

Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2023 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2023-239

made under the

Animal Diseases Act 2005, s 15 (Import restrictions)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2023 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

3 Declaration

I declare the state of New South Wales (NSW) to be subject to an import restriction.

4 Declared animals

This declaration applies to European honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) (a *declared animal*).

5 Disease to which declaration relates

This declaration is made in relation to Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*).

Note Varroasis (*Varroa destructor*) is declared to be an exotic disease pursuant to the Act, s 12.

6 Varroa mite management emergency zone

In this instrument:

Varroa mite management emergency zone means an area in NSW:

- (a) within 10km of a place at which a person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that Varroa mite has been detected or has been suspected of having been detected at any time since 22 December 2021; or
- (b) not within a 10km radius of a place at which a person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that Varroa mite has been detected or has been

suspected of having been detected at any time since 22 December 2021, and:

- (c) completely surrounded by areas that are within a 10km radius of a place at which the person knows or ought reasonably to know that Varroa mite has been detected or has been suspected of having been detected, or
- (d) surrounded on three sides by areas that are within a 10km radius of a place at which a person knows or ought reasonably to know that Varroa mite has been detected or has been suspected of having been detected at any time since 22 December 2021 and bounded on the fourth side by a coastline at mean low water.

Note This definition aligns with the definition of **Varroa mite management emergency zone** in NSW as declared in the *Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Emergency Order (No. 46) 2023* (NSW).

7 Restrictions on importing

The restrictions set out in schedule 1 apply to importing into the ACT a declared animal or declared animal product that has, at any time since 22 December 2021 been in a Varroa mite management emergency zone.

8 Definitions

In this instrument:

apiary equipment means anything that has been used in relation to the acquisition or keeping of European honey bees or in relation to the processing, handling or storing of apiary products.

apiary product means anything produced by bees and includes raw and processed honey or other apiary products that have been processed to remove any impurities.

beehive means a receptacle has been used for housing European honey bees and includes the contents of that receptacle.

irradiation treatment method means treatment by irradiation at a gamma radiation dose of at least 10 kilogray.

queen bee means a reproductive single female bee or a female bee that is capable of reproducing.

queen cell means a pupating queen bee.

Varroa mite management emergency zone—see section 6.

9 Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Animal Diseases (Varroa Mite Import Restriction) Declaration 2022 (No 2)* (D12022-214).

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment
19 October 2023

Schedule 1 Restrictions on importing

(see s 7)

Exclusions

- (1) This instrument does not apply to:
 - (a) apiary products; or
 - (b) new beehives which have not been in contact with European honey bees;
or
 - (c) new apiary equipment which has not been in contact with European honey bees.

Prohibitions which apply

- (2) The import into the ACT of European honey bees (excluding queen bees, escort bees and queen cells) that have been in NSW at any time since 22 December 2021, being 6 months prior to the initial detection of Varroa mite in NSW, is prohibited.

Note Queen bees, escort bees and queen cells from areas in NSW outside of a Varroa mite management emergency zone as defined in section 6 may be imported subject to import conditions being met.

- (3) The import into the ACT of:
 - (a) queen bees;
 - (b) escort bees;
 - (c) queen cells;
 - (d) beehives; and
 - (e) apiary equipment;

is prohibited where they have been in a Varroa mite management emergency zone at any time since 22 December 2021.

Import conditions which apply

- (4) The import into the ACT of queen bees, escort bees, queen cells, honey supers, beehives and apiary equipment that have been in areas in NSW outside of a Varroa mite management emergency zone at any time since 22 December 2021 are subject to the following import conditions being met:
 - (a) Queen bees, escort bees and queen cells must be:
 - a. sourced from providers that are:
 - i. free from Varroa mite; and
 - ii. from areas where Varroa mite has not been detected; and
 - iii. where Varroa mite is not being managed; and
 - b. physically examined for the presence of Varroa mite by the supplier immediately prior to being despatched; and

- c. transported in a secure container that prevents them from coming into contact with any other European honey bees; and
 - d. remain in a secure container until they arrive at the premises where they will be placed into a beehive.
- (b) A beehive must:
 - a. be treated using the irradiation treatment method; and
 - b. after treatment the beehive must not be exposed to European honey bees prior to be transported into the ACT.
- (c) A honey super for the purpose of honey extraction must be free of European honey bees, brood and larvae before loading the honey super onto a vehicle for transport into the ACT.
- (d) Apiary equipment must be either:
 - a. cleansed to remove honey, propolis and beeswax, and after cleansing the apiary equipment must not be exposed to bees before loading into a vehicle for transport into the ACT; or
 - b. treated using the irradiation treatment method, and after treatment the equipment must not be exposed to European honey bees before loading into a vehicle for transport into the ACT.
- (e) If transitioning through the ACT:
 - a. European honey bees housed in beehives must be transported in a manner that prevents the escape or entry of bees out of or into the beehives being transported; and
 - b. Beehives must transit directly through the ACT without unloading; and
 - c. Beehives must be in the ACT for the shortest reasonably practicable time.
- (f) Movement records must be created and maintained for all queen bees, escort bees and queen cells transported into or transitioning through the ACT.
- (g) Movement records must be retained for a period of 5 years, commencing from the date of movement.
- (h) Movement records must include the following information:
 - a. The date of movement; and
 - b. The location where the queen bee was bred and despatched from, destination premises, and any subsequent movement within the ACT.
- (i) Movement records must:
 - a. have a copy of the movement record with the queen bees, escort bees and queen cells while they are in transit; and
 - b. if requested by an authorised person, produce a copy of the movement record to that authorised person.