

**American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan Report to the Inaugural
Annual General Meeting of Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)**

**Rotorua Energy Events Centre
Government Gardens
Queens Drive**

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(Wednesday)**

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AFB PMP Management Board**

American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan AFB PMP

Introduction and Background

The Biosecurity (National Pest Management Plan) Order 1998 (clause 6) states the Management Agency for the AFB PMP is the National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc.) NBA. On 1 April 2016 the NBA (Inc.) became Apiculture New Zealand (Inc.). At the time of preparing this report the change to Apiculture New Zealand has yet to be completed, therefore for the purposes of this report reference will be made to Apiculture New Zealand.

Apiculture New Zealand has a statutory responsibility to implement the AFB PMP, which comprises a range of regulatory and educational programmes. The plan is funded using income generated from a mandatory levy on beekeepers and apiaries through the Biosecurity (American Foulbrood – Apiary and Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003.

The AFB PMP Management Board

The Management Board currently consists the following:

Mr Frans Laas	(Chairman)	Otago
Mr Neil Mossop		Bay of Plenty
Mr John Hartnell		Canterbury
Mr Stephen Black		Taranaki
Ms Kim Poynter		Rotorua

Governance Document

Apiculture New Zealand (Inc.) and the AFB PMP Management Board operate under a mutually agreed and signed Governance Document that sets out clearly defined reporting requirements and other standard operating procedures.

A copy can be found on the AFB website under policies.

Total Reported Incidents of American Foulbrood

While the number of registered beekeepers, apiaries and hives (refer below) continues to trend upwards the reported AFB disease rate sits at 0.25% of hives and 2.41% of apiaries.

In the last 12 months, 1,017 apiaries (1,704 hives) have been reported as having AFB.

Year (June to May)	Reported AFB Cases	Number of Apiaries	Percentage
2003 - 2004	870	422	0.30 %
2004 - 2005	778	421	0.26 %
2005 - 2006	952	482	0.32 %
2006 - 2007	954	540	0.30 %
2007 - 2008	980	552	0.27 %
2008 - 2009	1,117	557	0.32 %
2009 - 2010	515	348	0.16 %
2010 – 2011(June to March)	722	321	0.19 %
2011 (June)	1,093	579	0.28 %
2012 (May)	-----	-----	0.15 %
2013 (February)	881 (*)	505	0.20 %
2014 (June)	1,128	582	0.25% (Hives) 2.10% (Apiaries)
2015 (February)	-----	-----	0.21% (Hives) 2.05% (Apiaries)
2014-2015	1,210	666	0.21% (Hives) 1.93% (Apiaries)
2015-2016	1704	1017	0.25% (Hives) 2.41% (Apiaries)

(*) 180 relates to one beekeeper.

Increased Compliance Equates to Increased Reporting

It is important to recognise that with increased compliance in the receipt of Annual Disease Returns and completed Certificate of Inspection forms there is a counter reaction in terms of increased AFB reporting, not with-standing huge beekeeper and hive increases.

Beekeeper, Apiary and Hive Numbers

New Zealand has as at 8 June 2016, a total of 684,046 registered beehives, an approximate increase of 110,000 hives in the last 12 months. .

Of note is that of the total number of beekeepers (refer below), 4,330 own 0 to 5 hives, equating to 8,635 of registered beehives.

Year	Registered Beekeepers	Number of Apiaries	Number of Beehives
2003	3,649	20,228	300,729
2004	3,211	19,592	292,530
2005	2,911	19,281	294,886
2006	2,694	18,954	300,728
2007	2,602	19,228	313,399
2008	2,589	20,439	343,155
2009 (June)	2,663	21,593	365,709
2010 (June)	2,957	22,440	376,672
2011 (June)	3,265	23,356	391,540
2012 (June)	3,802	25,309	425,498
2013 (February)	4,127	26,263	435,619
2013 (June)	4,273	27,142	453,820
2014 (February)	4,767	29,638	496,062
2015 (February)	5,396	33,462	546,837
2015 (June)	5,551	34,476	575,872
2016 (June)	6,735	42,175	684,046

Annual Disease Returns ADR's

- Compliance Levels

Year	% ADR's Received	Registered Beekeepers
2000	85.0 %	4,864
2001	70.0 %	4,550
2002	75.0 %	3,973
2003	70.0 %	3,649
2004	79.0 %	3,211
2005	82.0 %	2,911
2006	84.0 %	2,694
2007	83.0 %	2,602
2008	91.0 %	2,589
2009	96.7 %	2,663
2010	93.3 %	2,957
2011	92.4 %	3,265
2012	92.3 %	3,802
2013 (Jan)	92.0 %	4,127
2013 (June)	94.2 %	4,273
2014 (March)	91.0 %	4,767
2015 (February)	93.5 %	5,396
2015 (June)	68.1 %	5,551
2016 (June)	63.1 %	6735

Note: The figure of 63.1% relates to the number of ADR's returned in response to the April 2016 mail out.

