



November 2016

Beekeepers back the need for effective AFB control

Ninety seven percent of beekeepers surveyed in June said that AFB control is vital to the NZ's biosecurity and the honeybee industry. Most felt that enforcement, training, communications, monitoring and administration all need to be modernised and improved so we can collectively deliver our ultimate goal of eradicating AFB.

Your Board accepted the challenge and immediately began the planning process. Last week invited beekeepers, MPI, Plant and Food Research and AsureQuality met in Wellington to better equip the Pest Management Plan. The goal, to set the platform for a 5-year governance and operational plan focussed on AFB management and the challenges faced now with a much bigger industry.

The Plan will recognise and provide for the effect of further industry growth and the impact this will bring. The foundations of the **5-year Plan** will build on your questionnaire responses as key directional guides and we will be coming back to consult with you in the period leading to the national conference in July 2017.

Urgent action on regulations, communications and timely information for beekeepers from inspections will commence immediately.

New faces at the Board Table

We welcome Russell Marsh, Central Otago (ApiNZ Board Nominee), Jason Ward, Central Hawkes Bay and Gabriel Torres, Whangarei to the AFB PMP Board. Each new member brings a wealth of practical and governance experience to the board table and will broaden the industry knowledge base relating to AFB management.

Acknowledgement and thanks

We wish to thank our outgoing board members, Stephen Black (NBA representative - four years) and Neil Mossop (Independent representative - 6 years). Both individuals have been strong contributors at the governance table. They have witnessed massive changes in the apiculture industry and are acutely aware of the impact these are having on beekeeping community and the AFB PMP.

A special acknowledgement must also go to Frans Laas, who steps down from his role as Chairman. It is important to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution Frans has made to the AFB PMP, both in leadership and council. Frans will remain on the Board with the Chair responsibility passing to existing Vice Chairman, John Hartnell.