\\_parramatta@rydges.com](mailto:reservations_parramatta@rydges.com)  
Web: [www.rydges.com](http://www.rydges.com)

Delegates should make their own travel and accommodation bookings direct. This information is provided early so that delegates may obtain the best airfares.

Rydges has a very competitive rate of \$140 a night. This is an exceptionally good rate for Sydney and is valid for use from the 7/07/09 up until the 14/07/09. Book direct with the hotel  
Phone: 1300 857 922 or email [reservations\\_parramatta@rydges.com](mailto:reservations_parramatta@rydges.com) (be sure to mention that you are attending the Conference).

Rydges has also block booked 30 rooms opposite them at the Waldorf – 02 8837 8000 (these are one bedroom serviced apartments). There is free parking at Rydges as well.

**A registration form is attached for your convenience**

### **National Crop Pollination Association**

The National Crop Pollination Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11 July 2009 from 6:00pm at the venue as above.

## Notice of Election of Chairperson – Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

**In accordance with the constitution, notice is hereby given that nominations for the position of Chairperson of AHBIC open on Friday 1 May 2009 and close on COB Friday 12 June 2009. Candidates are advised of Section 5.2 of the constitution and, in particular:-**

A Chairperson of AHBIC shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting as follows:

5.2.1 Nominations of candidates for election as Chairperson of AHBIC:

- (a) shall be made in writing, signed by one voting delegate and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.
- (b) each nominee may submit a two hundred (200) word statement.
- (c) **the nomination shall be delivered to the Secretary of AHBIC not less than twenty eight days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting. All delegates are to be notified of all nominations at least fourteen days prior to the holding of the Annual General Meeting.**
- (d) If no nominations are received as required under 5.2.1 (a) and 5.2.1 (c), nominations shall be taken from the floor at the next Annual General Meeting.

### **RIRDC HONEYBEE FIELD DAY**

Prior to the New South Wales Conference RIRDC will be hosting a Honeybee Field Day on Wednesday 8 July 2009 at the Hawkesbury Campus of the University of Western Sydney

We intend to make a bus available (if needed) primarily for interstate and overseas delegates to the field day. If you would like to book a seat on the bus, could you please contact Lea Edwards on either phone: 02 6271 4132 or email: [lea.edwards@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:lea.edwards@rirdc.gov.au) by 5.00pm 2 July 2009.

### **APIS CERANA INCURSION**

*In this week's phone hook-up, which QBA President Rodney Ruge was not able to make, the following was reported:*

- On Thursday 16 April in response to a public call, cerana were found foraging on a lime berry bush at Goldsborough Valley. This site is about 9kms south west from IP10 & 13 and is still within the RA. They were quite active and were easily converted onto a sugar feeding station. Beelining commenced. It was hoped that today the nest may have been found but persistent drizzle then rain has curtailed the foraging although some progress was made.
- No further sightings have been made at the Bentley Park site. The royal palm flowers are about to break open and are a known haunt of cerana. The wet weather has delayed the opening of the fronds. These will be monitored next week.
- The east and west sides of the corridor as well as Trinity Inlet are still being monitored with sugar feeding stations.
- The Lake Morris Road sites are monitored twice a week with only mellifera being seen.

- The Kuranda Skyrail sites are being monitored daily by the staff who have reported that they have not seen any bees working these stations to date.
- There are new bee eater roosts being surveyed. The monitoring equipment was removed over Easter to stop any possible interference by the public. All pellets sent away have been negative for cerana wings.
- There are to be four (4) extra staff employed from next week till 30 June. This will raise the number of teams out doing surveillance from three (3) to five (5). There are two (2) in a team.
- QDPI&F have been having teething problems with their micro satellite determination machine. It is most likely these outstanding samples will be sent away for determination.
- IP20 and 21 have had the bees examined and no mites have been found.

The next phone hook-up is scheduled for Friday 1 May. So the next Advice will be due then unless something untoward happens in the meantime.

Trevor Weatherhead  
17 April 2009

### **BEEKEEPING IN AFRICA**

I am the national co-coordinator of the Christian Beekeepers' Association in Uganda, East Africa. We would like to partner with you if given a chance and also to exchange ideas about beekeeping.

Michael Ssembatya [sembatyamichael@yahoo.com](mailto:sembatyamichael@yahoo.com)

### **APIMONDIA 2009**

We wish you and your families a happy Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you in Montpellier - France for the 41st Apimondia Congress in September (15 - 20).

We take this opportunity to inform you that, despite the severe magnitude of the earthquake that hit the Abruzzo region earlier, particularly the headtown of L'Aquila and its surroundings, this week and that is still giving signs of strong activity, in Rome there were no major effects nor damage. 278 casualties have been reported so far and there are still some people missing in the headcount.

