



SAVE OUR BEES

The health of NSW residents, pets, native bee populations and wildlife is at risk

Fipronil Bait stations are currently laid out across Central Coast, West Newcastle, Bulahdelah, Wards River, Wherrol Flat and Krumbach and are at varying stages of their feeding and spiking cycles.

WHAT IS VARROA MITE?

- Varroa mites (Varroa Destructor) have been found throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and New Zealand, and have now been identified in Australia for the first time in June 2022.
- They are serious parasites to honeybees worldwide that, when correctly managed, pose a minor problem to hives with minimal effect on bees.
- Varroa mites are not nearly as dangerous as other parasites already present that impact honey bees in Australia, such as the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*).

Varroa mite has been studied widely and safely managed in all other parts of the world for decades.

It's estimated over 27,000 beehives have been destroyed by NSW DPI since June 2022



Registered hives are not being adequately tested in red zones as they are wrapped in plastic and gassed with petrol. Beekeepers may not reinstate hives for a minimum of three years within these zones.

HOW IS VARROA MITE BEING TREATED IN NSW?

One method is using purpose built bait stations spiked with Fipronil, a controversial insecticide that was labelled a "high acute risk to honeybees" by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in 2013, was subsequently banned in 45 EU countries and restricted in US, Canada and UK to protect native insects and honeybees.



close up of a bee baiting station

The DPI plan to eradicate every wild bee in a 128 km radius using bee bait stations spiked with the toxic broad spectrum insecticide Fipronil.

Department of Primary Industries



Current situation

- \$45 million spent in 12 months
- \$19.7 million compensation
- 2,000 + staff / 416,000 + hours
- Establishment of Eradication (Red), Surveillance (Purple) & General (Blue) Emergency Zones (EEZ)
- 976,000+ hectares listed as Red EEZ
- 167 Infested Properties (IP's) identified
- 130,000 tests completed
- 27,000 hives euthanised

If this raises concerns for you, we suggest contacting your local council and state representatives to prompt them to put pressure on the Federal Government to review the Emergency Use Order and transition to an appropriate management strategy.

SIGN OUR PETITION

Demand an immediate halt to the poisoning of millions of native Australian bees via [Change.org](https://www.change.org)

beethecure.com.au

