Submission to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Healthy Forests = Healthy Bees = Healthy Food = Healthy People

March 2022

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc.
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Table of Contents

Introduction

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc (QBA) supports the introduction of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The Queensland beekeeping Industry is grateful for the extension to access National Parks until 2044. This extension will ensure the food security for 5.2 million Queenslanders for another 20 years. The extension period will also provide the Government and Industry additional time to reach a more secure and perpetual arrangement allowing beekeeping activities to continue in Queensland's crown land native forests, critical to the future of beekeeping in state, and indirectly benefitting everyone that calls Queensland home.

The Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) acknowledges and thanks the department of Environment and Science for their comprehensive independent review of scientific literature with relations to the effects of managed honeybees on native flora and fauna.

The QBA looks forward to continuing to work with government as part of the review of National parks Apiary sites going forward. The QBA also implores the government to perfect the legislation by committing to negotiating Indigenous Land Use Agreements with traditional owners and providing the Traditional Owners and Beekeepers certainty into the future.

The success of the Queensland's horticultural industry is underpinned by abundance of healthy bee colonies for pollination, resulting in contributions up to $2.8 billion to the Queensland economy through managed honeybee pollination services (Karasinski 2014). The beekeeping industry's ability to supply these colonies is underpinned by maintaining access to Queensland nutrient rich native forests. Commercial beekeeping in Queensland is underpinned by its migratory nature. Beehives are transported between different floral resources to meet the nutrition needs of the bees. Whilst honey production has long been the major focus of beekeepers in Queensland, significant growth in horticultural industries have seen exponential growth in demand for paid pollination services.

In the past decade the area classified as 'Protected area of State' increased from 8.1 million hectares to 14.3 million hectares. The Protected Areas Strategy 2020-2030 is a ten-year plan that supports the growth for Protected areas of state. Whilst the Queensland beekeeping industry respects and supports the governments agenda to protect Queensland's natural resources, it does raise some concerns as to the areas that are not currently National Parks. In 20 years' time how many more beekeeping areas will be lost due to the expansion from the protected area estate.

Background

Australian beekeepers are some of the worlds most coveted beekeepers due to the access to remanent areas of natural vegetation that allows their colonies to be breed up and rehabilitate away from urban and agricultural areas. Beekeepers have a deep sense of connection with the natural environment and have deep desire to protect it. Beekeepers in Australia have relied on our natural resources to protect and grow our colonies for generations. For many generational beekeeping families there has been significant changes to our natural environment witnessed. Many of these families have been deeply affected by clearing of urban and agricultural areas that have rendered traditionally valuable natural resources useless.

Beekeeping has a long history of access to crown, private and leasehold land tenure:

- All apiary sites that currently exist in National Parks were known as Apiary sites in State Forest long before they were transitioned into National Parks under the South East Queensland Forest Agreements 1999.
- Beekeeping continues in State Forests and on other state lands as it has done for over 100 years.
- The protection of the native vegetation is the reason that these sites remain critically valuable. Resources of this value are scarce outside of State Forests and National Parks due to many factors including, extreme weather events, urban clearing and agricultural development.
- Beekeepers use of apiary sites in State Forests and National Parks because they provide safe refuge away from these urban and agricultural settings that may be harmful to bees

In 2004 when the transitional period to 2024 was tabled in Parliament there was recognition of the importance of the honeybee industry. The importance of bee sites impacted by the South East Queensland Forest Agreement was also recognised. Concerns were also raised about the importance of finding alternative resources for the prosperity of Industry. There was a feasibility study that was conducted by Department of State Development and Innovation to investigate alternative honey resources off national parks to meet the needs of beekeepers after 2024 (Hansard 2004). This study was not released to the QBA or public, but the results had been verbally communicated to Industry that there were no alternate resources identified.

In the past 20 years the industry has seen many changes. These changes can emphasise the importance of continuation of access to critical floral resources.

- New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania all have dedicated framework and perpetual agreements in place allowing beekeeping activities to be conducted across protected area and other land tenures.
- Exponential growth in pollination dependent partner industries and associated demand for professional pollination services.
- A decrease in Floral resources due to several factors:
    - Natural Disasters
        - Drought
        - Bushfires
        - Floods
    - Urban Development
    - Agricultural Development
- The value of the Queensland honey bee industry has increased
- Increase in the importation of honey
- Significant increase in the size of Queensland's population e.g., depletion of vegetation due to expansion in urban sprawl

- The Hon Leeanne Enoch (former Minister for Environment and Science) commissioned a comprehensive independent review of scientific literature with relations to the effects of managed honeybees on native flora and fauna
- Queensland population has grown from 4 million in 2004 to 5.2 million 2022, an increase of 30 %
- The ever-changing geo-political situation.

