

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**LOCAL BOARD NOT SUPPLIED
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1
(95–133)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
95		Not supplied
96		Not supplied
97		Not supplied
98		Not supplied
99		Not supplied
100		Not supplied
101		Not supplied
102	Ngati Rango	Not supplied
103		Not supplied
104		Not supplied
105		Not supplied
106		Not supplied
107		Not supplied
108		Not supplied
109		Not supplied
110		Not supplied
111	Apiculture New Zealand	Not supplied
112	New Zealand Beekeeping Inc	Not supplied
113		Not supplied
114		Not supplied
115	Forest & Bird	Not supplied
116		Not supplied
117		Not supplied
118		Not supplied
119		Not supplied
120		Not supplied
121		Not supplied
122		Not supplied
123		Not supplied
124		Not supplied
125		Not supplied
126		Not supplied
127		Not supplied
128		Not supplied
129		Not supplied
130		Not supplied
131		Not supplied
132		Not supplied
133	Lion Apiaries	Not supplied



Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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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:

- 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).
- 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
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Organisation (if applicable):

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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:

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- 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 fewer rules.

Tell us why: I believe the current beekeeping rules are sufficient. The law has powers to ensure bees are not a "nuisance".

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? Other

Tell us why: I neither agree or disagree.

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 beekeeping rules should be left as is. Too many rules will only lead to more non compliance.

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

Tell us why: I think more information should be shared regarding the importance of keeping bees in urban areas. Every hive and more should be encouraged, and bee poo and pollen are every small price to pay for the benefits of having bees in our environment. More spaces should be utilized for bee keeping as since the arrival of diseases and mites, the main survival of bees in nz are down to the hobbyist beekeeper. The importance of this should be shared and encouraged as the benefits are countless and essential. It would be a devastation for those who are trying to make a positive environmental difference to be discouraged by law and hives distructed in the process. Thank you

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: less than 500 sq no hives

500-1000 1 hive

2 hives up to 1000 sq meters

1000 - 2000 2 allowed and can apply for a license to increase and define a max limit

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Tell us why:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: I see the logic

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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 rules proposed for the reduction of bee hives in an urban area to two and to have to seek approval to place them on urban premises less than 600m2 would destroy the urban bee keeping industry.

I have kept bees on my property in Mt Roskill for 10 years and have at times had up to six hives without any issues. Whoever has proposed this rule obviously has no knowledge of bee keeping. Bee hives have to be split every year or they will swarm so each season you start off with one hive and it becomes two and two become four. What do you expect beekeepers to do with the hives when they exceed the two allowed. Swarming bees are far more dangerous to neighbours than the hives themselves and unless you stand right in front of the hive entrance its unlikely that "neighbours" would be affected.

Hives can be orientated and flight paths managed to avoid neighbours - I do this regularly and have never received any complaints.

As a registered bee keeper I already pay fees to MPI and have my hives regularly inspected. It is not fair that I should have to pay yet another fee to council just for the privilege of keeping bees in my own property

Bees are essential to our existence, the proposed rule doesn't fit with council's clean green image or climate change policy. and I am strongly opposed to any restrictions on the keeping of bees, their numbers or paying another fee.

If council wants to have some control when hives are causing problems, then work with MPI to crack down on the unregistered beekeepers who as a result of their ignorance make it harder for the rest of us.

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

Tell us why: not any significant change

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

Tell us why: makes it easier to understand

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

I would urge the decision makers to make no changes in respect to the keeping of bees. What you are proposing is unworkable for bee management.

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

Tell us why: 2 hives is too strict

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

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

Tell us why: I think you should absolutely require a license to have more than 2 hives on less than 2000sqm

There should also be property checks done to make sure people comply. Our neighbor has so many hives and it has caused us huge problems over the years. The bee poo the swarming and the lack of care for the bees. The council have not been helpful at all due to the existing bylaw

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

Tell us why: Because currently it's ambiguous

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

Tell us why: I don't agree with the proposed land size / hive ratio. (2000sqm 2 hives).

Maximum number of hives allowed, (if any) should be at LEAST 5 hives.

Section size needs to be smaller as well maybe 800sqm+?

Beehive also need to be defined, summer hive has approx 50000 bees - winter hive has approx 5000 bees. Queen breeding hives have approx 5000 bees. Nuc box has fewer again. 1 summer hive = 20 nuc boxes.

Some areas of Auckland subdivisions etc with smaller sections and more houses should have less hives. Areas with 1/4 acre / bigger sections can accommodate more hives.

