

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE AMERICAN FOULBROOD APIARY AND BEEKEEPER LEVY

Summary

American foulbrood (AFB) is the most serious disease affecting honey bees in New Zealand. It costs New Zealand beekeepers an estimated 6% of gross returns and poses a serious risk to New Zealand's honey exports, valued at \$329 million in 2017. Beekeepers contribute to the AFB National Pest Management Plan (NPMP) by carrying out disease control activities through inspecting hives, maintaining beekeeping best practice, and destroying hives found to be diseased. Beekeepers also pay a levy to the Management Agency to administer and operate the NPMP.

The current annual Apiary and Beekeeper Levy, approved in 2003, is \$20.00 per beekeeper and \$15.17 per apiary. This has proved insufficient to fully implement the NPMP; because of this lack of funding, the NPMP has not achieved its primary objective of 5 to 10% annual reduction in the level of AFB.

Since 2009 the beekeeping industry has experienced rapid growth with hive numbers increasing from 357,789 to 887,510, and beekeepers from 2,680 to 8,826. This growth has increased the risk of AFB, but resource constraints have prevented the Management Agency from taking further action to mitigate this increased risk. Consequently, the level of AFB has increased by an average of 15% per year since 2015. This increase is expected to continue unless the NPMP has greater resources, allowing it to do much more to reduce AFB.

The Management Agency is proposing to increase the apiary and beekeeper levy to a maximum of \$40 per beekeeper and \$50 per apiary. This will raise an additional \$2.15 million each year which will allow the NPMP to:

- **save 41,000 beehives and associated products valued at \$50 million from destruction over ten years**
- **enable exporters to meet overseas market access requirements for proof that NPMP rules have been followed**

An increased levy is required to make it possible to meet the NPMP objective of reducing the level of AFB each year. However, before the Management Agency Board makes a recommendation to the Minister for Biosecurity for a new levy order, we would like to hear your views on the proposed levy and investment plans. We are now calling for submissions which will be reviewed in September 2018, and we may make amendments to the proposed levy after considering these submissions. If the Minister accepts the new levy order, it will be in place by 31 March 2019.



THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

How do I make a submission?

You can send your submission by **10 August 2018** either:

- online by following the link at <http://www.afb.org.nz/new-levy-proposal>
- or
- completing the enclosed submission form, and posting back to us at: The Management Agency, PO Box 44282, Lower Hutt 5040

The submission form asks for your views on:

- the proposed additional activities to control AFB, and
- the proposal to increase the apiary and beekeeper levy

You are welcome to include any details you may wish to provide to support your submission.

If you have any questions, please email info@afb.org.nz before **3 August 2018**. Answers to questions will be posted on <http://www.afb.org.nz/new-levy-proposal> and emailed weekly to all registered beekeepers. Those who ask questions will not be identified in these communications.

Submissions will be considered by the Management Agency Board in September 2018.

A summary of the consultation and the Boards' decision will be posted on the website and sent to all beekeepers in October 2018.

Activity	Current levy funding and activities	Additional levy funding and activities
1. Identifying and registering apiaries	\$141,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration of Annual Disease Returns Two aerial surveillance flights 	\$296,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four additional aerial surveillance flights Investigation of all reports of suspected unregistered apiaries Enforcement of apiary registration Destruction of unregistered apiary sites where the beekeeper cannot be identified within 30 days
2. Surveillance	\$434,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP2 inspection of 2% of apiaries Testing 60 retail and export honey samples Administration of Certificates of Inspection Limited inspection of Certificate of Inspection defaulter apiaries Agreeing Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements Limited advisory services Laboratory testing of suspect American foulbrood samples 	\$1,442,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP2 inspection of 10% of apiaries Testing 2,000 retail and export honey samples Online American foulbrood recognition course development Extension package for clubs and hubs Targeted advisory services Auditing compliance with DECAs Reviewing DECA holders' progress towards elimination Default inspections
3. Eliminating AFB	Funding included in activity 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuing notices to destroy 	Funding included in activity 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditing destruction performance Monitoring effective elimination through the surveillance programme Targeted advisory services Auditing compliance with DECAs
4. Preventing the spread of AFB	Funds covered in activities 2 and 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited provision of advice Presentations at club and hub meetings 	\$26,000 (in addition to funding included in 2 and 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three regional workshops Monitoring effective prevention through the surveillance programme Targeted advisory services Auditing compliance with DECAs Issuing Restricted Place Notices
5. Cross-programme support	\$30,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Apiary Database / ApiWeb application Review of Levy Order Contribution to Clean Hive project 	\$315,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement for Apiary Database / ApiWeb application and provision of supporting smart phone apps. Review of AFB NPMP Research
6. Governance, management, administration and communications	\$401,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Management and administration Accounting, audit, legal, insurance and banking Management Agency office and telecommunications Communications, including April and October issues of the NZ Beekeeper Journal Levy collection 	\$75,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cost of levy collection
TOTAL	\$1,006,000	\$2,154,000

**For information visit www.afb.org.nz
If you have questions, please email us at info@afb.org.nz**