

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**HENDERSON-MASSEY LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1 (31–41)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
31		Henderson-Massey
32		Henderson-Massey
33		Henderson-Massey
34		Henderson-Massey
35		Henderson-Massey
36		Henderson-Massey
37		Henderson-Massey
38		Henderson-Massey
39		Henderson-Massey
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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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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.

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- the Bylaw continues to focus on the impact of animals on people
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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Henderson-Massey

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: I think it is simpler to let people speak when there is a problem. I imagine this will simply restrict people keeping bees where it hasn't been a problem. This could be managed like the dog control program - people can complain anonymously if there is a problem, and at that point an Auckland Council worker can investigate.

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: Simpler is better - rules should be located in a place that is easy to find.

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

Tell us why: There is already a by-law that deals with this issue if hives are creating a nuisance. Just enforce the existing bylaw. Bees are essential to a functioning eco-systems. Bee-keepers already need to comply with numerous regulations and controls. Bees face many pest and disease challenges. Adding more regulation will be another disincentive to keeping bees. Please no more 'rules'

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?

Tell us why:

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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 section size and number of hives suggested in the proposal (2 hives per 2000sqm)

another compromise needs to be found eg if you live on a 1/4 acre section then you ample room for 5 hives without being an nuisance to neighbours, and if you live in a town house surrounded by town houses on 300sqm sections then you shouldn't have beehives at all.

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

Tell us why: if i want to feed a duck on my section then that is my right, if someone doesn't want the ducks on their land then they can chase them away

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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? No, I don't agree - there should be more rules

Tell us why: We desperately need healthy beez by upping controls you stifle

business progress. leave people alone to get on with a job. You are only interfering by creating new rules and regulations.

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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? Other

Tell us why: The day council makes rules and regulations more understandable and just, will be the day Rangitoto explodes.

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

Tell us why: Bees are critical for the environment, new zealand always was going alone with nature

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

Tell us why: For general public it is easier to find rules in one place they know, people are more likely to know about the property maintenance laws rather than animal 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: I don't see bees as problem animals.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: i have no opinion on this

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Tell us why: making thigs easier to understand gives the public a better chance to share their opinion.

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

Tell us why: Bees are needed but there needs to be a balance

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: Can they be in both?

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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: Hives should always be appropriately placed regardless of the size of the section. I would class that as good beekeeping. Yes a large section would be good but if joining properties are not crowded with building as a lot of areas are now becoming this should also be taken into account. Understanding neighbours are also important, which those around me appear to be.

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?

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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):

Your local board: Henderson-Massey

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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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: Allowing less beehives. Because more beehives can be better for us, but may not be good for the bees.

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: Because otherwise, bee farmers could go ahead and break the rules after not having clear show that these rules exist.

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

Tell us why: Same reason as last time.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

You could make a rule which could be no poisonings bees.

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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: It has always seemed to me that the existing rules for bees are extremely well written, and I now understand it was supported by extensive research at the time.

The existing bylaw allows the keeping of bees and at the same time protects the rights of neighbours. It requires that people keeping bees manage the bees in terms of water supply, flight paths and generally to avoid a nuisance to others.

If some beekeepers are causing a nuisance to their neighbours, whether by keeping a few colonies with inappropriate flight paths or by keeping too many colonies for the space they are in, those beekeepers are in breach of the existing bylaw. The council already has the ability to address the offending beekeepers. New restrictions are unnecessary.

I feel very strongly that the wording and intent of the existing bylaw in relation to bees does NOT need to be changed!

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: The clause in the Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2015 refers to "the active feeding of any wild or feral animal". The Animal Management Bylaw would seem to be about managed animals.

Preventing wild or feral animals from become a nuisance is a property management issue. A swarm of bees is wild or feral. Good property management would call a beekeeper to remove the swarm.

Keeping pets or domestic livestock in a manner that prevents a nuisance is an animal management issue. A managed colony of bees is not wild or feral. Good beekeeping practice will ensure that the bees are not hungry.

It would therefore NOT be appropriate to move rules about the feeding of [wild or feral] 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:

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

Tell us why: 1. Apiaries are already required to be registered nationally for which beekeepers already pay a fee. I do not see the need for the burden of additional registration and additional fees.

2. Limiting the number of hives to a low number shows a lack of understanding on the management of apiaries.

2.1 To reduce the risk of swarming a bee keeper would routinely increase or decrease the number of hives and the size of hives according to the season. Constraining the number or size of hives is a simplistic but incorrect metric to use.

2.2 Beekeepers who raise new queen bees routinely spilt and re-unite hives as part of the management process. Again constraining the number or size of hives is the wrong metric to use.

3. Limiting property size to 2000 square metres appears to be a rather arbitrary approach which does not take into account other factors.

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: Feral cats should not be fed or encouraged.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: No comment.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

I note that restrictions on cats are not proposed to change but cats are a much bigger nuisance in my neighborhood than bee keeping and I would strongly support a limit on the number of domestic cats allowed per property, no feral cats allowed, domestic cats to be collared with tags and bells and that cat owners be required to provide proper litter trays.

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