Certificate of Inspection (COI)

Year (as at June)	Beekeepers holding a Certificate of Inspection COI	Apiaries	Hives	Compliance Rate
2005	741	1,476	14,916	14 %
2006	577	1,188	11,465	18 %
2007	534	1,187	12,027	22 %
2008	537	1,092	11,062	30 %
2009	1,090	2,559	32,081	29 %
2010	1,298	2,400	23,186	64 %
2011	1,286	2,353	14,205	77 %
2012	1,552	2,267	15,319	70 %
2013 (As at February)	1,494	-----	-----	55 %
2013 (As at June)	1,771	2,772	21,017	72%
2014 (As at March)	1,681	-----	-----	58 %
2015 (As at February)	1,943			59%
2015 (As at June)	2,387	4,091	34,321	72%
2016 (As at June)	3,331	6,016	52,349	60%

The Management Board has undertaken and continues to conduct COI default inspections utilising their dedicated AFB auditors.

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements (DECA)

51% of all registered beekeepers hold a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement.

APIWEB Upgrade

The AFB PMP Management Board has along with AsureQuality carried out a review of APIWEB and it's ability to support the industry looking to the future. With huge increases in beekeeper registrations and hive numbers and the demand this is having on the current system, the Board wants to be sure the right software and hardware is in place to meet future demands.

As a first step and before consideration was given to employing IT specialists it was decided to undertake a "User Review" to assess the use ability of the current system.

A meeting took place on 9 October 2015 in Hamilton involving a number of people who regularly use the APIWEB system. A number of recommendations emanated from the meeting.

In the months following this meeting an AsureQuality Business Analyst has through consultation with AsureQuality and the AFB PMP Management Board produced a tender document which has been completed and is now in the public domain awaiting registrations of interest and costing proposals.

Ministry for Primary Industries Systems and Processes Audit of AFB PMP

As a result of the recent audit of the New Zealand apicultural industry by China, MPI has commenced an audit of the AFB PMP including the latter's relationship with MPI. Many countries find it difficult to comprehend that an industry can take responsibility for it's own disease management as this is generally seen as the prerogative of individual governments.

This audit is currently in progress and will be completed over the next several weeks.

Of importance and as part of the audit process is the question relating to whether the Order in Council under which the Plan operates is still applicable to the current state of the industry. In 1998 most beekeepers had to belong to the NBA and the spirit of the 1998 Order in Council reflected that. In 2002 the Commodity Levy was voted down and the need for compulsory membership of the NBA ceased. This allowed for the creation of alternative industry good organisations. As a consequence the NBA ceased to have an exclusive mandate to be the Management Agency.

Beekeepers now need to look at whether the Management Agency should become a stand-alone agency free from industry organisation political interference. Further, would the stakeholders even countenance an MPI representative being a member of the AFB PMP Management Board. This does occur in other entities.

AFB Recognition Course Training

Following a decision taken by the AFB PMP Management Board in 2015 arrangements were put in place to bring the administration and coordination of AFB recognition course training under the direct control of the AFB PMP Manager. This commenced on 1 January 2016.

The AFB PMP Management Board continues to place a great deal of emphasis on facilitating AFB Recognition Training Courses on a nationwide basis.

The following table highlights numbers trained.

By way of explanation, the column headed "No Course" means the beekeeper did not attend a course as such but opted to study the "Yellow Book" and take the test as a one off.

So if you look at 2006 there were actually 11 courses in total.

Calendar Year	Events (Courses)	No Course	Passes
2006	15	4	93
2007	73	29	453
2008	88	36	264
2009	112	36	357
2010	59	29	491
2011	45	14	454
2012	39	7	490
2013	47	10	580
2014	59	13	751
2015	69	14	713
2016 (As at 31 May)	26	2	455

Under the new administrative arrangement the AFB PMP Management Board has set an ambitious target to extend to 1,000 beekeepers the opportunity to be trained in AFB recognition, a figure not previously achieved. The AFB PMP Management Board is on track to meet this target with 455 having passed the course as at 31 May 2016

The paramount goal of the AFB PMP is to eliminate AFB. This objective requires a three stage process.

