



**Australian
Honey Bee**
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

**SUBMISSION TO:
THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2022.**

SUMMARY

- AHBIC supports this important change to Public Land management.
- Honey bees are a vitally important part of food production, and ultimately provide the food security of Australia.
- The beekeeping Industry is heavily dependent on the Public Land Estate.
- AHBIC appreciates and acknowledges the opportunity to create a vision for the management of Public Land for future generations.
- The United Nations forecast is for a growing demand for food worldwide.





1. INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

- The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Strategic Plan (2018-2023) states that National Resource security is the biggest issue facing the Australian Beekeeping Industry today. The loss of access to vital floral resources has had a significant impact on our industry for decades. This continues today, land clearing, timber harvesting, urban sprawl, broadacre chemical usage, fuel reduction burning and wildfires have all contributed to this loss.

2. FOOD SECURITY

- Honey bees are a vitally important part of food production/food security.
- Many food crops are dependent on honey bees for pollination. It is estimated, by Karasinski (2018), that in 2014-15 honey bee pollination contributed a gross value of \$14.2 billion Australia wide and \$2.1 billion for Queensland to the agricultural industry. These figures would have increased significantly since 2014-15 as pollination has become an integral part of agriculture.
- Just one example is the Almond Industry, with a \$1 billion farm gate value. Last year (2021) it was estimated that 270,000 beehives were required to pollinate the Almond Orchards, by 2025, 350,000 will be required. Beekeepers from Queensland provided in excess of 20,000 bee hives for almond pollination in 2021.
No Bees-No Almonds.
- The United Nations forecast that global food supply requirements will continue to grow in line with global population growth. Honey bees are becoming an increasingly important aspect of meeting this demand.
- If Australia is to become the food bowl of Asia and achieve the National Farmers Federation ambitious target of \$100 billion Agricultural products by 2030, healthy honey bees will be a critical component.

3. PUBLIC LAND

- The Beekeeping Industry is heavily dependent on the Public Land Estate floral resources for honey production and most importantly, for beehive health, prior to and after servicing the many honey bee pollination dependent food crops.



- This dependence on Public Land Assets for Floral Resources (honey and pollen producing ecosystems) is so great that a high percentage of Beekeeping businesses would fail without these resources. It also must be recognized that many honey bee pollination dependent businesses would also fail as a consequence, as there is NO alternative to honey bees for commercial pollination.
- The beekeeping Industry is also a great custodian of our Public Land Estate because of the nature of our Industry. Many beekeepers spend a considerable amount of time in this landscape and are often referred to as the eyes and ears of the forest. For example: they notice any illegal activity, particularly the illegal dumping of rubbish and often because they have the equipment on site, clean up and remove this illegally dumped rubbish in an appropriate manner.
- AHBIC supports a principle for Public Land management that meets an objective that, **“All values and uses are recognized in perpetuity”**.

4. PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY 2007

- In 2007 there was an Australian Parliamentary inquiry into the future of the Australian Honey Bee and Pollination Industries, with the report dated May 2008. The subsequent report “More than Honey” recognizes that billions of dollars’ worth of crops that rely on honey bee pollination will be at risk if there is a failure, or partial failure of Apiculture in Australia.
- **ONE OF THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS (NUMBER 5).**
“The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in conjunction with State and Territory Governments, establish guidelines for Beekeeper access to Public Land and Leasehold Lands, including National Parks, with a view to securing the floral resources for the Australian Honey Bee Industry and Pollination dependent Industries.”
- **In July 2014 Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee report “Future of Beekeeping and Pollination Service Industries in Australia”** recommended “The Committee recommends that the Government liaise with State and Territory land management agencies to establish relevant guidelines to clarify access to public lands for beekeepers within the next 12 months.”



**Australian
Honey Bee**
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

5. CREATING A VISION FOR FUTURE PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

AHBIC supports this important policy initiative by the Queensland State Government. AHBIC would also appreciate the opportunity to have appropriate input and acknowledgment of the beekeeping Industry's importance to food security in developing any future vision for the food security of our Nation.

HEALTHY FORESTS = HEALTHY BEES = HEALTHY PEOPLE!

Regards,

Ian Cane, Chair – AHBIC Resources Sub-Committee

Danny Le Feuvre - Acting CEO AHBIC on behalf