A "bracketed" system (if any) would be fairer 2 hives per 200sqm or similar.

My preference would be to leave as it. No limit as long as the bees aren't being a nuisance to immediate neighbours.

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? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: How are you going to police people feeding pigeons/ ducks?

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? Other

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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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:

- 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).
- 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
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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Ngati Rango

Your local board: Not supplied

Your feedback

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

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- 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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Unless it impedes or is causing a nuisance to neighbors people should be able to harvest honey.

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: Management of animals

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- 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: Clarity is paramount

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: Number limit is important for bee hive survival and also to help limit spread of disease between hives.

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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: Easier everything is in one place

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

Tell us why: Stops people arguing on interpretation of language used

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Organisation (if applicable):

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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: Please don't make any restrictions for beekeepers. There have been no rules so far, and Auckland doesn't need them now. Making new restrictions will only make more unnecessary work for Auckland Council. As with other councils, most beekeepers just ignore rules anyway, with zero detrimental effects for the council.

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

Tell us why: Making easy is good

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

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

Tell us why: Miakebit consistant

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Organisation (if applicable):

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Your feedback

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

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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:

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? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: Dear Auckland Council

Once again Auckland dog and cat owners/lovers have to justify their companion animals being able to live in Auckland.

I've been sent an email from you regarding feedback for yet another revision to the Animal Management Bylaw ... this time it's the 2015 version. I've lost count of the submissions and presentations I've made to Auckland Council regarding policies and bylaws for our animals but if you have a file with my name on it you'll be able to see what I've done over the years.

Your recent email includes the very vague mention of "incorporate rules from another bylaw about the feeding of animals on private property". What does this mean? This could be anything from throwing toast crusts to sparrows on a Council berm, giving a treat to a neighbour's dog or the intent I think is hiding behind that seemingly innocuous proposed change ... making it illegal for individual animal welfarists and animal charities to feed and desex homeless or abandoned cats, and likewise dogs until they can be uplifted and rehomed.

Please advise what that proposed change actually means and entails.

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

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- aligning the Bylaw and control structure, format, and wording with current drafting practices.

What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: From previous experience I find Auckland Council very much against companion animals in Auckland and I don't have great expectations of revised policies and bylaws being in favour of companion animals.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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Our main proposals are to:

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Not supplied

Your feedback

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

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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: I think that bees are very important for the eco system and pollinating vegetables and fruit plants which can be particularly hard in urban areas. Therefore if there are restrictions it should be for smaller plots of land

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: Easier to find all the animal info in one place.

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? Other

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Wasting time and money on the relatively minor issue and hobby of bee keeping which helps the environment when the much larger issue of too many cats isn't even allowed to be discussed. This is totally backwards and in conflict with all the environmental initiatives the council is pushing.

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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Not supplied

Your feedback

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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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: A limit of 2 hives per urban section sounds reasonable.

Requiring approval on any urban property that is less than 600m2 sounds reasonable.

Glad to hear rural area's would not be affected.

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:

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: Can't say without reading the changes intended.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Not supplied

Your feedback

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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? Other

Tell us why: Hive numbers on a property

I agree with the proposal that an approval should be required to keep more than a specific number of beehives on an urban property. This proposal is appropriate with regards to the management of effects on neighbouring property owners and occupiers. It is also appropriate with regards to the health of the bee population in the neighbourhood, taking into account the seasonal availability of food. However, it is important to consider the sustainability of each apiary when assessing this proposal. For a number of reasons, a significant number of beehives die or are abandoned through swarming every year. Through no fault of the beekeeper, there is a significant risk that any single hive will not survive the winter (refer to the data from MPI presented in Table 1 below). It should be noted that MPI also indicated in 2015 that commercial beekeepers lost fewer hives than non-commercial beekeepers. Although I have not been through all of the MPI data, it seems reasonable to assume that this balance applies every year. Therefore, it is critical for any beekeeper to maintain at least two hives throughout the year to safeguard their operation against the risk of failure. This issue is reflected in the in current wording of Proposal 1 permitting up to two hives to be kept on properties of less than 2,000 m2.

Table 1: Winter hive losses in New Zealand (MPI bee colony loss survey from the MPI).

Year Hive losses Estimated percentage loss rate (1,2)

2020 99,150 11.30% (11.07%)

2019 81,960 10.46% (10.68%)

2018 10.21% (12.82%)

2017 9.84% (9.90%)

2016 9.78% (8.19%)

2015 10.73%

Notes: 1) Values in brackets are estimates for the Auckland Region only.

