

# BIOSECURITY ACT 2019

## Section 191

### General Biosecurity Direction (Apiaries)

I Andrew Bishop, being and as the Chief Plant Protection Officer appointed under the *Biosecurity Act 2019* (‘the Act’), acting pursuant section 191 of the Act, and being satisfied that it is necessary to assess, prevent, eliminate, minimise, control or manage biosecurity risks posed by dealings with bees and apiaries, and to enforce, administer or execute this Act, hereby issue a general biosecurity direction, the requirements of which are set out in Schedule 1 below.

#### SCHEDULE 1

##### **1. Persons to whom this biosecurity direction applies**

This general biosecurity direction applies to all persons who engage in beekeeping (apiculture) or deal with bees or beekeeping equipment.

##### **2. Interpretation**

(1) In this general biosecurity direction, unless the contrary intention appears –

“**Code**” means the “[Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#)” as may be amended or substituted from time to time;

“**hive**” means any receptacle, or any component of a receptacle, which houses bees, which has housed bees, or is intended to house bees, including swarm catch boxes specifically placed with the intention of catching swarming bees; and

“**registered beekeeper**” means a person who is registered to undertake apiculture or beekeeping under the Act;

“**standard hive**” means a hive constructed in the form of a box and fitted with vertically positioned parallel moveable frames that are –

(a) made of wood, plastic or a similar material; and

- (b) placed vertically in the box so as to be separated from the box, and from each other, by a distance of at least 8 millimetres; and
  - (c) fitted with an approved foundation; and
  - (d) capable of being readily removed from the box to allow the honeycomb, if any, to be examined.
- (2) All terms and phrases used in this general biosecurity direction have the same meaning as in the *Biosecurity Act 2019* (the Act), and a reference to any Act includes regulations made under that Act.

### **3. Bees must be kept in standard or approved hives**

A person must only keep bees in a hive that is –

- (a) a standard hive; or
- (b) a hive or class of hive approved by the Chief Plant Protection Officer.

### **4. Identification of hives**

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, a person who owns or manages one or more hives must ensure that each hive owned or managed by the person is suitably identified in accordance with the Code.
- (2) A registered beekeeper whose application for registration as a beekeeper within Tasmania was made prior to 02 November 2022 is not required to comply fully with paragraph (1) above of this direction before 02 November 2024, provided that –
- (a) at least half (50%) of all hives owned or managed by the registered beekeeper are suitably identified on or before 02 November 2023; and
  - (b) 100% of all hives owned or managed by the registered beekeeper are suitably identified in accordance with the Code and this direction on or before 02 November 2024.
- (3) For the purposes of this direction, a hive is taken to be suitably identified if –
- (a) the name and address of the person who owns or is otherwise responsible for the hive are displayed on an external vertical face of the hive in lettering that is –
    - (i) indelible; and

- (ii) at least 25 millimetres high; and
  - (iii) of a contrasting colour to that face of the hive; or
- (b) the hive is identified in accordance with sections 6.4 and 6.5 of the Code; or
- (c) the hive is otherwise marked and identified in a manner approved by the Chief Plant Protection Officer.

## 5. Foulbrood disease management

Any detection or incidence of –

(a) American foulbrood disease (*Paenibacillus larvae*); or

(b) European foulbrood disease (*Melissococcus plutonius*) –

in any hive owned or managed by a person must be managed in accordance with the [Tasmanian Foulbrood Best Management Practice Guideline V1.0 April 2016](#), as may be published, amended or substituted from time to time by NRE Tas.

## 6. Requirement regularly undertake training

All registered beekeepers (including beekeepers with less than 50 hives) must comply with the requirements specified in sections 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 of the Code to regularly undertake training in the identification and management of bee pests and diseases.

## 7. Commencement and duration

This general biosecurity direction is given and takes effect on **15 December 2022 at 5:00 pm** and remains in force for a period of five years, unless sooner revoked or amended.



Signed:

Andrew Bishop

**Chief Plant Protection Officer**