We express our deep sympathy for all the victims and hope that they can look to the future with renewed enthusiasm with the help of all. We also wish them that the Easter holiday may bring them some relief.

The Italian Beekeepers' Federation (FAI), who is our member association here in Italy has received several offers for helping the victims of the earthquake. At present what is most needed is first aid and goods to go through the initial days after the disaster. In due course FAI will tell us how to co-ordinate and channel any contributions in cash and in other forms and we will inform you accordingly should you wish to provide assistance to the Abruzzo region people.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Riccardo Jannoni-Sebastianini

Filippo Jannoni-Sebastianini

Ulrike Nöhrer

Apimondia

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## AUSTRALIAN PLAGUE LOCUST COMMISSION

*Pest Management Program (NSW) 28 March 2009*

The Australian Plague Locust Commission (APLC) (possibly in conjunction with state and local authority cooperation plus landholder operations) expects to commence locust control operations within 7 days of the date of this advice in accordance with provisions of the relevant sections of the NSW Rural Lands Protection Act.

<b>Species:</b>	Australian plague locust ( <i>Chortoicetes terminifera</i> )
<b>Location:</b>	Expected to initially commence in the Central West and Darling Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) areas - concentrating primarily in the Coonamble - Quambone and Bourke – Tilpa areas but potentially also in surrounding districts and elsewhere on a needs basis. (Other agencies, and landholders, may be conducting separate management operations both within and outside these areas)
<b>Anticipated Commencement:</b>	28 March 2009
<b>Anticipated Duration:</b>	Up to 6-8 weeks (may be intermittent and dependent on a variety of factors)
<b>Method:</b>	Aerial application of ultra-low volume (ULV) insecticide
<b>Possible Materials:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adonis [Fipronil] (ULV) (Chemical control agent)</li><li>Sumithion [Fenitrothion] (ULV) (Chemical [organophosphorous] control agent)</li><li>Green Guard [<i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i>] (ULV) (Biological control agent)</li></ol>
<b>Personnel:</b>	<p>All APLC personnel are appointed as ‘Authorised Persons’ in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Act of each respective jurisdiction and are employed as Australian Public Servants, subject to evaluation of suitability and police checks, obliged to abide by the Australian Public Service (APS) Act / Code of Conduct, evaluated for fitness for duty, participate in a formal APLC Induction Programme and are required to satisfactorily complete relevant training.</p> <p>APLC employs a competency-based training programme to address the particular needs associated with the specialised nature of APLC operations and for which no alternative external service provider exists. Some relevant examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting ground and aerial surveys to assess locust populations and environmental conditions.</li><li>• Participation in locust control campaigns, including aerial and ground target search and marking plus assessment of control efficacy.</li><li>• Assist scientific staff in research and development work, e.g. field testing insecticides, damage assessment, and locust behaviour.</li></ul> <p>The APLC is the lead agency in locust control in Australia with a similar international reputation. Internal policy guidelines require officers to satisfy accepted competency standards before performing identified tasks. Officers who have not yet attained competence are not authorised to perform identified tasks without the direct supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced APLC officer.</p>
<b>Consultation:</b>	Consultation with landholders will take place before any operations on or near their property. Apiarists are advised to notify relevant authorities of hive locations and consider appropriate precautions. Post-control advice will also be provided to landholders after any aerial application on their property.

## **EXPORT MATTERS**

*Ensuring that your honey and bee products are properly certified for the European Union.*

I hope this will be a regular Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) spot in the AHBIC News and it will highlight regulatory matters related to getting your product overseas. The first of these articles will provide details of getting your product into the European Union (EU)

In 2006, the European Commission introduced import requirements for honey and bee products exported to all member states of the EU. As Europe is a significant market for Australian honey exporters, AQIS in cooperation with AHBIC set up a provisional system that would allow exporters to continue to export to the EU.

The crucial requirements of this provisional system are as follows:

1. All exporters must be enrolled with AQIS to export to the EU, please contact me either by telephone (02) 6272 5965 or by email [fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au](mailto:fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au) if you would like to export to the EU and are not currently enrolled.
2. All exporters to the EU must be currently compliant with a recognised HACCP based food safety plan. Acceptable systems include B-QUAL and any program that includes JAS-ANZ accredited food safety audits.
3. The correct certificate (correctly completed) must accompany all consignments of honey and bee products exported to the EU. There are two certificates:
  - For honey and bee products for human consumption, called the *Veterinary Certificate for import of Honey and other Apiculture Products intended for Human Consumption*, and
  - For honey and bee by-products that are not intended for human consumption, called the *Veterinary Certificate for Apiculture By-Products intended for dispatch to or transit through the European Community*.
4. In addition, by-products must have undergone the following;
  - Been kept at a temperature of -12°C for at least 24 hours, or
  - Rendered in the case of wax, or
  - Be accompanied by a certificate from a State apiary officer that certifies the hives that the product was taken from were free of Acarapis, Tropilaelaps, American foul brood and small hive beetle.

