

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 2323

Asked on Thursday, 1 December 2016

**MR KNUTH** asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (HON B BYRNE)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the '200 or more calls' that have been made to the call centre reporting the discovery of Asian Honey Bees—

Will the Minister provide (a) a breakdown of the calls and subsequent findings including calls that have not yet been followed up and (b) a map detailing the locations of all Asian Honey Bee reports and confirmations?

**ANSWER:** [Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (Hon Anthony Lynham)]

I thank the Member for the question.

During the period 1 June 2016 to 2 December 2016, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries received a total of 278 calls reporting suspected Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*) through the Customer Service Centre. The majority of those calls (231 of the 278 reports) originated within the Townsville area.

Biosecurity Queensland has followed up on each of these reports to confirm the species of bee, and then taken further action as required based on the species identified.

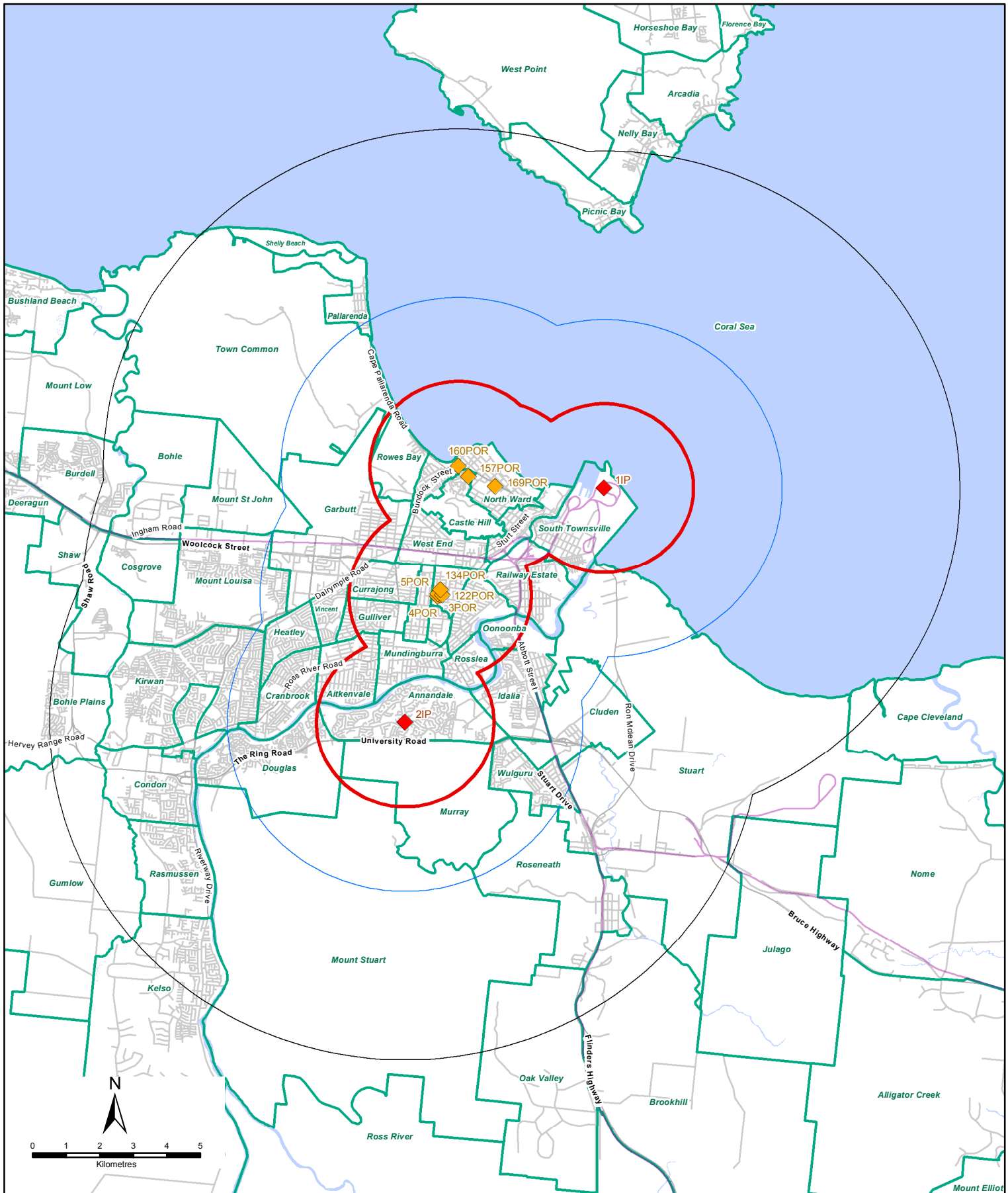
Based on the public reports received and Biosecurity Queensland's surveillance efforts, ten detections of Asian honey bee have been confirmed in the Townsville area since varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) was first detected at the Port of Townsville on 27 June 2016. The remaining reports were found to be related to species including European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*), native bees or wasps, or in some cases no bees were detected when Biosecurity Queensland investigated.

The *National Response Plan for the Eradication of Varroa jacobsoni from Queensland* requires the destruction and sampling of any Asian honey bee nest found within the Townsville area. The ten colonies of Asian honey bee detected in Townsville since 27 June 2016 have all been destroyed, sampled and analysed. Varroa mites were detected in the nest materials of the first two detections. No varroa mites were found on the eight subsequent detections.

Genetic testing indicates that all ten detections have originated from the same incursion and they are not directly related to the established Asian honey bee population in the Cairns region.

The attached map shows the location of the ten Asian honey bee detections in the Townsville area since 27 June 2016. The red symbols represent the detections of varroa mites (2 detections), the yellow symbols represent the Asian honey bee detections that have been found to be free of varroa mites (8 detections).

Biosecurity Queensland is using local media, the department's website and other local channels to encourage members of the public to continue to report bee activity to the Customer Service Centre. A recent mail-out to all Townsville households has resulted in an increase in public reports. These reports increase the department's opportunity to detect and destroy any Asian honey bees that may be present in the area, and to determine whether they are infested with varroa mite.



## Asian Honey Bee Detections and Surveillance Zones

- ◆ Infected Premises
- ◆ Premise Of Relevance
- Suburbs
- 2.5km Surveillance Buffer
- 5km Surveillance Buffer
- 10km Surveillance Buffer
- Major Arterial Road
- Minor Arterial Road
- Water Parcels



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