



Australian Beekeeping Industry Survey Snapshot



Updated results from 714 survey responses

May 2026

Australian Honey Bee
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

1 Key industry signals



714
responses



Average confidence:
2.13 / 5



Low confidence (score 1 or 2):
447
respondents | 63.8%



Planning to exit:
230
respondents | 32.2%



Planning to exit within 2 years:
158
respondents



Planning to decrease hive numbers:
226
respondents | 31.7%



Planning to increase hive numbers:
144
respondents | 20.2%

2 Top drivers of pressure

1



Varroa
483 mentions

2



Profitability / cost of production
389 mentions

3

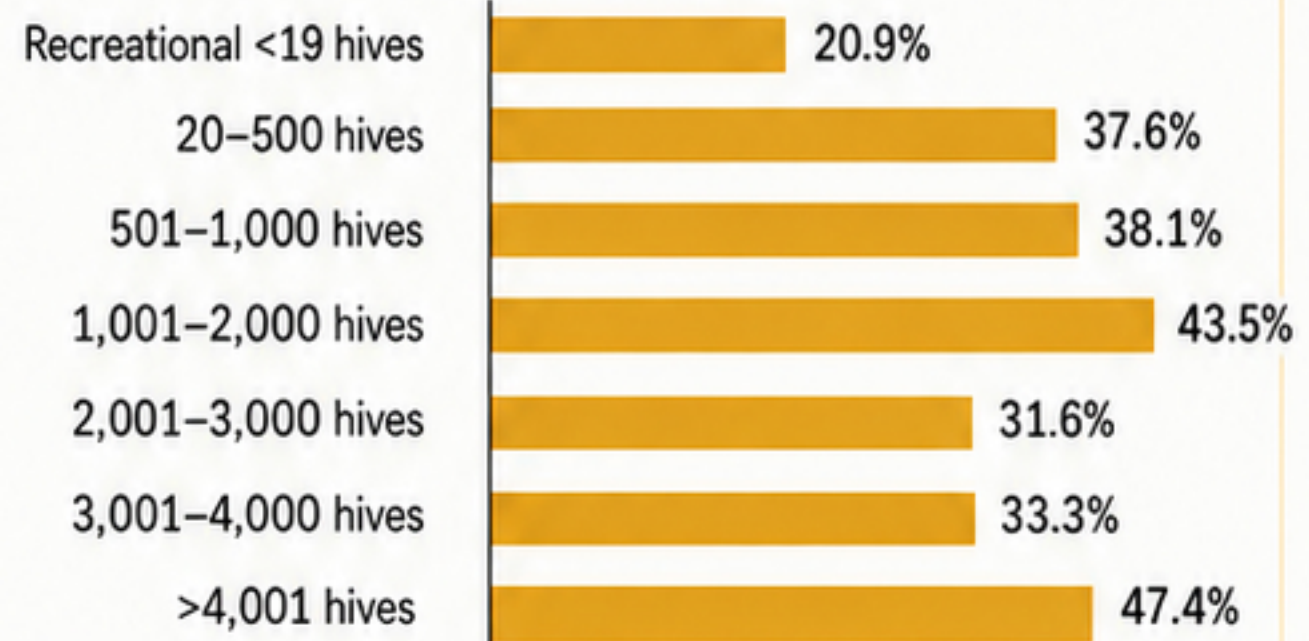


Biosecurity threats
285 mentions



Varroa and business profitability remain the dominant pressures shaping confidence and business decisions.

3 Exit rate by hive number category

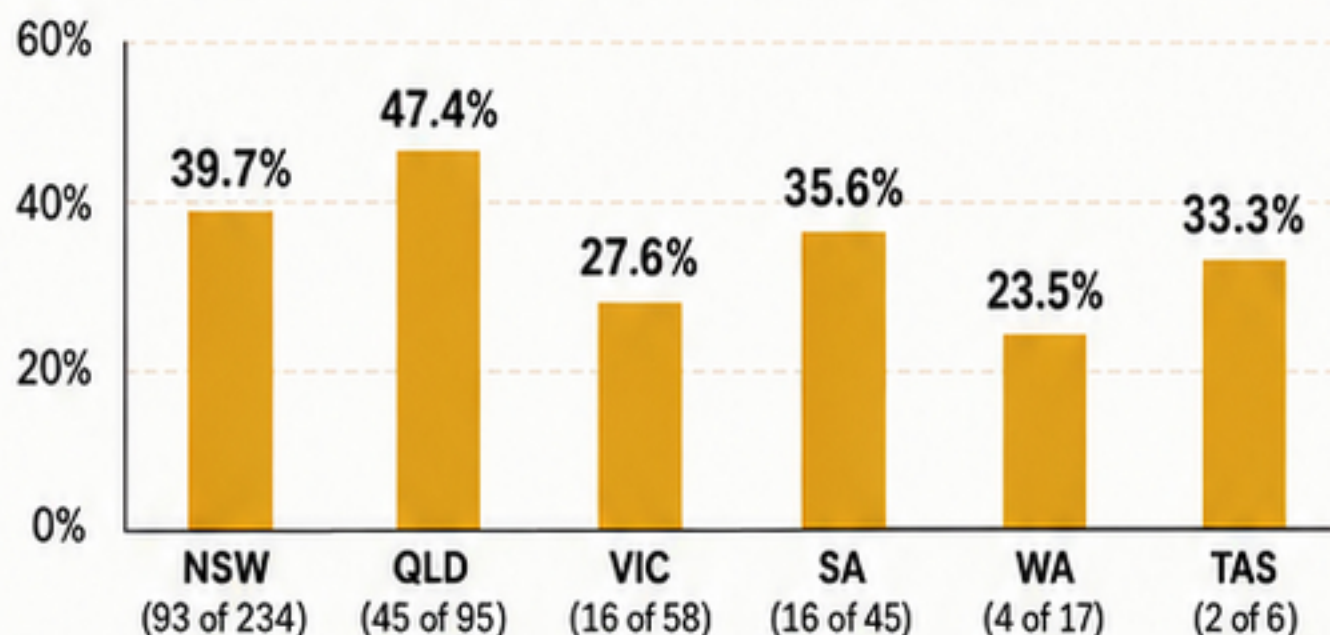


Highest reliable exit signal:
1,001–2,000 hives (43.5%)



Largest number of planned exits:
20–500 hives (91 respondents)

4 Exit rate by state (20+ hives proxy)



Queensland shows the highest reliable exit rate. Tasmania is shown for completeness but is based on a small sample. ACT/NT are not charted due to very small or no 20+ hive sample.

5 Key takeaways



Confidence remains low across the industry, with nearly two-thirds scoring confidence at 1 or 2 out of 5.



Around one-third of respondents are planning to exit, and a similar share are planning to reduce hive numbers.



Operators show stronger exit pressure than recreational beekeepers, especially in the 1,001–2,000 hive segment.



Varroa, profitability and biosecurity continue to dominate industry concern.