

Question on Notice

No. 875

Asked on 30 August 2022

MR A PERRETT ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the biosecurity risk from varroa mites— Will the Minister advise to date, how many hives have been checked by an officer of Biosecurity Queensland since the notification of the serious biosecurity risk of an outbreak of varroa mites on 23 June?

ANSWER:

Under national emergency response arrangements for the Varroa mite incursion in New South Wales, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) Biosecurity Queensland is actively engaged in the national emergency response arrangements for the Varroa mite incursion in NSW.

DAF has stood up a significant prevention and preparedness effort in response to the incursion of varroa mite in NSW to support the Queensland honey bee industry, hobbyist beekeepers and plant industries reliant on honey bees for pollination.

DAF continues to undertake surveillance of bee hives in Queensland and hives permitted to return to Queensland from interstate.

Since 23 June 2022, Biosecurity Queensland officers have undertaken 490 tests on 231 hives in Queensland.

DAF is undertaking compliance activities for hives currently returning under permit from Victoria and South Australia for seven beekeepers who have been providing pollination services for the almond industry.