

AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY

Question on Notice – Specific conditions of permethrin eradication and alternate chemicals for control of varroa mite

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Could you talk us through the differences? I'm not familiar with the other two you just mentioned. Could you say the third one again?*

Ms Croft: *Permethrin.*

Dr Logan: *Permethrin.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Oh, okay. Yes, sorry. I am familiar with that. It's a kind of natural one. Has DPI sought permits to use those?*

Ms Croft: *While Dr Logan's just responding to that, I will say that the permits are to Plant Health Australia, DPI and also the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Depending on the nature of the permit—and there's also one for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.*

Dr Logan: *I might need to ask Dr Trainer to answer on the specific conditions of the permethrin eradication permit, or we could take that on notice.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Permethrin is a naturally occurring insecticide—correct? Maybe I've got my wires crossed, which is quite possible.*

Ms Croft: *Dr Trainer, can I just check: have you heard that question?*

Dr Trainer: *I heard the first half, I think. The question was whether permethrin is a naturally occurring insecticide, and that is correct. There are forms that are naturally occurring.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Is there a reason that's not being used, for example? Is it because it's not effective in being taken back by bees to their swarms? Is there a reason that it is not being used, or is just that we haven't used it for this kind of program before?*

Dr Trainer: *I think it's the latter. I think we'd have to take that on notice to see if we've had any discussions around permethrin or other chemistries that aren't currently approved under permit for this use.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Thank you. Obviously, it's critical to eradicate varroa mite, but the use of this much poison is a very sensitive issue, especially in national parks, so I'd just be interested if you could give us some information on other alternatives on the market and whether DPI or others have sought to use those.*

Ms Croft: *It is an interesting point, because obviously we assess what is brought to us, so we're not out there determining what we think should come to us; we assess an application as it's brought to us by state governments or other parties. **But we will certainly take that question on notice in terms of the interest in using an alternative.***

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Yes. If they have permission to use others or they're looking at alternatives, I'd be very interested in that.*

Ms Croft: *Yes, certainly.*

Senator WHISH-WILSON: *Thanks for that.*

AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY

Answer:

The emergency permit (PER92874) which authorises the use of permethrin for the euthanasia of feral, nuisance or managed European honeybees, or destruction of nests or swarms of exotic pest bees is at Attachment A. The permit was issued 22 September 2022.

The use is permitted in managed beehives and is specific to hives which are abandoned, diseased, or within a control zone for managing an introduced pest or disease, this includes varroa mite.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has also issued a number of permits that authorise the use of the active constituents listed below to support the response to the varroa incursion:

- a. diagnosis: ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, cane sugar, thymol.
- b. varroa control / surveillance: amitraz, formic acid, flumethrin, tau-fluvalinate, thymol.
- c. euthanasia: unleaded petrol, fipronil, permethrin and polydimethylsiloxane.

The practical differences between the fipronil and permethrin permits are that fipronil is used as a bait to be taken back to hives, whereas permethrin is used to treat hives, swarms or nests directly. To date, the APVMA has not received an application to use permethrin in baits so has not evaluated this potential use pattern.



Australian Government
**Australian Pesticides and
Veterinary Medicines Authority**

**PERMIT TO ALLOW EMERGENCY USE OF A REGISTERED AGVET CHEMICAL
PRODUCT FOR CONTROL OF HONEY BEES REQUIRING EUTHANASIA IN VARIOUS
SITUATIONS**

PERMIT NUMBER – PER92874

This permit is issued to the Permit Holder in response to an application granted by the APVMA under section 112 of the Agvet Codes of the jurisdictions set out below. This permit allows a person, as stipulated below, to use the product in the manner specified in this permit in the designated jurisdictions. This permit also allows the Permit Holder and any person stipulated below to claim that the product can be used in the manner specified in this permit.

THIS PERMIT IS IN FORCE FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Permit Holder:

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
105 Prince Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

Persons who can use the product under this permit:

Persons who are trained and experienced in the use of agricultural chemicals working under the direction of State/Territory/Commonwealth Departments of Agriculture/Primary Industries.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Products to be used:

COOPEX INSECTICIDAL DUSTING POWDER INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH (APVMA No. 33210)

PLUS OTHER REGISTERED PRODUCTS

Containing: 10 g/kg PERMETHRIN (25:75 CIS: TRANS) as the only active constituent.

Directions for Use:

Situation	Purpose	Rate
Feral bee hives, nests or swarms Nuisance bees in domestic or commercial situations Managed Honey Bee hives which are abandoned, diseased, or are within a control zone for managing an introduced pest or disease	Euthanasia of European Honey Bees	125 – 250 g product / hive, nest or swarm
Nests or swarms of exotic pest bees	Destruction of nests or swarms	

Critical Use Comments:

- DO NOT treat hives where removal or sealing is not possible. Secondary poisoning by other bees robbing the hive may occur.
- It is not recommended for the product to be used in buildings unless the hive materials can be fully removed. Hive beetles are a potential secondary infestation issue, which can cause fouling/damage to the building.
- Apply one treatment inside the hive.
- Apply a single dose of powdered product into the brood nest.
- Treat at night where possible to avoid being stung.
- In addition to the PPE for handling the product required on the product label, operators should wear clothing protective against the insects, including long sleeved overalls buttoned to the wrist and throat, gloves, hat and bee-veil.
- Ensure that where possible, treated hives are removed and destroyed by fire, or buried in an approved landfill. Managed hives treated with permethrin must be destroyed.
- Where removal is not possible, all hive entries must remain sealed to prevent access by other off target insects and animals.

Withholding Period:

DO NOT use beeswax or honey exposed to permethrin for human or animal consumption.

Jurisdiction:

All States and Territories.

Additional Conditions:

This permit allows for the use of a product in a manner specified on the permit. Persons who wish to prepare for use and/or use products for the purposes specified in this permit must read, or have read to them, the details and conditions of this permit. Unless otherwise stated, the use of the product must be in accordance with the product label.

The holder of the permit must notify the APVMA of new information, including relevant information in accordance with section 161 of the Schedule to the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, in accordance with the obligation imposed by that section.

Issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY

Question on Notice – mRNA vaccines

CHAIR: *Are any of your international counterparts more advanced in assessing such vaccines? I ask especially as to foot-and-mouth disease, but also as to mRNA more generally.*

Dr Trainer: *I think that, for the messenger RNA more generally, we have probably got more expertise on the human health side of things at this point in time than on—*

CHAIR: *Yes—*

Dr Trainer: *the veterinary vaccines. But we would have to take it on notice.*

CHAIR: *I should've earmarked that I am asking about animal health. So have any of your veterinary colleagues or counterparts overseas started this process at all, or are some more advanced than others?*

Dr Trainer: *We'd have to take that on notice.*

Answer:

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is not aware of any mRNA veterinary vaccine submissions overseas.