The European Union requires that the export certificate is in the language of the European Border Inspection Post that will inspect the product – the port of entry into the European Union. AQIS currently has certificates in English and bi-lingual certificates suitable for exporting product for human consumption to France, Germany and Italy, plus certificates for by-products for the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Holland.

Please contact me, if you require further explanation of the EU requirements or if you require the development of a certificate in other European languages. Contact your regional AQIS officer for assistance in completing the European export certificate and other advice about getting your product overseas.

Fay Stenhouse [fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au](mailto:fay.stenhouse@aqis.gov.au)

Residue Section, Animal Products Market Access Branch

## **WORK WANTED**

I am a 20 year old hard working beekeeper from Germany. In August I finish my 3 year apprenticeship at LAVES Bieneninstitut in Celle, Germany. To get more practice with bees and honey I am looking for a job to stay for few months in Tasmania. I look for a beekeeping business to apply for an "Occupational Trainee visa" with paper Nr 913. Can you give me more address from beekeeper in Tasmania?

Steffen Streich [steffen.streich@gmx.de](mailto:steffen.streich@gmx.de)

## **BEEKEEPING ON THE AIR**

The ABC radio program "Drive" hosted by Richard Glover approached the AHBIC office to provide a beekeeper for the program that was live to air from the Sydney Royal Easter Show on 15 April. Bruce White volunteered for the job!

The main challenge for the show was in three hours, to make a tea pot, cup, spoon and biscuits. The team for the challenge included: Mark Elliott (glass blower), Ranjit Giri (tea processor), Ray Frien (tea grower), Joseph Ebbage (Almond grower), Bruce White (apiarist), Shannon (and the cow for milk).

During the show Richard Glover gave everyone the chance to promote the industries they represented. Bruce took along a frame of bees in a Perspex case, a hand extractor and two frames of honey so the extracted honey could be used in the biscuits.

The tea pot, cup and spoon were auctioned and \$3,400 was raised for the Far West Children's Health Scheme.

Following the program going to air the Honey Stand at the Show enjoyed the benefits of the publicity.



*Bruce White live on the ABC at the Sydney Royal Easter Show*

## **BEESWAX WANTED**

Stella + Marco - a Brisbane skincare company is currently sourcing a local supplier of unrefined Beeswax for use in products. Quantities at this stage are in 5kg lots. If you are able to supply please contact Directors Melinda or Lisa on 1800 705 023.

**AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.**  
Annual General Meeting and Conference  
to be held at  
Rydges Parramatta, 116 James Ruse Drive, Rosehill, New South Wales  
commencing Sunday, 12 July 2009 at 1.30pm

## **AGENDA**

**Attendees:**

12 Delegates from Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations  
3 Delegates from Honey Packers and Marketers Association  
2 Delegates from National Council of Crop Pollination Associations  
2 Delegates from Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association

- 1. Nosema Ceranae - Dr Michael Hornitzky )**
- 2. Response to Parliamentary Inquiry - Mr Tom Aldred – DAFF -Animal & Plant Health  
(Attachment 2)**
- 3. Varroa in New Guinea - Dr Denis Anderson, CSIRO**

**Afternoon tea will be served between 3:30 and 4:00pm**

- 4. Honey Bee Research and Development Committee (HBRDC) - Mr David Dall  
(Attachment 4)**
- 5. Queen Bee Breeding Programme – Mr Bruce White**
- 6. AHBIC Review - Mr Bill Weiss**

*Meeting adjourns until 7:45am - Monday 13 July 2009*

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**This evening's dinner will be held in the Kingston Suite on the Mezzanine Level**

**Pre-dinner drinks will be served from 7.00pm with dinner served at 7.30pm**

**Our guest speaker for the Dinner is Mr Greg Fraser, CEO of Plant Health Australia**



# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

## Annual General Meeting and Conference

to be held at

Rydges Parramatta, 116 James Ruse Drive, Rosehill, New South Wales

reconvening at 7:45am Tuesday, 13 July 2009

### 7. Chairperson's Report

### 8. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Following consideration of the minutes it is proposed: *"That the minutes of the annual general meeting held at Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport, 265 Mickleham Road, Tullamarine, Victoria on 14 & 15 July 2008, as circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record."*

