

29<sup>th</sup> March 2011

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher Brown, I am an Australian bee keeper whose business involves honey production, crop pollination, Queen bee breeding and Package bee exports.

Please find my submission in response to the related;

Science Underpinning the Inability to Eradicate the Asian Honeybee

On 22 March 2011 the Senate referred the following matter to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport for inquiry and report.

(a) the science underpinning the technical assumption that *Apis cerana*, the Asian bee, cannot be eradicated in Australia;

(b) the science underpinning the assumption that the Asian honey bee will not spread throughout Australia;

(c) the science relating to the impacts of the spread of the Asian honey bee on biodiversity, pollination and the European honey bee; and (d) the cost benefit of eradication of the Asian honey bee.

As an Australian Apiarist I find the above mentioned findings distressing to not only my business and means personally, but to the Apiary Industry as a whole.

By ceasing any attempt to eradicate the Asian bee could in effect be detrimental and lead to income loss, honey production loss, reduction in export opportunities and a reduction in hive numbers as the Asian bee directly kills off European honey bee hives and spreads via swarming.

As an Industry member Asian bee has the capacity to severely cripple not only Apiary related businesses but is detrimental to all agricultural, horticultural and environmental endeavours.

Asian Bees are a very strong threat to our industry and the livelihood of many and I urge whomever concerned to really appreciate the affects ceasing eradication attempts can and will have.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Andrew Brown.

Australian beekeeper