

To The Standing Senate Committee on the future of Beekeeping and Pollination in Australia,

I would like to make a submission to the inquiry with regards to the Terms of Reference (a) and (b).

With pollination of crops demanding more and more beehives each year, all commercial beekeepers are increasing their hive numbers to meet this demand. The consequence of this is that after the pollination period is over there are more hives that need to be kept alive and in good condition for the rest of the year. We are lucky in Australia to have good forests for this. Please consider allowing beekeepers into National Parks and other public lands that we have been 'locked out' of for years. The Kosciusko National Park alone is over 650000 ha with good access but there are no bee sites available under the current administration.

Bees are important for food security. Healthy bees and strong colonies that are able to effectively pollinate crops that may flower at different times of the year need good food to build up before pollination and to replenish after pollination is over. All I am saying is that hive numbers are increasing and forests that could be available for beekeepers are decreasing.

Yours Sincerely

Thomas Sharman  
T. J. Sharman Apiaries  
South Coast NSW