Economic

Pollination Services

It is estimated that the Australian honeybee Industry contributes $14.2 billion to the Australian Economy each Year (Agrifutures 2020). The success of the Queensland's horticultural industry is underpinned by abundance of healthy bee colonies for pollination, resulting in contributions up to $2.8 billion to the Queensland economy through managed honeybee pollination services (Karasinski 2014). 76% of all major crop species worldwide benefit from pollination (Klien et, al 2007). Queensland's managed honeybees provide vital pollination services to the following pollination dependent industries -

- Tree Crops- Almond, Macadamias, Avocados, Mangoes, Apple, Citrus etc.
- Fruit Crops- Berries, Melons, Tomatoes, Pumpkins etc.
- Vegetable Seed Crops- Carrot, Onions, Brassica etc.
- Fodder Crops- Clover, Lucerne etc.
- Broadacre Crops- Canola, Beans, Peas, Sunflowers etc.

The Following table outlines the dependence of selected crops on honeybee pollination as a percentage of yield. As demonstrated in this table many of Queensland's largest horticultural crops would fail without Honeybee pollination.

Table 1: The dependence of selected crops on honey bee pollination (as percentage of yield)

Crop	Dependence %
Tree crops	
Almond	100
Apple	100
Apricot	70
Avocado	100
Cherries	90
Citrus [a]	30-80
Grapefruit	80
Lemon & Lime	20
Macadamia	90
Mandarin	30
Mango	90
Nectarine	60
Orange	30
Papaya	20
Peach	60
Pear [a]	50 – 100
Plum & Prune	70
Ground crops	
Peanut	10
Broad acre crops	
Canola	15
Cotton	10
Soy	10
Sunflower [a]	30-100

Crop	Dependence %
Vine crops	
Blueberry	100
Cucumber	100
Kiwi	80
Pumpkin	100
Rockmelon	100
Squash	10
Watermelon	70
Seed production	
Beans	10
Broccoli	100
Brussels sprout	100
Cabbage	100
Canola	100
Carrot	100
Cauliflower	100
Celery	100
Clover	100
Lucerne	100
Mustard	100
Onions	100

[a] Depends on variety

From Monck, M., Gordon, J., & Hanslow, K. (2008). *Analysis of the market for pollination services in Australia.* Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

Commercial beehives from Queensland provide pollination services in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. One example is in 2021 when approximately 30,000 hives travelled to Southern NSW, Victoria and South Australia to provide crucial pollination services to the Australian Almond Industry.

Honey Production

The value of honey and honeybee products in Queensland is approximately $64 million. Whilst this is a modest value, the Queensland honeybee industry contributes significantly to the Queensland economy through pollination, honey production, in turn boosting investment and employment in regional areas. There are also opportunities for Queensland honey to lead the world through its unique therapeutic properties.

The future of Beekeeping in Queensland and Pollination Dependent Industries

Although it has already been stated, Queensland horticulture is currently undergoing an evolutionary expansion. Vast volumes of juvenile tree crops are being planted each year, in trust that the beekeeping industry will be able to meet future demand and deliver strong healthy hives for pollination.

In order to accelerate Queensland's horticultural production value into the powerhouse of the future, the beekeeping industry together with key partner pollination dependent industries, and Government must initiate discussions and collaborate together to plan and future proof our state's ability to continue to pollinate, grow and prosper from our world class produce.

Other Economic Factors

Queensland is also the base for many beekeeping equipment manufacturing businesses and honey packers. These crucial supply chain partners further contribute to the economic value of the industry. Many of Queensland’s Commercial Beekeepers are based in regional centres driving employment and prosperity for the regions.

Environmental

Abundance of floral resources

Beekeeping is a very skilful profession, the key to successful beekeeping is to identify floral resources that will allow bees to thrive. The flowering pattern of native flora is affected by the plants natural cycle as well as weather patterns. Only beekeepers identify a significant abundance of floral resources, a decision is made to migrate colonies to the abundant floral offering. Below is a photo of a Narrow Leaf Ironbark tree in full flower, providing an abundance of nectar and pollen for all fauna that rely on it.

Typically, commercial honey bee colonies would be placed on a similar resource for a period of 6 weeks, every 2-5 years. Unless there is a significant abundance of floral resource, it is not commercially viable for hives to be located in that area.

The Occupation National Parks Apiary Sites.

Under the SEQFA bee sites in State Forests were converted into National Parks currently there are 1088 sites in those National Parks. To see a publicly available map of apiary sites, see the following link: https://qldspatial.information.qld.gov.au/apiary_permits/

In general, there is a very low occupancy permit rate at any given time. Given seasonal variations, National Park apiary permit volumes may fluctuate reflecting the demand of industry.

