



DN & ED Margetts

APIARISTS



Commercial Beekeepers - Specialising in Honey & Pollination

ABN: 95 308 289 135 (Reg DPI No: M788)

19th May 2007

The Secretary
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee
House of Representatives
P O Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA. ACT. 2600

Submission No: 16
Date Received: 24-5-07
Secretary: <i>[Signature]</i>

**RE: New Inquiry:
The Future Development of the
Australian Honey Bee Industry.**

Dear Secretary

I would like to draw your attention to the above named industry to the following items in this new inquiry.

1. Its current and future prospects.

In the current situation, we as beekeepers and my three boys who are the future beekeepers, are not going to be able to product honey and do pollination under the current laws, and so our family business will not be able to continue as I have been in the industry since 1970 as a boy at high school. The future in beekeeping can be very good if we were allowed to enter the state forests and the State and Federal Governments stop so many of the imports. Australia has some of the best honey trees in the world, but if we allow so much fruit and vegetables in from other counties where they do not have a good QA system like ours, and most do not have one at all, then this country will be inundated with parasites within our food. This will go right through our agriculture industry and kill it off.

2. Its role in agriculture and forestry.

The bee industry is very very important to the whole agriculture industry for fruit and vegetable in pollination and with out the bee industry, the country would have to import over 50% more in these items. Not only will we have to import fruit and vegetables, but the whole of the unemployed people from these fruit and vegetable industry areas would have to move to the larger cities for employment if any. If this happens, the towns in the country as we know them today will just disappear. Even the clover and grass the cows eat needs pollination for the seed so that the farmer can replant more crops. Without the cows, we do not have milk.



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3. **Biosecurity issues.**

Because of the amount of imported fruit and vegetables now in place from all around the world, we are at a very high risk of bringing in all kinds of mites and parasites that will destruct the greater agriculture industry in Australia.

As I am a beekeeper that does a lot of Pollination on Kiwi Fruit, Avocados, Macadamia Nuts, Citrus and many other crops, from the New South Wales boarder and up to Gladstone, (800 kilometres), if we allowed fruit and vegetables from other countries who do not have a good QA audit in place, we will not have the bees to pollinate these fruits because of these parasites. Pollination is where this all Starts

4. **Trade issues.**

In beekeeping, by allowing all kinds of imports of fruit and vegetables into this country we are allowing the industry to be at a higher risk of infections and disease in to Australia, which will stop our trade of Queen Bees and Worker Bees to our over seas partners. That is why we must stop most of our trade of Fruit and Vegetables from over seas countries that do not have a good QA audit system in place like we have here in Australia.

5. **The impact of land management and bushfires.**

The Beekeeping industry is very important to maintaining the land management in all the state forests. As beekeepers, we are always travelling through these forests and maintaining the roads so that it allows the fire trucks through to control bush fires. Beekeepers do not cut trees down just for the sake of it because that is where we earn our living from for our family business and for all of us to eat the Australian fruit and vegetables. We must have access to all state forests because that is where we build up our bees for the next pollination crop. Most pollination crops will weaken our bees in strength and so we must always have access to the state forests. Even if more state forests had a pad lock on them to keep the non allowed people in so that they do not do havoc on these dirk roads.

6. **The research and development needs of the industry.**

The research and development needs a lot more beekeepers on the committees to help run the research programs as we know what is good for the bees and the trees and the environment in these state forests. As for myself, I have bee in the industry for over 30 years in two states running beekeeping. This research and development is very important to both the bee industry and the agriculture and forestry industry. These research and development departments must have the funds from the federal governments for all levels to access from the beekeeper at ground level up to the top level in government. At the moment, there is not sufficient and adequate money put into the research program to help the beekeeping industry, agriculture industry,



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pollination industry and all our state and federal forests. This must be the first point of call to necessitate the whole primary industry in Australia.

7. Existing industry and Government work that has been undertaken for the honey bee industry.

There has been very little done in this area at the ground level in the agriculture and pollination industry with direct contact with beekeepers. Also at the top end in Government is also very little being done because of all the imports that they are allowing into this country where the other countries do not have a good QA audit system in place like we have here in Australia. This QA must be implemented in all other counties if they want to import into Australia or we will be without a whole beekeeping industry and without an agriculture and forestry industry. We must have a level playing field with other counties to be productive.

I have been very involved in the Queensland Beekeeping Industry for quiet a few years and if you would like to speak to us in the industry here in Brisbane, I believe that you would have a very good hearing.

Regards,

D Margetts

Doug Margetts

Beekeeper, Director

Honey is a Natural Food

That does not go off.