2) The statistical methodology changed in 2018 and the previous year's results were recalculated. The values provided here are from the original annual reports.

I note that many urban beekeepers only maintain a single hive. These beekeepers have accepted the risk of hive loss or have not actually considered the matter. Naturally, there is a significant financial cost to replace a lost hive if the owner does not have a second viable hive available to split. As a good beekeeper who wants to manage hives well and minimise risk of swarming, you split each existing hive in early spring. This minimises the risk of early spring swarming as you create an environment of controlled artificial swarming. New queen rearing in the new hive can take up to two months to be sure of success. During that time the new hive is not opened and should not be disturbed, due to greatly increased risk of queen rearing failure. This queen rearing process means that during spring even hobby beekeepers may necessarily be operating with up to four hives, two old hives and two new hives. This practice greatly reduces the risk of early spring swarming. Once the new queen has been successfully raised, two fully functional hives are either taken off the property or can be merged back with the old hives, reducing the total number of hives on the property to two. When merging the hives, the old queen is removed. This widely used practice helps to ensure the sustainability of the beekeeping operation and provides healthy replacement hives for beekeepers who have lost their hives over the winter. The above description of a healthy, widely used beekeeping operation demonstrates the reasonable

need for:

1. Maintaining two hives on a property year-round, and
2. Keeping up to four hives on a property during the period while new queens are raised.

The current proposal does not appear to permit the keeping of more than one hive through the year as the splitting of this hive will result in two hives being on the property during the queen rearing period. This proposal therefore endangers the natural replenishment of queen and hive stocks within the Auckland urban area. It should be noted that the loss of a queen from a property holding only a single hive means the complete loss of the hive or the purchase of a queen from another beekeeper or a commercially raised queen. If beekeepers inside Auckland are limited in the number of hives they keep, the only remaining option is a commercial source. Issues that arise here are: 1. The purchaser has no control over the genetics of the queen and the behaviour of her offspring, with the possibility that this queen may raise more aggressive offspring. 2. The potential for introducing disease to the area. 3. The significant financial costs involved.

Standard Beehive Size

The size of the standard beehive as described in Section 6 of the proposed amended Animal Management Bylaw is defined as:

Standard Beehive means a hive that has inner assembled dimensions up to and no greater than:

- (i) length: 465mm
- (ii) width: 365mm; and
- (iii) depth: 238mm.

These dimensions do not reflect the size of a normal beehive. They are the internal dimensions of a single full size brood box, or a super, belonging to the type of hive referred to as a Langstroth hive. Langstroth hives, the most commonly used in New Zealand, are made up of a vertical stack of wooden boxes called supers. Supers come in three standard depths: deep, medium, and shallow. These supers are sometimes referred to as full-depth, $\frac{3}{4}$ depth, and half depth. The super internal dimensions are provided below.

- Full depth 465 x 365 x 238 mm
- $\frac{3}{4}$ depth 485 x 405 x 185 mm
- Half depth 485 x 405 x 133 mm

A Langstroth hive consists of several supers stacked on top of each other. The lowest super tends to be a full depth box and higher supers tend to consist of $\frac{3}{4}$ or half depth boxes, although full depth boxes may also be used. The lowest super tends to be the brood box for the hive, with the upper supers containing additional brood and stores of honey and pollen. A functioning beehive cannot consist of one full depth super alone although a single super with a viable colony core is often sold as a starter for a new beehive.

A healthy Langstroth hive in late summer of a good honey producing year could easily consist of one full depth brood box and five to six $\frac{3}{4}$ depth supers. This increase in hive size is necessary to accommodate the natural increase in bee numbers during the peak nectar supply season of late spring and early summer. The additional super boxes provide enough space for the bees to gather nectar and pollen to support the increasing population. This increase in space is also necessary to avoid swarming as a result of the queen running out of space to lay eggs and leaving the hive to find a new home. In late summer a beekeeper will normally reduce the size of the hive to a brood box plus perhaps two additional supers to help the colony control its internal temperature through the winter. At the same time the queen will have reduced laying and the older bees will be dying off. Consequently, the bee count in the hive decreases naturally. These additional supers contain the food stores required to enable the hive to survive the winter. A natural beekeeper will ensure their bees have sufficient capped honey stores in these supers to support the hive through the winter, without the need to provide supplementary sugar feed. Once established, a fully functional "standard beehive" will never consist of only a single brood box as proposed in the current version of the bylaw. It should also be noted that bee hives do not necessarily have to follow the Langstroth design, although components of the internal dimensions tend to be similar due to the use of standardised frames within the beehive. For example, a Long-Bench Hive design recently introduced to Auckland has all of the honey and brood frames inserted in a single level hive, which is approximately three times as wide as a Langstroth hive. This design is popular among hobby beekeepers as it reduces the risk of back injuries arising from lifting heavy supers full of honey. There is also no reason why other designs cannot be developed or used by beekeepers within the Auckland urban area. Many different designs have been used historically throughout the world.