Due to the migratory nature of commercial beekeeping, hives will only be situated in an area for a short period when there is a significant natural abundance. This may constitute a 6-week occupation of a site on a 2-5year cycle.

Most commonly today's apiary sites were formerly natural clearings, logging dumps, or gravel pits located in former state forests. Apiary permits provide provisions for conservative maintenance of apiary sites in order to prepare a site for occupation by managed honey bees. Beekeepers will generally mow an apiary site, trimming grass to a workable level that will allow the bees to be unloaded on site in a safe manner. Although provisions for maintenance to sites allow for beekeepers to clear a total of 600m2, more commonly, beekeepers will only trim grass in a minimal space between 300-400m2 in preparation for the migration of honey bees to the site.

The footprint of all national park sites is miniscule if the assumption is made that a site would be no greater then 500m2 the total footprint of all apiary sites would be in the vicinity of 54.4 hectares. This equates to a physical footprint of less than 0.0004% of the 14.3 million hectares of protected areas of state. Not all bee sites marked in National parks have active permits due to sporadic nature flower patterns of floral resources. Currently 59.7% of sites have current permit thus the footprint of current beekeeping would only cover 0.00023% for protected areas of state.

	Number Of Sites	Physical Footprint	Percentage Protected Area of State
Total Apiary Sites	1088	54.4 hectares	0.00038%
Current Permitted Sites	649	32.45 hectares	0.00023%

Diminishing Resources

With population expansion comes urban development. More people = more houses. Traditionally beekeepers have used many private land resources for the short stay of honey bees in the decades prior to 2000 throughout the greater south east region of Queensland. These vegetation corridors adjacent to Brisbane provided much of the diversity of forage that was capable of supporting bee colonies from spring into late summer.

The Ripley area of south east Queensland has seen many reliable alternative floral resources for honey bees transformed into urban population centres with expanding communities. Since the COVID-19 global pandemic commenced, desire to live in Queensland has exceeded population growth expectations, with many councils inundated with development requests to change green space into a living space. Whilst we share the Queensland Governments enthusiasm seeing visitors to Queensland becoming residents, we also continue to see significant areas of reliable floral resources cleared to make way for the population expansion.

The Queensland Globe Maps on the following pages illustrate the population growth from 1 November 2004 to 25 August 2021.

*Image 1 - Ripley, Queensland 2004 (Queensland Globe).

