

To whom it may concern: my name is Anthony James Eden of Nemingha NSW. I am a professional beekeeper with a life long interest in bees & my wife Kerry & I have operated a full time business with our bees since 1980. Our hives are located in NW & the MNC of NSW. I have just watched 11/2 hours of the senate inquiry pertaining to this matter (Thursday 31st of March, 2011) & I am infuriated by the bureaucratic/bean counting nonsense I have just heard from the 4 witnesses. It is not true that fair dinkum attempts have been made to stop numerous incursions of foreign exotic pests which have caused extensive damage to the Australian honey bee industry, just in my life time.

European Foul Brood disease – 1970's; Chalk brood in the 90's; Small African hive beetle (thanks to the USA Air force & Aust. Gov agency bungles & slackness) which is a pestilence of the first order & has cost our business a conservative \$300k in turnover during the last 8 years. This coincided with the worst drought in our life time. The help our industry needed & still needs with this exotic pest, amounted to almost nothing - we continue to bear the cost & do not have any decent control measures. Nosema ceranae a few years ago.

We now have the spectacle of Apis cerana being allowed to take over the country, even though it may destroy the food security/natural environment & knock out the small but vital honey bee industry.

I have no confidence at all in the bureaucrats/scientist involved, with the exception of Dr Denis Anderson, who is a world renowned, rolled gold authority on these bees & the varoa which usually parasitise them.

A horse had a cough in NSW a couple of years ago, & it took all of 3 weeks to stump up \$260,000,000 for a successful eradication of horse flu.

I ask you to consider the prospect of a future with Asian bees & the small cost of hitting them now.

Regards,
Tony Eden.