

Date: Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**HIBISCUS & BAYS LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK
Vol. 1 (42–51)**

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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

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

Our main proposals are to:

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

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

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

Tell us why: Because I'm sick of my neighbors bees poo all over my car and house. By the time I've cleaned my windows the bees have shat on them before I've finished.

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

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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

Tell us why: The current rules are fine and work. This council already takes enough money from people and under deliver. Nobody should have to give any more money to "keep" a wild animal that could leave someones back yard in an instant.

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

Tell us why: that actually makes sense to have it under a animal by law. But you still don't need to change it. Just have a link to the law in both categories so it's easily found and accessible.

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: You just need to add a summary of definitions/Glossary. It doesn't need to be changed or fully re-written.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Bees are a wild animal nobody should have to pay anything to keep bees and there should be no hive restrictions. Bees can just get up and leave any time they like. So if you make someone register bees and pay a fee, when they do swarm and leave someones

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

Tell us why: Beekeeping is already regulated and this adds further overhead to a hobby. I'm OK with a limit on the number of hives on a non-rural property, but disagree that approval should be required.

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

Tell us why: Firstly, I'm happy to support the limit of two beehives per property.

However, the current definition of a beehive is misleading, which states that a beehive is one Langstroth dimension box. This is incorrect as the number and size of boxes can vary between hives depending on the time of the year.

In Spring and Summer, it is common to have two boxes for brood and one to two boxes for the honey super per hive to accommodate for the larger number of bees and nectar flow. Swarming typically occurs during this time and with a large enough hive, swarming can be prevented. However, with the current proposal of one box per hive, bees will not have enough room to expand and result in regular swarming and cause major disruptions to the community.

During winter, on the other hand, the size of the hive typically reduces to one brood box and one honey super box as the queen bee slows down laying eggs.

I would greatly appreciate it if this could be factored in the proposal and allow up to three standard size, full depth Langstroth box (2x brood and 1x honey super). Otherwise, two standard size, full depth Langstroth box and two $\frac{3}{4}$ depth Langstroth box (2x brood and 2x honey super) per hive, with a limit of two hives per property. This would provide enough flexibility for beekeepers to expand, when required, to prevent swarming while limiting the overall number of hives in the urban area to reduce bee pollution.

Thank you

Kind regards,

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

Tell us why: I have extensive and ongoing experience of bee poo all over my house windows , cars etc for some time now. I live in Red Beach - just normal suburban living, not expecting this type of nuisance factor. Get rid of bee hives in suburbia I say!

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

Tell us why: common sense

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

Tell us why: common sense

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Get rid of all bee hives in built up suburbs. If we wanted bee poo all over the place we would live in a rural setting.

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

Tell us why: Let people do what they like with their bees but they should consult close neighbours

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

Tell us why: Easier

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

Tell us why: Simpler

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

Tell us why: "Nuisance" should include cats, or they should be regarded as a menace to birds.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

rules in the bylaw SHOULD include the menace of cats to birds.

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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:

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Submitter details

Organisation (if applicable):

Your local board: Hibiscus and Bays

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: Given the threats that bees face it's critical that their wellbeing is considered, alongside that of the community.

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: It is a sensible solution.

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: Again - it seems sensible.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Thank you for the chance to provide feedback.

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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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

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

How Auckland Council helps maintain human-animal bonds

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

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

Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

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

Our main proposals are to:

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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: Whilst I think it is a good idea to regulate how many hives you have on smaller urban premises, to restrict the number of hives on a property of 2000sqm is very large to only have 2 hives. Also, what constitutes a hive? You could have 2 or 3 nucs, which only have a maximum combined number of 10,000 bees - or have a singular hive with 8 'Supers' (large honey boxes) which could have a total number of bees over 100,000! So having a set number of 'hives' isn't a great way of regulating the number of bees.

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:

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

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: As a small hobbyist bee keeper the restriction of two hives is not practical.

Bees can do the most unexpected things when we least expect and you could lose a queen or a complete hive through no fault of the beekeeper.

Two hives is far to restrictive 3-5 hives for a hobbyist should be the minimum number of hives kept at any one time on a property.

The cost to own beehives and compliance with AFB regs etc is expensive any more regulations and controls by council will deter beehive owners.

Look into the cost of being a small hobbyist beekeeper and then you will realise that more costs and restriction will deter future beekeepers. All the great work that has been undertaken by councils in the past will be undone.

It is an expensive hobby which is not entered into by many lightly because of the cost, care and laws that govern owning hives, which are already in place.

Living with nature in an urban environment is an important healthy option for everyone. There is no point in having community gardens, private gardens, schools and community groups being penalised.

Growing and learning about where our food comes from and helping people grow plants in a community environment is more important than ever today.

if there are no bees to pollinate the plants we will have created another problem.

I have just completed a course run by the govt to encourage people to enter the beekeeping industry. These changes will only do the reverse.

DONT PENALISE THE BEES OR BEEKEEPERS!!!

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

Tell us why: Only if this refers to bees.

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? No, I do not agree

Tell us why: The interpretation is different and should be for a public place in relation to bees.

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

Bees are needed in our community and gardens for the welfare of everyone. There are strict guide lines already with registering your bees, (The Management Agency, National American Foulbrood Pest Management) a rigorous AFB process. Council should work mor

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