



Emergency Winter Colony Management Scheme Guidelines

September 2019

The Scheme

The Tasmanian Government is working with the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association to support the state's honey and pollination businesses through Bee Industry Futures. Funding of up to \$150 000 has been allocated to help the bee industry manage their colonies following a dramatic decrease in the usual leatherwood resources due to bushfire and seasonal conditions, and associated risk to bees and pollination.

The Scheme is administered by a subcommittee consisting of two members of the Tasmania Beekeepers Association (TBA) executive and an independent observer from AgriGrowth Tasmania.

Prospective applicants for the rebate are advised to carefully consider the eligibility criteria and the list of eligible and ineligible activities before submitting an application.

Duration

The Scheme commenced operating in Tasmania in September 2019 (for operating costs incurred on or after 1 March 2019) and will close to new applications on 31 October 2019 or when the funding allocation is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

No rebates will be provided beyond the allocated funding.

Assistance available

The maximum rebate is \$7 per registered hive per registered beekeeper - a level of support that should assist beekeepers to meet up to 50 per cent of actual costs. Only one registered beekeeper per primary production business entity is eligible to apply. No additional funds will be provided to related entities, including those operated by other family members or separate companies owned by the applicant.

For example, if a beekeeper has 200 registered hives and incurs eligible costs of purchases for winter colony management, the beekeeper is eligible for a maximum rebate of \$1 400 or the actual cost (excluding GST), whichever is the lower and subject to satisfying the following eligibility criteria.

Funding is capped to a maximum of \$25 000 per registered beekeeper.

Eligible applicants

To be eligible to receive a rebate under the Scheme an applicant must:

- a) Be registered as a beekeeper under the Apiary Industry Disease Control Program (AIDCP).
- b) Manage in excess of 50 hives.
- c) Be the operator of a beekeeping business as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company.
- d) Earn more than 50 per cent of their gross income from beekeeping activities under normal seasonal circumstances.
- e) Have an ABN.
- f) NOT be insolvent, under external administration or bankruptcy proceedings, and the owners of the business must not be bankrupt or subject to bankruptcy proceedings.

Eligible activities

The rebate applies only to the costs associated with providing emergency winter colony management of hives from 1 March to 31 October 2019.

Eligible costs (exclusive of GST) include purchase of additional feeding infrastructure ("feeders") and cost of supplementary feed associated with emergency winter colony management activities during the life of the program.

Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- Purchases made prior to 1 March 2019;
- Purchases made after 31 October 2019;
- Any other costs.

Applications

Applications for a rebate under the Scheme must be made on the designated application form available at www.tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au.

Only **ONE** application per eligible beekeeping entity will be accepted. No additional applications for supplementary payments will be processed.

All supporting documentation (e.g. receipts of purchase) must be attached as part of the application submission, as specified in the form.

Applications will only be assessed if all supporting information is provided. Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

Complete applications will be assessed in the order that they are received. Please note once funds are fully subscribed, the rebate scheme will close.

Applications can be submitted by as follows:

By email: warren@mooreconsulting.com.au

By post: Bee Emergency Winter Colony Scheme
C/O Moore Consulting
PO Box 919
Burnie TAS 7320

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries concerning the Scheme to the Bee Industry Project Officer:

Warren Moore, Moore Consulting
Phone: 03 6432 1008

Assessment

Applications will be assessed by an assessment committee comprising members of TBA and a representative of AgriGrowth Tasmania.

All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria for the Scheme.

The TBA may request further information from the applicant, or any business or individual engaged by the applicant, to assist in assessing the application and to verify any information provided in the application. Failure to provide such information may result in the application being rejected.

Tax invoices and receipts to confirm feeding infrastructure and supplementary feed purchases must accompany applications.

The assessment committee will make the final decision on all applications. If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant will be notified of the reasons for the decision and provided with an opportunity to request a review of the decision.

If an application is successful, the amount of the rebate (excluding GST) will be paid to the applicant's nominated bank account.

Other important information

The TBA reserves the right to revise these guidelines at any time. Revised guidelines will be clearly marked and published online on the TBA web page. Each application will be assessed against the guidelines current at the time the application is received by the TBA.

Successful applicants may be subject to audit by the Tasmanian Government or its agents in order to determine compliance with the Scheme Guidelines. This may include an inspection of any relevant documentation.

Tax

Applicant businesses are strongly encouraged to seek advice on the tax implications of the rebate payment.