In summary, the definition of the “standard beehive” as presented in the proposed bylaw does not represent a viable hive.

Recommendations

My recommendations with regards to amended rules for the proposed bylaw are as follows:

Section 6

Standard Beehive means a hive that has inner assembled dimensions up to and no greater than:

- (i) length: 465mm
- (ii) width: 365mm; and
- (iii) depth: 238mm.

Section 8

An approval is required to keep bees in some circumstances

(1) A person on premises in an urban area may keep two standard beehives in premises less than 2000 square metres in size.

I submit: The word “standard” should be removed and not replaced.

I submit: Up to two beehives may be kept on a property less than 2,000 square metres in size except through the queen rearing period from September to December inclusive, during which time up to four beehives may be kept on a property.

I submit: The wording of Section 8 (1) should be changed to:

An approval is required to keep bees in some circumstances

(1) A person may keep up to two beehives on premises less than 2000 square metres in size in an urban area during the period from January to August and up to four beehives on these premises through the queen rearing period from September to December.

I submit: This description of a “standard beehive” should be removed and not replaced. The bylaw should simply refer to the word “beehive” which is also defined under Section 6.

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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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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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:

- 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).
- 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: Not supplied

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? Other

Tell us why: Certainty and to avoid perverse incentives (for example owning mega hives). But the definition of a beehive needs to fit in with the national standard for beehives across the country. There is no need to reinvent a successful wheel. These tiny dimensions are utterly impossible. A restrictive rule such as proposed will damage the industry, even on larger sites, as people risk breaking rules in order to manage the hives to contain diseases. A best practise and disease focused scheme need to be at the centre of all decisions. The definition should be like the Thames-Coromandel DC bylaw, as attached: Thames-Coromandel District Council - Animal Nuisance bylaw (tcdc.govt.nz) And I quote: Beehive and hive means any receptacle housing a honey bee colony for the purposes of honey production, and includes 1 receptacle per colony used solely for the purposes of queen breeding, hive maintenance and swarm prevention purposes. health and safety: if council want people to be engaged in bees then maybe set up a community space as I suggested a few years ago. There are much larger H and S issues in the community than bees. Bees offer a vector to all to engage in the bigger social and community and environmental issues we all face. Nuisance: bee poo will only become an issue if the bees are sick, and the proposed rule of one box will hinder the management of the colony. Offensive behaviour: by what or who? The bee or the beekeeper? These issues already fall into the other acts and should not be part of this bylaw. And if you are referring to the bee then that maybe covered by the Nuisance: line above. misuse of council-controlled public places. How is this possible? What about the council Ngahere tree coverage? In Howick's Crawford reserve there are magnolia trees that produce huge amounts of pollen, if these trees are removed as the community want then the bee issue in that area will be removed. Also magnolia pollen is not that good for bees either native of for the Italian honey bees. How can council get people to engage with nature and as the opening heading states with bees if bees are not allowed? See attachment for more info

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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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).
- 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
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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Not supplied

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?

Tell us why: My position on this is as a beekeeper, but also as a beekeeper with 18 years' experience beekeeping in urban Auckland. I teach beekeeping for the Auckland Beekeepers Club, Otago Polytech, Northtec, contract to the AFB PMP. (American Foulbrood Pest management program under the biosecurity act) contract for the Exotics surveillance in beehives and been involved in Bee Pathogen research. I was involved in the current by-laws written around 2014. While some changes have been seen in both beekeeping growth, and operation management NZ can be proud that we have some of the healthiest honeybees in the world.

The proposal below: -

- require an approval to keep more than two standard beehives on urban premises with a land area less than 2000 square metres (no approval is currently required). Note: Council has heard a range of views about limits on beehives in urban areas and is seeking feedback:
 - o on allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two
 - o on limits for different sized urban premises than the proposed 2000 square metres

Currently in the bylaws you will read it is a legal requirement to register beehives under the biosecurity acts. This is now done through HiveHub still with the AFB PMP.

