Background

• History

• AgVic recognition of apiary skills shortfall

• AgVic–Victorian honey bee industry partnership arrangement ($)

Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA
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
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
Field surveillance data capture:

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