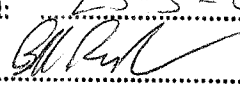


The Future Development of the Australian Honey Bee Industry

My submission is in relation to –

The research and development needs of the industry.

Submission

Submission No: 18
Date Received: 25-5-07
Secretary: 

The Australian Government could assist the beekeeping industry by providing a funding grant sufficient for the establishment and early operational costs to finance infrastructure and development costs of a honey bee research centre concentrating in the areas of research, education and bee breeding. The Australian beekeeping industry is small in size and would find it difficult to meet such costs without external assistance.

Comment

- The amount of funds available for honey bee researchers each year is low
- The number of research laboratories dedicated to honey bee research in Australia is very low
- Many persons involved in honey bee research also have other responsibilities
- There is no research centre base for honey bee research in Australia
- There are problems currently facing the industry which would benefit from research and extension – eg. development of pollination programs for crops benefiting from honey bee pollination and bee breeding programs to develop strains suitable for different aspects of the industry, pollination, honey production etc.
- Extension persons to promote honey bee pollination preferably should be trained in agriculture and horticulture and include pollination as part of their day to day extension programs. This requires an education program able to educate persons in all these areas
- A research centre would provide economic efficiency by allowing persons involved in bee research to operate as a group with the combined use of facilities such as laboratories and research apiaries which are expensive to maintain by individual researchers but necessary for most research programs
- A tertiary institute would provide a suitable base for a honey bee research centre by providing the educational profile required by persons involved in research, extension and education for the successful continuation and development of the beekeeping industry

Background

I have been involved in the beekeeping industry since 1960 on a commercial, research and extension basis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Rhodes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

J Rhodes.
May 23, 2007