

Browns Bees Australia Pty. Ltd.

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The Asian Bee Inquire

The affects on my business

Browns Bees Australia Pty. Ltd. Business' is based on about 80% export of lives package bees.

We have been exporting lives bees since 1982. We supplied 3 large aircraft pallets of package bees for the UNHCR, into northern Pakistan. Since then we have built markets in many countries in the Middle East, South Korea, Europe and Canada for package bees, plus other countries for the sale of queen bees.

With the incursion of Small Hive Beetle into Australia in 2002, we lost all of ours markets. The Small Hive Beetle is only found in some African countries and USA. In 2005 we were able to get access to the USA markets. We were able to supplied the USA market with the same amount of packages bees we supplied ours previous markets. Our sales were about \$2,500,000 per season – Dec-Jan-Feb -

Since the incursion of the Asian Bee (Apis Cerana) into north QLD, the USDA was monitoring control effort by Australia. The 36 workers who were finding and destroying the nests of Apis Cerana, were put off and the funding was going to be stopped at the end of March, the USDA was concern about disease problems and stopped the import of live bees from Australia. There are not other markets we can export to now because of Small Hive Beetle and Apis Cerana.

Where I'm based in Central Western NSW, in a small town, I'm the largest employer in the area. If we need to downsize, we won't need to employ anyone.

I've been training my youngest son to take over running the business for his future. He has been working with me now for 7 years and managing the large queen bee breeding side of our business.

With out the export side of our business it will make our queen bee breeding non viable just to supply the local market that need queen bees for four months of the year in our spring. We need the spring sales in the USA as well to hold the staff. Queen bee breeding is a highly skilled profession and skilled staff is very hard to find.

So is Apis Cerana is not eradicated, when it invades other parts of our country (just like the cane toad has) it will cause big problems with queen bee breeding where the drones will mate with our queens and as a result the queens can not reproduce and the hive will die out. So there will be mayor problems for general agricultural and the rest of the country.

PLEASE CONSIDER ERADICATION of the Asian Bee as an investment for all aspects of Agriculture in the country. When you look at what is spend on plague locust control, we are only looking for a very small amount of money to fix the imminent disaster.

Yours sincerely,

T. J. Brown