



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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25 March 2011

The Hon Joe Ludwig MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Re: *Apis cerana* incursion in Queensland

As you would be aware, 31st March 2011 is the final date set for ending joint State/Commonwealth and Industry response arrangements for the control of *Apis cerana* in Cairns, Queensland.

The post *Apis cerana* arrangements proposed by the Queensland Government would appear to amount to no more than public awareness through a press release and website.

Industry is concerned that currently the insect is contained in a geographically small area and unless the Commonwealth can lead the post 31st March response, both financially and leadership-wise, then this pest will spread rapidly to other areas of Australia. This would be to the disadvantage of agriculture and tourism, not to mention the environmental damage that could potentially be contained if common sense and combined action is forthcoming.

I would welcome your advice and any assistance you and/or your officers could provide in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

LINDSAY BOURKE
Chairman
Australian Honeybee Industry Council