

Commercial Beekeeper Audit Project 2023

Biosecurity and Food Safety (BFS) protects the NSW community, environment and economy from biosecurity & food safety risks

Project Overview

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) was developed by industry to outline a number of disease and traceability controls to mitigate biosecurity risks faced by beekeepers.

In 2018 the Department introduced compliance with the Code as condition of registration for commercial beekeepers. BFS Compliance introduced a targeted audit project to assess compliance with the Code and the Regulation.

The project focused on commercial beekeepers with a poor compliance history, based on previous interactions with BFS Compliance officers during pollination operations or investigations.

Project Statistics



4 Beekeepers referred to the DPIs specialist Compliance Investigations Unit for increased compliance and enforcement action



14 Beekeepers audited



4 Individual Biosecurity Directions issued



10 Beekeepers found to be compliant



14 Formal requests for information- Section 93 Notice (*Biosecurity Act 2015*)

Project Outcomes

This audit program identified that the majority of the commercial beekeepers interacted with, were compliant and maintaining their operations in compliance with the Code.

During the audit program, four commercial beekeepers were found to be in contravention of the requirements relating to American Foulbrood control, movement of hives and ensuring their monitoring systems were compliant.

Due to the serious nature of the non-compliance, the flow on effects may result in apiarists identified in losing access to public lands, or administrative sanctions such as cancellation of registration.

The success of this project will result in another targeted audit project being carried out in 2024.