

Date:

Friday, 30 July 2021

**ANIMAL MANAGEMENT
BYLAW REVIEW 2021**

**MANGERE-OTAHUHU LOCAL BOARD
WRITTEN FEEDBACK Vol. 1 (78–83)**

Sub #	Organisation Name	Local Board
78		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
79		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
80		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
81		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
82		Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
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Animal Management Bylaw Review 2021

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Improving the rules about animal ownership and interaction

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

Our main proposals are to:

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

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

Tell us why: we need more hives to have more bees to pollinate the flowers, fruits, vegetables. Need more biodiversity

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: logical

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: logical

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: Bee keeping should be encouraged. Council could provide courses as they do for composting. Beehives have to be registered with the NZ Beekeepers. <https://afb.org.nz/new-to-beekeeping-apiary-registration-form/>

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

Tell us why: What is this? Which animals, what food? I searched documents, no success.

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

Tell us why: Makes sense

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

No but cats need to be registered and microchipped and Council needs to treat stray cats the same as stray dogs.

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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?

Tell us why:

Are there any other comments you wish to make?

The current bylaw does not go far enough with regard to roosters. Ownership is currently restricted due to the nuisance they can cause. However, when the owner can't be identified, or the rooster is classed as feral, then Animal Management are powerless in

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What is your opinion on this proposal? Other

Tell us why: Allowing more or less beehives without an approval than the proposed two

There are probably a lot of variables you need to consider when deciding whether to go ahead with this new limit. For example:

- There may be more than one beekeeper living on the same property and each beekeeper may wish to have their own hives.
- The property may back onto an empty reserve or lot which the bees mostly frequent.
- The property may be in a non-built-up suburb where the keeping of bees wouldn't be as in close proximity to neighbours.
- During spring the hives will swarm, a good beekeeper will do a "forced split", creating two hives from one. This will stop the bees swarming somewhere like the neighbour's tree for example.
- At this time of year, you would double and sometimes triple the hives you have making it impossible to keep to the 2 hive maximum.
- I think you need to consider the area the hives are in. Someone that lives in the bush end or farm, in a large lot zone, should have a different limit or no limit compared to someone living in more built-up areas in terraced house and apartment zones.

You need to consider how many beekeepers live on the property.

In my 10 years of experience as a hobbyist beekeeper, I've found it best practice to have at least 3-4 hives in the same location, the reason being is if one hive is not healthy, you can use the other hives to help keep the health up. Things like transferring brood frames, adding a new Queen or combining hives. Limiting a beekeeper to two hives will restrict this and possibly cause a lot more hives to fail/die.

Rules:

I'd recommend needing a permit for anyone living in built-up areas such as terraced/ apartments zones with the property under 600sqm

I'd recommend people living in less built-up areas such as single housed zones should only need a permit for more than 4 hives with a property of 600sqm or more

I'd recommend anyone with property over 1000sqm in a large lot zone to require a permit for more than 4 hives

You'd need to allow leniency in spring when beekeepers "split" their hives, creating two or more hives from one (doubling or tripling their quantity of hives). Allowing time to sell or move these hives if necessary.

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Tell us why: I have no opinion

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

Tell us why: I think 2 hives in a residential area is enough to not disturb neighbours and wider community.

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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 know that bees contributed a lot to the ecosystem. If we are going to limit the bee keeping in the city it will be more detrimental to environment. Besides beekeepers specially those registered are already regulated by MPI and there are rules and penalties in place. Responsible beekeepers know the limit of their property on how many they keep into it that will not be a nuisance to their neighbours. I can't fathom the logic... the govt is encouraging us to take care the environment by planting more trees but here we are trying to limit the bees that have major role in pollenating these trees

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