



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
Roundtable on the biosecurity of the Australian honey bee industry

Issue date: 23 November 2016

Roundtable to examine biosecurity threats to Australian honey bees

12.15pm, Thursday, 24 November 2016

Australia's bees produce honey and provide critical environmental and economic benefits. But the Australian honey bee industry faces an increasing threat of invasive pests and diseases arriving in Australia. How well prepared are we?

The House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources will consider these issues at a roundtable on biosecurity risks to Australia's honey bee industry to be held in Canberra on Thursday, 24 November.

Committee Chair, Mr Rick Wilson MP, said that the roundtable will explore Australia's preparedness for biosecurity threats to Australian bees like the parasitic varroa mite.

"Australia is one of the few countries remaining free from varroa", Mr Wilson said, "but the risk of it arriving is very high. The committee wants to hear from the industry and government agencies about how prepared we are and what we might be able to do better".

The roundtable will feature representatives from the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, CSIRO, and Plant Health Australia.

The committee will report to Parliament on the findings or outcomes of the roundtable.

Public Hearing details:

Time: 12.15pm-1.45pm

Date: Thursday, 24 November 2016

Location: Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

[Live Webcast \(Audio only\)](#)

[Track this inquiry](#)

Media enquiries:

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For background:

Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources

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