1. My first concern is your proposal to require approval to keep more than 2 hives on an urban section of 2000m² or less. If you make beekeepers register their beehives with the council NZ could face people hiding their beehives and non-registered if they are paying for 2 registrations, this could be a disaster for AFB management.
2. Your proposal to require approval to keep more than 2 hives on an urban section of 2000m² or less will have the opposite of the intended effect of better bee management. A good beekeeper should have a minimum of two hives, so that they can best manage the colonies to ensure their continued good health. This means that they can merge the hives if one is not strong or split the hive if it is needed. Also, one of the ways to manage swarming is to remove the old queen to a nuc box (small hive) with about half the bees. That way, she will think she has swarmed and then will not leave and cause a nuisance in the community. This means that there needs to be the ability for the number of hives to go up and down as good apiary management dictates. It should be careful beekeeping that is the objective, not a specified number of hives that will likely have perverse outcomes - i.e., let the old queen swarm rather than need to get an approval for another hive.
3. I strongly advocate that you keep the current no limit system. Beekeeping is already highly regulated, you risk losing urban bees which would be an environmental disaster. It could lead to a massive explosion in the wasp population which urban beekeepers currently work to control. Wasps are inarguably a much bigger nuisance than bees, without the pollination value that bees offer. Responsible beehive management is key to minimizing the occurrence of bee swarms and nuisance from excrement. A first step should be to establish that the problem is honeybees and not wasps, as the public can often confuse the two.
4. Your 'Problem Definition' as described does not cite any issues from urban beekeeping. That suggests that in terms of beekeeping, the existing bylaw is working well and does not need to be changed. They is already the Management Agency which could be utilized.
5. Nuisance factors already dictate hive management. This should be the key criteria. One hive, poorly sited can easily cause a nuisance, but 4 well-sited urban hives will be no problem at all. Currently- Establish what management practice is not being applied and negotiate with the beekeeper to change their management practice to comply with the

bylaw and to mitigate the problem. If negotiation is unsuccessful, arrange for a beekeeper listed in section 2.2.3 to meet on-site and negotiate with the beekeeper. I do not believe the council has used this resource, people like myself can give a balanced outcome for all parties.

I would like to be informed when you will be analyzing all feedback received and providing a summary to the public for view, and when all feedback will be considered by a Bylaw Panel at a public meeting in October 2021.

I note: - Any person is welcome to attend and listen to the Bylaw Panel and Governing Body proceedings, but there will not be an opportunity to have your say at either meeting. I am surprised by this statement as ratepayers we must be able to have our say.

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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Our main proposals are to:

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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
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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Apiculture New Zealand

Your local board: Not supplied

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 fewer rules.

Tell us why: Overall, ApiNZ does not agree with the proposal and think that there should be less rules. The main reasons we disagree with the proposal are given below.

Bylaw definitions

The proposed bylaw contains a new definition that relates to beekeeping:

- Standard Beehive means a hive that has inner assembled dimensions up to and no greater than: (i) length: 465mm (ii) width: 365mm; and (iii) depth: 238mm.

ApiNZ does not support the proposed definition of a standard beehive as it only allows one box per beehive. This does not allow beekeepers to add additional boxes to support the growth of the colony in situations where the bees need more space. Beekeepers often need to use several boxes to house a bee colony.

Limit of two beehives per premise under 2,000m² unless approval is granted

ApiNZ does not support this proposal in section 8 of the proposed bylaw. A standard beehive is defined as a hive that has inner assembled dimensions up to and no greater than: (i) length: 465mm (ii) width: 365mm; and (iii) depth: 238mm.

This proposal would have the effect of meaning that every urban beekeeper would need to apply for approval as the limit is too restrictive. Beekeepers need flexibility with the number of boxes per hive, so that they can manage their colonies to ensure their continued good health.

ApiNZ believes the key animal management criteria should be nuisance factor (as is the case in the 2015 bylaw). One poorly sited hive can cause much more of a problem than four well sited hives.

ApiNZ supports the current policy of having compulsory minimum standards for responsible beekeeping in urban areas so that concerns related to public health, safety and nuisance can be managed.

ApiNZ supports the additional guidelines that were introduced in the 2015 Bylaw that we understand the Auckland Beekeeping Club had input into developing. These include managing flight paths, minimising the occurrence of swarming, collecting swarms and providing a water source for bees.

