

Agriculture Victoria

State Quarantine Response Team



Background

- History
- AgVic recognition of apiary skills shortfall
- AgVic–Victorian honey bee industry partnership arrangement (\$)

Models of Cover

1. **Beekeeper State Quarantine Response Team (SQRT)**
2. SQRT AgVic staff (Authorised Officer - AO) team leaders
3. AgVic staff (non AO) beelining, floral sweep netting & helium balloon drone capture team
4. Beekeeper Varroa Mite Sugar Shake Surveillance Program

Beekeeper State Quarantine Response Team (SQRT)

SQRT = 160 trained hobby & industry beekeepers



SQRT Role

In the event of an incursion:

- To be employed by AgVic as Casual Apiarists to conduct in-hive surveillance
- To enable AgVic & Industry to hit the ground running

SQRT surveillance teams

- Surveillance teams comprise:
 - 2 beekeepers
 - 1 AgVic Authorised Officer (Team Leader)



SQRT surveillance teams



Value of SQRT to AgVic & Industry

- Large pool of competent experts in bees to call upon
- Trained honey bee emergency response team
- Ongoing partnership with AgVic
- Educated Government AND Industry

SQRT surveillance teams



Value of SQRT to individual members

- Education about Exotic Pests/Diseases
- Personal satisfaction through positive contribution to an industry-govt. biosecurity group that can make a real difference
- Developing meaningful relations with AgVic
- Employment with AgVic during a response
- Nationally accredited training

SQRT training

- Delivered every 2 years
- Training for newbies
- Refresher training



SQRT training



SQRT training

- Expectations of SQRT beekeepers (and AgVic staff SQRT team leaders) as AgVic employees
- Emergency Response Equipment
- OH&S during a response

SQRT training



SQRT training



SQRT training

- Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Setting the scene – deployment to a response
- Briefing and debriefing
- Arriving and conducting operations at suspect infected premise (IP)

SQRT training



SQRT training

- Decontamination
- Implementing AgVic standardised in-hive varroa surveillance procedures
- Practical demonstration & assessment
- Theory assessment & training evaluation

SQRT training



SQRT training



SQRT training



SQRT AgVic staff (Authorised Officer - AO) team leaders

Field surveillance data capture:

- Responsibility of staff team leader
- iPads & QR adhesive labels
- BioWeb

Summary

Beekeeper SQRT

- Beekeepers and Government staff identified and trained in field surveillance techniques for emergency response to an exotic Pest/Disease.
- To provide capacity to effectively respond to an exotic incursion.
- Supported by regular, progressively developing training.

Why is it working in Victoria?

- Dedicated governmental control
- Dedicated beekeepers volunteering their time.
- Regular training and communications
- Belief that we can make a difference.
- Money.

Questions & Discussion