1. The identification of AFB outbreaks
2. The destruction of AFB infected colonies
3. The post infection management of affected apiaries to identify and destroy, previously subclinical or non-visual infections.

Each of these three stages is as important as the others. If the beekeeper fails to achieve any one of them, he/she will effectively end up "chasing their tail".

The AFB PMP Management Board believes any person trained in the eradication of AFB needs to have a good understanding of all three stages.

Ultimately, the AFB PMP and the delivery of the stated goal of elimination, is the responsibility of the stakeholders, the beekeepers. Without their commitment, vigilance and actions the programme would be failing and incidences of AFB would be escalating.

In last year's report we commented that a brand new AFB recognition training package had been developed reducing the number of slides from that of the existing course and introducing numerous video modules. The course content also included numerous case studies to be undertaken on syndicate basis.

The new course consists of three components.

- A theory component which includes a range of new videos specifically developed for the course.
- A practical component which consists of practical frame inspections and syndicate exercises.
- The AFB Recognition test.

The new course as previously reported had its debut (trial run) in Whangarei on Saturday the 6th of June 2015 in front of some 90 local club members. It was delivered again, twice during the 2015 Apiculture Conference in Wairakei by Peter Ferris and Paul Badger. This latest course is more interesting and challenging for both tutor and student.

Following the release and launch of the training resource certain existing AFB trainers were invited to participate in 2 train the trainers courses, Nelson (4/5 November) and Rotorua (11/12 November) 2015. Each trainer was provided with a copy of the new Powerpoint based resource as well as being exposed to various sessions covering course presentation techniques, frame inspections and recommending possible policy initiatives.

The AFB PMP Management Board now has 25 trainers who are facilitating courses throughout the country.

It is worth noting the AFB PMP Management Board has agreed to extend this trainer initiative out to large commercial beekeeping operations, inviting the latter to select a person/s to be trained by the AFB PMP Management Board, thus ensuring training coverage in the larger operations. Some 9 companies have been selected.

A training sub-committee established in 2013 has been instrumental in providing valuable support to the AFB PMP Manager and ultimately the Board. The sub-committee is currently looking at several initiatives, one of which being the provision of an internet based AFB recognition

course, with the ability to take the test on-line. This follows a similar model currently in place for people seeking their recreational pilots licence.

It is appropriate at this point I acknowledge efforts of Mary-Ann Lindsay who for the last 18 years up to December 2015 had been providing administrative support in regards AFB training. Mary-Ann, thank you for your efforts.

Requests for Information - The Official Information Act 1983

The AFB PMP Management Board has dealt with several requests for information under both the Official Information and Privacy Acts. Release of information has been in accordance with the legislation along with advertised Board policy.

AFB PMP Technology Update

The AFB PMP Management Board continues to develop training and technology initiatives, designed to assist New Zealand beekeepers in determining the presence of AFB and it's destruction. Much of this work continues in the following areas.

- www.afb.org website, to ensure it remains a "one stop shop" for all matters pertaining to AFB.
- the Smart phone application to assist beekeepers in the diagnosis of AFB.
- the AFB Recognition Course training package, to make it more interactive and effective.

As always, the AFB PMP Management Board was acutely aware of the need to ensure that beekeepers levies were spent in a fiscally responsible way. To ensure this, much of the development work was undertaken by skilled people working in a voluntary capacity. Our thanks go out to these people for all their efforts

AFB PMP Website

It was noted in last years' report the AFB PMP website has been completely overhauled with a new "look" and the addition of a number of new capabilities. A greater emphasis has now been placed on the ease of user interaction. This has resulted in a revamped drop down menu system, improved graphics and the addition of a significant number of training videos.

The training videos can be viewed by accessing the website (www.afb.org), and going to the "Education, Training, Videos, Resources and Policy Statements" box, on the left of the screen.

Development of the website is an ongoing exercise with additional capabilities flagged for the future. These include:

- an enhanced training section
 - complete on line enrolment for training.
 - undertake on line study or refresher training
 - The possibility of taking the AFB Recognition Course and test on-line.
- additional videos
- on line beekeeper returns

A popular innovation has been the introduction of "Take the 5 Minute Quiz", inviting the website visitor to tackle 25 multi choice questions. Since going live in mid-2015, the course has been taken over 4,400 times.

