



14 February 2020

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Bee industry buzzing

Despite taking a big hit from high temperatures and extensive bushfires last summer, Tasmania's bee industry is worth almost \$10 million according to a new survey.

Beekeepers also provide essential pollination services to the broader agricultural sector, supporting around \$164 million in pollination-dependent crops.

The Tasmanian Beekeeping Survey found that the state's total honey production was reduced to around 400 tonnes in 2018-19 with the adverse seasonal conditions resulting in an estimated reduction of 58 per cent for some commercial beekeepers.

With seasonal conditions impacting leatherwood honey production, manuka honey became the most valuable honey variety with an estimated value of \$3.1 million.

The state's 257 registered beekeepers account for just over 22,000 hives. Beekeepers anticipated improved conditions in the future with a 13 per cent increase in hive numbers forecast over the coming year.

The Government has committed \$750,000 over three years to assist recovery from last year's poor season, help drive strategic growth in the industry and improve future access to resources.

The Tasmanian Beekeeping Survey is available at <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/beekeeping-survey>.