

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**MAUNGAKIEKIE-TAMAKI LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1 (86–94)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
86		Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified potential improvements.

Our main proposals are to:

- require an approval to keep more than two standard beehives on urban premises with a land area less than 2000 square metres (no approval currently required).
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Other aspects of the Bylaw, controls and their implementation remain unchanged, for example:

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Your local board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback

Proposal 1: Require an approval to keep more than two beehives on urban premises 2000 square meters or less

We have heard a range of views about limits on beehives in urban areas. We are seeking feedback on:

- allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two (for example, retaining the current no limit)
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To own more than two hives, people would need to apply for an animal management license, which would consider factors like location and proximity to neighbours. These rules will not affect people living in rural areas.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: Should urban beekeeping not be encouraged, rather than discouraged? Due to varroa management, and countering the myriad of unforeseen issues that may arise, two hives per apiary is the minimum recommended for a successful season. As the saying goes "two is one, and one is none". Beekeeping often requires quick adaption to the changing needs of a hive, such as dividing a hive into two smaller colonies in order to prevent swarming (for example). If I have two hives and need to split one, I now have three... but this would require approval first, and I don't expect the bees to wait patiently. The number of hives a beekeeper keeps is often dictated by the space they have available, and the amount of food available to the bees. In this way it is self-regulating. Simply increasing the number of hives I have won't increase the number of bees housed within if there isn't enough food to support their colonies' development. Poor-performing hives either die out or are consolidated; combining many into one. Again, self-regulating. I would think for most people, two hives already are the maximum they can host in their gardens. For others with more space available, the simple fact they have the space will equate to less nuisance to neighbours and the public (was this even an issue? I'm not so sure). Regulating the number of hives per property seems entirely unnecessary, only acting to discourage hobbyist beekeeping. Common sense and neighbourly communication are all that is required.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be fewer rules.

Tell us why: the current buy law with no limit on beehive number should be retained.

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: The current bylaw on beekeeping in urban area has a 'catch all' phrase in the existing buylaw which can be used at any point when someone's activity is causing a nuisance to the others. The existing buylaw already does a very good job.

Also I understand the council received an increasing number of bee poo complaints during Covid lock down which promoted the proposed buylaw changes. However, it seemed that the increasing number of complaints is one off rather than a growing trend which only happened during Covid lock down.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: Existing provisions adequate.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: It appears to me that you are trying to make it easier to change rules in future without consultation or process.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Too many hives will lead to bees cannot get enough food

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: This is where it logically sits

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: All law needs to be easy to follow and understand

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What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be more rules

Tell us why: Over the last couple of years the total number of bees in the area has increase so much the damage to vehicles in their flight path has increase at an astronomical proportion. There needs to be more control on the total number of hives in the suburb.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Rule should be under Animal Management Bylaw

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Tell us why:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: If people can have as many beehives as they like in any regular sized urban garden, this can quickly turn into a nuisance. I do hope that regulators will carefully look at licenses they grant, and consider neighbours who also have licenses when they make their deliberations. Large developments with many closely knit gardens should be considered as a whole.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Having animals which give you a product should be kept together. Chickens give eggs. Bees give honey. Also both chickens and bees create mess, ie bees poop is a really problem, as well as safety concerns for people who have bee allergies.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

If there are limits to the number of hives you can have in an urban area, and this is under the nuisance by laws, I was not aware of it.

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- incorporate rules from another bylaw about feeding animals on private property
- update the definitions, structure, format and wording of the Bylaw and controls to make them easier to read and understand.

Other aspects of the Bylaw, controls and their implementation remain unchanged, for example:

- the Bylaw continues to focus on the impact of animals on people
- matters already covered in existing legislation are not addressed in the Bylaw, for example animal welfare in the Animal Welfare Act, pest control in the Biosecurity Act and Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan and dogs in the Dog Management Bylaw
- existing rules in the Bylaw and controls for which changes are not proposed remain, for example the restrictions on the ownership of stock in urban areas and conditions for riding horses on certain beaches in Auckland.

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Your feedback

Proposal 1: Require an approval to keep more than two beehives on urban premises 2000 square meters or less

We have heard a range of views about limits on beehives in urban areas. We are seeking feedback on:

- allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two (for example, retaining the current no limit)
- limits for different sized urban premises than the proposed 2000 square metres (for example, requiring an approval for any beehive on urban premises less than 600 square metres, or in an apartment).

To own more than two hives, people would need to apply for an animal management license, which would consider factors like location and proximity to neighbours. These rules will not affect people living in rural areas.

What is your opinion on this proposal? No, I don't agree - there should be more rules

Tell us why:

Proposal 2: Move rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw

These rules already exist but we are proposing to include them within the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015, so it is easier to find rules about animals.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Proposal 3: Update the Bylaw definitions, structure, format, and wording

We have done this to make the Bylaw and controls easier to read and understand, for example by:

- aligning definitions of 'nuisance' and 'public place' with those in the Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013
- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

The personal information that you provide

in this form will be held and protected by Auckland Council in accordance with our privacy policy (available at aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/privacy and at our libraries and service centres) and with the Privacy Act 1993. The privacy policy explains how we can use and share your personal information in relation to any interaction you have with the council, and how you can access and correct that information. You should familiarise yourself with this policy before submitting this form.



Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

Every day Aucklanders interact with animals in ways that benefit their mental and physical wellbeing: with their pets at home for companionship, with animals in public to connect with nature, or for recreation such as horse riding.

Sometimes the way people interact with animals causes a problem. For example, a poorly maintained chicken coop may create an odour nuisance, or the feeding of wild animals may attract pests.

How Auckland Council helps maintain human-animal bonds

We make rules about animal ownership and interaction to minimise risks to public health and safety, nuisance, offensive behaviour and misuse of council-controlled public places.

The current rules are set in Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ture-ā-rohe Tiaki Kararehe 2015 / the Auckland Council Animal Management Bylaw 2015 and associated controls.

Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

We recently checked how the rules are working and identified potential improvements.

Our main proposals are to:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

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