Since the website went live on 13 April 2015 there have been 41,284 visits, 153,495 page views with visitors from New Zealand equating to 72.24%. Website visitors remain at all ages with 61% coming from the 18 to 34 year age group.

It is interesting to note that 30.5% of visitors emanate from the mobile phone.

The AFB APP

The AFB App development started midway through 2014. It was trialled in January 2015 and is now available for downloading by beekeepers. It is a smartphone App that will operate on both Android and Apple devices. It has some functionality on tablets. The App was funded by the AFB PMP.

It is free to all beekeepers.

It must be emphasised the App is designed as a field diagnostic tool only at this stage (it is not a website) to aid beekeepers in identifying and reporting AFB outbreaks. An instructional video on its use is located in the "Video" section of the AFB website.

It is the Board's wish is to see all beekeepers eventually download the App, "just in case". You never know when you might need it. At the very least, it is a good tool for revising your AFB recognition skills.

The App has deliberately been kept simple to ensure that it is easy to use. It does not require an internet connection once it has been downloaded. This should make it a useful tool for any beekeeper looking for a bit of assistance in the field.

There are a number of future enhancements already planned for the App. These include;

- electronic reporting of AFB outbreaks

- electronic returns
- GPS location information from smart devices internal GPS
- the ability to request real time assistance from an AsureQuality Apiculture Officer
 - photograph symptoms and have them viewed in real time.

Discussions have already taken place with MPI and AsureQuality representatives to “come on board” in regards exotic bee disease identification, this they are currently considering.

Dedicated AFB Apiary Auditors

Beekeepers nationwide have voiced for a number of years their desire to revert back to earlier times when apicultural officers provided an inspection and where appropriate an advice / educational service.

In an attempt to meet beekeepers expectations, the Management Board initial thinking was to introduce AFB inspectors’, one in the South and one in the North Island, both of whom would be retained for say 3 months of the year. Following much discussion by the Board and working through the projected costs of such an exercise it was decided to go one better and retain the services of certain AFB auditors on a nationwide basis. This approach we believe to be more efficient and cost effective.

Note: Because of possible confusion in regards the terminology used in the Biosecurity Act 1993 in regards defining and use of the term “Inspector” the Board on advice, refers to our dedicated inspectors as “AFB Auditors”

The plan is that all dedicated AFB Auditors (AP2) would where possible undertake to inspect 2 to 3 apiaries per week. We accept that this is not always possible given beekeeper work-loads and business commitments.

The programme commenced about 3.5 years ago in the Bay of Plenty, around the East Cape, Opotiki and Whakatane areas with pleasing results and positive feed- back from local beekeepers. The programme has now been widened to across the country.

It is important that we mention at this stage that inspectors take their instruction solely from either the Manager or their local AsureQuality representative. It has been made clear to all inspectors they are not to be influenced in any way by other beekeepers, if this occurs their contract is in serious jeopardy and the manager will have no hesitation in terminating it immediately.

The Management Board accepts this scheme is a “work in progress’, however it is pleasing to note we now have 29 such auditors in place nationwide, all working under a formal contract and remuneration policy.

One advantage we find is that we are able to respond more quickly to AFB concerns. The inspectors are currently inspecting Certificate of Inspection (COI) defaulters and those beekeepers who have informed us that they no longer retain hives.

The Board appreciates this is not the perfect solution, however overall the initiative is receiving positive feedback with beekeepers appreciating that inspections are taking place in their areas.

Auditors are required to attend training related seminars with 2 such gatherings having been completed in August 2015 and another planned for August of this year. The AFB PMP Management Board works in a cost sharing arrangement with MPI.

Helicopter Survey in Taranaki – Unregistered Apiaries

In early February 2016 the AFB PMP Management Board arranged for a helicopter survey to be completed in the north and eastern region of Taranaki. Some 140 apiaries were recorded by taking GPS coordinates, these reading were later compared to the apiary data base mapping software resulting in 48% of those recorded being unregistered.

Follow up ground investigation resulted in additional apiaries being located.

Following these concerning findings a second helicopter survey was commissioned in the south Taranaki region (Waitotara Valley) with further indications of unregistered apiaries.

In addition to the above, serious concern is held by the AFB PMP Management Board in regard the operations of several medium to large commercial operators who are not complying by the rules, especially in regards the 30 day registration of apiary site rule. Correspondence has been recently entered into with certain helicopter operators seeking details of when hives have been flown in and taken out. Early indications suggest there is clear evidence of breaches of the Order 98. The Board will decide what action is to be taken and who should be advised.

