

Native Stingless Bee Rescues: Intact Log

All intact logs rescued from damaged trees will need to be cut from the tree and then transported to a new location. Intact logs may also require the ends of the logs to be re-sealed.

Look for the orientation of the hive

Find the hive entrance then, using a chainsaw, cuts are to be made at minimum of 1m above and below the hive entrance to separate it from the tree. If a cut is made into the hive's structure, stop, fill/cover the cut and make a fresh cut further along the branch or trunk. This could range from 15 cm to 1m.

Orientation

The separated hive in the log is to be orientated as if it were still in the tree. If the hive is not orientated as it was in the tree the bee brood will drown.

Does the hive log need sealing?

The ends of the separated trunk or branch are to be inspected to ensure that the hive is sealed by intact timber material. To prevent invasion of the hive by Native stingless bee predators, it is important to ensure any breaks, cuts, splits are sealed.

Temporary sealing for transport

This is about making the log secure for transport. Builders plastic, timber, thick cardboard or other suitable material can be taped temporarily in place until permanent sealing occurs. If the log is not too large it can also be temporarily wrapped in plastic. Note - if this method is required, do not leave the log in the sun for any length of time.

Permanent sealing

If the ends are not sealed, then the ends need to be permanently sealed by nailing/screwing on a plate. Materials could include timber, fibreglass or rubber. Any material that can be recycled, is non-toxic, and has longevity, can be used. **DO NOT use materials which are turps based as they can be toxic to the Native Stingless Bees.**

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All breaks or cuts in the timber surrounding the nest (other than the entrance hole) must be filled or covered using permanent non-toxic materials (e.g., water-based wood filler, No More Gaps, or other permanent sealing material).



Photo (L): Branches of a eucalypt damaged after a storm can often hide native stingless bee nests.
Photo (R) Intact log that requires re-sealing at both ends.



Photo (L) : An intact log located, cut from the tree and repaired using No More Gaps/conveyor belting.
Photo (R) : A different intact log sealed on the bottom and top with timber and a nice protective cover.

(Photos : Greg Field, Laura Noble, Susan Moore)