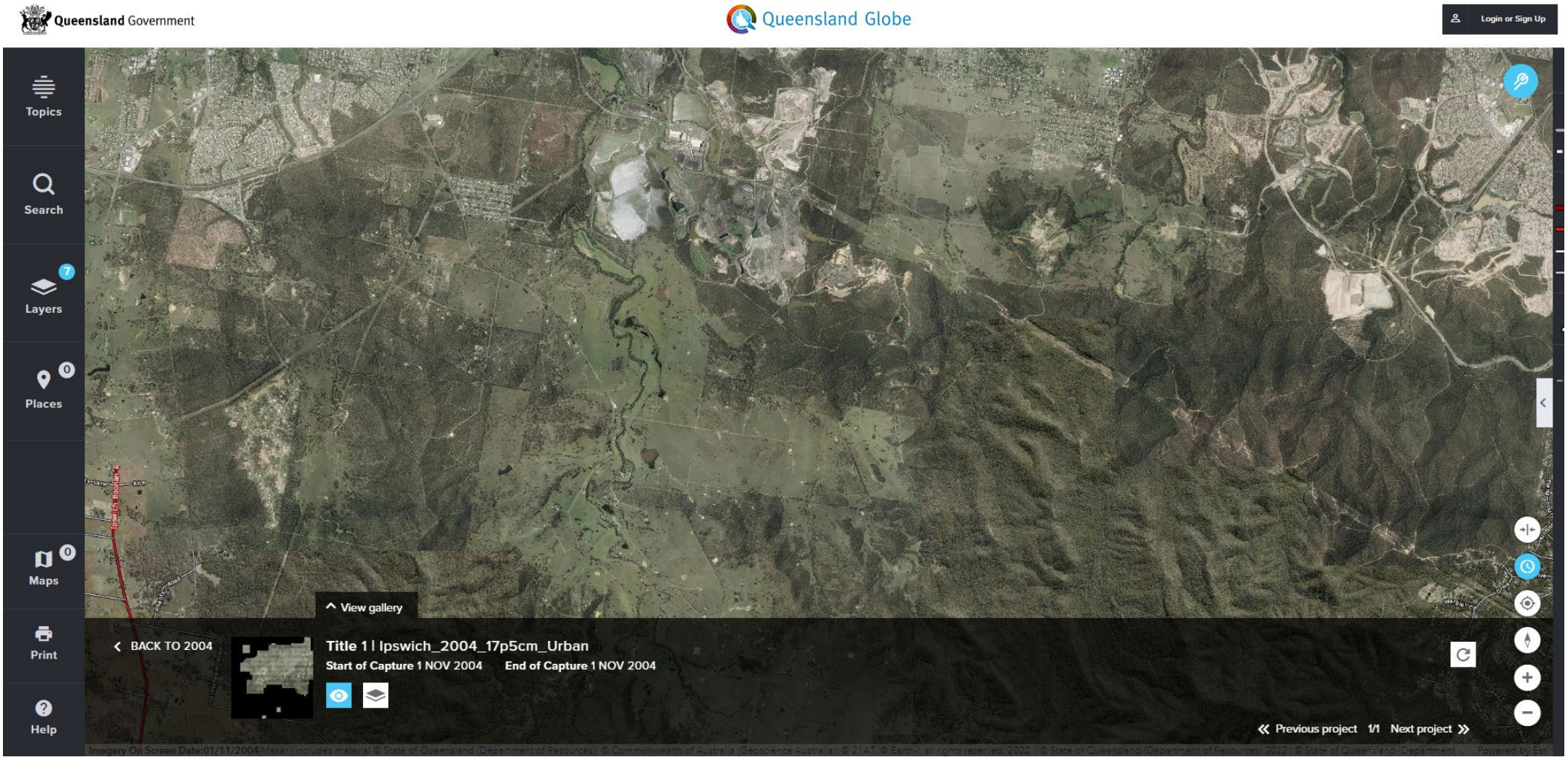
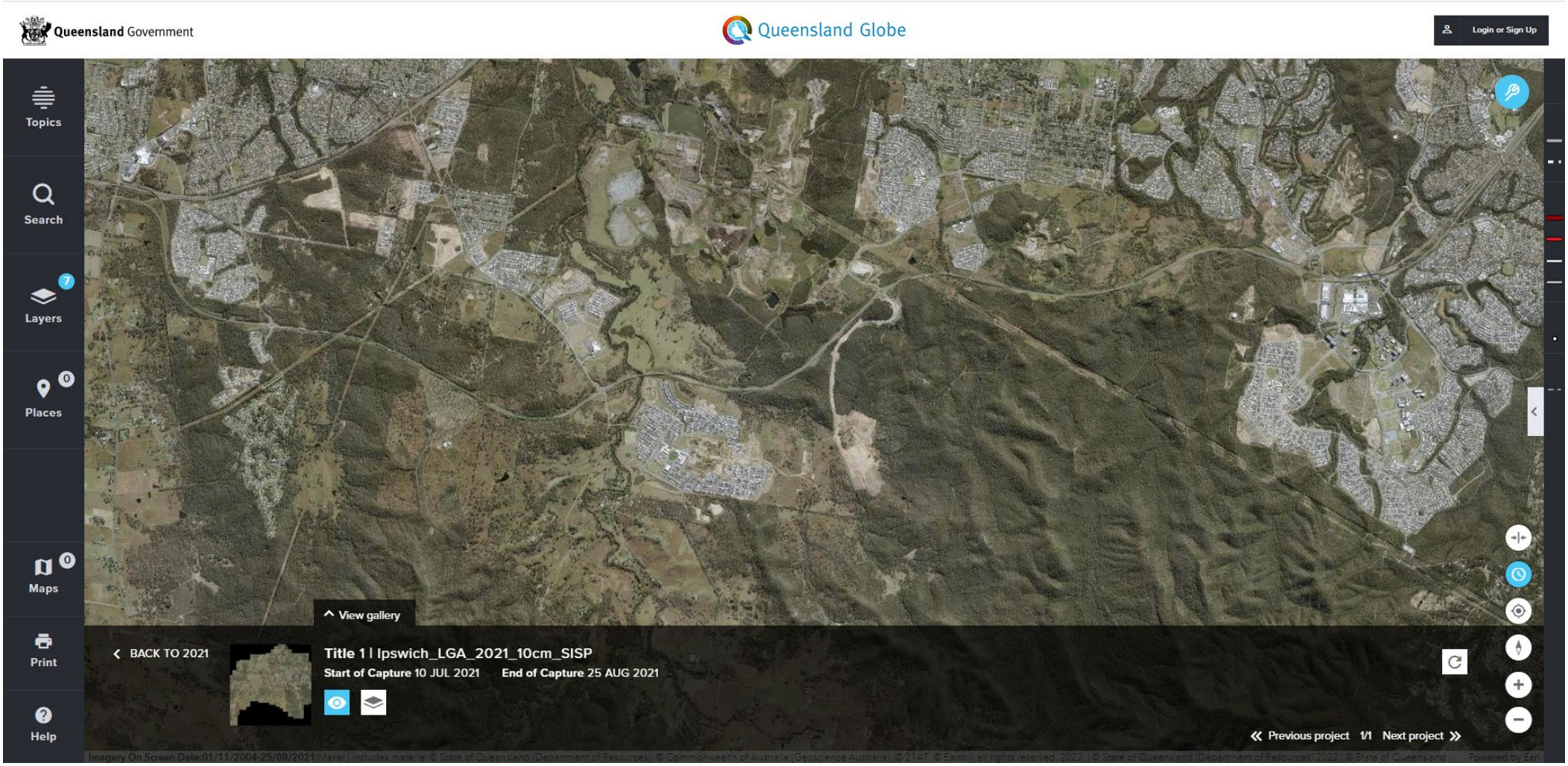