The Board has given approval for the helicopter survey budget allocation to be doubled with more aerial surveys promised.

Apiary Auditor Inspection Activity

Taranaki

Follow-up on complaints by local beekeepers that large commercial outfits were dumped diseased hives on unregistered apiaries in the area. The Apiary Auditor found that was not the case. Number of ongoing inspections in this region on beekeepers and areas with a history of AFB. Helicopter surveillance carried out over hives in the summer Manuka areas with a large number of unregistered apiaries being located.

Whanganui

Large number of inspections carried out by Apiary Auditors in areas with large cases of reported AFB. Also follow-up inspections were carried out on a number of unregistered apiaries. Helicopter surveillance was also carried out in Whanganui..

Bay of Plenty

An Apiary Auditor followed-up a report from a concerned beekeeper of a number of diseased hives laying around in a Te Puke beekeeper's yard with the diseased hives being destroyed. The Apiary Auditor also carried out Inspections of abandoned gear and hives in Rotorua and Waihou Bay plus unregistered hives on DOC land. Inspections are being carried in the Opotaki area where several cases of disease has been reported.

Auckland

This area appears to be a bad area for AFB probably due to the large number of new hobbyist beekeepers. Three Apiary Auditors are inspecting know 'hot-spots' in and around the city. Some abandoned beekeeping gear was discovered in a shed and an Apiary Auditor inspected it. The Pinnacle Hill area which has a history of AFB was recently inspected again with no AFB found.

Waikato

Apiary Audits carried out inspections in the Te Awamutu, Morrinsville and Te Kauwhata area in response to large numbers of AFB being reported.

Masterton

A number of apiaries were inspected that were thought to be unregistered.

Gisborne

A large number of inspections have been carried out by two Apiary Auditors in this area with only a few cases of AFB being found. An anonymous letter was received complaining that a certain beekeeper had a lot of AFB that was not being reported. The Apiary Auditors found no evidence of this after inspecting the beekeeper's outfit.

Northland

An Apiary Auditor has checked a number of apiaries that had a very large number of hives on them and found them to be compliant. A commercial beekeeper reported finding large cases of AFB and an Apiary Auditor worked alongside the beekeeper to ensure that the disease problem was being properly managed.

Nelson/Marlborough

Nelson based auditor found quite a number of AFB cases in the Nelson city area when checking apiaries in the vicinity of reported AFB cases.

Marlborough auditor checked four apiaries of a local commercial operator after a neighbouring beekeeper reported a few cases of AFB on a single apiary site

Technical advice has been given to a Nelson beekeeper who rents out hives. Our auditor found a few of his hives infected by AFB.

Reports of neglected apiaries that belong to a commercial beekeeping operation has triggered inspections of a number of apiaries belonging to the beekeeper.

AFB auditor found AFB during Exotic surveillance program in Stoke.

AFB auditor inspected a number of apiary sites in the Collingwood area.

West Coast/Canterbury

A West Coast auditor is carrying out a full AFB audit on a local commercial operator.

West Coast auditor checked some apiaries South of Hokitika. He also checked three apiary sites (two unregistered) of a beekeeper and found some disease

Canterbury based auditor checked a couple of apiary sites of the above. One found to be unregistered.

Another Canterbury auditor checked four unregistered sites of the above beekeeper. This beekeeper has had his DECA cancelled.

Canterbury auditor found source of an AFB outbreak in Okuti Valley all hives that belonged to the offending beekeeper were burnt.

An unregistered apiary site of a commercial beekeeper was confirmed by a land owner in Methven. This was the third unregistered apiary site found by the auditors or the public within the last 12 months. This beekeeper's DECA was also cancelled and his ADR was returned to him as it was incomplete.

A Christchurch hobbyist lost his DECA for failure to register some of his apiary sites. One of them is to be destroyed on default.

Canterbury auditor inspected hives in the Horotane Valley in near Christchurch chasing the source of reported AFB, but the source could not be found.

South Canterbury auditor carried out AFB inspection in South Ashburton and Geraldine area, no AFB was found.

A commercial beekeeper on the West Coast was reported dumping beehives on unregistered sites. The beekeeper was contacted and given a reminder that all apiaries must be registered within 30 days. Apiaries were registered immediately.

Inspections in inland South Canterbury were carried out following a tip off from a local beekeeper. A couple of unregistered sites were found and one of them had AFB. The offending Beekeeper's DECA was cancelled.

