

1/01/2014

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir.

I ask that you accept this submission to the enquiry into the future of the beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia. The three key points of this submission are.

- (1) Increased Access to public /crown land.
- (2) Full Implementation of the new Victorian policy of
“Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land standard operating procedure”
- (3) Apply this uniform policy to New South Wales and Queensland.

As an apiarist I am impacted directly by the viability of the Australian bee industry. The major challenge facing my businesses is access to reliable sources of pollen and nectar. The chief source in Australia is derived from crown/public land. It is the major domestic challenge for the industry.

The new policy “Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land standard operating procedure” announced in August 2013, by the Honourable Minister Mr Peter Walsh (Minister for Agriculture and Food security) is a healthy and progressive policy. It reduces red tape and increases access to crown land. A great deal of confusion surrounds the implementation and timing of this policy. The cost associated with this confusion is significant.

The responsible increase in access to public land with this transparent policy will benefit the Victorian bee industry. I ask you to accept my submission and the attached copy of the new policy of “Apiculture (beekeeping) on public land standard operating procedure” for your deliberations. The full implementation of this policy in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland will benefit the industry greatly. The Victorian Apiarists Association in Bendigo on the 20th of January 2013 also supported this request.

Regards dbh