





**Pollination Symposium 2009**  
Keith Institute.







**Leafcutter Bees in Australia**




Scott Manser  
Australian Leafcutter Association (ALCA)


**Pollination Symposium 2009** 



**History of leafcutters in Australia**


- Megachile Co-op commenced over 20 years ago
- Renewed interest in later 1990's
- Importation protocol developed
- Varroa mite contingency plan

**Pollination Symposium 2009** 



**Economic benefits of Leafcutter bees**

- Maintain and improve the economic benefit
- Provide more rapid and efficient pollination
- Assist in the production of a high quality products
- Anecdotally reduce the amount of water needed to produce a seed crop
- Minimise the harvest risk



**Pollination Symposium 2009** 




**Are LCB successful in Australia?**

- How do you define success?
  - Population and seed yield increase
  - Reality
- Funding needed for research and development.

**Pollination Symposium 2009** 

Leafcutter bee site at Wattle Range 2008.

**Pollination Symposium 2009** 



**Aims of the Commercial Viability Assessment**

- Are Leafcutter bees commercially viable
- Develop a business plan
- Based on forecast costs and bee recovery rate several business models were projected

Pollination Symposium 2009

LUJERNE

**Method of the Commercial Viability Assessment**

- What factors went into the model
  - Costs of managing bees
- Model based on stocking rate and bee recovery rate

Pollination Symposium 2009

LUJERNE

**Commercial Viability Assessment**

- Significant levels of investment are needed
- Annual positive population development
- Importation and quarantine factors
- Ongoing supply
- Protocol management
- Marketing and awareness campaign

Pollination Symposium 2009

LUJERNE

**Action plan for viability**

- Capital raising
- Cost of quarantine and quarantine barriers
- Qualified and/or experienced personnel
- Facilities
- Research and Development

Pollination Symposium 2009

LUJERNE

**The future**

- ALCA in recess
- If and when Varroa mite arrives
- Significant existing knowledge base
- Necessity

Pollination Symposium 2009

LUJERNE

