

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Department of Primary Industries
Name of the proposal	<i>Varroa destructor</i> regulatory amendments declaring the pest as restricted matter and removing the varroa mite biosecurity regulatory zone provisions
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Biosecurity Regulation 2016</i>
Date of issue	12 November 2025

Proposal type	Details
Regulatory proposals where no RIA is required	<p>Queensland's first confirmed detection of <i>Varroa destructor</i> occurred on 3 March 2025 in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council. Since then, the pest has been detected across 16 local government areas, reaching from South-East Queensland to Quilpie in the far west and Bundaberg in the north. Spreading more rapidly than expected via natural dispersal through infested populations of wild honeybees and by human-assisted means.</p> <p>Given that the pest is now rapidly becoming established in the State, it is now appropriate to implement more permanent regulatory provisions.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2016</i> are considered deregulatory and do not increase costs or regulatory burden on businesses or the community; therefore, they do not require a Regulatory Impact Analysis.</p> <p>In summary the proposal seeks to amend the <i>Biosecurity Regulation 2016</i> by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing varroa mite biosecurity zone provisions section 94EA – section 94EE <p>These provisions were in place to prevent <i>Varroa destructor</i> from entering Queensland. Now that the pest is spreading across Queensland, it is appropriate to remove the varroa mite zone. Removing the need for Biosecurity Instrument Permits and related compliance measures for moving varroa mite carriers into Queensland from infested areas will greatly reduce the regulatory burden for both beekeepers and the government.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amending section 4 Declaration of particular biosecurity matter declare <i>Varroa destructor</i> as category 2 restricted matter. <p>Under s39(1)(a) of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>, a restricted matter regulation will be made to list <i>Varroa destructor</i> as restricted matter and assign it as category 2. This category requires a person to notify the regulator (Biosecurity Queensland) of the presence or suspected presence of <i>Varroa destructor</i>, allowing biosecurity risks to be effectively managed. This requirement is still considered appropriate and will ensure reporting obligations remain in place without imposing new or additional costs on beekeepers.</p> <p>Presence and absence reports submitted through the free Bee123 app are then used by beekeepers and pollination-reliant industries to inform decisions around hive movement and treatment measures.</p> <p>The Queensland Beekeepers Association are supportive of the proposed amendments.</p>
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*Refer to *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* for regulatory proposals not requiring regulatory impact analysis (for example, public sector management, changes to existing criminal laws, taxation).

Signed



Graeme Bolton
Director General
Department of Primary Industries

Date: 13/11/2025.



Anthony Perrett MP
Minister for Primary Industries

Date: 18/11/2025