

Date Received:	4 May 2007
Secretary:	<i>[Signature]</i>

2-5-07
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TO THE SECRETARY,
 AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE,
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

BEEKEEPERS HAVE THEIR BEST INTEREST IN THE BUSH + PLANTS IN GENERAL. SOME BEEKEEPERS CAN TELL YOU THE CONDITION OF AN AREA AND WHAT'S GOING ON. WE MONITOR PLANT GROWTH, RAINFALL ETC, YOU COULD SAY WE ARE THE EYES + EARS OF THE ENVIRONMENT. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO LOOK AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT! A LOT OF THE BUSH IS BEING DESTROYED BY MINING, CLEAR FELLING FOR RIVER WATER REMOVAL + FIRES TO NAME SOME, AND BEEKEEPERS ARE BEING FORCED OUT BY ALL SORTS OF GROUPS FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

HONEY IS A LOW RISK FOOD PRODUCT AS FAR AS HEALTH + SAFETY IS CONCERNED. THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY HAS A PROGRAMME CALLED B-QUAL TO ADDRESS HEALTH, SAFETY + ENVIRONMENT ISSUES. THIS IS AN EASY, PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME TO GET HEALTH + SAFETY CERTIFIED BUT AFTER ALL YOUR HARD WORK YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CAN CLOSE YOU DOWN ON A MINOR DETAIL WITH THEIR OWN RULES. THIS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

IF VARROA MITE OR EUROPEAN FOUL BROOD GETS ESTABLISHED IN WEST AUSTRALIA IT WILL KILL OFF FERAL + UNMANAGED BEEHIVES. THIS WOULD COST THE STATE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR POLLINATION WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS MAINLY A FREE SERVICE FROM FERAL HIVES. IF THESE DISEASES DO COME IN WE WILL NEED MORE AREAS FOR BEES TO FORAGE TO KEEP UP WITH THE EXTRA DEMAND FOR BEES.

YOURS SINCERELY