### 9. Business Arising from Minutes

### 10. Consideration of AHBIC Review and Constitutional Changes (Attachment)

*The meeting will consider the AHBIC Internal Review and Recommendations attached.*

*In accordance with Section 19 of the AHBIC Constitution the following changes will be debated and adopted in accordance with the recommendations contained in the AHBIC Review Report.*

***The notes contained under the recommendations have been prepared to explain the implications constitutionally of adopting the Report's recommendations. They do not form part of the report. An abridged version of the Report is attached for your further information.***

***Each of the Recommendations is listed together with Constitutional implications. The AHBIC Chairman has also indicated that at the AHBIC AGM in order to save time he will debate the Report's Recommendations by the moving of the following two (2) Constitutional Resolutions. Member bodies may wish to debate the Report's Recommendations individually and make amendments to the Constitution or support the Resolutions below:***

#### NOTICE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS (Section 19 – AHBIC Constitution)

The AHBIC Chairman has indicated for ease of simplicity at the AHBIC Annual General Meeting he will put forward the following Resolutions:

- i. That the existing Constitution of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Incorporated be repealed.
- ii. That a new Constitution be adopted incorporating the Recommendations of the AHBIC Committee of Review's Report.

AHBIC Delegates will receive a copy of this new Constitution (drawn up by the AHBIC Review and Constitutional Committee) in their agenda papers. Member Associations should empower their delegates to vote on and/or amend any proposed constitutional changes that may be put forward at the AHBIC AGM.

Member Associations should formulate their views and make known their wishes to their elected AHBIC delegates.

### **Recommendation 1**

**That all sector member body representation within the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. organizational structure, as currently exists, be deleted from the structure.**

This effectively recommends that all existing members of AHBIC resign their membership presumably after making the constitutional changes necessary to bring about the Report's recommendations. AHBIC is currently an organisation made up of member organisations it cannot legally expel members therefore the member organisations, FCAAA, HPMMA, AQBBA and NCPA must agree themselves to resign.

Constitutionally Section 4.2 would be deleted and replaced by a new Section 4.2:  
Voting entitlement would be:

NSW Apiarists' Association Inc (NSWAA)	4
Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (VAA)	2
South Australian Apiarists' Association (SAAA)	2
Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA)	2
Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association (TBA)	2
Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) – Beekeepers Section	2
Honey Packers & Marketers Association (HPMAA)	1
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association (AQBBA)	1
National Crop Pollination Association (NCPA)	1
Chairperson of AHBIC Policy Advisory Committee	1

Section 4.3 is deleted.

### **Recommendation 2**

**That the six principal state apiarists' associations constitute the core organizational structure of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.**

The constitution currently allows for the admission of new organisations. It would be a simple matter of the six principal State Apiarists' Associations applying for membership. The issue of voting rights however will need to be determined as per the above.

### **Recommendation 3**

**That the production sectors of queen breeding and crop pollination be provided with appropriate pathways for core peak body representation through respective principal state apiarists' associations, including the opportunity for formal representation at meetings of the peak body general council. (Principal state apiarists' associations meeting in council.)**

The first issue is a matter for State Associations to decide as all have different constitutions.

A new Section 4.3 would be introduced that:

The following number of delegates shall be appointed by respective member organisations to attend meetings and vote on their behalf.

NSW Apiarists' Association Inc (NSWAA)	4
Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (VAA)	2
South Australian Apiarists' Association (SAAA)	2
Queensland Beekeepers' Association (QBA)	2
Tasmanian Beekeepers' Association (TBA)	2
Western Australian Farmers Federation (WAFF) – Beekeepers Section	2
Honey Packers & Marketers Association (HPMAA)	1
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association (AQBBA)	1
National Crop Pollination Association (NCPA)	1
Chairperson of AHBIC Policy Advisory Committee	1

Delete Section 5.2.4 and replace with a new Section 5.24:

That all financial members are eligible to stand for the position of Chairperson.

#### **Recommendation 4**

**The honey packing and marketing sector be provided the opportunity to be formally represented at meetings of the peak body general council.**

Delete Section 3.3.

Delete Section 5.3.4.

As per new Section 4.3.

#### **Recommendation 5**

**That a honey quality, packing, and marketing policy advisory standing committee be established, membership consisting as follows:**

- **Chairperson, AHBIC**
- **Chairperson, HP & MAA**
- **Chairperson, B-Qual**
- **Chairperson, HBRDC.**
- **Largest by volume honey packer**

Introduce a new Section 4.9.

