

Reference: CTS 30624/13

21 JAN 2014

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

I refer to an email of 16 December 2013 inviting the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to provide a submission on 'The future of the beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia'.

DAFF does not propose to present a formal submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee. We do not consider that we have any unique insight that could contribute to the Terms of Reference of the inquiry.

The Queensland bee industry (production and first stage processing) is estimated to be valued at \$45 million, of which pollination services contribute about \$2 million. This does not include the value of pollination service operators and pollination by managed and feral bees to Queensland's broader agricultural sector.

DAFF provides significant support for pest and disease management for the Queensland bee industry and supports industry development, including resource access issues through the Bee Industry Consultative Committee. DAFF continues to provide extension activities promoting good biosecurity and legislative compliance to beekeepers, including diagnostic services and provision of advice to manage diagnosed conditions.

Biosecurity Queensland has expertise and resources dedicated to apiary and bee biosecurity services across the State. The work priorities for staff that undertake these duties have been determined in consultation with the Queensland Beekeepers' Association and include disease investigations, surveillance for exotic pests and diseases and provision of advice and support for beekeepers managing endemic pests and diseases. When incursions of significant bee pests or diseases are suspected or confirmed, response operations take priority to protect the apiary and apiary-dependent agricultural industries.

If your Office requires any further information, please contact Mr Warwick Lee, Principal Policy Officer, Animal Industries of DAFF

Yours sincerely

Dr Beth Woods
Acting Director-General
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry