



UPDATE: 19 September 2023

Small hive beetle

INFORMATION FOR AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Biosecurity Tasmania is investigating the confirmed detection of two small hive beetles (SHB). Both specimens were found as part of Biosecurity Tasmania's extensive monitoring program – this is an example of our world class biosecurity system working. Biosecurity Tasmania has taken swift and decisive action, working alongside beekeepers, industry and the community to undertake thousands of beehive and trap inspections. These detections do not mean that SHB is established in Tasmania.

As a precautionary measure to help protect Tasmania's bee population and both the honey and pollination sectors, Tasmania's Chief Plant Protection Officer declared a General Biosecurity Direction, which establishes a 5km Bee Movement Restriction Area (Restriction Area) around the detection site, and restricts the movement of bees, bee products and used beekeeping equipment within, into and out of the zone.

From 21 April 2023, beekeepers can bring Tasmanian honey harvested outside of the Restriction Area into the Restriction Area for processing and distribution under a group permit. Members of the public can also bring raw Tasmanian honey and honeycomb purchased outside of the Restriction Area back into the Restriction Area for consumption.

If you do not keep bees, the bee movement restrictions in the General Biosecurity Direction do not affect you. However, if you have any family or friends who keep bees, you can help by making sure they are aware of their obligations under their General Biosecurity Duty.

What Can I do?

If your property, bees, beehives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, bee products or used beekeeping equipment are located outside the 5km Restriction Area, there are no restrictions. If your bees, hives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, or used beekeeping equipment are located within the Restriction Area, there are restrictions in place that will apply to you. Please see the 'What can't I do?' section for more information.

All beekeepers in Tasmania must ensure their beekeeper registration with Biosecurity Tasmania is up to date.

Beehives located outside the Restriction Area that are being transported through the Restriction Area (e.g. from Smithton to Launceston) may be able to do so under a Group Permit.

What Can't I do?

Movement

A person must not move bees, beehives, captured swarms, nucleus colonies, bee products or used beekeeping equipment in, out or within the Restriction Area. From 21 April 2023, these restrictions do not apply to Tasmanian honey moving into the Restriction Area.

All beekeepers in Tasmania must ensure their beekeeper registration with Biosecurity Tasmania is up to date.

If you are in the 5km Bee Movement Restriction Area and would like to open your beehives for feeding, honey harvest or removal of supers, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 to arrange a permit.

Information on the moratorium

Biosecurity Tasmania placed a moratorium on the opening of beehives, harvest of honey and honeycomb, and movement of beekeeping equipment for any beekeepers that are in the 5km Bee Movement Restriction Area as declared in the General Biosecurity Direction. The moratorium placed by Biosecurity Tasmania on 12 March will remain in place until Biosecurity Tasmania are confident there are no small hive beetles in the area.

All beekeepers within the Bee Movement Restriction Area are asked to avoid opening beehives during this period.

Use this interactive map to find out if your apiary or any other property where beehives are kept is within the Restriction Area: [Bee Movement Restriction Area interactive map](#)

Recent activity

If you have moved beehives or removed any elements of a hive in the past **four** weeks, please notify Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 and provide updated location details.

Contact

If your business is affected by these restrictions, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6165 3777 and we will work with you to minimise the impact on your business.

More information can be found at www.nre.tas.gov.au/SHB



