

Joe Tonga
25 Oakover Street
East Fremantle. WA
PH: 0418 918 367

Robert (Bob) Huston
Nature Conservation Program Coordinator
Dept Biodiversity and Attractions
PH: 9290 6113
Mob: 0418 902 173
Email: robert.huston@dbca.wa.gov.au

Submitted Date 30/05/2022

Brennan Rd Nature Reserve

Feral Bee Treatment 2022



Treatment of Feral Beehives.

This reserve is broken up into four zones to assist in identification of feral bee activity.

Zone 1

The three hives found in the last survey had small numbers of bees in them. They were treated using the 9m hand-held puffer. This device allows the hives to be treated without trying to scale unstable and dangerous trees. It also allows access to the bee sites by walking in and leaving no damage to the environment.

The tree (Fig 1) with the branch broken off exposing the hollow and consequently the bees, disturbed them so much they mostly abandoned the hive. The cavity where they were occupying became too open to the elements therefore, they couldn't control the temperature within the hive. They need to regulate this to keep the colony alive.



Figure 1: Broken branch with hive





Figure 2: re-treatment of small hive

Zone 2

In addition to the five hives found in this zone an extra one was located at the base of a small tree. The area seems to have quite a few trees with burnt out bases. Carrying gear to treat the bees requires several trips so the bush is traversed many times. This gives an opportunity to search for more hives. Each time a trip is taken a different path is chosen on the return to cover as much ground as possible. This enables greater efficiency in searching for more hives.

The bees continue to attack the Xmas tree. It has a small entry hole and large cavity at its base. This is perfect for the bees. Due to the nature of the tree access to the honeycomb is almost impossible. It would have to be cut open with a chainsaw most likely killing it.



Figure 3: Tiny entrance at xmas tree base



Figure 4: Bees at base of small tree.



Figure 5: Small entry hole-large cavity



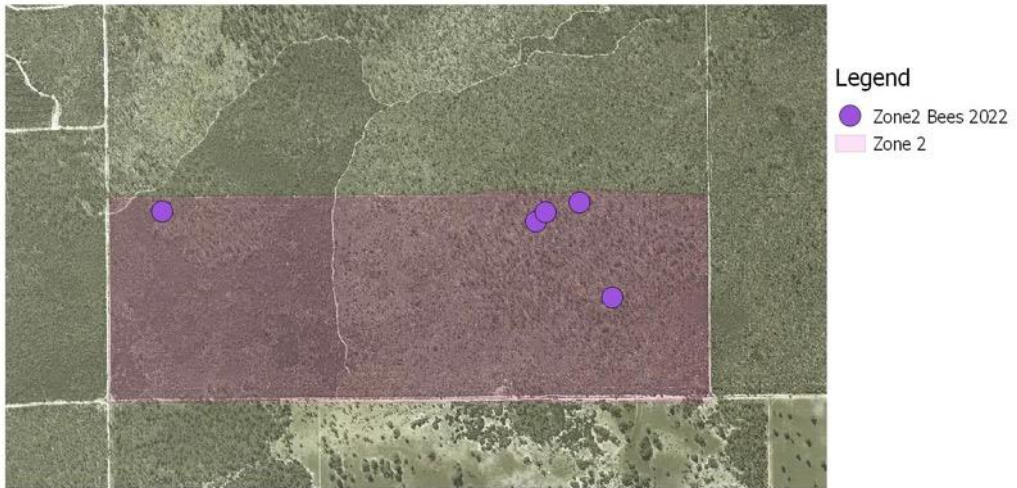
Figure 6: Been treated before.



Figure 7: small to medium hollows with bee intrusions.



Zone 2 Bees



Zone 3

To be certain there are no bees in this zone another search was conducted coming in from different directions, and again, no bees were found. This is mainly to do with lack of suitable trees that a large enough to produce cavities.

Brennan rd Res
Zone 3



Legend
Zone 3

Zone 4

The two largest trees in zone 4 have multiple hollows both large and small. Most of these are bee free but two of the largest are infested with bees. After treatment, in time, the native honeymoth will lay eggs and eventually consume the honeycomb. The comb turns white and dries up. At this stage it's extremely fragile and this makes it easy for birds like the Pink & Grey Galahs to chip it all away. This in turn will reopen the hollows allowing the Southern Boobook owl to nest again.

