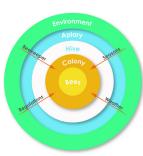


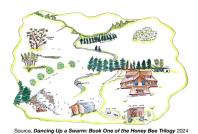
Keeping Honey Bees - Regulations, Contracts and Agreements

Patricia Laing, September 2025 tricialaing48@gmail.com









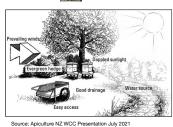
Beekeepers need to prevent swarms as they pose a risk to the public, your bees, other beekeepers, and bee biosecurity.

Source, WCC, Caring for Bees Fact Sheet.



New Zealand regulations define a hobbyist as someone with

Representations Place hives to comply with regulations



In residential areas the hive should be behind a two meter high fence, trellis or hedge.

Avoid placing hives close to:

- a neighbour's housevegetable gardensclothes lineschildren's play areas

- areas frequently used by people, e.g. walkways, playgrounds driveways
- road side/footpaths



Local bodies regulate your beekeeping

Which Local Body governs your beekeeping - Wellington, Porirua, Lower Hutt or Upper Hutt?

What are the Local Body's legal requirements with reference to beekeeping?

How many hives are permitted on a beekeeper's suburban/residential property?

How does the **hives' placement** minimise any nuisance?

In the event of a complaint being made about the bees who will investigate?

Following the investigation, if the complaint is upheld what remedies may be required?





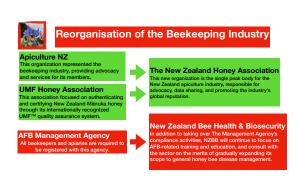


"Nuisance" as defined in the New Zealand Health Act 1956

The Meaning of Nuisance
In New Zealand's Health Act 1956, a "nuisance" is defined in Section 29 as any premise or condition that is offensive or likely to be injurious to health.

- Local Bodies are responsible for dealing with nuisances as defined in the Health Act.

 If a nuisance is found to exist or is likely to occur again, the District Court can issue orders to have it abated.
- Anyone who causes or permits a nuisance, or fails to comply with a court order to fix it, can face penalties and a further offence.



Local Body - Wellington

Local Body - Porirua

relief of Missence is a defined act of the process of the process

ref conglished.

diffice considers that this bytew has been breached they may issue a written notice requiring a keeper or owner or occupier of land to take such action define considers that this bytew, septimized with the bytew, sepcifying the time in which any action must be taken.

Office may remove or after any structure, work of this plant in trevent of this bytew are forever octed of monoral or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the control of the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the person who common the second or alteration from the second or alteration from

son who commits a breach of this bylaw commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 as set out in the Local

Local Body - Lower Hutt

Legal Requirements

No person may keep bees in such a way as to cause (or likely to cause) nuisance, offence or be injurious to health.

The Meaning of Nuisance
Nuisance refers to the dictionary definition (a person, thing, or circumstance causing trouble or annoyance; anything harmful or offensive to the community or a member of it and for which a legal remedy exists) or to a statutory nuisance as defined in Section 29 of the Health Act 1956.

Authorised/Enforcement Officer
Means any person appointed or authorised by the Council on its behalf.

Penalty
A breach of Lower Hutt City Council's beekeeping bylaw can result in an infringement fine or prosecution, with a maximum penalty of up to \$20,000 for serious offences.

Local Body - Upper Hutt

Number of hives allowed not specified

ments

If keep bees in an Urban Area when in the opinion of a Council Authorised Officer the keeping of bees is or is likely to become a
noyance to any person or potentially dangerous or injurious to health.

If the property of the property of the property of the property of the Council may prescribe for the Keeping of Bees on the specific
may been an unknown Area must comply with any directions the Council may prescribe for the Keeping of Bees on the specific
may be a property of the property of the Area of the Area

Authorised/Enforcement Officer
Means any person appointed or authorised by the Council to act on its behalf and exercise its authority pursuant to the Local Government Act.

Remediation of complaint

An Authorised Officer may enter private property in an Urban Area pursuant to section 185 of the Local Government Act 2002 and: (a) Seize
Stock, Poultry, Bees and Pigs that are on the Property in breach of this Bylaw; (b) Seize Property other than Stock, Poultry, Bees and Pigs that is
materially involved in the commission of an offence under this Bylaw.

Penalty
Any person who commits an offence under this Bylaw will be liable for the penalties prescribed by the Local Government Act 2002.

Key Elements of a Landowner-Beekeeper Contract **Done: https://www.pools.com/land/filest-adjulct-orla-project-cl-a-i-project-

Parties Involved: Clearly identifies the landowner and the beekeeper.

Purpose of Hives: States whether the hives are for polination, honey production, or both.

Hive Placement & Security: Specifies where hives will be located and ensures access for the beekeeper.

Landowner Obligations:

- Pesticide Use: Landowner must provide advance notice (e.g., 48 hours) before using highly toxic pesticides that could harm the

Pescular Use: Landowier mass provide advance recovered; and robusty better using ringity toke pessibles that could not better course from the beas.

Beakesper Obligations:

Beakesper Obligations:

Pescular Description of the provide and advance of the beas.

Pescular Description of the provide and provide and protecting them from disease.

Payment Structure: Outlines how the beakesper will compensate the landowner: This can be:

A froat dise.

A procedurage of the honey production or sales.

A procedurage of the honey production or sales.

A profit-sharing arrangement.

Duration of Agreement. Specifies the start and end date of the contract.

Insurance & Liability. Addresses liability for potential damage or injury to persons or property.

Access Rights: Clearly defines the beskeeper's access to the land to manage the hives.

Communication: Establishes communication protocols, including how the beekeeper will be notified of any issues with the property or potential bazards. property or potential hazards.

Termination Clause: Outlines the conditions under which the contract can be terminated by either party.



Apiary at home - understand your Local Body regulations about bees

Apiaries on other private land - have Landowner/Beekeeper contract in place

Apiaries on public land including DOC Land - have agreed arrangement

Action plan for complaints - contact WBA