

Submission for Asian Bee Inquiry.

I am a second generation beekeeper based in the New England town of Glen Innes. Operations can extend as far as Mildura to pollinate almonds during August each year.

This is a distance of 1500 kilometres from home base. Most other bee site areas are within 400 kilometres of home base. I presently run 500 hives and contribute much to the local community, buying most of our inputs locally and engage many local services (transport, building material supplies, fuel, mechanical repairs supplies).

I am close to retirement age and am concerned that if Asian bees were allowed to spread, then my business would not have any value. Buildings and equipment for our industry are quite specific.

If these assets were not bought as a beekeeping asset they would not have value.

The cost of eradication of the Asian bee can be justified by the public health and public risk costs demonstrated in Terry Ryan's paper, in which he found that the public health cost would be \$800,000 per million persons/year and the public risk cost would be up to \$300,000 per million persons/year. These costs would be reoccurring costs and could in fact increase over time.

The impact of the loss of managed honey bees to the food producers of Australia, could cost from 4 billion dollars now with increases as food values rise.

It is possible to eradicate the Asian bee while it is limited to the Cairns region. Australian government cannot allow the impacts from the Asian bee to affect the future of every Australian citizen.

Bill Weiss