

MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER

Pursuant to section 124 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), I make the following movement control order:

1. Why this movement control order is being made and what it is intended to achieve

This Movement Control Order (MCO) is being made to assist in preventing the spread of *Varroa* spp (*V. destructor* and *V. jacobsoni*), commonly known as varroa mite, by prohibiting the movement of varroa mite and its carriers into, out of and within the area shown in Map 1 and described in Section 3 below (the MCO area).

- On 19 February 2024, Biosecurity Queensland was notified of a detection of varroa mite at The Port of Brisbane from routine surveillance of sentinel hives as part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP).
- The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is continuing diagnostic testing to determine if the mite are carrying exotic viruses of honey bees and if any other exotic bee pests are present.
- Until now, there have been no detections of varroa mite in Queensland outside of previous incursions.
- Hives at the Port of Brisbane have been tested under the NBPSP every 6 weeks.
- To prevent any further spread authorised officers will destroy infested government surveillance hives.
- As Queensland is a large state involving frequent movement of hives, these movement control measures provide a mechanism to delimit any potential spread of varroa mite from localities surrounding the Port of Brisbane.

The establishment of this pest, and viruses it may carry, in Queensland is highly likely to have a significant impact on the \$75 million honey industry and the broader \$2.4 billion pollination-reliant industries. In this context, I consider it necessary to make this MCO to prohibit the movement of varroa mite and its carriers into, out of and within the MCO area, as I am satisfied on reasonable grounds that varroa mite poses a biosecurity risk of enough seriousness, and the risk of spread and establishment is high enough to justify the making of the order.

2. Details of the controlled biosecurity matter(s) and carrier(s) to which the order relates

The MCO applies to varroa mite *Varroa* spp and all known carriers, as detailed below.

Controlled biosecurity matter (varroa mite)

Varroa mite is an external obligate parasite feeding on fatty tissues of all life stages of European honeybees, causing malformation and weaknesses in infested bees. Varroa mite reproduce in brood cells containing larvae and pupae, causing scattered brood, crippled and crawling honeybees, a reduction in honeybee population, supersedure of queen bees and ultimately colony collapse. In addition, they also transmit several viruses that compound hive deaths.

Throughout Australia, European honeybees contribute an estimated \$147 million in honey production yearly and an estimated average annual pollination value of \$14.2 billion. Within Queensland, our 10,000 registered beekeepers are estimated to contribute to \$75 million of honey production and \$2.4 billion of pollination value annually. Honeybees are extensively relied upon for pollination services, and in countries such as Australia where honeybees have been introduced specifically for commercial pollinator services, the economic effects of any decline in honeybee numbers are predicted to be profound.

Adult female varroa mite are oval, flat, red-brown and around 1.1 mm long and 1.5 mm wide. They can be seen with the naked eye and complete their life cycle in both drone and worker bee brood.

Examining the brood involves uncapping the brood to check for the dark mites in the cell and against the pearly white bodies of the developing brood. Varroa mite can also be observed between the sclerites and the head and thorax on adult worker bees and drones.

Varroa mite is considered one of the most serious pests of honeybees worldwide, and until June 2022 Australia was considered to be the only continent to remain free of varroa mite. No effective natural enemies of varroa mite are reported in the scientific or technical literature from anywhere in the world, limiting the potential for biological control. Eradication from infested hives is not possible, though chemical, biotechnical and biological control methods mitigate the impacts.

The establishment of this pest in Queensland is highly likely to have a significant impact on the honeybee industry and plant industries dependent on honeybee pollination.

Carriers (Varroa mite carriers)

Varroa mite can be spread on any of the following carriers: a bee; a swarm, nest or hive of bees; an apiary appliance; or an apiary product, which are defined as follows for the purpose of this MCO:

- (a) Bee means European honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) or Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) of any life stage, including a dead bee.
- (b) Swarm means a group of bees, either European or Asian honeybee, that has left a hive or a nest with a queen bee to start a new colony.
- (c) Nest means a natural shelter for bees and includes the bees, either European honeybee or Asian Honeybee, i.e. a feral nest, including abandoned nests.
- (d) Hive means a used receptacle for housing living bees.
- (e) Apiary appliance means any apparatus or equipment, fitting, implement or utensil that has been used for beekeeping or processing, handling, or storing an apiary product, including (without limitation) used beekeeping personal protective equipment.
- (f) Apiary product means bee-collected pollen, bee comb, comb sections, cut comb, honey dew, propolis, queen candy, beeswax, royal jelly, and honey.

This MCO applies to all the above carriers.