*Image 2 – Ripley, Queensland 2021 (Queensland Globe).



Impacts of Extreme Weather

The implications of severe weather events have been reiterated in the last 5 years. There has been a huge loss of floral resources thanks to severe drought, bushfires and flooding events. Although there has been relief from these conditions, many areas will take generations to recover. These events emphasise the need for there to be geographically diverse options for commercial beekeepers to maintain the health and strength of their colonies.

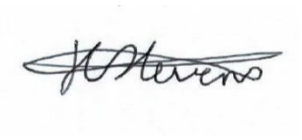
Agricultural Practices

Although there are many cases in which beekeepers are required to work closely with other agricultural and horticultural industries the application of chemicals provides significant challenges to the relationship. In some cases, agricultural practices can sometimes render some environments unsafe for bees. In some large-scale horticultural settings, monoculture limits the diversity of the bees diet that may lead to severe nutritional deficiency. Areas of natural environment provide bees the protection and balanced nutrition to prepare for and recover for these types of situations.

Summary

As demonstrated throughout this submission the exclusion of beekeeping from National Parks will have far reaching consequences. This extension and continued work between the Department of Environment and Science, The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Queensland Beekeepers' Association (industry) is in the best interest of all Queenslanders delivering food security for our growing state. This submission reflects the economic importance of the Queensland beekeeping industry whilst demonstrating the industries commitment and connection to the protection of the environment.

Signed,

Jacob Stevens	Robert Dewar	Jo Martin
		
QBA President	QBA Executive Member	QBA State Secretary

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc. [redacted]
[redacted] www.qbabees.org.au
[redacted] Facebook.com/qldbeekeepersassociation

Queensland Beekeepers' Association Branches: BRISBANE – STANLEY RIVERS – TOOWOOMBA – WARWICK – WIDE BAY

Members Letters of Support

Attachment A – Adrian Jones

Letter of support to QBA Management re Parks' extension

I am taking this opportunity to thank the QBA Management Team for their perseverance in pursuing an extension to the proposed 2024 exclusion from publicly owned sources of pollen and nectar.

Our operation is based at our property situated approximately half way between Childers and Bundaberg. I have used what were then Forestry apiary sites near Kenilworth since the late 1980's. Since then, we have taken up opportunities, albeit at considerable expense, to access many more apiary sites, from the south east to central Queensland. Most of our sites in the Conondale area are now in National Park jurisdiction.

Regarding the range of sites we have in that area, there may be one year in over 30 years that we have not moved many of our hives, if not all of them, to some of those sites. Even in drought time, we have used those sites. The country we may choose to access is wetter than to the west (Jimna) and is capable, in my opinion, of sustaining hives in a healthier state for a longer period. In the worst of years, our hives remained numerically sound, free from stress related issues and were still breeding. We gained no excess honey, but keeping hives alive in extreme circumstances is a win in itself.

For thirty years we have been engaged in pollination, starting with small crops, although these days we prefer orchard crops. The name of our business, Pollibee Apiaries, reflects our pollination history and interests. This aspect of our business was one of many factors leading us to the number of sites we have.

Here are our reasons for an extensive range of apiary sites.

1/. In the first few years after we began beekeeping on a large scale, having accessed many freehold sites, we saw land cleared, land subdivided, and properties frequently change hands sometimes leading to losing our access. Depending on rain in particular and the type of floral resource, some sites are not usable every year. On private property, owners sometimes think, therefore, you are not coming back, and let another beekeeper in. It is vital to keep in constant touch with owners, to ensure continual access, and this can be very time consuming, and sometimes, despite all your best efforts, fruitless.

