



PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE AMERICAN FOULBROOD APIARY AND BEEKEEPER LEVY

Frequently asked question so far

With consultation on the proposal to increase the apiary and beekeeper levy underway, we've been getting some good questions and feedback from beekeepers about the proposed increase.

The Management Agency is seeking beekeepers' views on a proposal to increase the apiary and beekeeper levy to a maximum of \$40 per beekeepers and \$50 per apiary.

These additional funds are being sought to enable the Management Agency to fully implement the National Pest Management Strategy to reduce the incidence of AFB.

As the consultation is running until 10 August 2018, we want to share some of the most commonly asked questions we have been receiving.

Q: If we have one beehive will the cost be \$90? If so why?

The levy increase proposal is a phased one where the levy (that is the beekeeper and apiary levy) will go up over five years (as outlined in the table below). That will mean that the total cost of the AFB levy will be \$89.95 by **the 2023/24 year**.

Year	Proposed Levy (GST exclusive)
current	\$35.17
2019/20	\$58.42
2020/21	\$79.69
2021/22	\$87.37
2022/23	\$89.41
2023/24	\$89.85

Whether a beekeeper has one hive or more, the activities needed to support effective management of AFB are largely the same. For example, the additional funding will go towards increased AP2 inspections, online courses to help beekeepers learn to detect AFB, targeted advisory services, making sure there is compliance with DECAs as well as replacing the current web online platform to provide smart phone apps. The Management Agency will also be providing clubs and hubs with practical education tools and support that will help beekeepers stay on top of AFB. These are just some of the increased services and activities we need to put in place to make sure we stay on top of AFB. You can see all the relevant activities on page 2 of our [flier](#).

Q: What is the proposed cost for beekeepers with two or three apiaries?

Under the levy proposal beekeepers with less than four apiaries and less than eleven hives will continue to be levied as if they owned one apiary.



Q: What percentage of the proposed levy will be paid by hobby beekeepers?

Hobby beekeepers with less than eleven hives represent 74% of all beekeepers. Under the proposed levy they will contribute 19% of the total levy. Under the current levy hobby beekeepers contribute 23% of the total levy.

Q: Why is a hive levy not proposed?

A hive levy will not collect enough funding from hobby beekeepers to cover the costs of the services and activities the Management Agency needs to put in place to make sure that we stay on top of AFB in the hobby beekeeping sector.

It is also very difficult and costly to verify that beekeepers are registering all hives and paying their fair share.

Q: Why isn't the proposed levy lower for non-commercial beekeepers?

The proposed levy is set to fairly reflect the cost of Management Agency services and activities to control AFB in the commercial and non-commercial sectors.