

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**  
**Question Taken on Notice**

**Question Number:** 9-1

**Date:** 18/06/2019

**From:** Mr Yingiya Mark Guyula

**To:** Hon. Eva Lawler

**Portfolio:** Environment & Natural Resources

**Agency:** Environment & Natural Resources

**Subject:** Protection of native bee populations

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**QUESTION**

Minister, what is being done to protect native bee populations from the spread of the European honey bee and the detection of the Asian honey bee?

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**Answer to Question Taken on Notice**

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**ANSWER**

In relation to protecting native bee populations from the spread of the European honeybee and the Asian honeybee. The Department of Primary Industry and Resources, which is the agency responsible for agriculture, biosecurity and animal welfare, has previously undertaken pollination studies for native bees.

In Australia, native bee populations have interacted with European Honeybees for over two hundred years. Natives and European honeybees coexist without severe impact. The Northern Territory environment is quite harsh for the European honeybee, and native bees are better adapted to the environment.

The Asian honeybee is considered an exotic pest in the Northern Territory, and is treated as a biosecurity threat, with all means taken to eradicate any exotic incursions. While there has been previous detection of Asian honey bee in the Territory which have been successfully eradicated in each case, the Asian honey bee is not known to be established in the Northern Territory and is therefore not a competitor for resources.