An AHBIC Policy Committee shall be established comprising:

- Chairperson, AHBIC
- Chairperson, HP & MAA
- Chairperson, B-Qual
- Chairperson, HBRDC
- Largest by volume honey packer

#### **Recommendation 6**

**That the function of the AHBIC honey quality, packing and marketing policy advisory standing committee be to receive references from the AHBIC executive committee of**

**management for consideration and to recommend courses of action, in addition to the capacity to generate initiatives and recommendations for consideration by the AHBIC general council and executive committee.**

The above committee renamed AHBIC Policy Committee would fulfil the above functions.

#### **Recommendation 7**

**That the AHBIC executive committee of management be reduced in number to 5 members, including the Chairperson and deputy Chairperson, elected by the members of the AHBIC general council of delegates.**

Delete Section 5.4 & 5.5.

New Section 5.4.

That the affairs of AHBIC shall be directed by an Executive Committee of five (5) persons comprising the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and three (3) committee members appointed at the Annual General Meeting. All retiring members are eligible for re-appointment.

#### **Recommendation 8**

**That the AHBIC executive committee of management terms of appointment be for two years, elections staggered to provide for management continuity and flexibility.**

Add new Section 5.5.

The Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. (In the first year of election the two committee members with the highest votes shall be elected for two (2) years with the remainder for one (1) year).

Amendment to Section 5.2 to read:

A Chairperson of AHBIC to be elected for two (2) years at each bi-annual Annual General Meeting

#### **Recommendation 9**

**That consultation with the representative apiarists' associations of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory be engaged to discuss and resolve the Territories' accommodation within the peak body organizational structure.**

This is a matter for State Associations. It is noted that efforts to engage the territories in the past have floundered, not because of the lack of willingness to include.

#### **Recommendation 10**

**That each member state of the AHBIC establish pathways for consultation with any unaligned beekeeping entity which may reside in any state.**

Again a matter for State Associations.

#### **Recommendation 11**

**That the AHBIC investigate, and report on, what structural changes, if any, would be required to facilitate a closer working relationship with the National Farmers' Federation Inc.**

There are no structural issues preventing a closer working relationship with the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), as the NFF is made up of commodity councils. In the past the NFF have even offered membership (approximately \$50,000) plus the cost of operating the commodity council. This would represent the existing cost of running AHBIC plus the \$50,000.

AHBIC is also free to approach NFF direct and we have worked directly with them in Aboriginal Land Rights.

The NFF itself recently restructured to encourage more groups to affiliate. An analysis needs to be done of the cost vs. benefits of membership.

#### **Recommendation 12**

**That a constitutional review committee be established to remodel the existing AHBIC constitution to reflect organizational and operating changes agreed to by the member states in Council.**

AHBIC already has an established Constitutional Review Committee.

#### **Recommendation 13**

**The AHBIC constitutional review committee examine, and if relevant and appropriate, consider provisions of other similar entities' rules for possible adaptation for the AHBIC statutes. Examples follow:**

- The Almond Board of Australia
- The Canadian Honey Council
- The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand
- The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations
- Australian Citrus Growers

The above resolution needs to be considered by the AHBIC Constitutional Review Committee.

#### **Recommendation 14**

**That each principal state apiarists' association be required to allocate the portfolios of honeybee crop pollination and queen bee production each to a designated serving executive council member and establish avenues for liaison with each sector.**

This matter is referred to State Apiarists' Associations for implementation.

#### **Recommendation 15**

**That the principal state apiarists' associations establish within each regular executive council meeting agenda standing orders, provision for discussion and resolution of AHBIC business generated from the respective state, or by the peak body executive committee of management.**

Again a matter for State Associations.

#### **Recommendation 16**

**That the AHBIC executive director maintain an internal communications correspondence register, comprising:**

- Principal state apiarists' associations elected council members, reviewed annually post state conference elections

- State departments of agriculture/primary industries apiculture personnel
- Mainstream honey packers/marketers/producer packers
- Pollination Australia
- Honey Bee Research and Development Committee members
- Key Federal Department of Agriculture and Fisheries personnel
- Others as may be appropriate

This is currently the case and should be reviewed by the incoming AHBIC Executive.

#### **Recommendation 17**

**That as an issue arises for consideration by the AHBIC, generated externally, or internally by the executive committee of management, by a member state, or by the policy advisory standing committee, the executive director circulate the information to each of the member states including respective executive council personnel, and seek input from each of the member states as a prerequisite of consideration by the AHBIC executive committee of management. The relevant correspondence also be circulated to other parties listed on the register, for their information, subject to the discretion of the executive committee of management.**

These are operational issues that are probably best dealt with by the Chairperson and Board. Possibly an Executive summary of decisions and extracts of board minutes would achieve these outcomes.

