

Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program

Progress Summary Report, June 2013

This publication has been compiled by Russell Gilmour of Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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Other relevant documents and tools provided separately include:

- *Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program, Final Report*
- Asian honey bee Surveillance Report, April – June 2013
- *Asian honey bee manual - Techniques for the identification, detection and destruction of Apis cerana*
- Updated *Asian honey bee fact sheet*
- Updated step-by-step guide *Guidelines for industry - Destroying swarms or nests of Asian honey bees*
- *Asian honey bee destruction video*, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afrOmz7qXCk>
- Optimising Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) trap design and attractants. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- Destruction efficacy of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Cairns, Australia. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- Detection efficacy of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Cairns, Australia. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- Ecology and behaviour of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana* Java) in Cairns, Australia. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) remote nest treatment. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- Asian honey bee spread modelling. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program
- North Queensland apiarist survey report. Asian honey bee Transition to Management Program



Program highlights

Detections

There have been 833 detections of Asian honey bee (AHB) nests and swarms since May 2007. During the life of the Asian honey bee Transition to Management (AHB T2M) Program there have been 413 detections of AHB nests and swarms.

Note: The Asian honey bee Known Infested Area (KIA) currently surrounds Cairns; north to Bonnie Doon (near Mossman), west of Atherton and Mareeba and south to South Johnstone. The KIA is 522,122 hectares in size. The Program has ceased surveillance and responding to public reports in the KIA, unless the report is considered a new incursion, or where there is a risk of aided spread, or on the edge, or outside of the KIA. In these instances officers respond in accordance with the 'Responding to public notifications of Asian honey bee' policy. These detections are referred to as Detections of Interest and since the last TMG meeting they are:

Inside the KIA

Two swarms, detected within 800 m of the Cairns seaport, were destroyed.

Outside the KIA

Following a report from a beekeeper near Mutchilba regarding foraging AHB bee lining was commenced at 19 June 1015am to find and destroy the nest. At 1:00pm the nest of AHB (IP 832) was detected in a hollow of a fallen log about 0.5m above the ground and 270m away where bee lining commenced. The nest was destroyed but not extracted.

On 20 June a nest was detected and destroyed in the wall of an old dairy in Malanda following a report by a local beekeeper. This is the first nest of AHB detected in Malanda but is not a big increase in the KIA because the KIA intersects Malanda as it runs from Arriga to South Johnstone. The nest was destroyed but not extracted.

On the edge of the KIA

Nil detections.

Public reports

26 public reports of AHB have been received since 28 May 2013 bringing the total number of reports since 1 July 2012 to 521. Since May 2007 there have been 2,162 AHB reports.

Industry engagement

- The final state industry liaison meeting was conducted on 17 April 2013 with agreement that another meeting before the end of the Program was unnecessary. TMG meetings would fulfil any enquires.
- The Program's Senior Community Engagement Officer attended and presented a Program update at the final local Cairns and Tablelands Beekeeping Club meeting. The Club was thanked for their continued support during the AHB T2M Program and for all of their assistance during the show circuit and scientific trials. Additionally, all club members were invited to attend the public lecture given on 6 June 2013.



Community engagement

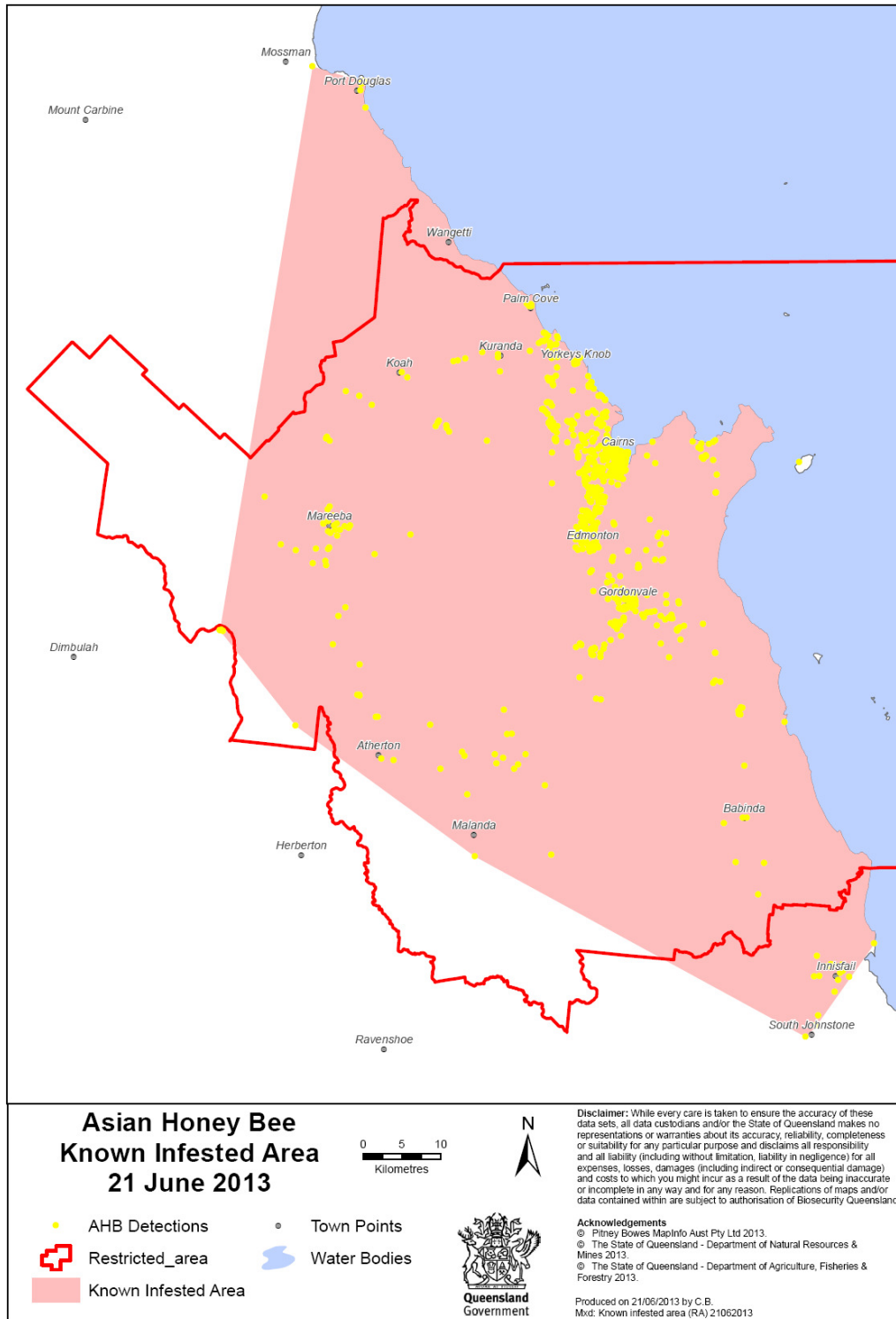
- The *Asian honey bee fact sheet* was redesigned and the information updated to be suitable post-AHB T2M.
- The step-by-step guide *Guidelines for industry— destroying swarms or nests of Asian honey bees* was redesigned and the information updated to reflect post T2M needs and what pest control operators will be required to do.
- The *Asian honey bee destruction techniques for industry use* video was completed and is now available on YouTube (<http://youtu.be/afrOmz7qXCk>).
- The *Asian honey bee manual – Techniques for the identification, detection and destruction of Apis cerana* was completed and is currently being printed. The web-ready version has been completed (attached) and will be uploaded to the Biosecurity Queensland website post 'departmental content freeze'.
- New website modifications and content were approved and finalised. These will also be uploaded to the Biosecurity Queensland website once the 'departmental content freeze' has been finalised. Web pages were reduced by 55%. Community focused content was redesigned to be more interactive. Industry related content was moved to a newly developed Queensland Government Business Industry Portal (BIP) website (see below).
- A new series of 'Mini Guides' were developed and approved to be included on the BIP website. These guides have been specifically designed for the pest control industry and will house links to the step-by-step guide and the destruction video while linking back to the departmental site for further information. This will be live in July 2013.
- Final social media posts were run in June highlighting;
 - A pest controller call-to-action
 - The launch of the Asian honey bee destruction video
 - An identification post, focusing on the difference between AHB and EHB.

Science

- The following reports were finalised and submitted to the TMG:
 - Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) spread modelling¹
 - Detection efficacy of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Cairns, Australia
 - Destruction efficacy of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Cairns, Australia
 - Ecology and behaviour of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) in Cairns, Australia
 - Optimising Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) trap design & attractants
- Our Senior Scientist delivered a public lecture on 6 June 2013 regarding 'What we know about Asian honey bees in Queensland'.

¹ This is a preliminary report only

Appendix 1: Current Known Infested Area²



² The last detection of AHB was made on 20 June 2013

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