



Beekeepers Association of the ACT Inc Requeening Policy

Queen replacement or introduction is predicated on:

- accidental queen loss (a necessary contingency where colonies are routinely opened for training and demonstration purposes);
- colony increase to replace winter, accidental or other losses;
- colonies being split or nucs being established for a wide range of purposes including low risk queen replacement;
- colony bees of cranky disposition needing to be promptly removed from the apiary;
- colony suffering ongoing disease problems (mainly chalk brood) unresponsive to treatments such as light sugar water feeding;
- colony queens that are failing, that is where bee numbers are unseasonably dwindling;
- colony queens that old (> 18 mo to 2 yr) and that are liable to supersedure and/or swarming or where the queen has been replaced naturally and is more swarm prone; and
- Kenyan Top Bar and Warré colonies may be requeened less frequently with the proviso that she be replaced if the colony has unresolved disease problems, if bees are of poor temperament or if the queen is failing.

Queen use differs from backyard operations in that public safety is paramount (to protect all JW users and the club), in that nuisance swarming must be minimised and in that issues such as disease

transmission and use of tractable bees is a practical and accountable reality. Operating nucs from mid spring to the end of the bee season will make requeening flexible and allow the continued use of performing queens that can be retired (or if needed used) to nucleus colonies as the season progresses.