



# HONEY BEE INDUSTRY

## POLLINATION SERVICES

Apiarists are vital to the success of horticultural industries such as almonds and avocados, which rely on insect pollination to set fruit. Six hundred bee hives are permanently operated in the Mildura Region, and demand exists for many more. Tens of thousands of bee hives are brought into the district seasonally. The national value to agricultural production of pollination by the honey bee industry is estimated at between \$60 million and \$1.2 billion each year.

## HONEY PRODUCTION

Local beekeepers produce 1,000 tonnes of honey annually, which demands a premium for its high density and low moisture levels. Other products include bees wax, royal jelly, queen bees and pollen.

With greater recognition of the therapeutic and health benefits of honey, local investors are beginning to explore emerging value-adding opportunities, such as Honey Straws for endurance athletes.

[www.growmilduraregion.com.au](http://www.growmilduraregion.com.au)

### Crop reliance on insect pollination

### Percentage

(Source: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation "Valuing Honeybee Pollination" Publication No 03/077)

Almonds	100%
Avocados	100%
Stonefruits	70%
Cucurberts (rockmelons, watermelons, pumpkins, cucumbers, zucchinis, etc)	70%
Citrus	30%

Product	Mildura Region Production (t) 02/03	Mildura Region Value (A\$) 03/04	Australian Production (t)	Australian Value (A\$million) 03/04	Mildura Region % of Australian Production	Mildura Region % of Australian Value
Honey	1,000t	\$3.5m	*31,000t	**\$90m	3.2%	3.9%
Bees Wax	10t	\$45,000	545t	\$3.3m	1.8%	1.28%

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### CONTACTS

#### Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

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