

Biosecurity and GIA Focus Group Meeting 3 November 2021 Meeting Summary

Biosecurity Update

While the Apiculture Industry does not currently have a government industry agreement (GIA), the Biosecurity and GIA Focus Group agreed it was important to continue to consider practical ways of being better prepared in case of a biosecurity incursion, until a GIA is in place.

Small hive beetle case study

A useful exercise simulating how a biosecurity response would work if a small hive beetle incursion was discovered was run by MPI in 2014. One of the big issues with this case study was that MPI was so focussed on beehives that they overlooked other locations that small hives beetles can base themselves such as beekeeper's houses and storage facilities and any risk sites in the same areas that could potentially harbour small hive beetle if they escaped. Apiculture NZ, through the Focus Group, will undertake to review this work with MPI.

Biosecurity Act Update

MPI started a Biosecurity Act Review in July 2019 once the terms of reference were approved by Cabinet. While MPI started holding public meetings in September 2019, due to COVID-19, this work was put on hold in 2020. Originally the review was going to be completed in two stages. The first change was to review the funding and compensation and the second stage was to review the Biosecurity Act itself. This strategy was revised as the feedback from consultation was that funding and compensation issues needed to be reviewed at the same time as reviewing the Biosecurity Act. MPI re-started this project in 2021 and is currently waiting for approval from Cabinet approval to release a consultation document.