

Ken Gell  
Gells Honey Maryborough  
48 Dundas Rd  
MARYBOROUGH VIC 3465

To the Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport

A; On the issue of the Asian honey bee, cannot be eradicated in Australia;  
I believe that the program that was current in the eradication of this pest should be a great guide to gauge its effectiveness .

Although it seemed to be more hives where caught and destroyed it was because more resources were thrown behind it and more people were able to be on ground work .

Once again the lack of resources at the real time of incursion has resulted in us fighting for our livelihood. With all the colonies that have been destroyed it has been stated they are becoming of a younger age group there for it means that there are fewer colonies in the district this should also mean that eradication is possible in this small area in relation to where it can go.

B; assumption that the Asian honey bee will not spread throughout Australia;

Information that we have had highlights that this pest will adapt to any climate it is in that means the bee will have no trouble in any part of Australia. Even if the evidence is in doubt remember that all insects can adapt to the climate they are in for survival.

Once again the industry is fighting for survival as the small hive beetle was declared endemic when it was first found in Australia in the early 2000s with no consideration of industries consequences and now we are paying for that decision even though it was supposed to be a tropical pest in the humid areas it is now in Victoria in the Central region posing a threat to Victorian beekeepers as well as the QLD and NSW too.

C; spread of the Asian honey bee on biodiversity, pollination and the European honey bee;

If there is any doubt on the effect of our industry please ask the Papua New Guineans as we have been advised they have no European honey bees any more . No honey bees no food more imports more cost to Mr. mum and dad

D; Missing a point

The public will be forced to pay for pest control at a price that will skyrocket as the pest becomes established the parks will no longer be safe to have picnics and play grounds, but I am sure that this is covered somewhere in your reporting.

this is our last chance to secure a healthy beekeeping industry for all Australia to benefit if there is even a slightest chance.

Kind Regards Ken Gell