

THE BEE SAVER

Andrew Morcom (Director)

What we can do for you! We offer bee capture and relocation services



Andrew Morcom,
owner-operator
The Bee Saver



Your produce choice
without bees



A successful swarm
capture in a baited trap



Swarms go to managed
apiaries in rural WA

The Bee Saver Story



The Bee Saver was founded in 2016 to fill an environmental niche in Western Australia for bee swarm management. We provide an environmentally-responsible pest management solution for bee swarms.

We are beekeepers who are dedicated to saving bees in the swarm removal process. *The Bee Saver* is an advocate for the honey bee, the client, and contractor. Our role in the removal process is ensuring client satisfaction, and monitoring the removal process via detailed job reports and photo documentation to ensure that the bees were removed without chemicals. Chemical treatment kills bees but may not remove the comb that can attract other bees.

The Bee Saver uses traps to catch and remove live bee swarms and put them into a managed apiary where they are looked after and their honey is provided back to the West Australian public through *Capilano*.

Why save the bees?



We need bees but sadly bees are disappearing all over the world. In 2016 alone, many countries lost much of their managed bee population (UK, 55%, US 44%, Ireland, 30%); and in the UK, the native wild bee populations are thought to be nearly extinct. Significantly, Western Australia is the last bastion of healthy bee stock with low disease rates, robust quarantine measures, and international reputation for high-quality bee stock and bee products.

Western Australia is considered (by RIRDC and CSIRO) to be a significant honey state. Western Australia has 6.4% of Australia's total hives yet produces 10% of Australia's honey and adds \$4.9m in honey production and \$120m in crop pollination services. The benefits of these goods and services flow onto the public through produce range, quality, and availability. Almonds, strawberries and avocados, for example, are heavily reliant on bee pollination.

The Bee Saver Solution



Currently *The Bee Saver* provides a preventative maintenance solution for the baiting and trapping of bee swarms. Swarm trapping is a precautionary action that prevents swarms from building a hive where they are not wanted. This is done by setting out traps in key areas with pheromone lures to attract bees and regularly monitoring them. The traps used are adapted from the design used by the Australian Quarantine Inspection services in their sentinel hives, which are deployed at major ports of entry into Australia.

We offer three service models: basic trapping plan, self-monitoring service plan, and a premium service plan.

Basic Swarm Trapping Plan includes:

Initial site visit assesses the property to learn the site history to determine the minimum recommended number and location of traps.

Each trap is outfitted with a pheromone lure and installed.

There is a monthly per-trap charge.

The Client is responsible for regular trap inspection and swarm removal (The Bee Saver will remove bees for an additional charge)

Self-Monitoring Service Plan includes:

The Basic Swarm Trapping plan *plus*

Client inspects stations regularly

Client contacts company when a swarm is trapped

The Bee Saver personnel removes the bees

There is a monthly per-trap charge plus an additional charge for each removed swarm

Premium Service Plan includes:

The Basic Swarm Trapping plan *plus*

The Bee Saver personnel inspect trap stations once each week

Trapped swarms are removed

Monthly charge



The Bee Saver

The Bee Saver Clients



A wide range of clients are attracted to *The Bee Saver's* environmentally responsible philosophy and practices. The client base we can serve include the following:

- Corporate clients with offices and depots (such as Southern Cross Security and Western Power)
- Private residences
- Amateur apiarists looking to begin or expand their hives
- Local and State government organisations



What are swarms?



Honey bee swarms happen when the bee colony grows too big for their current hive. The queen will produce new queen bee larvae in preparation for the big move. When the new queen is about to hatch, the old queen takes off with a significant proportion of the existing hive (worker bees and drones) to find a new hive location. This is called swarming. It is different from a cloud of bees defending a hive from attack or from large numbers of bees flying around a rich nectar and pollen source. A swarm is a tight body of bees concentrated in a specific place or a holding area as they are in transit from their last hive home until their scouts find them a new home. Because they are full of honey and needing to conserve energy, swarming bees are normally calm as they do not yet have a new home to defend. Preventative measures like bait hives and swarm traps help prevent them settling in undesirable locations (for we humans at least) and from becoming defensive after making those undesirable spaces their new home.

What happens to the Swarms when they are relocated?



Swarms are transferred from the traps into a larger commercial-size beehives and relocated within Western Australia to our beekeeper-managed apiary sites (*AC8 Apiaries*). *The Bee Saver* personnel are beekeepers who work with local suppliers, apiarists, and honey wholesalers to support the local Western Australian economy. Our apiaries are managed using a minimum of protective gear and apiary equipment in a natural bush flora setting. In a mutually-sustaining environment, the bees do not need to swarm and they live chemical-free lives producing honey.

Depending on the beekeeping management practices, hives will produce about 200-300 kilos of honey per year. The busiest production period is from September until May. The swarming season occurs between late August until March. Our bees get to move around many of the Western Australian outback areas between Shark Bay and Esperance.

The Bee Saver story continues...

Operations News  westernpower

The bee savers

Safety incidents with bees rise in the spring and summer months, as we work outside in the warmer weather. Bee stings can be painful, and in some cases life threatening.

A new initiative helping to reduce these incidents is the introduction of bait and sentinel hives at our Kewdale, Hope Road and Prinsep Road depots.

These hives are placed in areas that swarms find attractive, giving bees a container to set up their new hive. This then reduces the risk to employees as the bees are less likely to use the inside of cable drums, wooden boxes or other

electrical equipment in the yards.

Property and Fleet engaged a company called *The Bee Saver* to install and remove the bees and their new hives, without the need for chemicals or destroying the bees. The bees are then relocated into the *The Bee Saver's* apiary, preserving the bees as well as the environment.

Did you know?

The best known bee in Australia is the yellow-brown commercial honey bee. However, Australia has over 1,500 species of native bees! They come in a startling array of colours and range from 2 to 24 mm in size, and only 11 species are non-stinging.



Bees love setting up home around our depots, but the risk of bee stings or damaging their hives is high - so we called in the pros to come up with a solution.



The Bee Saver

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