

Varroa Mite Prevention Measures

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER

My question is from Wayne from Somerset. The Varroa Mite Action Plan says Tasmania's preventative activities must evolve as the threat increases. That threat has increased with varroa established in Victoria and around Geelong, the departure point for the *Spirit of Tasmania*. The department warns that establishment here could devastate wild honeybee colonies, increase the cost and complexity of beekeeping, threaten organic honey production and reduce the pollination services Tasmanian agriculture relies upon. My Tasmanian beekeeper colleagues are asking why our strongest defence is not being placed at the point of departure before this pest crosses Bass Strait. Minister, how are you working with Victorian authorities and TT-Line to establish dedicated varroa surveillance and interception measures at the Geelong terminal before *Spirit of Tasmania* sails?