

10 February 2025

Porirua City Council
16 Cobham Court
Porirua City
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Tēnā koe

Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025.

In general, Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) supports bylaws for bees that balances practicality for beekeepers with workability for the local council. Bees are an integral part of our environment and ecosystems, and responsible beekeeping in urban areas should be encouraged.

We support the provision for an adequate water source for bees (8.3a) as it is in line with good beekeeping practice. We also agree that beekeepers should position hives so that bee flightpaths don't cause nuisance (8.3b), when exiting the and entering the hive. We note that bee flightpaths and direction can't be controlled once bees leave the beekeepers' property.

We suggest the following additions/amendments to the bylaw:

- **Beehive limits by lot size (8.4)**

While we agree to the introduction of beehive number limits based on sections size, after further consultation with local beekeepers, we support their opinion that sections of less than 500m² should be allowed one hive. Provided, of course, that the beekeeper is still in line with point 8.1 in the bylaw.

- **Permits**

Point 8.6 of the bylaw seems to refer to permits although these are no longer included as a requirement in the bylaw. This is confusing.

While the need for a permit is no longer included in the bylaw, and we agree permits are not necessary, we recommend including the following point:

“All beekeepers have a legal requirement to register any apiary, as required under the Biosecurity Act 1993, within 30 days of placing beehives on that site. All hives must prominently show the Beekeeper's Registration Number. Registration of beehives is with The Management Agency (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan), not the Council.”

This lines up with the bylaw's recommendation to remove the requirement to register with Apiculture New Zealand. Instead we advise reference to beekeepers' legal obligation to register their apiary under the AFB Pest Management Agency www.afb.org.nz

- We would like to see a statement in the new bylaw that acknowledges the contribution of beekeepers to pollination and biodiversity.

Nuisance complaints (8.2 and 8.3)

In the event of a bee complaint being made to Council we strongly recommend that consultation is held with the beekeeper and other neighbours to obtain a balanced view of the nuisance issues experienced. No hives should be removed without a full and comprehensive evaluation of the issue or complaint.

We would be very happy to answer questions about any of the points raised in this submission and would like to be available to present our submission in person.

About Apiculture New Zealand

Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) is the national body representing the apiculture industry in New Zealand. It covers the full range of sectors, from hobbyist and commercial beekeepers to honey exporters, packers and suppliers. ApiNZ aims to support and deliver benefits to the New Zealand apiculture industry by supporting a thriving long-term future for New Zealand honeybee products and services, including having a strong bee health and biosecurity position.

Ngā mihi nui



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