

AFB PMP Management Agency Board Videoconference Minutes

Date: 8:00am Tuesday 5 October 2021

Attendance: Russell Marsh, Val Graham, Jason Ward, Gabriel Torres, Hayley Pragert, Mark Dingle, Murray Lewis, Dennis Crowley, Jan Mackay, Mike Harre, Tracy Millar, Clifton King

1. Analysis of submissions

Jan presented the draft analysis of submissions to the Board.

The Board requested that methods section provide a more thorough description of the analysis methods to enable beekeepers to understand that the analysis of submissions is solely based upon their submissions and how the submissions have been analysed.

2. Consideration of submissions

Clifton presented the draft consideration of respondent views for consideration by the Board. The Boards feedback by submitter topic is described below:

- AFB Elimination goal
 - Highlight that 53% of submitters stated that there should be no changes to beekeepers legal obligations to eliminate AFB
 - Highlight that its possible to use the currently available tools more effectively to eliminate AFB
 - Define what the 'R-value' is
 - Remove the reference to the beekeeping industry deciding not to initiate a pest management plan for varroa in the 2000s
- Surveillance and prevention
 - Be more explicit that the Management Agency is not recommending the regulation of beehive sales and purchases as it is possible for beekeepers to build their own hives and the administrative burden imposed
 - Describe the impact of doing pre-movement inspections on the pest management plan
 - Require notification of beehive transfers within 7 days
 - Put a list of recommended changes to the plan order at the end of each section (Note that this applies to all sections not just surveillance and prevention.)
- Enforcement and penalties
 - Describe that s114 enables Management Agency to undertake emergency actions when dealing with recidivist offenders
- Beekeeper commitment and practices
 - The Board noted the requirement to communicate more effectively with beekeepers when they first register particularly ensuring that they aren't overwhelmed with a large volume of information
- Education, Training, Support and Practice
 - The Board stated that transitional arrangements will be required for the implementation of the refresher training requirements to retain a DECA

- Inspections and inspectors
 - The response to submissions to increase the number of inspections needs to describe consideration of the benefits of increasing inspections and the additional levy cost.
- Destruction and treatment of infected and/or abandoned hives and equipment and compensation
 - Remove reference to gamma radiation
- Apiary density and movement
 - Highlight the property rights issues associated with beehive placement – but focus on doing basics of AFB elimination (hives inspections, destruction of AFB hives) is where the elimination gains will be made.
 - Highlight the impractical nature of requiring pre-movement inspections and the potential impacts on pollination
- New methods and emerging technologies
 - Emphasise 'peer review' requirements for a method to be 'generally recognised as being effective by the scientific community'
- DECA requirements and obligations
 - No changes
- Reporting and Administrative requirements
 - No changes
- Funding arrangements for the AFB PMP
 - No changes
- Organisational structure and governance
 - No changes
- AFB PMP and Review Process
 - No changes

3. Consultation presentation for round 2

Clifton presented the draft presentation to the Board.

The Board noted their feedback provided in the previous agenda item should also result in changes to the PowerPoint presentation. They also noted the summary of planned changes to the plan order should also be presented earlier in the presentation.

4. Consultation plan

Clifton presented a detailed plan of the round 2 consultation activities and sought approval to extend round 2 until March 2022 to provide more time to explain the existing AFB PMP and the proposed changes to beekeepers before they made submissions.

The Board did not approve extending round 2 until March 2022 as consultation process is already running behind schedule and the benefits of providing extra time for round 2 consultation did not outweigh the costs and risks of further extending the timeline.

5. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 11am.