3. The area to which the movement control order relates.

The area to which the order relates (the MCO area) is shown in Map 1 and includes the following localities:

Ascot , Balmoral, Banyo, Belmont, Birkdale, Boondall, Brisbane Airport, Bulimba, Cannon Hill, Carina, Carindale, Chandler, Clayfield, Geebung, Hemmant, Hendra, Gumdale, Hamilton, Eagle Farm, Northgate, Murarrie, Nudgee Beach, Nudgee, Nundah, Moreton Bay, Moreton Bay Morningside, Manly West, Manly, Lota, Lytton, Kalinga, Thorneside, Tingalpa, Shorncliffe, Pinkenba, Port Of Brisbane, Ransome, Wynnum West, Wynnum, Wavell Heights, Virginia, Wakerley.

These areas have the highest risk of possible natural spread from the infested sentinel hive and are also closest to areas of native vegetation along foreshores.

4. The prohibitions and restrictions that must be complied with by persons to whom this order applies

- a) A person who manages, has responsibility for, or owns one or more hives in the MCO area, or has had one or more hives in the MCO area at any time in the 90 days prior to the date of this MCO, must notify an inspector appointed under the Act without undue delay, about:
 - (i) the presence of varroa mite;
 - (ii) if the person reasonably suspects the presence of varroa mite, the suspected presence of varroa mite;
 - (iii) any hive movements into or out of the MCO area in the 90 days prior to the date of this MCO;
 - (iv) any bees bought or sold in the 90 days prior to the date of this MCO.
- b) A person must not move any of the carriers listed in section 2 of this MCO into, out of or within the MCO area unless:
 - (i) the carrier is processed honey or processed beeswax;
 - (ii) the carrier is a new and unused Apiary appliance;
 - (iii) the carrier is a quarantine secured diagnostic honey sample for testing at a recognised diagnostic facility; or
 - (iv) the carrier originates from outside the MCO area and is transiting along major roads through the localities in a quarantine-secure manner and does not stop in the MCO area.
- c) A person within the area to which the MCO relates must allow an inspector appointed under the Act or a person under the direction of an inspector appointed under the Act to:
 - (i) enter a property to inspect, examine, film or test any carrier listed in section 2 of this MCO; or
 - (ii) treat or destroy any carrier listed in section 2 of this MCO; or
 - (iii) clean or disinfect any place, including any structure or thing at a place; or
 - (iv) take any carrier listed in section 2 of this MCO for inspection, testing, treatment, or destruction.

For the purposes of this MCO:

- a) **processed honey** means honey that has been extracted, filtered, or strained or settled to remove wax cappings and dead bees, and decanted into a clean container movement system in a facility and in a manner that excludes bees
- b) **processed beeswax** means beeswax that has undergone melting, filtering (to remove bees, brood and debris) and rendering treatment and is packed into clean containers and packaged in a facility and in a manner that excludes bees
- c) **a clean container movement system** means there is no external contamination with an apiary product (including unprocessed honey and beeswax) to the outside of the container, or any outer protective framing, or pallets and the containers are transported in a manner that excludes bees
- d) **a new and unused Apiary appliance** means any apparatus or equipment, fitting, implement or utensil that remain in original packaging and have not been in contact with bees, or in contact with apiary products and packaged in a facility and in a manner that excludes bees

- e) **a quarantine secured diagnostic honey sample** means:
 - (i) the sample is sealed within the following three layers of packaging to prevent the escape of the sample or any biosecurity matter -
 - a. an inner layer of paper, cardboard or plastic that is sealed;
 - b. a middle layer that is a strong plastic bag and is sealed and labelled “Quarantine Material— Do Not Open”; and
 - c. an outer layer that is a sealed box or other sealed container.
- d) **a recognised diagnostic facility** means:
 - (i) the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Chemical Residue Laboratory, Coopers Plains - Health and Food Sciences Precinct - Block 10, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains QLD 4108; or
 - (ii) the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory, Coopers Plains - Health and Food Sciences Precinct - Block 12, 39 Kessels Road, Coopers Plains QLD 4108; or
 - (iii) the School of Science, Technology and Engineering, the University of the Sunshine Coast, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Queensland 4556; or
 - (iv) RTH Scientific Services Pty Ltd, 47 Oak Place, Mackenzie QLD 4156.
- e) **Quarantine-secure** means transported in a manner that prevents ingress (entry) or egress (escape) of European honeybees (*Apis mellifera*; bees).

5. Period of the order

The MCO is effective immediately, from when it is published and will stay in effect for 3 months unless earlier revoked.

