

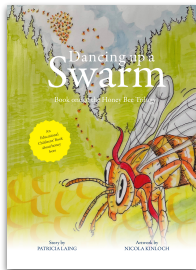
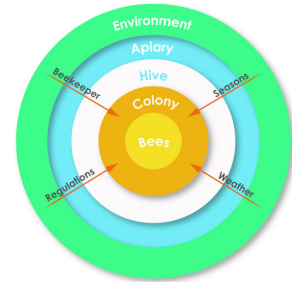


Keeping Honey Bees - Regulations, Contracts and Agreements

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Bee-Centred Beekeeping



Source, *Dancing Up a Swarm: Book One of the Honey Bee Trilogy* 2024

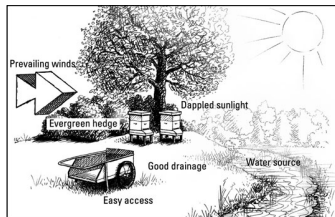
Beekeepers need to prevent swarms as they pose a risk to the public, your bees, other beekeepers, and bee biosecurity.

Source, WCC, Caring for Bees Fact Sheet.

New Zealand regulations define a hobbyist as someone with up to 50 hives, but Local Bodies impose restrictions



Place hives to comply with regulations



Source: Apiculture NZ WCC Presentation July 2021

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

Avoid placing hives close to:

- a neighbour's house
- vegetable gardens
- clothes lines
- children's play areas
- areas frequently used by people, e.g. walkways, playgrounds
- driveways
- road side/footpaths.

Source: Caring for bees factsheet (121KB PDF)



Local bodies regulate your beekeeping

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

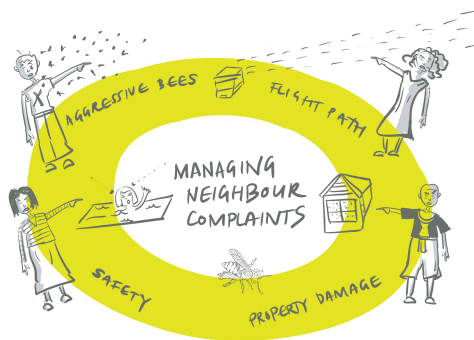
What are the Local Body's **legal requirements** with reference to beekeeping?

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**.

Enforcement

- 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.



Reorganisation of the Beekeeping Industry

Apiculture NZ

This organization represented the beekeeping industry, providing advocacy and services for its members.

UMF Honey Association

This association focused on authenticating and certifying New Zealand Mānuka honey through its internationally recognized UMF™ quality assurance system.

AFB Management Agency

All beekeepers and apiaries are required to be registered with this agency.

The New Zealand Honey Association

This new organization is the single peak body for the New Zealand apiculture industry, responsible for advocacy, data sharing, and promoting the industry's global reputation.

New Zealand Bee Health & Biosecurity

In addition to taking over The Management Agency's compliance activities, NZBB will continue to focus on AFB-related training and education, and consult with the sector on the merits of gradually expanding its scope to general honey bee disease management.

Local Body - Wellington

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/animal-bylaw-2024/Bees>

Legal Requirements

- Register any apiary, as required under the Biosecurity Act 1993, within 30 days of placing beehives on a site.
- Registration of beehives is with The Management Agency (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan).
- All hives must prominently show the Beekeeper's Registration Number.

The Meaning of Nuisance

Nuisance refers to the dictionary definition (a person, thing, or circumstance causing trouble, annoyance; anything harmful or offensive to the community or a member of it) 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. The Council's Environmental Health Officers will respond to complaints where bees might be causing any nuisance or danger to other residents.

Remediation of complaint

The Council may require the removal or relocation of a beehive(s) if the conditions for which the permission was originally given are not being met and/or if an Authorised Officer considers the beehives to be causing a nuisance. This applies to both Residential and Rural areas.

Penalty

A person who fails to comply with this bylaw may be liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 242 (4) of the Local Government Act 2002, not exceeding \$20,000.

