



APICULTURE
NEW ZEALAND

SUBMISSION

TO: Kaipara District Council
FROM: Apiculture New Zealand
SUBMISSION ON: Review of General Consolidated Bylaw 2020

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Submission to Kaipara District Council Review of General Consolidated Bylaw 2020

Introduction

Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Kaipara District Council on the Review of General Consolidated Bylaw.

Apiculture New Zealand is the national body representing the honey and bee industry in New Zealand. 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. We advocate on behalf of members on a range of issues affecting our industry.

Feedback on proposed changes

ApiNZ's comments are restricted to those proposed changes that relate to Part 8 – Keeping of Animals, Poultry, Stock and Bees., and specifically the provisions that require prior written and extending the monitoring of nuisance or health and safety issues to the rural zone.

Clause 806.1 - A person must not keep bees in an urban area without the prior written approval of an Authorised Officer.

This proposal is at odds with other local government bylaws.

For example, Whangarei District Council allows up to two hives to be kept in an urban area provided they registered in accordance with the provisions of the Biosecurity (national American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan), hives are kept a minimum distance from any adjoining property and they do not cause a nuisance.

After consulting on its updated animal policy, Wellington City Council acknowledged bees are important for the environment as they pollinate crops and gardens. The WCC policy recommends that properties in urban areas do not have more than four hives and that hives are managed for bee flight path.

ApiNZ does not believe Councils have cause to limit beekeeping by putting onerous permit type obligations on hobbyist beekeepers in urban areas, beyond stipulating compliance that mitigates nuisance.

ApiNZ suggests that if Wellington City Council, presiding over a densely populated area, allows hives to be situated on private property without written approval, there should be no reason that Kaipara

District Council, presiding over a significantly less densely populated area, require more stringent forms of compliance.

Clause 806.3 - For the avoidance of doubt, clauses 802(1) and (2) apply to any keeping of bees in the District, including in a rural area.

ApiNZ supports the obligations of animal owners in general - clause 802 (1) – that animals do not cause nuisance to any other person, do not cause a risk to public health and safety, and do not damage property belonging to any other person in both urban and rural areas.

However, by extending the scope of these obligations beyond urban boundaries, Authorised Officers will need to recognise their engagement with rurally-based commercial beekeeping operators may need to be different to that with hobbyist beekeepers operating in urban areas.

Kaipara District Council will need to be careful that it is not drawn into adjudicating over commercial disputes as part of any complaint made regarding animal owners' obligations (802).

ApiNZ recommends Kaipara District Council use the ApiNZ Code of Conduct as a guideline when faced with responding to failures of beekeepers to abide by the obligations stated in clause 802 (1). The Code of Conduct can be found at <https://apinz.org.nz/about/>