#### **Recommendation 18**

**That when sufficient lead time is not available for wider consultation, the executive committee of management have the power to resolve issues on behalf of the member states, subject to reporting of action taken and endorsement by the member states.**

This is currently the case.

#### **Recommendation 19**

**That publication of the monthly AHBIC newsletter continue and be circulated to parties of the internal correspondence register. It is further recommended that each newsletter should include a Market Intelligence Section, reporting comprehensively on prevailing export and domestic market environments.**

The inclusion of a Market Intelligence Section is dependent on obtaining the relevant data - what sources are considered to be relevant? This matter needs to be considered further by the incoming AHBIC Executive.

#### **Recommendation 20**

**That each principal state apiarists' association be requested to publish, in each issue of respective periodicals, peak body press releases and news items for the information of financial members.**

This is currently the case.

**Recommendation 21**

**That each state apiarists' association member state's annual executive council meeting roster be lodged with the AHBIC office.**

State Associations are requested to this if this is passed.

**Recommendation 22**

**That the outcome of all executive committee of management actions/deliberations be expeditiously reported to each principal state apiarists' association.**

This matter requires no constitutional change to be effected.

**Recommendation 23**

**That the principal state apiarists' associations, convening in general council and on taking professional advice, establish performance indicators applicable to executive committee personnel, segregated as follows:**

- Executive Director – (linked to financial bonus)
- Chairperson – (linked to financial bonus)
- Deputy Chairperson and Executive Council Members

This is an admirable goal but will be extremely difficult to implement. It is recommended that further professional advice be sought and carefully scrutinised as it could prove to be financially prohibitive is implemented poorly.

**Recommendation 24**

**That any honey bee industry participant, who is a financial member of a principal state apiarists' association, be eligible for nomination and election to the AHBIC executive committee of management, including the offices of Chairperson and vice Chairperson.**

Delete Section 5.2.4 and replace with new Section 5.2.4:

Any financial member of a principal Apiarists' Association as named in the Constitution shall be eligible for nomination and election to the AHBIC Executive Committee of Management, including the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

**Recommendation 25**

**That all nominations for the election of AHBIC executive committee of management members, including the Chairperson and vice Chairperson, be lodged with the executive director one month in advance of elections. (Note the provisions of recommendation 8 regarding staggered terms of appointment.)**

A new Section 5.6 that:

The candidates for the election of position on the AHBIC Executive Committee, including Chairperson and Vice Chairperson be lodged with the Executive Director 30 day in advance of the Annual General Meeting. All positions will be filled for two (2) years (and elected by rotation) at the Annual General Meeting and decided by voting delegates.

**Recommendation 26**

**That all electoral voting to decide the successful candidates take place in session on the floor of the AHBIC Annual General Meeting, resolved by the council of delegates representing the principal state apiarists' associations of Australia.**

The above Constitutional amendments allow this to occur.

**Recommendation 27**

**That all issues debated on the floor of the AHBIC Annual General Meeting be resolved by the council of delegates representing the principal state apiarists' associations of Australia.**

This has been accomplished via only principal State Apiarists' Associations being eligible to be elected as voting delegates.

**Recommendation 28**

**That any Australian honey bee industry participant who is not a member of the AHBIC general council of delegates, or a financial member of a principal state association be eligible to move, second, and debate motions, providing notice of motion to do so three months in advance is lodged with the AHBIC executive director.**

This is simply a matter of changing standing orders and is not a matter for Constitutional changes.

**Recommendation 29**

**That any Australian honey bee industry participant be eligible to attend annual general meetings, and to participate in debate on any issue.**

Again no Constitutional change is required.

**Recommendation 30**

**That the principal state apiarists' associations in Council give consideration to the conduct of the AHBIC Annual General Meeting as a National Convention, to showcase the industry to the Federal and State Governments, to the stakeholders, and to the wider community.**

This can be done under the existing Constitution. The question to be answered is who runs the convention – the State where the AGM is held or AHBIC? The cost, venue and agenda are issues that need to be determined in advance.

**Recommendation 31**

**That the AHBIC Chairperson and executive director as a matter of priority, commence consultation with the Federal Government and if necessary the State Governments, to determine what opportunities may exist for the design and implementation of a statutory arrangement for the purpose of funding the operations of the Australian apiculture industry peak body, including the establishment of a hive levy.**



AHBIC has requested HBRDC to provide a paper analysing the cost and benefits of the establishment of a hive levy. It is proposed that the hive levy would replace existing levies and would be required to satisfy the Government's levy principles. It is also proposed that the hive levy would incorporate all beekeepers both commercial and non-commercial given the fact that biosecurity issues are also a matter directly affecting non-commercial beekeepers.