Consequently, we decided that a mix of freehold and paid sites on public lands offered a solid, long-term security to the business.

2/. It was our Forestry sites that allowed us several months a year of access to unpolluted natural resources. We work closely with the agricultural sector, with very few losses due to pesticides, since we have a mutual interest in each party prospering, but it is excellent practice to get bees into an area virtually completely free or close to it of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. Residues from these can be trapped in wax. If there is no exposure to any of the above, there are no short-term consequences, and, if there are no residues, no longer term ones either.

3/. Sites in the traditional Forestry structure were placed at a distance, although prior to GPS these were sometimes not as far apart as they seemed. Unlike freehold, though, sites were allocated with a genuine attempt to give each user adequate access to resources.

4/. We built our site "portfolio" on some basic factors.

- Weather. We chose to build a geographical spread, with clusters of sites in different areas. If our northern sites west of Kenilworth were too dry, our southern ones, near Bellthorpe, would often be fine, or vice versa. Sometimes one isolated storm can make a difference

between a crop, and no crop at all, if you have a spread of sites. Over 30 plus years, we have found that there are sites that get used every year, or 4 years out of 5, and other sites we use infrequently since they may not bud regularly, but when they do, they save us in an extended drought or period of wet weather.

- Access. We have a few easy, almost all-weather access sites, and some that, while resource rich, can be difficult, if not impossible under certain circumstances, to access. Weather and road conditions play a factor in which of the sites gets used first, or not at all.
- Resource type. Some sites have a mix of natural resources, and hives can stay as one floral source finishes and the next begins, and some are predominantly one floral source. A range of sites allows security of choice, and sometimes even an early and late crop moving from one site to another several kilometres away.
- Purpose. We have sites that build hives, with excellent pollen sources, and other sites that are well noted honey producers. Ideally, a site will provide both.

5/. Peace of mind. We pay insurance on our buildings, our equipment, our vehicles and ourselves. Keeping apiary sites on public land removes a major stress relating to resource access.

- It means we have guaranteed access
- It means we don't have to be ahead of the curve, to beat everyone else in identifying resources and locking them up. Every successful beekeeper scouts for resources, but sometimes other business pressures mean this is not done as timely or successfully as it should or could be. If access to resources is established, then this allows more flexibility.

Closing thoughts.

There are some beekeepers who use private (freehold) land almost, if not totally, exclusively. I spoke to one a year or so ago who expressed no real concern, until I explained that access, he took for granted would be severely challenged once numerous beekeepers, without access to public resources, started looking for existing, sometimes limited, resources. It would be a struggle for survival. The history of similar events in other industries would say that, after brutal struggles, the industry would change to suit the new conditions, with some individuals exiting, and others prospering.

Academically, it's an interesting exercise to ponder whether this would ultimately be good, or bad, for the industry. For the agricultural sector that most benefits from pollination, desperate beekeepers seeking income might be advantageous, but beehives not of the correct strength, not maintained as they should be with prolonged access to natural resources, possibly with the judicious assistance of supplementary feeding, will not perform as they should.

Perhaps the old adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" should be considered in this context. There are agricultural industries that pay significant sums for bee pollination. In my own area, the number of newly planted avocado and macadamia orchards is simply incredible. Whilst some macadamia farms have paid for pollination for several years, traditionally they haven't. Now many realise that without some payment, they are not going to get bees. Since a growing number are now prepared to pay, this is an acknowledgement that honeybee pollination does make a difference.

If multi-million-dollar crops depend on, or improve with pollination, maintaining beekeepers and the hives they manage is a significant investment in the state's economic health, specifically in terms of direct employment on farms, or in supporting industries, and also in general financial terms.

These farms and the crops they produce, most importantly, are significant food sources. The crops beekeepers pollinate produce a range of vegetables and fruits, all of which are recognised as healthy, and the bees that pollinate them also produce another food source with world-wide recognition regarding its health benefits.

I also believe that in ecological terms a healthy beekeeping industry with continued access to vital resources is essential. If pollinating a crop can increase the yield by 20 or 30%, then all the investment in that crop, the land, the water, the fertilizers and chemicals, yields a better outcome for the producer, the consumer, and government authorities monitoring water use, or pesticide and fertilizer run-off. It is ecologically responsible to get the best possible outcome for the use of all resources involved in producing a crop.

I wish to conclude on a personal note, on two separate issues. One is esteem; the other regards the future of our business.

