

National Varroa Mite Eradication Program 2016-17 – 2020-21

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Varroa Mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) Eradication Program from 2016-17 to 2019-20 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to Queensland, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program is being conducted under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) as agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) on 12 September 2016.
3. Financial commitments are approved by the NMG subject to budget considerations. The *National Response Plan for Eradication of Varroa jacobsoni from Queensland V1.5* (the Response Plan) budget was approved by the NMG on 12 September 2016 in accordance with the EPPRD.
4. If required, this Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the eradication program in accordance with the provisions of the EPPRD.

PART 2: FORMALITIES

5. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland.
6. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management, and will expire on 30 June 2021, or upon completion or termination of the Varroa mite eradication program as determined by the NMG, including endorsement of the final progress report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS AND MILESTONES

7. The project elements are described in the *National Response Plan for Eradication of Varroa jacobsoni from Queensland, Version 1.5*. Queensland is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Response Plan:
 - (a) Quarantine and movement control:
 - i. Movement controls were introduced to restrict movement of certain carrier products to prevent any possible spread of the mite. The movement control order relates to an area with a radius of 10 kilometres around any detection of *Varroa jacobsoni* and each new Asian honey bee detection.

- ii. The movement controls are reassessed based on advice from the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and the Scientific Advisory Panel.

(b) Surveillance:

- i. The surveillance program consists of a general surveillance program and four specific surveys. The general surveillance program will also be run in conjunction with a communication plan to raise general awareness and encourage public reporting of feral bees.
- ii. The general program is focussed on detecting any populations of *V. jacobsoni* that may occur within 10 kilometres of a prior detection with higher intensity surveillance activities focussed within a 2.5 kilometre radius.
- iii. In each of the four specific surveys there are identified trigger points that will indicate a significant change in the status of the incursion and will prompt a review of the surveillance plan. The four specific surveys will target:
 - a) Identifying any feral nests within 10 kilometres of a detection;
 - b) Determining if *V. jacobsoni* is present in managed European honey bees;
 - c) A low-level monitoring of established populations of Asian honey bees in the Cairns region for *V. jacobsoni*;
 - d) Targeted sampling of rainbow bee-eater pellets for evidence of Asian honey bees.

(c) Destruction

- i. Nests of Asian honey bees will be destroyed in the evening following detection when most foraging bees have returned to the nest. Where possible, swarms of Asian honey bees will be destroyed immediately after detection prior to establishing a new nest site.
- ii. All bees and comb will be collected whenever possible and submitted for laboratory testing and evaluation.

(d) Proof of Freedom

- i. It is anticipated that three years of additional surveillance, following perceived eradication, may be required to provide proof of freedom.
- ii. A detection of Asian honey bee or *V. jacobsoni* in the Townsville area during the proof of freedom phase will be immediately reported to CCEPP for consideration in terms of the continued technical feasibility of eradication.
- iii. Proof of freedom activities:
 - a) Establishing sentinel hives at the infested premises to check for *V. jacobsoni* in swarms;
 - b) Maintaining good sanitation, hygiene and surveillance practices in managed hives;
 - c) Reporting any suspect honey bees or symptoms detected by industry surveillance to authorities for investigation;
 - d) Undertaking targeted surveys for *V. jacobsoni* for three years after eradication has been achieved.

(e) Community engagement:

- i. Identifying and collaborating with critical stakeholders, enabling contribution to decisions that could impact response effectiveness.
- ii. Holding specific briefings with stakeholders and the community to prompt reporting of suspect bees.
- iii. Briefing field personnel regularly about engagement material and making available appropriate public relations training and strategies for answering questions.
- iv. Reviewing the effectiveness of the engagement strategy to ensure the objective is providing both proactive and reactive results.

8. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

Table 1: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly progress reports (2016-17), have been provided to the CCEPP demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan	May 2018	Up to \$875,108
4 th Quarterly Report (2016-17) and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly report (2017-18), endorsed by the CCEPP demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan	May 2018	Up to \$394,120
4 th Quarterly Report (2017-18) and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly report (2018-19), endorsed by the CCEPP demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan	May 2019	Up to \$411,301
4 th Quarterly Report (2018-19) and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly report (2019-20), endorsed by the CCEPP demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan	May 2020	Up to \$67,368

PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

9. Queensland will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1 above.
10. Queensland will provide a final report demonstrating completion of the eradication program in 2019-20 within three months of completion of operational requirements of the Response Plan including demonstration of completion of outputs in the 4th quarterly for 2020 under the agreed emergency Response Plan.
11. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the EPPRD.

PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. The Commonwealth's agreed maximum potential financial contribution for the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.
13. Where the industry party is not able to meet its cost-sharing obligations either directly, or from funds held on its behalf, the Commonwealth will initially meet an industry party's cost-sharing obligations as set out in section 10.4.2 of the EPPRD. Each industry party will meet its cost-sharing obligations to the Commonwealth, arising as a consequence of the Commonwealth meeting industry party obligations pursuant to clause 10.4.2, as set out in part 1 of Schedule 7 of the EPPRD (10.4.3).
14. If any additional industry parties to the eradication program, other than those listed in table 2, submit a request for the Commonwealth to meet their cost-sharing obligations then a new revised schedule will be submitted.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
Commonwealth	\$321,164	\$144,642	\$150,948	\$24,724	\$641,478
Almond Board of Australia	\$158,912	\$71,569	\$74,689	\$12,234	\$317,404
Apple and Pear Australia	\$203,361	\$91,587	\$95,580	\$15,655	\$406,183
Australian Macadamia Society	\$14,902	\$6,711	\$7,004	\$1,147	\$29,764
Australian Melon Association	\$74,639	\$33,615	\$35,080	\$5,746	\$149,080
Avocados Australia	\$22,867	\$10,298	\$10,747	\$1,760	\$45,672
Cherry Growers of Australia	\$51,643	\$23,258	\$24,272	\$3,976	\$103,149
Raspberries and Blackberries Australia	\$22,738	\$10,241	\$10,687	\$1,750	\$45,416
Strawberries Australia	\$2,698	\$1,215	\$1,268	\$208	\$5,389
Summerfruit Australia	\$2,184	\$984	\$1,026	\$168	\$4,362
Total industry cost sharing met by Commonwealth	\$553,944	\$249,478	\$260,353	\$42,644	\$1,106,419
Total Commonwealth Liability	\$875,108	\$394,120	\$411,301	\$67,368	\$1,747,897

PART 6: SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of
Australia by*



Date 15.6.18

Signature

**The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources**

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland
by*



Date 29/06/18

Signature

**The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries**