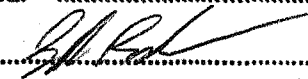


**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 September 2007 11:23 AM  
**To:** Committee, Aff (REPS)  
**Subject:** Re: Proof transcript 3 September 2007

<b>Submission No:</b> ..... 91 .....
<b>Date Received:</b> ..... 19-9-07 .....
<b>Secretary:</b> .....  .....

Hi,

Attached is the transcript with a few minor amendments in track changes.

At the hearing I undertook to get information as to the issue of exporting live bees from Tasmania. The impediment to this is the presence of an ectoparasite *Braula coeca* that does not occur on mainland Australia populations of bees hence there is a risk of the parasite being introduced to mainland states by escaped transiting bees.

Live bees for export are packed in nucleus boxes which are about the size of a shoe box and contain a queen and about 500 grams of bees, these boxes are then packed onto a pallet for shipment. The boxes must be packed on the pallet in such a way that allows adequate air movement between them to keep the bees cool. The risk is that the boxes could fall off the pallet or they could be damaged by someone who was overzealous with a fork lift.

With regard to the export of package bees from Tasmania, I have spoken to the apiary Inspectors in Victoria and NSW about the problem of having to transit through Sydney or Melbourne. Their concern seems to be that regardless of how the bees are packed at some stage during trans shipment from domestic flights to international flights someone will accidentally damage the container and allow bees to escape. Once the bees have escaped it would be impossible in their view to kill or recapture them.

The experience with Chalkbrood and Small Hive Beetle on the mainland has been that once a disease or pest gets into the bees it will be spread around the country by migrating beekeepers and they fear the same could happen with *Braula*, they have never been able to successfully quarantine areas.

I have suggested that one approach could be to pack the bees into an air freight container in Tasmania. This would be much less likely to be damaged to the extent that bees would escape. Some airfreight containers (AV series) used for domestic movements can also be used for international freight. Victorian and NSW quarantine inspectors will consider any proposals but they will take a very risk averse approach.

Robin Thompson  
Manager  
Extensive Agriculture Branch

26/09/2007