



UPDATE: 3 May 2023

# Small hive beetle

## INFORMATION FOR BEEKEEPERS

Biosecurity Tasmania is investigating the confirmed detection of two small hive beetles (SHB). Both specimens were found as part of Biosecurity Tasmania's extensive monitoring program – this is an example of our world class biosecurity system working. Biosecurity Tasmania has taken swift and decisive action, working alongside beekeepers, industry and the community to undertake thousands of beehive and trap inspections. These detections do not mean that SHB is established in Tasmania.

As a precautionary measure to help protect Tasmania's bee population and both the honey and pollination sectors, Tasmania's Chief Plant Protection Officer declared a General Biosecurity Direction, which establishes a 10km Bee Movement Restriction Area (Restriction Area) around the detection site, and restricts the movement of bees, bee products and used beekeeping equipment within, into and out of the zone.

### What can I do?

If your bees, hives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, or used beekeeping equipment are located **outside** the Restriction Area, there are no restrictions.

If your bees, hives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, or used beekeeping equipment are located **within** the Restriction Area, there are restrictions in place that will apply to you. Please see the 'What can't I do?' section for more information.

All beekeepers in Tasmania must ensure their beekeeper registration with Biosecurity Tasmania is up to date.

### What can't I do?

#### Movement

A person must not move bees, beehives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, or used beekeeping equipment in, out or within the Restriction Area. Beehives located outside the Restriction Area that are being transported through the Restriction Area (e.g. from Smithton to Launceston) may be able to do so under a Group Permit.

#### Management

If your bees, hives, captured swarms or nucleus colonies, are located **within** the Restriction Area do not open, manipulate or swap any beehive elements, including boxes (super or brood), frames, lids, bases, queen excluders, mats (propolis or hive), internal feeders, boards (clearer or divider), honey, propolis,

royal jelly or any portion of the colony (queens, workers, drones, larvae or eggs) until the moratorium ends.

If you are in the 10km Bee Movement Restriction Area and would like to open your beehives for feeding, honey harvest, removal of supers or winter pack down, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 to arrange a permit.

## Honey

These restrictions do not affect movement and sales of commercially produced honey and honeycomb, provided that it is a commercial product in a container with a label. Commercially produced products that comprise or contain melted and refined beeswax are also not affected by these restrictions.

From 21 April 2023, registered beekeepers can bring Tasmanian honey harvested outside of the Restriction Area into the Restriction Area for processing and distribution. Registered beekeepers can bring both harvested honey and hive supers into the Restriction Area for processing under a Group Permit. Bees and beehives still cannot be brought into the Restriction Area.

Members of the public can also bring Tasmanian raw honey and honeycomb purchased outside of the Restriction Area back into the Restriction Area for consumption.

If you see anything suspect when harvesting honey or wax, please report it to Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777.

**All beekeepers within the Bee Movement Restriction Area are asked to avoid opening beehives during this period.**

Use this interactive map to find out if your apiary or any other property where hives are kept is within the Restriction Area: <https://dpiwwe-au.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=31e34afb8d1a4497b8048f554e66f754&locale=en-AU>

## Recent activity

If you have moved your beehives or removed any elements of a beehive since 8 March 2023 or in the four weeks prior and have not already notified Biosecurity Tasmania, please call us on 6165 3777 and provide updated location details.

## Contact

If your business is affected by these restrictions, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 and we will work with you to minimise the impact on your business.

**More information and Permits go to [www.nre.tas.gov.au/SHB](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/SHB).**



