

SUBMISSION

TO: Hauraki District Council
FROM: Apiculture New Zealand
SUBMISSION ON: Nuisance Bylaw
DATE: 29 April 2019

CONTACT DETAILS: Apiculture New Zealand
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- 1.1. Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Hauraki District Council (HDC) on the proposed Nuisance Bylaw.
- 1.2. ApiNZ's comments are restricted to the provisions that relate to the keeping of bees.
- 1.3. ApiNZ welcomes the introduction of this bylaw, noting that Beekeeping in urban areas is becoming increasingly popular, driving the need for up-to-date and fit-for-purpose rules and regulations.
- 1.4. ApiNZ notes that many Local Authorities have been undertaking similar work and we urge HDC to look to other examples to help achieve some consistency in the way in which Local Authorities apply bylaws to Beekeeping.
- 1.5. ApiNZ has published its own code of conduct, which sets the standard as to how our members and industry should operate. ApiNZ recommends that compliance with this code of conduct is included as an expectation within this bylaw. You can find this code of conduct here: <https://apinz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ApiNZ-Beekeeper-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

2. FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED CLAUSES

- 2.1. The table below provides a clause by clause commentary on ApiNZ's view on HDC's proposed bylaw, as it relates to Beekeeping.

Clause	Comment
6.0a No person is to keep bees or cause or permit bees to be kept on or within any premises in the urban area or Low Density Residential Zone, except with the prior written permission of the Council.	While ApiNZ considers this provision to be fair, we would like to highlight the benefit of bees to our environment for pollinating a wide variety of plants.

	<p>Therefore we recommend that the Council consider the ecological impact of severely restricting urban beekeeping, provided that beekeepers are observing industry best practice (i.e. observing our Code of Conduct guidelines).</p> <p>We also note that the number of submissions from people wanting bees banned is statistically low, and it may not be fair to make a recommendation based on this without scientific or legal merit.</p>
<p>6.0b</p> <p>No person is to keep bees or cause or permit bees to be kept at or on any public place, except with the prior written permission of the Council.</p>	<p>ApiNZ supports this provision.</p>
<p>6.0c</p> <p>When making a decision on the keeping of bees, the Council will consider, amongst other things, the size of the property where the hives and bees are to be kept and the opinions of the owner and occupier of any adjacent property.</p>	<p>ApiNZ supports this provision.</p>
<p>6.0d</p> <p>Bee hives must be located at least 10 metres from any dwelling or any other building on an adjoining property, whether wholly or partially occupied, or at least 2 metres from the boundary of an adjoining property or road.</p>	<p>While we understand the intention of this requirement, ApiNZ notes that it might not have the desired impact due to the way in which bees behave. For example, on a small section, a hive placed close to the boundary with its back to the neighbouring property would then have the bees flying out over the owner's section avoiding the neighbouring property. A hive placed in the middle of a section (10m in) has the potential to cause more problems to the neighbouring property.</p> <p>ApiNZ recommends that the bylaw is worded to state that the beehive entrance must face away from any neighbouring property, with the greatest possible distance between the hive entrance and any neighbour. This is more practical than specifying a distance.</p>

	<p>ApiNZ recommends that this clause should state that an alternative to the 2 metre distance from the boundary where the beehive is placed near a boundary, road or footpath, there can be use of a flyway barrier such as a hedge, shade cloth or permanent structure of 1.8 m high minimum between the beehive and the road/footpath to ensure that the bee flight path is high enough to prevent nuisance.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that we are increasingly seeing beehives located on rooftops. Consideration therefore needs to be given to hives located on rooftops.</p>
<p>6.0e Every person keeping bees or causing or permitting bees to be kept on private property must ensure that:</p> <p>i) the bees do not create, nor are likely to create a nuisance or cause distress to any person; and</p> <p>ii) the bees are not kept in such conditions that create or are likely to create a nuisance or cause distress to any person.</p>	<p>ApiNZ supports this provision and recommends that beekeepers are directed to our Code of Conduct for guidance on best practice beekeeping.</p>
<p>It is a good idea to participate in a beekeeping course. Contact the National Bee Keepers Association for information.</p>	<p>In 2016 the National Beekeepers' Association became Apiculture New Zealand so we propose that the wording reflect this to read:</p> <p>Contact Apiculture New Zealand for information. Contact details can be found at www.apinz.org.nz</p>

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. ApiNZ is the national body representing the Apiculture Industry in New Zealand.
- 3.2. ApiNZ notes that many Local Authorities have been undertaking similar work and we urge HDC to look to other examples to help achieve some consistency in the way in which Local Authorities apply bylaws to Bee keeping.

3.3. ApiNZ submits that the introduction of these bylaws will be useful as beekeeping in urban areas is becoming increasingly popular. However, it is important that any changes are practical and fit for purpose.

4. ABOUT APICULTURE NEW ZEALAND

1. 4.1 Apiculture New Zealand is the national body representing the apiculture 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. More information can be found at www.apinz.org.nz