

National *Varroa jacobsoni* Eradication Program

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National *Varroa jacobsoni* Eradication Program from 2019-20 – 2020-21 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to Queensland, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The National *Varroa jacobsoni* Eradication Program is being conducted under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) as agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) on 25 July 2019.
3. Financial commitments are approved by the NMG subject to budget considerations. The *Response Plan for Eradication of Varroa jacobsoni – 2019 Incident* (the Response Plan) budget was approved by the NMG on 25 July 2019 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 2022, or upon completion or termination of the Response Plan 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 for the National *Varroa jacobsoni* Eradication Program are described in the Response Plan. Queensland is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Response Plan:
 - (a) *Surveillance*:
 - i. The surveillance program consists of a range of methodologies and include a particular focus on high risk areas across Townsville City Council local government area. It includes both active and passive surveillance activities, and a community engagement strategy to raise general awareness and encourage public reporting of feral bees.
 - ii. The program is based on detecting any population of varroa mite (*V. jacobsoni*) on Asian honey bees (AHB) that may occur within 10 kilometres of a prior detection with higher intensity surveillance activities focussed within a 2.5 kilometre radius. Additional surveillance may be conducted outside of this range in response to public reports of suspected AHB or varroa mites. This is consistent with the approach used in response to the varroa mite 2016 incident in Townsville.

- iii. Presence/absence surveillance for AHB and *V. jacobsoni*, *Apis mellifera* surveillance, and community assisted surveillance are the three main activities will be completed for 22 months during the Eradication and Proof of Freedom phases to prove that the pest has been eradicated. Active surveillance includes aerial pheromone trapping, screening of rainbow bee-eater pellets, floral observation and sweep netting activities, catch box monitoring and bee lining activities as required.

(b) *Community engagement:*

- i. A public information and engagement strategy will support the eradication of *V. jacobsoni* by encouraging the public to report colonies of feral bees.
- ii. The scope of this strategy focuses on engagement with the key affected parties, including the bee keeping industry (both commercial and hobby bee keepers), the Townsville community and stakeholders in the affected industry groups (e.g. horticulture) to prevent the spread of *V. jacobsoni* and assist in surveillance activities.

(c) *Proof of Freedom:*

- i. The Proof of Freedom activities will include the continuation of surveillance activities as described above.
- ii. The phase will run for 16 months in the absence of any varroa mite detections and will include two wet season periods.

(d) *Destruction:*

- i. All AHB swarms or nests detected within the Townsville City Council local government area will be destroyed. All bees and comb will be collected, where possible, and submitted to the laboratory for testing and evaluation to determine the presence or absence of *V. jacobsoni*.

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

Table 1: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
2019-20		
1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly progress reports (2019-20), endorsed by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan.	May 2020	Up to \$1,009,237
2020-21		
4 th Quarterly Report (2019-20) and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Quarterly report (2020-21), endorsed by the CCEPP demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the agreed Response Plan.	May 2021	Up to \$618,204

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 2020-21, or within three months of completion of operational requirements of the Response Plan, including demonstration of completion of outputs in the 4th quarter for 2020-21 under the agreed 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 financial contribution for the National *Varroa jacobsoni* 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 subsequently 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).

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

	2019-20	2020-21
Commonwealth	\$336,413	\$206,068
Industry^(a)	\$672,824	\$412,136
- Almond Board of Australia	\$197,541	\$121,003
- Apple and Pear Australia	\$189,871	\$116,305
- Australian Honey Bee Industry Council	\$33,910	\$20,772
- Australian Lychee Industry Ass.	\$269	\$165
- Australian Macadamia Society	\$20,588	\$12,611
- Australian Mango Industry Ass.	\$942	\$577
- Australian Melon Ass.	\$63,246	\$38,741
- AUSVEG	\$15,744	\$9,644
- Avocados Australia	\$25,029	\$15,331
- Canned Fruit Industry Council Australia	\$269	\$165
- Cherry Growers of Australia	\$48,982	\$30,003
- Grain Producers Australia	\$36,333	\$22,255
- Raspberries and Blackberries Australia	\$35,525	\$21,761
- Strawberries Australia	\$2,691	\$1,649
- Summerfruit Australia	\$1,884	\$1,154
Total	\$1,009,237	\$618,204

(a) All industry parties to this eradication program have been included above. The Commonwealth will only underwrite those industries that request underwriting.

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 24.2.20

Signature

The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by

Date

Signature

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

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Signature

**The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture
Drought and Emergency Management**

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


Signature

Date 23/03/2020

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