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# Giant honey bee

Biosecurity



The giant honey bee is commonly found in China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and the Philippines. Australia is free from the giant honey bee and we want to keep it that way.

## What the giant honey bee looks like

The giant honey bee has dark coloured wings and is 30 to 50 per cent larger than other honey bees.

## What to look for

The giant honey bee likes to nest in man-made structures. They can be found in or on machinery, the underside of shipping containers, hollow logs and between the outer and inner lining of structures. Keep an eye out for the presence of wax combs, or worker bees flying to and from ships, containers or other cargo.

## The risk to Australia

The giant honey bee carries a range of internal and external parasitic mites. These mites could infest Australian honeybees, resulting in a rapid reduction of domestic and commercial bee hives. This could cause serious damage to the Australian honeybee industry and related industries, such as pollination providers.



#### Images

1. A wax comb on undercarriage of imported machinery.
2. Adult giant honey bee.
3. Close up giant honey bee carrying mites.

**Note:** Images are not to size.

## What to do if you find any suspect giant honey bees

### SEE. SECURE. REPORT.

If you see any bees, wax combs or hives in or around imported goods, limit the spread of the bees if possible. Do not move any contaminated structures or containers and immediately report it to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on 1800 798 636.

For safety consult a Department of Agriculture and Water Resources entomologist before handling specimens.



**Contact**  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources  
1800 798 636 (free call in Australia)



For more information  
[agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/report](https://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/report)