

12th March 2022

To: Secretary of State Development and Regional Industries Committee

My name is Bradley Jensen, I'm a 3rd generation beekeeper, and owner of Beekeeping Australia Pty Ltd.

I strongly support the extension of time for beekeepers in National parks until 2044, but also believe the date should be removed altogether to give the next generation confidence to pursue a career in beekeeping without them knowing their career will have an end date, as this is something I have struggled with personally for the last 16 years I have been full time beekeeping.

I started beekeeping as a child helping my Father and Grandfather with the bees on weekends and school holidays, they taught me to care for and respect the Flora and Fauna in the forests and National Parks, knowing that a healthy environment leads to healthy Bees.

Since working with my Grandfather, my Father and my Uncle, I now have my own business that runs just over 2000 beehives. The Business employs 6 full time staff and 2 casual staff. The Business has Evolved to specialise in Honey production and pollination of Macadamias, Avocados, Canola and Faba beans.

The National Parks are very important to beekeepers because it provides a place of good nutrition for bees to increase hive strength to recover from pollination jobs. It also allows hive to be able to pollinate crops in the future. The bees also collect honey which provides income when there is no pollination to be done.

The national parks also provide a safe place for bees free from chemicals, which is especially important when farming areas have outbreaks of the likes of fall army worm, aphids and heliothis. It also provides a secure resource where we know there will not be any land clearing, and we will have access to the resource for future years. Land clearing in past years and the devastating loss of trees that have died in droughts over the last ten years have made these natural resources even more important for the beekeeping industry.

As horticulture grows in Queensland and the amount of beehives required to pollinate crops increases, the need for additional natural resources will continue to increase. If national parks were shut off to beekeepers, I do not believe my business would be able to continue to be viable to operate, such is our reliance on natural forests. I beleive this would be devastating and unfair, after generations of beekeepers have diligently cared for the land which we have used without harming for so many years.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission, and I hope you respond favourably to an industry that has had such a minor effect on nature, but such a great effect on food security.

Kind regards,



Brad Jensen

DIRECTOR

[Redacted contact information]