Many predominantly urban councils, including Hamilton City Council, Tauranga City Council, Wellington City Council, and Hutt City Council do not have any stipulations on how many hives can be kept by land area of the premises, but instead use guidelines on how hives should be managed. ApiNZ believes this is a more pragmatic approach to ensure best practice beekeeping in line with the public's expectations around safety and nuisance.

Approval process

The proposed bylaw contains the following a provision: "those with more than two standard hives in an urban area will need to apply for an animal management licence, pay a fee and include a scaled site plan showing where the hives would be contained on the property. When an application is submitted, compliance officers would consider matters including:

- Beehive location and the size and suitability of the site Flight path of bees when foraging
- Housing for the bees and potential nuisance to neighbours

Section 8(3) of the proposed bylaw sets a six-month phase in period for existing urban beekeepers who have more than the permitted two hives to apply for approval for any additional hives.”

If a maximum number of hives is to be set, ApiNZ supports a higher number of hives than two to give beekeepers greater flexibility to manage swarms. If an approval process is introduced, ApiNZ supports having a phase-in period as this gives beekeepers time to comply with the proposed new provisions. There is, however, a risk that beekeepers could abandon additional hives rather than applying for consent. These abandoned hives could spread bee diseases such as varroa and American foulbrood (AFB).

General feedback

ApiNZ is concerned that Auckland Council’s proposal under Proposal 1 could become so restrictive and costly that the Council could lose the benefits of keeping bees in the urban environment, notably the benefits in pollinating plants from flowers, native trees and bush to vegetable and fruit crops. Beekeeping is a worthwhile and rewarding hobby and while it needs to be managed, particularly in the urban environment, we would encourage greater flexibility overall.

Comments on the responsible beekeeping information

ApiNZ has identified incorrect or outdated information that should be amended:

- Registrations of beehives for the purposes of controlling AFB are no longer managed byASUREQuality. These registrations are now managed by The Management Agency, National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan through its online platform Hive Hub (see www.afb.org.nz/hivehub for more information).
- The National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (NBA) no longer exists and beekeepers should be directed to Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) instead.

It may be helpful to include a link to Apiculture New Zealand’s Beekeeper Code of Conduct (<https://apinz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ApiNZ-Beekeeper-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>) which aims to promote 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, landowners and other apiarists, and considers the sustainability of the bees and the environment that supports them.

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What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): New Zealand Beekeeping Inc

Your local board: Not supplied

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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: NZ Beekeeping have considered the changes that relate to the number of beehives a person may keep in an urban area. As beekeeping in urban environments has become popular there have been an increase in issues that have resulted. NZ Beekeeping Inc recognise the desirability to allow hobby beekeeping to operate in an urban environment. The need has been established for some control of beekeeping activities in order that a nuisance is not caused to nearby residents. Site density of hives. As a general comment, for a hobby beekeeper to sustain his beekeeping it is necessary to maintain a minimum of 2 beehives. This allows for the interchange of equipment sometimes necessary should one colony become compromised. There will also be times when hives become too populous and a small colony needs to be split from a parent hive.

NZ Beekeeping recognise the practical aspects and in trying to come up with conditions that could be written into bylaws. We consider it appropriate for hive density to be limited to 2 standard beehives. Management will need to allow for swarming and we support there may need to be a nucleus colony to be on the site as a temporary measure. This is highlighted in the guidance box under Minimise the occurrence of swarming. NZ Beekeeping acknowledges provision has been made for an approval process to allow greater colony density on parcels of land that exceed 2,000 sq m. We envisage this provides for use of bees as maybe needed for pollination of lifestyle or horticultural land use. The definition of a standard beehive. Although there is a standard for beehives in NZ, some beekeepers build their own 'non-standard' beehive sometimes with a different configuration to a traditional beehive. NZ Beekeeping consider the bylaws do not need to specify the size or configuration of a beehive that is able to be placed on an urban section. This provides for those beekeepers that operate - a coffin like structure on legs. Beekeeping in this type of hive suits those with decreased mobility and strength to lift heavy boxes to expose and manage the brood nest. Bees do not always act as man's other pets' do where we provide food and water on a daily basis. Even 'domesticated' bees do not need daily maintenance as other animals do. They foraging range is a circle generally up to 2km from their hive, that's a rough area of 11sq km. Sometimes despite our best efforts as pet owners to put a bowl of water out for our beehives the bees prefer to drink from a nearby creek NZ Beekeeping Inc has a membership of beekeepers including those that have been associated with bees for 60 or more years. As an organisation of practical beekeepers we do not see the same need as those writing the bylaws for the beekeeper to ensure a water source is provided on the property where the bees are kept. If there are issues with bees drinking in a place that is causing nuisance then this is better dealt with by the council and the beekeeper at the time.

