NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.
ABN: 89 417 216 326

Response from the NSW Apiarists Association to:-
NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review – Public Consultation paper.

1. Background to respondent organisation.

The NSW Apiarists Association (NSWAA) is responding to the request for responses to the Travelling Stock Reserves Review paper. The NSWAA is aware and supportive of the fact that this response will be made publicly available.

The NSWAA is the peak industry body for NSW commercial apiarists and has provided over a century of service to its members. The NSWAA represents a majority of the states commercial beekeepers and the NSW apiary industry is characterised by:-

- Being the nation's leader in production of honey and ownership of hives accounting for 40 – 45% of the national honey crop.
- Having approximately 5,491 registered beekeepers accounting for 313,636 registered hives.
- Contributing $36 million annually to the NSW economy from the value of honey and associated bee products.
- Contributing to $94 million of national gross value of honey and associated bee products.
- Providing the greatest number of commercial pollination hives nationally that service the 35 agricultural industries dependant on honey bees for their production. On a national basis the economic value of the pollination of agricultural industries is estimated to be in a range of $4 - $6 billion.

2. The importance of Travelling Stock Reserves to NSW Apiarists

The importance and value of the Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) is well understood by commercial apiarists and has been acknowledged in the publication Floral Resource Data Base for the NSW Apiary Industry – Somerville 1999. It is estimated that the Local Land Services through the provision of TSRs has approximately 3,000 sites for apiarists leased in NSW.

The NSWAA acknowledges the significant economic and environmental use and value to their commercial members of the TSRs. The TSRs provide apiary sites that either directly through the provision of floral resources on the reserve or where the site can provide access to floral resources as honey bees can forage up to 3 kilometres from their hives.

In an environment of declining floral resources the TSRs are essential in the provision of a diverse range of flora that are unique in their capability to be highly productive in terms of nectar and pollen resources for honey bees. This high level of resource production with its diversity allows honey bees to develop strength, vigour and health before and after pollination events. Honeybees especially benefit from Myrtaceae species in the Australian landscape.

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NSW as the nation's leading apicultural state is ideally located to capitalise on the growth of paid pollination services. To meet predicted demand from the almond industry alone will require 270,851 hives by 2025 or 60 % of Australia's current total number of hives. This one industry, that is completely dependent on honeybees, achieved a farm gate value of $ 1 billion in 2015 from 82,000 tonnes of almonds produced. This accounted for a third of Australian horticultural exports.

This prediction of hives required to service the almond industry in 2025 would not be currently achievable and every one of these predicted hives required needs to have had time exposed to the nectar and pollen resources from flowering native plants and woodlands that comprise the TSR's and the flora on the surrounding private and public lands.

3. Conclusion

All TSR reserves that have vehicular access that are managed by Local Land Services are of significant importance to commercial apiarists. These TSR assets that are available to apiarists in areas where they do not infringe upon recreational and or public amenity are highly valued and respectfully cared for by the apiary industry.

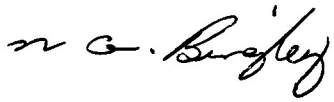
Pollination by the honey bee is essential to 35 agricultural industries for the majority of their production. To enable this pollination to occur access to public lands such as TSR's and their surrounds with their diversity of floral resources and nectar free from pesticide, insecticide and herbicide impacts is essential. This access allows the honey bee to build up health and vigour before and after pollination events.

References

Somerville DC (1999) Floral Resource Database for the NSW Apiary Industry. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Publication No. 99/174

GHD (2017) Framework to assess compatibility of beekeeping on public lands National Framework. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. Draft Publication.

Signed by President



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