# Bee pests and pest bees

* Australia’s bees provide honey and invaluable pollination services for various crops. Their pollination supports a range of industries and our domestic food supply.
* However, there are some serious biosecurity threats that could arrive here and affect the health of our bee population.
* Australia is one of the few countries in the world that remains free of varroa mite and other exotic mites of bees.
* Varroa mite is the leading biosecurity threat for our bees. It has been a major factor in damaging bee colony health and the decline of honeybee populations overseas.
* If it arrived in Australia, it could seriously diminish our healthy bee population and the pollination services they provide.
* Bee mites are most likely to arrive in Australia with infested bees that have stowed away on ships and boats.
* These mites are a significant biosecurity threat for our country, so it is vital that we do all we can to manage the risk.
* Exotic bees, such as Asian honeybee or dwarf honeybee, also pose a risk as they can carry mites that have the potential to devastate honeybee colonies.
* Import conditions and surveillance monitoring activities help manage the risk of bee pests and pest bees arriving in Australia.
* But we need everyone to keep an eye out and report any potential bee health risks, so we can protect our bees for generations to come.

(TEXT AT THE END: Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment)