



**APICULTURE**  
NEW ZEALAND

## SUBMISSION

**TO:** Waipa District Council

**FROM:** Apiculture New Zealand

**SUBMISSION ON:** Plan Change 18: Beekeeping in Residential Zones

**DATE:** 19 October 2020

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Apiculture New Zealand  
PO Box 25207  
Wellington 6146  
04 471 6254  
Email: [ceo@apinz.org.nz](mailto:ceo@apinz.org.nz)

## **Submission to Waipa District Council – Plan Change 18: Beekeeping in Residential Zones**

### **Introduction**

Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Waipa District Council on Plan Change 18: Beekeeping in Residential Zones.

ApiNZ 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, as well as ensuring good bee health and beekeeping practices. We advocate on behalf of members on a range of issues affecting our industry.

### **Summary of ApiNZ position on Plan Change 18**

ApiNZ acknowledges the Waipa District Council's recommendation to proceed with Option 4 – to retain the current framework that permits beekeeping activity with controls. However ApiNZ strongly suggests Option 3 (delete current rules and replace with a bylaw) would be a more effective alternative to obtain higher levels of compliance and address current limitations in acting on infringements.

### **Feedback on Option 4 (Retain a rule that permits beekeeping activities with controls)**

ApiNZ is not aware of any other local authority that uses the Resource Management Act to regulate beekeeping in residential zones.

Councils that have initiated reviews into their oversight of beekeeping over the past three years have all proposed continuing with bylaws, which have delivered satisfactory outcomes in providing the ability to manage nuisance and enforcement powers for the Councils.

If compliance is the goal, then an easily understood, practical-focused bylaw can achieve this outcome.

The ongoing requirement to apply for resource consent is however very unlikely to drive compliance. As is stated in the context offered for Option 1 (Do Nothing), there is a high level of non-compliance with the current rules requiring consent.



Waipa District Council should note the amount of honey generated by two beehives would be barely enough to keep one family supplied. There would not be surplus honey produced, for example to sell and make a profit on. To this end it is very unlikely beekeepers will be motivated to pay for a consent to keep bees.

The implications of retaining the oversight of beekeeping via resource consent are also likely to have a further negative impact on disease management. Hobbyist beekeepers already pay to register their hives, they pay for varroa treatments along with testing of honey under food safety regulations. Any additional cost may act to deter compliance with the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan due to fear of being caught for keeping bees.

Apiculture NZ does not have a precise understanding on the size of the Large Lot Residential Zone, however we cannot imagine there is a numerically significant number of beekeepers wishing to operate in this zone with more than 2 hives.

ApiNZ does acknowledge the motivation for Waipa District Council's to make changes based on unsatisfactory means to carry out enforcement. However, we believe compliance should be a more significant motivator of change, rather than a means to enable the potential for (numerically few) beekeepers to seek (with considerable costs attached), the opportunity to place additional hives on a Large Lot Residential property.

ApiNZ recommends Waipa District Council pursues Option 3, in line with other local authorities.

Please see below the Apiculture NZ member Code of Conduct for your reference. Other local authorities have used aspects of our Code in the development of their bylaws.

## Apiculture New Zealand Beekeeper Code of Conduct

### Aims

To allow 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, the landowner(s) concerned and other apiarists.

### Objectives

To ensure:

1. The sustainability of the bees and the environment that supports them
2. Public safety and social amenity
3. Good beekeeping practice in line with proven and ethical standards in working with bees and any activity associated with apiculture
4. The maintenance of good relations among all stakeholders

### Definitions

**Beekeeping Business** means the transporting, placing and servicing, and maintenance of beehives on apiary sites for farm and orchard pollination activities, honey and bee products production, and any other activity as reasonably necessary for the support of healthy bees.

**Sites** means the location of apiaries.

**Apiary/apiaries** means a grouping of beehives.

**An Apiary site** is defined as a group of beehives which sits within a maximum span of 200 metres; that being 100 metres from a centre point.

### Achieving the aims and objectives

Beekeepers will hereby undertake as follows:

1. To site hives and apiaries away from places frequented by the public where they are likely to cause nuisance to people, livestock, residences, businesses or those in the vicinity, and to ensure the general public are not impacted or impeded from undertaking general activities.
2. To ensure apiary sites are not close to areas where bloodstock are worked, trained or exercised, or on laneways and gate entrances where stock movement occurs.
3. To ensure as far as possible their bees are of docile and manageable temperament and to work towards this by eliminating bees that show undesirable characteristics, and to take all reasonable steps to control swarming.
4. To manipulate bees in a responsible manner and in suitable weather conditions, especially in urban areas, so that no nuisance is caused to people, livestock, residences, businesses or those in the vicinity, and especially at the time of removing the honey crop.
5. To ensure the honey crop is removed in a responsible manner at suitable locations, extracted and stored in suitable food grade approved containers, new or reconditioned, free from all contaminants especially moisture, odours and chemicals.



# APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

6. To present honey for sale in a proper clean food grade approved container free from all foreign debris and bee matter and labelled in accordance with current legal requirements.
7. To participate as an active member of the local ApiNZ Hub or Regional Beekeeping Club where beekeepers can acquire the skills and knowledge to become competent and responsible beekeepers and to encourage other beekeepers to do likewise.
8. To strive to ensure good neighbourly relations at all times.

## **Conduct of Apiculture NZ members**

### **1. All members of the Association are expected to:**

- 1.1.** Adhere to the Association's rules and Constitution.
- 1.2.** Positively contribute to ApiNZ and its membership.
- 1.3.** Promote the Code of Conduct nationally.
- 1.4.** Practice proven and ethical standards in working and managing their bees or any activity associated with apiculture, including the removal of swarms and any aspect of research and development in apiculture.
- 1.5.** Behave in proper, lawful and responsible manner in all activities associated with beekeeping business.
- 1.6.** Behave in a responsible manner in all dealings with the general public on beekeeping matters.
- 1.7.** Acknowledge and respect the views of fellow beekeepers without derogatory or disparaging comment whilst maintaining their right to express their own views in any forum of the Association.
- 1.8.** Respect appropriate distances between his/her hives/apiaries and another beekeeper's hives.
- 1.9.** In keeping bees, apply good beekeeping husbandry that involves appropriate pest and disease management and good farming practices.
- 1.10.** Maintain the highest standards in their honey production and handling facilities and use only approved compounds, as labelled, to avoid the introduction of contaminants into honey in the hive or during collection, processing and packaging.
- 1.11.** Ensure full compliance to the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan and other husbandry practices that may be developed.

### **2. Landowners and the general public**

- 2.1.** Any beekeeper who keeps bees on property which is not his/her own must have the permission of the landowner to keep his/her bees on that property.
- 2.2.** Must comply with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015.



# APICULTURE

## NEW ZEALAND

- 2.3. The beekeeper will at all times act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner while working with his/her bees on any site.
- 2.4. The beekeeper must work safely and responsibly at all times understanding the risks that the property presents.
- 2.5. The beekeeper should at all times keep the area in which he/she keeps his/her bees in a tidy and clean environment, must safely dispose of redundant materials such as Varroa strips and avoid any damage to landowner's property.
- 2.6. The beekeeper should maintain regular contact with the landowner and adhere to reasonable requests made by the landowner and general public regarding the keeping of bees on the property.
- 2.7. The beekeeper must ensure the interests of the general public are observed when working on his/her bees or transporting bees in any vehicle.
- 2.8. Foster the best possible relations with the general public and conduct their beekeeping operations to minimise the unnecessary exposure of the public to honey bees.
- 2.9. Respect pre-existing relationships between other beekeepers and landowners.
- 2.10. If a Land Use Agreement is in place between the beekeeper and the landowner, both parties must adhere to the rules and guidelines stipulated in the agreement.
- 2.11. If purchased through ApiNZ, the ApiNZ Land Use Agreement terms of use must be honoured.

### 3. Misconduct

- 3.1. Clause 5.2 of the Constitution states all members shall promote the interest and the objects of the Association and shall do nothing to bring the Association into disrepute. (Refer to Clause 7.4, see below)
- 3.2. In the event that any member brings the name of the Association or the industry into disrepute or conducts themselves in any manner deemed irresponsible or unethical, the Board of the Association may act in terms of the rules of the Association in dealing with the matter.
- 3.3. ApiNZ Constitution Clause 7.4: Before the Board may suspend or remove a Member from the Register of Members for conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Association, wilful breach of any Rule or such other misconduct as determined by the Board:
  - a. The Board will provide to the Member concerned a statement of its reasons for considering the Member to be guilty of misconduct meriting suspension or expulsion;
  - b. The Member will be afforded a reasonable opportunity, in person or in writing, to respond to that statement.



# APICULTURE

## NEW ZEALAND

**3.4.** Clause 7.5: If, after considering the response (if any) from the member, the Board proposes to remove or suspend that member, a motion to that effect will be put for consideration at the next Board meeting.

#### **4. Conduct in respect of swarm collection**

- 4.1.** Any member of the Association who carries out the removal of swarms must be competent to do so. The beekeeper responsible must know his/her limitations and must not endanger the safety of other persons, livestock, pets or other animals.
- 4.2.** Swarms have the potential to carry bee pests and diseases, such as American Foulbrood, care should be taken to quarantine the new hive until it has had time to become established and a thorough hive health inspection can be completed.

#### **5. Conduct in respect of Transportation of Hives**

- 5.1.** Health and Safety prior to, during loading and unloading of hives is a paramount responsibility at all times.
- 5.2.** Hive dump sites, for loading or unloading, must be a suitable and safe distance away from residential housing, businesses and public amenities including the sides of roads and other public access ways.
- 5.3.** Hives should be strapped to their individual pallet - single, double or four.
- 5.4.** Hives must be stacked and strapped to the truck bed securely at all times during transport.
- 5.5.** Hives should be transported in cool weather conditions or during late evening or night time hours, wherever possible.
- 5.6.** Trucks should be fueled before hives are loaded to avoid the requirement to stop in transit where possible.
- 5.7.** Safe driving principles must be adhered to at all times.
- 5.8.** Fatigue issues must be monitored and appropriate action taken when required.
- 5.9** For every vehicle operated, and for any possible identification verification purposes, carry a copy of your Beekeeper Summary as found in the National Apiary Register on the APIWEB SYSTEM or other relevant ID.