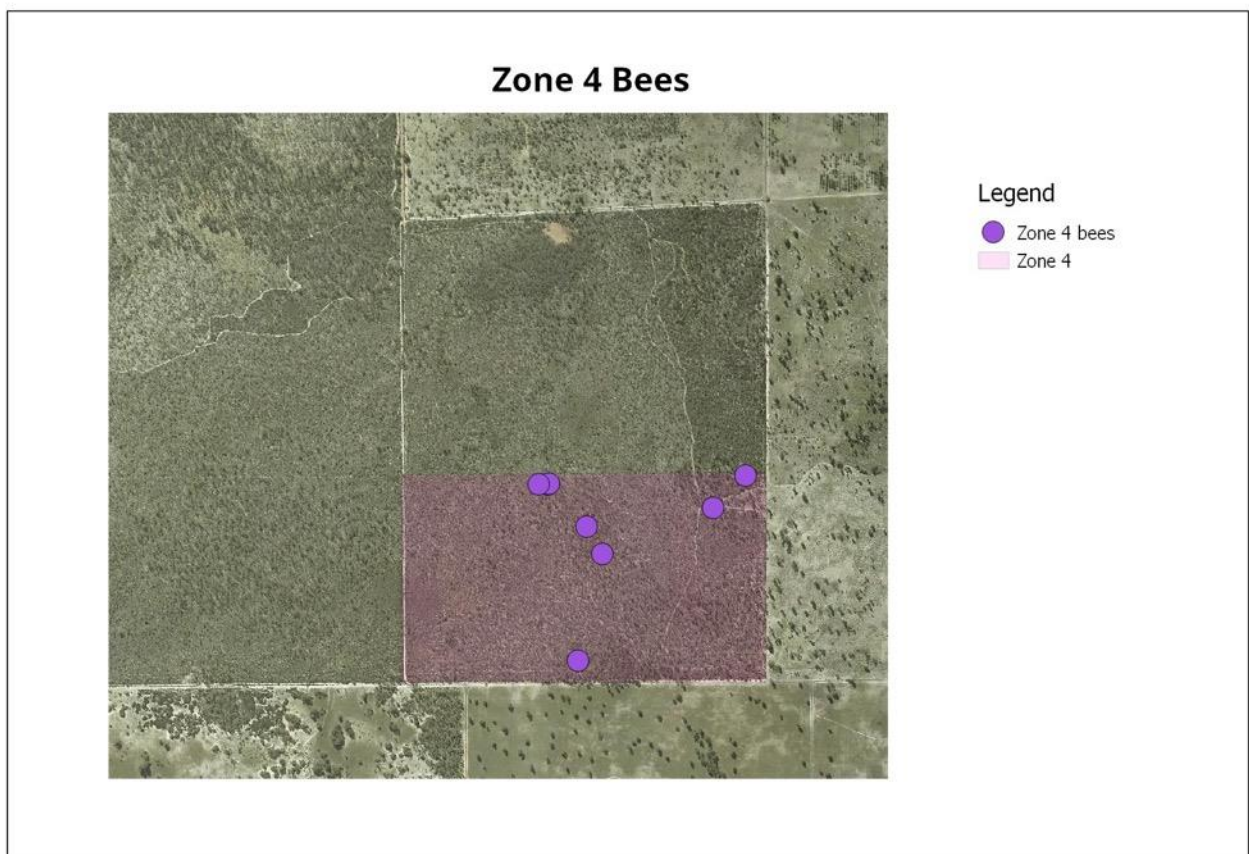




Figure 8: Bees gone after treatment.



Figure 9: Before and after treatment.





Figure 10: Huge tree-large hollows.



Figure 11: Note hand-held puffer at work.





Figure 12: Bees continue to attack hollows.



Summary

- For 2022 a total of Seventeen hives were found and treated.
- Of the Seventeen, Fifteen were re-infestations.
- Swarming was less active in May. The onset of colder temperatures reduces activity.
- There are still many hollows that are bee-free and thus provide important nesting locations for native animals.