

The Secretary - Agriculture  
 Fisheries and Forestry Committee  
 House of Representative  
 P.O. Box 6021.  
 Parliament House  
 Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

Mr J. F. Ward.  
 Box 166,  
 Heathcote 3523.  
 Victoria  
 9-5-2007.  
 (03) 54332360.

Dear Sir

I am delighted that the Honey-Bee Industry has at last been recognized as of great importance to Australia's Food Crops, Pollination for Horticulture and Agriculture Industries Crops.

What Bee-Farmers must have is access for managed Bees in Parks, Reserved Forests, Freehold Land for Honey Production, and to maintain bees in good condition for Pollination as 60% of Australia's food crops depend on Bees.

The time is coming when more young people will be needed for this Industry, most Apiculturists are an aging lot. The Government needs to have Apiculture taught in Schools.

Disease needs more funding, if Varroa-Mite is found in Australia, the Industry needs to be prepared as the same thing that happened in N.Z. won't happen here.

Research on other diseases Nosema, Apis Cerana (not in Australia)

Bushfires are a big hazard for Bee hives in the Forest fuel reduction burning on a regular pattern will be a benefit. Summer flowering Iron-Bark is a very valuable Honey-Tree also a heavy yielder of Honey.

Because so much Forest is locked <sup>IN PARKS</sup> up, no cuttings! In N.S.W. Reserved Forest area is much smaller and felling of this tree has increased. Bee-Keepers would like this species protected for Bee-keeping, or reduced, other species

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cut instead.

The Future for Commercial Beekeeping in Australia is good, as Pollination will be much bigger than it is to-day. Almond growers will require 150,000 hives by 2050, and demand for bees for other growers will increase also.

Beekeepers Quarantine Facility to continue at Eastern Creek or make alternative arrangements for a permanent site elsewhere as a matter of urgency.

Small Hive Beetle is in Victoria but at this stage it has been contained, pest strips are put in the hives to control them, at this stage it has been slow spreading.

A.F.B. is still a disease; <sup>that</sup> needs work, to make sure ones bees are healthy. Bee-Smart, sending samples of Honey from each yard of hives, to Gibbles Pathology is a great help;

It would be a good thing if the Government set up a Queen-Bee breeding programme to breed disease resistant bees.

The general Public need to be inform<sup>ed</sup> that Introduced Honey-Bees belong in Australia's Environment, and for Australia to move ahead into the future managed Honey-Bees must be a part of it.

Thank-you for allowing Bee-Keepers to write to you, I hope you take our needs on board.

Yours Faithfully,  
J. J. Hard.

P.S. We are getting very poor prices. Chinese Honey imported in, at well below Australian Honey is a great concern, also the exchange rate isn't helping.