



Victoria Government Gazette

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Livestock Disease Control Act 1994

Section 29(1)

ORDER DECLARING A CONTROL AREA IN RELATION TO VARROOSIS

I, Rosa Crnov, Chief Plant Health Officer, as delegate of the Minister for Agriculture, make the following Order under section 29 of the **Livestock Disease Control Act 1994**, having the suspicion that it is reasonably necessary to prevent, control or eradicate the exotic disease, Varroosis.

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. Objective

The objectives of this Order are –

- (a) to declare the area specified in this Order to be a control area to prevent, control and eradicate the exotic disease, Varroosis, in bees; and
- (b) to specify the prohibitions, restrictions and requirements that are to operate in the control area.

2. Citation

This Order may be referred to as the Varroosis Control Area Order 2025 (No. 16).

3. Authorising provision

This Order is made under section 29 of the **Livestock Disease Control Act 1994**.

4. Commencement and duration

This Order commences at 12.00 am on 27 February 2025 and has effect until 11.59 pm on 26 March 2025.

5. Definitions

In this Order –

affected livestock means the class of livestock specified in clause 7(1) of this Order;

affected livestock products, fodder and fittings means the class of livestock products, fodder and fittings specified in clause 7(2) of this Order;

control area means the area described in clause 8 of this Order;

movement means any movement except movement within a premises;

permit means a permit issued by an inspector under section 30(2) of the Act;

pollen means any pollen used for feeding bees, other than pollen used for human consumption;

processed honey means any honey that has undergone extraction, filtering (to remove wax cappings and dead bees), decanting into clean containers and packaging in a facility which is inaccessible to bees;

processed wax means any wax that has undergone melting, filtering (to remove bees, brood, debris), rendering, packing into clean containers and packaging in a facility which is inaccessible to bees;

the Act means the **Livestock Disease Control Act 1994**.

6. Effect on other Control Area Orders

This Order does not affect the operation of the Order made by the Minister for Agriculture, being the Minister responsible for the administration of the Act, titled ‘Order Declaring a Control Area for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Varroosis in Bees’, published in the Victoria Government Gazette S 276 on 28 May 2024.

SPECIAL

7. Application of Order

- (1) This Order applies to the class of livestock of bees.
- (2) This Order applies to the following classes of livestock products, fodder and fittings –
 - (a) all livestock products produced by bees (excepting drone semen, processed honey, processed wax and propolis for human consumption);
 - (b) fodder in the form of pollen; and
 - (c) fittings that have been used in relation to bees or beekeeping.

8. Control area

The following area is declared to be a control area for the purpose of preventing, controlling or eradicating the exotic disease, Varroosis –

- (1) The **General Control Area** is the State of Victoria.
- (2) The prohibitions, restrictions and requirements specified in Part 2 of this Order apply to the General Control Area.

9. Interaction with other instrument

- (1) In the event of conflict between this Order and any Quarantine Notice(s) issued under section 110 of the Act in respect of any premises, place or vehicle in the control areas and for the purposes of preventing the spread of the exotic disease, Varroosis, the Quarantine Notice(s) prevails.

Part 2 – General Control Area – prohibitions, restrictions and requirements in relation to the General Control Area**10. Prohibitions on movement of affected livestock or affected livestock products, fodder and fittings from an Australian State or Territory where varroosis has been detected.**

- (1) A person must not move or cause the movement of affected livestock, or affected livestock products, fodder and fittings into the General Control Area from any Australian State or Territory where varroosis has been detected.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to a person who introduces affected livestock products, fodder and fittings into the General Control Area that:
 - (a) in the case of used apiary equipment:
 - i. have been inspected prior to movement and found free of bees and brood; and
 - ii. are securely transported in a manner to prevent access by bees;
 - (b) in the case of bee products:
 - i. the outside of any container, pallets and packaging has been inspected prior to movement and found free from honey and beeswax; and
 - ii. securely transported in a manner to prevent access by bees and sent directly to a receival facility that is managed in a manner to prevent access by bees; and
 - (c) Agriculture Victoria has been notified of the movement details prior to movement by emailing honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au with a copy of the health certificate, issued under regulation 46(c) of the Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017, and confirming, by email, compliance with the requirements of this subclause.
- (3) Subclause (1) does not apply to a person if they have been issued a permit and the movement of affected livestock, affected livestock products, fodder and fittings into the General Control Area is in accordance with the conditions of the permit.

11. Prohibition on movement of affected livestock from an Australian State or Territory where varroosis has not been detected.

- (1) A person must not move or cause the movement of affected livestock, into the General Control Area from any Australian State or Territory where varroosis has not been detected.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to a person who introduces affected livestock or hives into the General Control Area that:
 - (a) have not spent any time in the last 12 months within an Australian State or Territory that has had a confirmed detection of varroosis; and
 - (b) in the case of hives:
 - i. inspected and found free of varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) within 14 days prior to the movement into Victoria, via the following method:
 1. for less than 21 hives, alcohol wash of all hives;
 2. for 21 or more hives, alcohol wash of 21 hives;
 - (c) in the case of Queen Bees:
 - i. hives within the source apiary inspected and found free of varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) within 14 days prior to the movement into Victoria, via the following method:
 1. alcohol wash on 10% of hives in the source apiary; and
 2. at the time of packing for dispatch, all bees (including queens, queen cells and accompanying escort bees) have been visually inspected under 4X magnification and found free of varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*); and
 - (d) Agriculture Victoria notified of the movement details prior to movement by emailing honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au with a copy of the health certificate, issued under Regulation 46(c) of the Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2017, and confirming, by email, compliance with the requirements of this subclause.
- (3) Subclause (1) does not apply to a person if they have been issued a permit and the movement of affected livestock, affected livestock products, fodder and fittings into the General Control Area is in accordance with the conditions of the permit.

Dated 24 February 2025

ROSA CRNOV
Chief Plant Health Officer

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