Two different commercial beekeeping operations in Mid Canterbury reported finding high levels of AFB with some of them robbed out. This occurred while doing pre purchase inspections of apiaries belonging to the same semi commercial beekeeper who wanted to sell his beehives and exit the industry. The two inspected apiary sites were unregistered sites. The DECA of the offending beekeeper was cancelled and he has now left the industry. Commercial beekeepers burned all hives diseased and healthy on site. Robbed out letters were sent to 10 beekeepers with apiaries within 5 km radius from these two apiary sites. One of these beekeepers found AFB a few days later.

Robbed out AFB was reported in Christchurch resulting in robbed out letter sent to 49 beekeepers within 5 km radius.

AFB auditor inspected a large number of COI defaulters from the Canterbury area.

An AFB reports from a single apiary site in North Canterbury has triggered inspections in the vicinity. One other AFB was found, but the source of infection for both apiaries is still to be found. Inspections will continue in Spring.

A commercial beekeeper in North Canterbury is being subject of inspections after reports that he may not be reporting AFB. First two randomly selected inspections confirmed AFB being present in both inspected apiary sites. Notice of destruction issued to offending beekeeper.

Commercial beekeeper from North Canterbury (ADR defaulter since 2011) finally contacted the Management Board to de-register all his apiary sites except from his home apiary site. The Agency was satisfied that this was acceptable as AFB auditors have already confirmed that all his currently registered apiary sites were vacant for a number of years.

Otago

Otago based auditor inspected 14 apiary sites of a Southland beekeeper following a report from another beekeeper concerned at high AFB levels. No AFB was found.

A second beekeeper had his DECA cancelled as a result of the neglected status of his beehives.

AFB reported in Dunedin city was followed by AFB inspections in the wider vicinity. The potential source of AFB was not found.

AFB auditor doing Exotic surveillance program found AFB in the Queenstown area.

Southland

Unregistered apiary site belonging to a commercial operator was found by an AFB auditor investigating the source of an AFB find. The land owner confirmed that hives have been on site for a couple of seasons and that more apiaries are put on site during the summer period. The beekeeper was contacted to confirm that hives belonged to them, once confirmed and considering this beekeeper has a recent history of keeping beehives in unregistered sites, the DECA was cancelled.

Southland auditor identified a few unregistered apiary sites and notices to register them have been left on site. These sites are still unregistered and will be destroyed.

The same AFB auditor was directed to seize and destroy all beehives live or dead from another beekeeper who purchased all hives and boxes that were left by a local beekeeper who was put out of business through non-compliance with the AFB PMP

Health and Safety At Work Act 2015 – AFB Auditors.

The AFB PMP Management Board is committed to ensuring it provides a safe and healthy working environment for everyone carrying out work on behalf of the Board.

The Board is putting in place the following:

- identification, assessment and management of hazards and risks procedures,
- Processes to ensure all auditors are made aware of hazards and risks.
- Identification and reporting processes and systems.
- Reporting of serious harms injuries to WorkSafe NZ.
- Investigation of incidents and injuries to identify contributing factors and appropriate corrective action..
- Auditor consultation and participation processes including elected or endorsed worker representatives on the health and safety committee.

Review of Operations Manual and Development of Policies

The Management Board is planning a major overhaul of the Operations Manual, a task that has become necessary following the recent legislative changes by way of Section 93 of the Biosecurity Law Reform Act 2012.

The structure of the document is set to change with greater emphasis being placed on Management Board confirmed policies, these are currently being developed and can be found by visiting the AFB PMP website. There are currently 28 in place.

Levy Defaulters

In early April of this year, 6,739 levy invoices (5,619 in 2015) were mailed along with a covering letter explaining the payment deadlines as set out in the Levy Order 2003.

A great deal of time and resource is allocated to tasks related to receipting of monies received, responding to phone and email enquiries and debt collection. The AFB PMP Manager is guided strictly by the terms as set out in the official Board policy governing levy/debt collection.

The AFB PMP Management Board was involved in a judicial Court Settlement process in regards to cost recovery. This resulted in a satisfactory outcome

Acknowledgement

As Manager I am extremely fortunate to have supporting me Frans Laas (Chairman), John Hartnell, Neil Mossop, Stephen Black and Kim Poynter who continue to provide guidance, direction and wise council. The AFB PMP Management Board continues to embrace the governance model in their overseeing of the AFB PMP.

Rex Baynes
AFB NPMP Manager