Esteem: The exclusion from resource access on public land said, to me, that my business as a beekeeper was unimportant, even detrimental to the health of our environment and our society. My bees produce a phenomenal product, in some cases capable of not just changing for the better, but maybe even saving lives. Just ask the NZ government why it tried to restrict the use of “Manuka” by trademarking it, an action that fortunately failed, but which illustrates the significance of some types of honey. It is a credit to the NZ government that there is now a universal appreciation of Manuka and its incredible health benefits. (Many of our best resources for this crop are found on public land, which is surely another powerful reason for continued access.)

Ultimately, of course, rejecting beehives means rejecting beekeepers, as environmental bandits. Extending access is a strong message regarding our role in, and value to, our society. The role of any pollinator is important, but modern agricultural practices have exceeded the capacity of unmanaged insect and bird populations to adequately service particular crops. When the movement of professionally managed commercial loads of bees is considered, the facts are startling. A single strong colony can range from 30,000 to 100,000 individual bees. One load alone of 100 hives will therefore deliver from 3 million to 10 million individual bees. No wonder they make a difference!

Business future:

Without access to “clean” sites, several months of healthy, pesticide free areas delivering good, high-quality pollen and nectar, we had concluded there were two options that we felt were appropriate to us.

1/. Sell the business, then ongoing access, keeping healthy and strong hives for pollination, are problems for someone else. (I believe our greatest chance of profitable sales will be interstate. In this case, the hives would be most likely totally lost to Queensland agriculture.)

2/. “Farm” the bees, similar to some of the beekeeping practices in the US. This would mean running large numbers for pollination of major industries like almonds, avocadoes or apples, then, in the remaining 9 – 10 months of the year, pick the best location we could find, and feed sugar syrup for carbohydrate, and pollen supplements for protein. We would consequently produce no true honey, with all its attendant health benefits.

Continuing access will ensure a reliable resource base and allow versatility in our business. This gives peace of mind, because the primary issue for us is the health and well-being of our bees.

For us, with our business structure, this has been achieved through guaranteed access to public land.

Regards,

Adrian Jones.

Attachment B – Bruce Ruge

To Whom it May Concern,

As part of a large multi-generational, family run, honey producing and pollinating beekeeping operation. I would like to stress the need for continued access to our national parks.

We utilise national parks and state forests all over Queensland for a number of reasons for our beekeeping operation. The main reason being honey production. We also use this resource to build and maintain our bees keeping them in peak performance for our pollination contracts throughout Queensland and New South Wales.

This loss of access will be detrimental to our bee hives. The flora and fauna in the National parks are a haven for our bees and assist us with building strong, healthy hives. This is due to the limited exposure of pesticides in these protected areas.

If this current bill doesn't pass, we will lose approximately 15% of our current sites which produces 50% of our annual honey. The losses incurred from this would seriously make me re-consider whether it would be viable to continue in beekeeping, as the uncertainty of the future would make it unviable. Our operation employs several employees and access to the national parks make it possible that we can keep our employees on throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Bruce and Stephanie Ruge

Attachment C – Knobel Honey

25 February 2022

Attention: Jo Martin
Queensland Beekeeper's
Association Inc PO Box 61
Boonah Qld 4310

Dear Jo

RE: Nature Conservation Act Amendment - Extension of access arrangements in national parks for the beekeeping industry

Our names are Mark and Joanne Knobel and we ran a family beekeeping business in Clermont, Central Queensland. We hereby support the Bill for the extension of access arrangements in national parks ('NP') for the beekeeping industry. The extension of access is important to us, our family and our business as the threat of having no access, was a contributing factor to our beekeeping business not continuing.

Summary of our reasons:

1. We ran a beekeeping business in Clermont in Central Queensland from approx. 2014 to 2018. We won awards and had a large social media following. Our honey was eaten in Parliament house and by celebrities such as Pierce Bronson.
2. We were determined to grow our business and paid money, time and energy to obtain access in a nearby NP for our bees. We obtained these permits:
    - To droughtproof our business as the NP provided a reliable food source for the bees;
    - To research the area and tree species with experts which were productive;
    - To grow our business - as we had identified species of manuka not commonly found;
    - To grow our business - as the location meant that we could apply for organic status for our honey;
    - To bring growth and industry to the region as we intended to grow our busines and provide local jobs.
3. We obtained the permits for access to the NP that we needed and started to build our business. However, due to the uncertainty about access to the NPs, we realised it was not feasible to spend the money required to keep the NP permits, obtain the testing of honey or obtain the organic certification because there was a real treat that the NP access would be removed. Despite numerous enquiries to the Government, we could not obtain the support or assurances we needed that the permits would be granted. In the end we could not risk spending our own money to grow a business that may be refused access to the NP.
4. Our business then was decimated by drought and we downsized our beekeeping operation to a hobby and moved to the Sunshine Coast.
5. Had we had certainty that the access to NPs would continue, we are sure our life and business would be very different now.
6. At all times when we did have access to the NP, we were very respectful of the fauna and fauna and had a very good relationship with the National Park Rangers. We understood that it was a privilege to be allowed in the NP.
7. As a side note we were perplexed at the time that we could not confirm access to the NP for bees however rouge non-native cattle were in the NP.
8. We believe that if access to beekeepers in NPs is guaranteed for an additional 20 years this will save some beekeeping businesses and even allow for some to grow.
9. We support the Bill as it will ensure that what happened to our family business does not happen to another.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards

