



Harold J. Saxvik
Apiarist/Pollination Service

ASIAN BEE INQUIRY SUBMISSION

My name is Harold Saxvik and I am a commercial apiarist/ pollinator. I am also the current president of the NSW and Victorian Crop Pollination Association.

Our business, The Saxvik Honey and Pollination Service, is a family business based in Darlington Point, NSW. The art of bee keeping in our family began over sixty five years ago and is now into the third generation of apiarists. Our business maintains over 2,000 hives.

The pollination of cereal, seed and fruit is the main feature of our business which we have been doing for over fifty years. We take great pride in providing the best possible hives to pollinate each individual crop. We achieve this through continued maintenance of our hives throughout the year.

In addition to pollination, we rear our own queen bees and produce pure natural honey. The honey we produce is from the native floral nectars found in the Riverina.

Crop pollination, honey production and queen bee rearing is not only my livelihood but also three other family members. I have invested hundreds of thousands of man hours and dollars into establishing and running my business and providing a service and various honey products to our community. I could not even begin to put a price or cost on these.

My economic contributions to our small rural community are several.

I provide:

- an industry in the small community of Darlington Point, NSW
- pollinate for local farming properties and seed companies
- employ local trades people
- employ local community members
- make donations to all local charities in and around Darlington Point.

Many seed companies are based in the Riverina which service local farms which produce crops such as sunflowers, canola, almonds, onions, pumpkins and prunes (to name a few), all which need bees to produce a crop. The effects of the Asian bee on our area would be devastating to the farming properties and communities they help support.

The impact the Asian bee would have on my business is many:

- disruption of queen rearing – essential for honey production
- disruption of honey production
- disruption of hive build up in preparation for pollination services
- the collapse of our pollination services
- the end of another family business/livelihood in the Riverina.

This bee would also impact on the environment in our local area through:

- reducing populations of native birds, insects and small animals through competition for nesting sites and floral resources
- further elimination of feral bee colonies
- increased competition for nectar and pollen resources.

It would impact on the Health and Public Amenity of our society by:

- humans and domestic animals more likely to endure stings
- colonises a wider range of nesting sites in the built environment
- increasing the cost for public nuisance aspects nationally.

The social and environmental impacts of the Asian bee on our industry and country are frightening and scary to say the least.

I cannot stress enough the importance of the continued funding of the Asian Bee Eradication Program – it is vital to all Australians.

STOP THE SPREAD OF THE ASIAN BEE

REINTRODUCE THE ASIAN BEE ERADICATION PROGRAM

NOW

Harold J Saxvik
30th March 2011