



8 April 2009

J. & A. Brandsema Pty Ltd
8 Brandsema Street
Turners Beach Tas 7315

Attention Marcus Brandsema

Dear Mr. Brandsema,

Re: Bumblebee Pollination Service Potential

It would be advantageous if bumblebees were to be more widely available for pollination purposes. The crops we grow are all dependant on insect pollination, and bumblebees are a better pollinator than honeybees.

We grow 270 Ha of blueberries and 35 Ha of raspberries, with locations on the far north coast of NSW, as well as near the Snowy Mountains (also in NSW) and in north western Tasmania, where we are developing 50 Ha of blueberries. If our crops are not pollinated they will not produce. Blueberries in particular are reasonably difficult to pollinate. Honeybees are our only option at present but they are not very efficient. Use of bumblebees for pollinating blueberries is considered standard practice in many parts of the USA. The presence of bumblebees would give more options when the weather is cooler, or when experiencing a wet Spring, or windy, or cloudy conditions which is often the case. Both production and fruit quality falls at such times.

Much of our raspberry production is done under high tunnels, and bumblebees are much easier to manage in this situation.

It would be useful for us to have bumblebees available to us as a pollinator.

Yours faithfully,

Gary Wright
Farm Manager