Mark and Joanne Knobel Knobel Honey

Knobel Honey

[redacted]

www.knobelhoney.com

Attachment D – Peter Warhurst

Letter of Support.

01/03/2022

ACCESS TO APIARY SITES ON CROWN LAND

With continuing land clearing beekeepers are struggling to find suitable apiary sites. Combined with this is the changing nature of private land owners. Parcels of land have been divided into smaller lots and many of these new land holders prevent beekeepers from using their property. Most of the new owners are city raised and have no idea of the rural way of life and its traditions. Beekeeping is completely foreign to them.

Access to crown land means beekeepers can escape pesticide problems and can rebuild bee colony numbers. Pollination in the agriculture and horticulture industry has become more important to beekeepers and to those industries. After pollination bees are moved to pollen and nectar sources to enable hive populations to be maintained or increased. Honey production was the major source of beekeepers' income but now pollination helps maintain the cash flow.

Many large beekeepers have million-dollar investments and they need surety that their business can remain viable. Access to crown land is vital. Many sites are only used every 3-10 years due to climatic conditions and these sites are paid for even if not used. Access tracks and roads to these sites need attention as does fire control and burning regimes. Industry has always been willing to cooperate and meet with government on these important issues.

We would like to thank you for the 20year extension and ask that consideration be given to extending it further to allow industry long term security.

Peter Warhurst

Attachment E – Ray Clarke

3rd March, 2022

To: Secretary,
Queensland Beekeepers Association

My name is Raymond Clarke, and I am a third generation Beekeeper.

My Grandfather started beekeeping in the 1920's at Caloundra and Bribie Island and moved to Warwick in 1948. For him, it was a better place to base his operation, and this is still our base today.

I have been a beekeeper for over 30 years and have grown our business which now runs 1680 hives. We have a son and son-in-law who also work in the business and our focus in on Honey Production and Pollination services some being Almonds, Macadamia and Canola.

Our honeybees need access to healthy forests to obtain the required stores of honey and pollen and in turn creates a healthy and strong hive with good bee numbers to produce honey and enables us to fulfil Pollination contracts.

National Park apiary sites are very important to our business due to the large variety of tree species that flower with lots of high-quality pollens and quality honey.

With the extension of another 20 years, it would mean less stress as we would still be able to rely on this source of high value sites which we have based our business on over the years to obtain high quality honey and pollen.

Having access to these high valve sites means our son and son-in-law and family who both have another 40 years of beekeeping yet would have a stable future knowing they have valuable sites.

Our Family have been using these sites for 60+ years and the National Parks look the same today as it did then.

I would like to see this extension of access so I can produce a good quality honey from our many species of trees we have available in National Parks.

I would like to thank you for reading this submission and giving it a favourable response.

Regards,

Raymond Clarke
Clarkes Bees & Honey Pty Ltd

AUSSIE APIARIES

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attachment F – Rick Jensen

To Members of the Parliamentary Committee

The importance of keeping bees in the National Parks is vital to the ongoing success and the renewal of flora in these areas.

Being a third-generation beekeeper and gaining ever evolving and growing knowledge of the effects of taking bees out of the National parks and not continuing the access for a indefinite number of years would be absolutely detrimental to not only my apiary business as well as many others, but toalso our food industry and the export market of such food products as almonds, avocados, macadamias etc which are totally reliant upon the pollination of the bees. This is worth billions of dollars to the Australian economy and food security guarantee.

I have seen areas of the National Park that I have worked in previously grow and flourish because of the pollination of the bees. These areas have been in poor condition in previous years, but after time, pollination and care these areas are prospering and thriving.

It is crucial to the ongoing industry as well as the renewal of the National Parks that beekeepers be able to continue to access these areas.
So, for the future of not just our business but the next generations as well as the Australian horticultural/agricultural industries, I implore you to seriously consider the affect this will have in the future.

Richard Jensen
Apiarist