The cost of levy collection would also need to be assessed. The most efficient levy collection was previously on honey due to the small number of packers. This may now not be the case with considerable sales now being made by beekeepers to farmers markets and direct sales to consumers. The cost of collection and auditing a hive levy could be quite high unless State Governments agreed to co-operate. The issue of the treatment of Tasmanian and Territory beekeepers is also an issue that needs to be resolved in respect of a hive levy.

AHBIC has already written to the Minister in respect to a hive levy and he has indicated he doesn't oppose the concept in principal. He has also stated that this could be achieved by agreement between the States or new Commonwealth Legislation. Again these are issues that will need to be canvassed by the HBRDC paper. It should also be noted that funds so raised cannot be used for Agri-political purposes. It is possible however that some funding could be obtained to reimburse AHBC for biosecurity and research functions currently undertaken on Industry's behalf.

### **Recommendation 32**

**That in engaging consultation with the Federal Government, about peak body funding, AHBC representatives have regard to but not be confined to, the following references:**

- **Recommendations No. 15 and No. 18 of the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into the Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry, later titled, "More than Honey, the Future of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries".**
- **This AHBC review committee report, terms of reference, and recommendations.**
- **Prospects for the establishment of a national statutory arrangement based on a per hive levy rate.**
- **Prospects for liaison with respective State departments of agriculture/primary industries beekeeping hive registration offices, including the W.A. Beekeepers' Producers' Committee and the Agricultural Produce Commission Act of W.A.**
- **Prospects for the integration of levy collection arrangements with existing Animal Health Australia honeybee industry bio security arrangements, and other statutory arrangements.**
- **Prospects offered by other Federal Government mechanisms, policies, and discretionary powers of Ministers.**
- **Australian beekeepers' mandate.**

AHBIC has engaged in conversations with both State and Commonwealth Governments regarding funding. The above comments in relation to a hive levy are pertinent to this issue.

It is important that even if there is an introduction of a per hive levy, implementation may take a couple of years. It is worth noting part of the Report's discussion on fund raising, namely:

The cost of levy collection would also need to be assessed. The most efficient levy collection is on honey due to the small number of packers. The cost of collection and auditing a hive levy could be quite high unless State Governments agreed to co-operate. The issue of the treatment of Tasmanian and Territory beekeepers is also an issue that needs to be resolved in respect of a hive levy.

It is also important that to put in place any other than a voluntary levy may take at least a couple of years. So it is necessary for the major packers to continue supporting AHBIC. It is worth again considering part of the report's discussion on fund raising. Namely:

“Following Capilano's decision on voluntary contributions perhaps a straight levy from Packers could amount to \$75,000 per annum based on their market share. This would be allocated in accordance with Market Share.

The current size of some of the voluntary contributions means that the current system is administratively cumbersome and does not allow for adequate planning. The move to allow producers to opt in and out of voluntary contributions and passing the issue of tax receipts has resulted not only in less money but higher administration costs. The other alternative would be to have direct membership of AHBIC and allow members to pay an annual membership per hive.

A further \$75,000 could be raised with a compulsory contribution for Biosecurity. This could be funded out of Animal Health Australia's contingency fund which is currently funded by a levy of .05 cents per kg of honey. This could also be supplemented by a \$1.00 per hive levy which would result in increased contributions from the non-commercial sector. There are approximately 9,600 registered beekeepers with 500,000 hives in Australia. This would enable AHBIC to operate on an annual budget of \$150,000 a 50% reduction on what was originally agreed to when AHBIC was first established. The basis of suggesting everyone contribute to Biosecurity is obvious as all sectors of the industry benefit. Animal Health EADRA responses are needed for everyone, why should the burden be imposed solely on the commercial sector when peri-urban (non commercial beekeepers) are both a potential threat and winners from a strong Biosecurity system.”

### **Recommendation 33**

**In the event all approaches to the Federal and State Governments seeking the establishment of a statutory honey bee industry peak body funding arrangement do not succeed, or partly succeed and in the event the foregoing recommendations 1–3 become endorsed by the peak industry body meeting in Council, the principal state apiarists' associations again coordinate a strategic approach similar to that set out at 10.1 to 10.7 of the full report, with the objective to regain the goodwill and enthusiasm of all industry participants to re-establish a viable funding base for the peak body, based on voluntary contributions.**

This is a fallback resolution should the above be rejected.

