

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**FRANKLIN LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1
(18–30)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
18		Franklin
19		Franklin
20		Franklin
21		Franklin
22		Franklin
23		Franklin
24		Franklin
25		Franklin
26		Franklin
27		Franklin
28		Franklin
30	Franklin Beekeeping Club	Franklin



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
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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Franklin

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: There two full size bee hives in an urban setting is enough, I would add that additional "Nucs" up to four would also be sensible.

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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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: There should be no rules, insects are not animals, you give no explanation as to why there should be limits.

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: Insects are not animals, a very small number of people with hives may or may not create a nuisance, this is blanket policy.

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

Tell us why: I think you should not have to have a license for beehives unless you have more than 2 hives on a very small urban premises 600 sqm or an apartment. If you are on a section over 600sqm you should be allowed no limit.

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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 fewer rules.

Tell us why: The Bylaw is good as it stands with some understanding regarding bee management and the necessity for bees to exist, however there has never been a greater need now for recruitment of beekeepers. Bees cannot live in the wild any longer, the hive will just not survive. The Varroa mite, Diseased Wing Virus and AFB, to name just a few, will destroy the beehive and the Beekeeper is their only means of survival as they keep these diseases under control.

Beekeepers are concerned citizens that care for the environment. The dollar cost is very high to start and maintain this hobby so basically there are no irresponsible people that stay indefinitely – we are all avid keepers and love our hardworking bees.

What is really driving this change? Is it another income stream for the Council? Beekeeping is already a very expensive hobby and you are intending to increase the cost to Beekeepers whilst creating another revenue stream and employment for the Council!

I am sure that I do not need to go into the beneficial properties of honey and that the locality of the honey provides local allergy benefit.

Most hobbyist (urban) beekeepers seem to only manage 3 hives as they are a lot of work, but during the summer, to control swarming they will need to keep extending the hive and giving the bees enough room to gather honey and breed. This means that they will keep adding boxes on top of the brood boxes.

Swarming can be a nuisance to neighbours and it certainly is to Beekeepers and we try to prevent this if possible as it means they will lose the Queen and half of the bees from the main hive. It then takes a long time to build this main hive back up – get another Queen (2 weeks), wait for her to mate and start laying eggs 2-4 weeks, and then the young bees take 3 weeks to hatch - so we are keen to prevent this happening. The best way to do this is by adding boxes and extending the size of the hive before the Queen decides to expand somewhere else.

Another way to prevent swarming may be to split the hive. This means that the number of hives on the property will increase by one, but this hive is now very small (just a nucleus (NUC) box with 5 frames in) and often it is given/sold to a new beekeeper, or used to replace and build up an existing hive. So sometimes there may be more than the usual hives on the property on a temporary basis.

You can lose 2+ hives to disease very easily and have no hive to make a split from and restart a new hive. If you do not have another hive you will have to purchase again- a Queen and small number of bees to start off again. So you could be back down to 1 hive.

Another peril that has increased in the last couple of years are the German Wasps. These will take out a hive in a couple of weeks, getting in, killing the Queen and bees and raiding the nest for the honey. We have people in our Club that have lost many if not all their hives over a summer period and this is including some Commercial Beekeepers. The Council could do well to put money into the eradication of WASPS – they are truly the villains.

- Bees do no harm.
- Wasps do no good. Put work into this.
- Also how about a limit on the number of cats per household and see our birds increase.

Leave well alone and put effort into other matters.

1. On allowing more or fewer beehives without approval than the proposed two

- Absolute minimum permanent hives per property to be sustainable (not viable) would be 3 permanent but may extend temporarily (reasons explained).
 - Absolute minimum boxes per single hive is 2xbrood boxes and 2xhoney supers. (but this can get even bigger, reasons explained)
 - 3 hives are not sustainable in dollar terms so lets not put up costs, we are trying to encourage this activity.
2. On limits for different sized urban premises than the proposed 2000m2.
- There is a lot of work and expense to keeping bees healthy and mostly persons who are retired have this time and are those living in urban areas (not many retirees are on 10 acres). Most urban sections are well under 2000m2 (1/2 acre) some are 1000m2 (1/4 acre) a lot are smaller, so this bylaw would mean that all hives in the urban area would need a permit.
 - I keep 3 permanent hives and my neighbours were thrilled when I asked prior to getting the bees - they love the honey said that their produce has doubled on their fruit and vege gardens – so it's a win/win and no complaints.

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

Tell us why: If you are looking to have beehives on your property you need to be able to find the correct Bylaw. Anyone wanting bees do not consider them a "Maintenance & Nuisance". Hives are hard work keeping the bees disease-free, expensive and very environment necessary. If there are any rules or indeed no rules, and I believe that this issue is self managed by Beekeepers, a name change Animal/Bees Management Bylaw so the search engine picks this up.

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

Tell us why: as stated above

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

well you should require feedback on these other issues

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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: No approval needed for up to 2 beehives however if more are requested, a simple license is to be acquired.

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

Tell us why: Easier to find for those wanting to check the bylaws

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

Tell us why: Transparency

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Bee's are a very important part of our ecosystem and are under threat. To further reduce the ability to raise bees, is to also impact our environment. 2 Beehives should be allowed no matter what size the property.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: The bylaw should ensure that in the first instance the applicants must be Registered Beekeepers which by default captures location / number of hives / inspections etc. as per the Bio Security Act to manage AFB. The risk is in that in paying a Council fee and being registered at a local level absolves them of the first requirement.

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

Tell us why:

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Re-designation of an area for urban or future urban impacts an existing rural bee keeper

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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: We should be encouraging bees in urban areas - they're a useful part of the urban biosphere

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: dont care

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: dont care

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.

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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:

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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):

Your local board: Franklin

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 believe having more than 2 beehives should not need approval. I believe you can have up to 5 comfortably on an urban property without needing approval.

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: This is a good idea to make things easier for people to find.

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

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- 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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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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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Franklin

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: Limiting properties to only 2 hives is not fair, particularly if those properties and surrounding ones are reliant on pollination.

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: It makes sense to be limited in the immediate CBD area, but not the surrounds, and with Auckland being such a large area, it is very unfair to lump the majority in with the inner city dwellers. There are many small commercial businesses that operate with

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

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Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Please do not consider changing the laws

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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 bees, don't make it harder for those who want to keep to keep them. Decreasing the number allowed just reduces the number of bees, it does not increase the number of people who want them.

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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? Yes, I agree

Tell us why:

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Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Franklin

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

Tell us why: I think the process of applying for a permit is too onerous. There are already laws about registering your hives. I have seen plenty of hives in backyards where the neighbours have no idea they are there. There are already ways of dealing with nuisance hives, and they would be in the minority.

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

Tell us why:

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: Clearer understanding is always better!

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable): Franklin Beekeeping Club

Your local board: Franklin

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

Tell us why: The present rules enable Council to deal with any particular problems caused by beekeepers not following good management practices in urban areas. In practice beekeepers would be unlikely to site more than 2 hives on a residential section of say 600m² or under. However a section of 1000m² or more, even in an urban setting would generally provide a lot more options and with proper management would be unlikely to cause problems for neighbours or the public. Imp-osition of a licensing system would introduce another cost to hobbyist beekeepers.

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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- 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: The bylaw contains good accurate advice about beekeeping practices

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Beehive management in urban areas can be precarious because of modern day problems such as varroa infestation and pesticide overuse. The presence of bees is widely recognised as being beneficial to the natural environment in cities as well as rural areas.

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