6. Revocation of a previous movement control order:

Nil

7. Authorisation



26 / 02 / 2024

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Signed

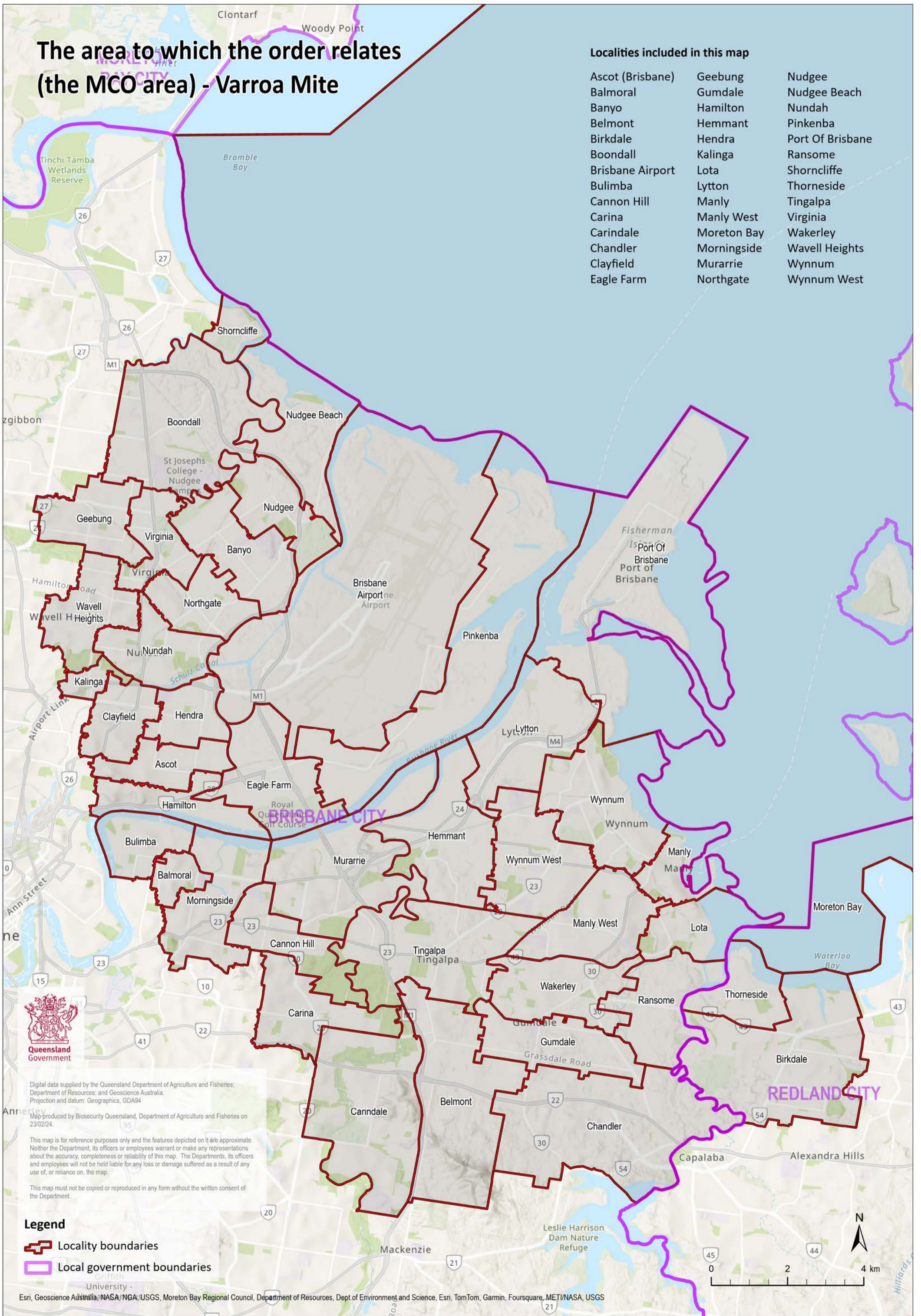
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Date of Authorisation

Bernadette Ditchfield
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

The area to which the order relates (the MCO area) - Varroa Mite

Localities included in this map

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Ascot (Brisbane) | Geebung | Nudgee |
| Balmoral | Gumdale | Nudgee Beach |
| Banyo | Hamilton | Nundah |
| Belmont | Hemmant | Pinkenba |
| Birkdale | Hendra | Port Of Brisbane |
| Boondall | Kalinga | Ransome |
| Brisbane Airport | Lota | Shorncliffe |
| Bulimba | Lytton | Thorneside |
| Cannon Hill | Manly | Tingalpa |
| Carina | Manly West | Virginia |
| Carindale | Moreton Bay | Wakerley |
| Chandler | Morningside | Wavell Heights |
| Clayfield | Murarie | Wynnum |
| Eagle Farm | Northgate | Wynnum West |



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Map produced by Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 23/02/24.

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- Legend**
- Locality boundaries
 - Local government boundaries