Guidance block in bylaws.

NZ Beekeeping appreciate the general information provided in the guidance box can be considered sound advice, some of that information is outdated and other information is misleading. With the increase of beekeeping in NZ and particularly with increases in hobby beekeeping many of the undesirable aspects associated with beekeeping are becoming a concern within the beekeeping industry. Overstocking and associated spread of bee diseases and pests continues to impact on the beekeeping industry. NZ Beekeeping supports limited beekeeping in the urban environment where neighbours are not impacted by actions of the urban beekeepers.

Conclusion and Recommendation.

NZ Beekeeping Inc members have been made aware of the proposal and the Executive have provided comment where we see fit. In all the major change is the limitation of beekeeping activity by proposing a 2 colony limit.

1. NZ Beekeeping support the proposal with use of an associated nucleus colony on a temporary basis.

2. NZ Beekeeping do not consider the provision of water needs to be a bylaw as it may not actually address any perceived 'problem'.

3. NZ Beekeeping hive do not consider there needs to be a specific definition for a 'standard' hive.

NZ Beekeeping recommend the council adopt the proposal in principle and consider there may need to be minor changes to clarify the points we identify.

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What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

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

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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: i agree with the limit but the definition of what a hive is is wrong.

if you only allow hives in 1 bee box they will swarm and make bigger nuisances. The hives need to grow seasonally and so should be allowed as many boxes as required in the summer nectar flow.

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

Tell us why: We need more pollinators and less moaners. Will affect people's livelihood's/hobbies and is just more bureaucracy and paperwork.

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Organisation (if applicable): Forest & Bird

Your local board: Not supplied

Your feedback

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What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why: We support the inclusion of rules about the feeding of animals on private property to the Animal Management Bylaw rather than the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015.

3. We suggest Auckland Council considers similar bylaws relating to feeding animals on public land. We highlight that the feeding of unmanaged stray or feral animal populations has huge ramifications for not only the species being fed but also the people that feed or come into contact with those animals. For example, the feeding of a large population of wild chickens in West Auckland attracted huge rats to the area which scavenged the same food¹. Similarly, stray and feral cats carry high loads of zoonotic disease² which then exposes the people feeding those cats but also people that may inadvertently come into contact with those cats e.g. children in sandpits where a cat may have defecated.

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What is your opinion on this proposal?

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

We use this opportunity to strongly advocate that controls around cats are included in the Animal Management Bylaw. Forest & Bird encourages Auckland Council to adopt meaningful cat management policies and regulations to support responsible domestic cat ownership, to minimise risk to human health and to minimise the risk of nuisance cats to biodiversity.

5. We acknowledge that Auckland Council's concerns about wildlife protection are addressed through Biosecurity Act 1993, specifically Auckland Council's Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan and not a Bylaw. However, that Plan specifically regulates feral cats and is silent on strays and nuisance cats. The fact that Auckland Council has determined that registration and microchipping of cats should require central government legislation similar to the Dog Control Act 1996 is simply unacceptable. We do not disagree that a Cat Management Act is long overdue but it will take examples of leadership from councils such as the Auckland Council to demonstrate to central government that regulation is not only necessary, it is supported by the public. Whanganui District and Palmerston North City councils passed their bylaws with

compulsory microchipping, desexing and a three cat limit recently and there was little to no negative public reaction. Now it is Auckland Council's turn to lead.

6. Forest & Bird are pleased to see that Auckland Council has non-regulatory advice relating to responsible cat ownership in Auckland³ which is aligned to Forest & Bird's views around de-sexing and microchipping. However, considerable leadership has been demonstrated in many district and city councils around the country in recent years to address the stray and nuisance cat issues in a regulatory manner. We urge Auckland Council, to be part of this leadership approach for Aucklanders and Auckland's natural environment.

7. Cats are predators. Domestic cats pose a significant risk to native and endemic birds, lizards, and insects throughout New Zealand. The detrimental direct effect of cats on populations of native species has been widely recognised and documented^{4,5} and include devastating examples such as a recent case where a single domestic cat decimated the breeding attempts of native banded dotterels breeding on a beach in Wellington harbour, for the second season in a row.⁶

8. Domestic cats are also carriers of zoonotic diseases. This includes toxoplasmosis said to now be present in a high percentage of New Zealanders⁷ and a contributing factor in the death of a number of native species^{8,9,10}. Recent research from Australia has shown that the costs associated with diseases transmitted by cats cost the Australian economy more than A\$6 billion annually through their impact on human health and the agricultural sector¹¹.

