



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

SUBMISSION

TO: Kapiti Coast District Council
FROM: Apiculture New Zealand
SUBMISSION ON: Keeping of Animals, Bees, and Poultry Bylaw 2021

DATE: 28 July 2021

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Submission to Keeping of Animals, Bees, and Poultry Bylaw 2021

Introduction

Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) on the Keeping of Animals, Bees, and Poultry Bylaw.

ApiNZ is the national body representing the apiculture industry in New Zealand representing the full range of sectors in the industry, from hobbyist and commercial beekeepers to honey exporters and suppliers. ApiNZ aims to support and deliver benefit to the New Zealand apiculture industry by creating a positive industry profile, business environment and opportunities for members.

ApiNZ's comments are restricted to Council proposed amendments to section 8 of the 'Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw 2021':

- 8.1 "Persons wishing to keep bees in an urban area are required to obtain a license from the Council. A license will be given, if in the opinion of an Authorised Officer, the keeping of such bees is set up and carried out in such a way that it is unlikely to become a nuisance to any person or dangerous or injurious to health.
- 8.2 A license to keep bees may be revoked if the conditions for which the license was originally given are not being met, or nuisance complaints from two or more different adjoining property owners have been received.
- 8.3 All non-urban apiaries must be placed 10m or more from public places unless an exemption license has been granted by Council.

Note: All beekeepers have a legal requirement under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to register any apiary, within 30 days of possession, with The Management Agency. This is additional to the requirement to license your beehives with the Council."

ApiNZ feedback on proposed changes

Overall, ApiNZ agrees with the proposal.

Clause 8.1

KCDC is proposing to continue to require licences for urban apiaries but is changing the terminology by replacing the word 'permission' with 'license' to align it with other animal categories in the bylaw. KCDC are also proposing to amend the licensing process for urban apiaries to add an additional requirement that an apiarist should consider the placement of apiaries in proximity to public places.

ApiNZ supports this proposal. We also understand that the current operational process requires an applicant to obtain a report from an apiarist, or qualified person, when they apply for permission (proposed to become a licence) to keep bees on an urban property. As it is not clear what is meant by a 'qualified person', ApiNZ suggests that KCDC provide additional clarification to ensure that the process to gain a licence is as clear and transparent as possible.

Clause 8.3

ApiNZ supports the proposal in the bylaw to introduce a requirement that all non-urban apiaries must be placed 10 metres or more from public places. We also support the further clarification in paragraph 55 of 'The statement of proposal: draft Kapiti Coast District Council keeping of animals, bees and poultry bylaw 2021' that where this requirement cannot be met, KCDC would consider the application and risks involved, and if considered appropriate, would provide an exemption licence to keep bees.

Note to Clause 8.3

The reference to the 'The Management Agency' in this clause has the potential to be confusing to beekeepers. We assume you mean the agency that manages American foulbrood in New Zealand. The correct name of this agency is 'The Management Agency National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan' (The AFB Management Agency). We suggest you refer to this agency by its correct name in the bylaw.

We also recommend that to align with the wording within the Biosecurity Act 1993 relating to AFB that the current wording "within 30 days of **possession**," is changed "To within 30 days of **placing beehives on that site**"

Paragraph 55 of 'The statement of proposal: draft Kapiti Coast District Council keeping of Animals, bees and poultry bylaw 2021' states that part of the role of the AFB Management Agency is to provide specialist support in beekeeping. The AFB Management Agency is only responsible for monitoring and auditing beekeeper's compliance with their obligations to eliminate AFB from managed colonies in New Zealand. It does not provide specialist beekeeping support.

General comments

It may be helpful to include a link to Apiculture New Zealand's Beekeeper Code of Conduct (<https://apinz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ApiNZ-Beekeeper-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>) which aims to promote the keeping of bees in a manner compatible with the environment they are located in, and to encourage the keeping of bees in such a way as to be acceptable to the relevant regulatory authorities, the general public, landowners and other apiarists, and considers the sustainability of the bees and the environment that supports them.