### **Recommendation 34**

**That a copy of this report, with appreciation, be delivered to each person who took the time and effort to lodge a submission with the review committee. Further, that a copy of**

**this report, in electronic or hard copy form, be delivered to every principal state apiarists' association executive council/committee member, for consideration.**

An electronic version of this report has been sent to State and Sector Secretaries. Those who made submissions will receive a copy based on the list to be provided.

**Recommendation 35**

**That an abridged copy of this report be delivered to the editor of each principal state apiarists' association official journal/newsletter for publication, and to all regional beekeeping associations, and to current voluntary levy payers.**

An abridged version of the Report is attached.

Your AHBIC Chairperson has indicated that he will accept any amendments to the above Constitutional amendments that are agreed by the AHBIC Council and consistent with the thrust of the Recommendations.

11. **Education Committee**
12. **Food Safety and Prevention of Residues Committee**
13. **Disease Committee**
14. **Resource Committee**
15. **Quarantine Committee**
16. **Financial Reports**  
*Following presentation of the Financial Statements it is proposed: "That the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2009 be adopted."*
  - 16.1 **Budget Overview**
  - 16.2 **Secretariat Report**
  - 16.3 **Goodacre Report**
17. **Sector Reports**  
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations Inc.  
Honey Packers and Marketers Association Inc.  
National Council of Crop Pollination Associations  
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association

*Following completion of reports it is proposed: "That the Sector Reports be formally accepted."*

Morning Tea will be served between 10.15 and 10.30 am

18. **Australian Queen Bee Breeders Associations Recommendations:**
19. **National Association of Crop Pollinators Recommendations:**

20. **Honey Packers and Marketers Association Recommendations:**

**Lunch will be available between 1.00 and 1:30pm**

21. **Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Associations Recommendations:**

22. **Subsidiary Company Reports**

*B-Qual Australia Pty Limited  
Australian Queen Bee Breeding Group*

*Please note: These reports will be taken as read and only questions on specific items may be asked if so desired.*

23. **General Business**

24. **Next Annual General Meeting and Sector/State Conferences – To be Advised**

<b>FCAAA</b>	<b>Queensland Beekeepers Association</b>	
	<b>New South Wales Apiarists Association</b>	
	<b>Tasmanian Beekeepers Association</b>	
	<b>WA Farmers Federation- Beekeeping Section</b>	
	<b>South Australian Apiarists Association</b>	
	<b>Victorian Apiarists Association</b>	

<b>Honey Packers and Marketers Association</b>	
<b>National Council of Crop Pollination Associations</b>	
<b>Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association</b>	
<b>Australian Honey Bee Industry Council</b>	

*Should the meeting see fit it is proposed: “That the year 2010 Annual Meeting of the Australian HoneyBee Industry Council Inc. be held in .”*

25. **Election of Office Bearers**

**Chairperson**  
**Deputy Chairperson**

26. **Election of Executive Board Members**

27. **Operation and Appointment of Committees**

Resolution from the AHBIC Executive – *“The terms of reference of the AHBIC Committees be confirmed in accordance with the attached.”*

- 27.1 **Quarantine**
- 27.2 **Education**
- 27.3 **Resource**
- 27.4 **Food Safety and Prevention of Residues Committee**
- 27.5 **Other committees as per conference decisions**

28. **Meeting Close**

*It is anticipated that the conference will close at approximately 4:00 p.m.*

(Date)

Mr Stephen Ware  
Executive Director  
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council  
PO Box R838  
Royal Exchange NSW 1225

Re: NOMINATION FOR CHAIRMAN OF AHBIC

Dear Stephen

I hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**For the position of Chairman of the Council**

Name of Proposer  
Position/Office of Proposer

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I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby accept the nomination of Chairman of the Australian  
Honey Bee Industry Council being prepared to hold the position on behalf of industry.

Name and signature of person nominated



# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

Annual General Meeting and Conference – 12-13 July 2009  
Rydges Parramatta Hotel, 116 James Ruse Drive Rosehill NSW

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending as:

**Voting Delegate Representing**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Non Voting Delegate Representing**

\_\_\_\_\_

**A Presenter**

**An Observer**

*Observers are welcome on both days - however there is a fee for catering*

*Sunday 12 July*            \$30.00

*Monday 13 July*            \$30.00

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**THE ANNUAL DINNER IS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 12 JULY 2009**

**Tickets are \$50.00 per person (Presenters will be admitted gratis)**

**I will be attending / not attending the Annual Dinner - My guests will be:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I attach a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please return to the AHBIC office:**

**PO Box R838 Royal Exchange NSW 1225 - by Monday 22 June 2009**