9. Domestic cats do not respect property boundaries. They are the cause of many cases of nuisance such as defecating in peoples' gardens as well as having the potential to kill the beloved pets (birds, guinea pigs etc) of those who have no control over the unwanted movements of others' free-ranging cats. Furthermore, cats (particularly un-neutered toms) pose a significant threat to other cats and can cause innocent families large vet bills after a fight.

10. When poorly managed, irresponsible owners of domestic cats contribute to the growth of stray and feral cats, which have even more devastating impacts.¹²

Forest & Bird acknowledges the position cats hold as a valued companion animal to loving owners. As a loved animal, these owners also need to take responsibility for their cat's behaviour. Limiting the number of cats on a property and ensuring all cats are de-sexed and microchipped is the bare minimum of this responsibility.

Forest & Bird proposes a limit of three cats per household

12. New Zealanders show a high level (>65%) of support for limits to be placed on the number of cats owned per household¹³. We note that in the pre-engagement undertaken by Council, a number of residents specifically noted the need for tougher limits on pet numbers. In Whanganui last year, as part of its Animal Bylaw review, Council staff undertook an online survey of residents. When asked to consider the most appropriate number of cats per premises, 48% of respondents considered two cats or fewer were the most appropriate while 34% considered that four cats was the most appropriate number¹⁴.

13. Forest & Bird requests a limit on the number of cats per household across Auckland to three. Over 50% of councils that regulate cat numbers have set the limit to three (Table 1.). Whanganui District Council amended its draft Bylaw from a limit of four to three cats per household. Similarly, during its Animal Bylaw review last year, New Plymouth District Council reduced its cat limit from five to three, in line with the direction other councils are taking around New Zealand and in response to the service requests and complaints received relating to nuisance from cats.

Forest & Bird proposes that microchipping and registering is compulsory

14. Forest & Bird believes that microchipping and registering cats should be required of all cat owners. Requiring individuals to microchip and register their cats allows for a clear delineation between stray, feral and free-roaming owned cats. Identification of cats is paramount to ensuring that effective strategies for control of un-owned cats, that Council may wish to undertake, can progress.

15. In this context, catching microchipped cats allows an opportunity to educate that cat owner who may have previously been oblivious to the negative impact their cat was having in the local community. Furthermore, compulsory microchipping would bring Auckland Council in line with recent bylaws enacted by Whanganui, Palmerston North, Wellington City³² and more recently, Selwyn District Council³³.

16. Microchipping is a well-supported management tool for cats in New Zealand, with almost 80% of the general public in favour of a national requirement for mandatory microchipping (in addition to restriction of cat numbers and mandatory desexing)³⁴. The Ministry for Primary Industry's Code of Welfare: Companion Cats 2018's Recommended Best Practice is that cats should be identified with a microchip³⁵. Given microchipping is compulsory for dog owners, few cat owners will be put off by the imposition of the cost of microchipping to ensure the protection of their companion animal.

Forest & Bird proposes the compulsory requirement to de-sex cats

17. Forest & Bird suggests Auckland Council would be lagging behind other councils if it did not include the requirement to de-sex cats in this bylaw review. Taranaki, Palmerston North and Whanganui District Councils all included de-sexing in their recent Keeping of Animals Bylaw reviews.

18. The reproductive potential of a single female cat is estimated at 300 kittens in her reproductive lifetime. The potential for a male cat is far beyond that. MPI's Code of Welfare states puberty can occur from four months of age. Responsible cat ownership includes having cats desexed at or before puberty. Forest & Bird would support the provision of targeted funding towards voluntary de-sexing and the establishment of an education programme teaching responsible cat ownership.

19. If council officers have any further questions about the contents of this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me. (See attachment for more info)

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

Tell us why: Does not support the proposal to limit beehives in urban areas as this will not reduce bee-related nuisance and create tension between neighbours through increased complaints. Notes that the approval system will be inconvenient and costly for beekeepers and council. Advocates for retaining existing rules and encouraging people experiencing nuisance to contact their neighbours with beehives to resolve issues.

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Notes that increased urbanisation impacts the amount of farmland in Auckland and advocates for the protection of farmland

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