



# Becoming a beekeeper in WA

To be a beekeeper in Western Australia it is a legal requirement that you register with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). Your registration must be renewed every three years. Upon registration, you will be issued with a certificate and provided with a unique hive brand. Your brand must be legally applied to your supers. Applications and information can be obtained from the Brands Office (Bunbury) by phone 1300 926 547 or email [Brands.Bunbury@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:Brands.Bunbury@dpiird.wa.gov.au).

## Agricultural Producers Commission (APC)

The APC's Beekeepers Produce Committee:

- Supports enhanced pest and disease surveillance to protect WA beekeeping
- Represents and advocates for beekeeper interests
- Supports beekeeper training
- Supports research initiatives; and
- Produces the *Beeinformed* newsletter

To fund this important work, DPIRD collect an annual fee for service on behalf of the APC from all registered beekeepers. For further information, contact the Secretary of the APC Beekeepers Producers' Committee to [apcbeekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:apcbeekeepers@gmail.com).

## Biosecurity and Quarantine

DPIRD Biosecurity Officers undertake surveillance and sampling for endemic declared and exotic bee pests and diseases.

If you have a bee pest or disease concern, email [PBHoney@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:PBHoney@dpiird.wa.gov.au) or call the Pest and Disease Information Service on (08) 9368 3080 or the Exotic Plant Pest hotline 1800 084 881

A Beekeeper:

- Must report a declared pest
- Must make and retain records of apiary sites and introductions and movements
- make themselves aware of all their obligations under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007*.

**The National Bee Pest Surveillance Program** is an early warning system to detect incursions of exotic bee pests and pest bees. The program involves a range of surveillance methods regularly conducted at various ports throughout WA.

**The National Bee Biosecurity Program** helps beekeepers to manage pests and diseases that are already in Australia and prepare for incursions by exotic pests. Bee Biosecurity Officers provide training and education on [The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#). Do your part to protect beekeeping in WA by completing the free [Biosecurity for Beekeepers Online Training](#) and ensuring you are code compliant.

**Quarantine WA (QWA)** manage the interstate entry of goods. WA enjoys one of the best beekeeping environments in the world, in part due to our strict biosecurity. Many bee and beekeeping products are restricted and cannot be brought into WA from other states or countries, unless strict quarantine conditions of entry are met. Contact QWA if you have an import query, *before* bringing any bee products or used beekeeping equipment into WA, by emailing [gwa.import@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:gwa.import@dpiird.wa.gov.au).

Additional quarantine restrictions apply to the movement of bees and equipment from the Kimberley region to other areas of WA. Visit [dpiird.wa.gov.au](http://dpiird.wa.gov.au) for more information.

**The DPIRD Diagnostic and Laboratory Services (DDLs)** provides laboratory services. DDLs Specimen Reception can be contacted on 08 9368 3351 or [DDLs@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:DDLs@dpiird.wa.gov.au)

## Buying bees and beekeeping equipment

Support the WA industry – shop and buy local. There are numerous equipment suppliers around Perth and WA to suit your style of beekeeping. Newspapers and websites such as Gumtree also advertise equipment and bees for sale. Before making a purchase, check the supplier is compliant with [The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#) and their bees are pest free. You may also catch your own bee swarms, but be aware these may carry disease.

The only honey bee available in Western Australia is *Apis mellifera* (European honey bee).

## Selling honey and pollen

In WA, the Food Standards Act 2008 applies and is regulated by Local Government. As per this Act, any premises producing food for commercial purposes, must be registered and comply with food labelling protocols. Food safety for all states and territories can be found at [foodsafety.com.au](http://foodsafety.com.au).

## Apiaries / Sites

An apiary site contains one or more hives. The average commercial apiary site is 100 hives (sometimes fewer when floral resources are limited). These sites can be on a beekeeper's property, privately negotiated with landholders or on registered apiary sites (under authority) from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on certain Crown Land. For further information, visit DBCA's webpage on [Beekeeping on Crown land in Western Australia](#) or contact the DBCA Licensing Officer on 9219 8765 or [apiary@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:apiary@dbca.wa.gov.au)

## Total Fire Ban days

On Total Fire Ban days, it is prohibited to use a smoker. Refer to [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au) for Fire Ban alerts.

## Bee Industry Council of Western Australia (BICWA)

BICWA operates as the peak bee industry representative organisation. It is a not-for-profit organisation that was established to foster, promote and enhance a sustainable WA bee industry. For further information visit [bicwa.com.au](http://bicwa.com.au) or email [info@bicwa.com.au](mailto:info@bicwa.com.au)

## Western Australian Apiarist Society (WAAS)

Whilst WAAS focuses on amateur and urban beekeeping, they cater for a broad range of beekeeper interest and offer valuable training and support. WAAS meet regularly on the first Thursday each month at the South Perth Community Centre. For further information contact the WAAS Secretary at [info@waas.org.au](mailto:info@waas.org.au)

## Useful resources

- [WAAS Best-Practice Guidelines for Urban Beekeeping](#)
- [BeeAware – Biosecurity](#)
- [Plant Health Australia – Honey bees](#)
- [Australian Honey Bee Industry Council \(AHBIC\)](#)
- [AgriFutures \(formerly Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation\)](#)

## Contact DPIRD Bee Biosecurity Officers

**Email:** [PBHoney@dpiird.wa.gov.au](mailto:PBHoney@dpiird.wa.gov.au)  
**Webpage:** [agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-animals/livestock-species/bees](http://agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-animals/livestock-species/bees)

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