

4 December 2024

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To whom it may concern,

Animal Bylaw Review 2024

We have belatedly been advised of the Far North's Animal Bylaw Review and wish to submit a late submission.

We ask that the Council consider this late submission for if this bylaw if passed it will have serious repercussions for beekeepers, particularly commercial beekeepers, who would no longer be able to operate their businesses within the law.

Beekeepers in the far North play a key role in supporting the rural and growing horticulture sector through pollination services, with bees contributing to a healthy biodiverse ecosystem, and of course the production of honey crops. All this assists in contributing to the Far North's economy.

In general, ApiNZ supports bylaws for bees that balances practicality for beekeepers for workability for the local council.

However, the current proposed bylaw is being applied to properties whether **Residential or Rural**. This does not take into account the very different beekeeping approaches required from a commercial perspective.

We make specific comment on **Section 7 (4)** which states that hives cannot be placed closer than 5m from property boundary where no solid fence exists, and if a solid fence exists cannot be closer than 3m from property boundary.

Commercial hives are often placed near property boundaries for ease of access, and health and safety reasons. The property boundary applications are unreasonable, specifically in relation to commercial beekeeping.

It also outlines limits to hive numbers in relation to property sizes. In relation to Rural properties, the proposed bylaw limits the **total amount of hives for properties to 6 hives** as outlined in the table under Section 7 (4): 40001 m² + maximum of 6 hives.

This is completely impractical, far too restrictive and does not reflect in any way best practice for commercial beekeeping.

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If approved all commercial beekeepers in the Far North area would be not able to operate within the law. Commercial beekeepers as defined by ApiNZ are 25 hives or more with typical apiaries sizes generally ranging from 20 to 40 beehives per location.

In Northland alone, registered beekeepers total 649, with hive numbers sitting at 39,341. Over a third of these beekeepers are commercial.

Given the significant impact of this bylaw on those beekeepers we urge the Council to reconsider the bylaw.

Apiculture New Zealand works regularly with local councils (including Wellington, Auckland and more recently Porirua) on their urban beekeeping by laws and we would be happy to provide guidance to the Far North Council.

As background, Apiculture NZ (ApiNZ) is the national body representing the apiculture industry in New Zealand covering 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.

Again, I appreciate this is a late submission, but we urge Council to consider it. We would be very happy to answer questions about any of the points raised in this submission.

Yours sincerely



Karin Kos
Chief Executive