



 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AFB PMP CONSULTATION ROUND 3

Proposal Summary for
Beekeeper Consultation

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

CONTENTS

The Consultation Process	3
Have your Say	3
AFB PMP / The Next 10 Years	4
Why Eliminating AFB Matters	5
How the AFB PMP Works	6
The Proposed Rule & Power Changes	7
The Cost of AFB Elimination	11
The Next Steps	12
Provide your Feedback for Consultation Round 3	13

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation Round 1 June - July 2021 (complete)

Beekeepers were invited to share their ideas on the AFB PMP via submission.

Consultation Round 2 November - December 2021 (complete)

We used your input from Round 1 to propose major changes to the AFB PMP. We informed, engaged and consulted with beekeepers on issues and opportunities. We sought your feedback via online submission.

Consultation Round 3 August - September 2022

Your Round 2 feedback enabled us to propose detailed changes to the AFB PMP. We are informing, engaging, and consulting with beekeepers on the proposed changes. We're seeking your feedback via online submission. Submissions close on **23 September 2022**.

Submission of Proposal December 2022

The full proposal will be submitted to the Minister for Biosecurity.

Consultation time frames are indicative only.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We're consulting on the next 10 years of the AFB PMP. **Provide your feedback for Consultation Round 3 here.**

[MAKE A SUBMISSION →](#)

AFB PMP / THE NEXT 10 YEARS

The Management Agency is planning to submit a proposal to the Minister for Biosecurity to extend the Biosecurity Order 1998 National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan (AFB PMP) for another 10 years, beyond its expiry date of 1 April 2023. Through an extensive consultation process, we have used beekeeper ideas to develop a proposal for the next 10 years of the AFB PMP.

This document is a summary version of the full proposal. We're seeking beekeeper feedback on these proposed changes during Consultation Round 3. Round 3 feedback submissions close **23 September 2022**.

This booklet presents an overview of the proposal, including all proposed changes and their implications. A full version of the proposal can be found on our website.

[VIEW FULL PROPOSAL →](#)

What we heard in Round 2

Thank you for having your say in Round 2 of the AFB PMP Consultation. We heard you and updated the proposal to align with beekeeper feedback. Here's what we heard.

You support proposed changes to surveillance and prevention.

- Require beekeepers to notify any transfer of beehive ownership within 14 days.
- Require beekeeper registration numbers when declaring beehive transfers in an ADR.
- Require diagnostic laboratories to provide all AFB test results to The Management Agency.
- Enable Authorised Persons (AP2s) to use detector dogs in the future.

You support proposed changes to strengthen education and training.

- Require that DECA holders and their employees be trained to recognise AFB and complete 5-yearly refresher training.
- Better target the training needs of different groups of beekeepers.
- Improve the content value and accessibility of training, including online training.

You support The Management Agency having power to destroy AFB-infected beehives and taking actions to prevent the spread of AFB.

You support The Management Agency having the ability to impose infringement fines for the following offences:

- Failure to keep honey bees in moveable frame hives
- Failure to register an apiary
- Failure to submit an ADR
- Failure to complete a COI

WHY ELIMINATING AFB MATTERS

AFB is a contagious and lethal disease that is a major threat to honey bee health and the viability of beekeeping in New Zealand and across the world. Ten years after AFB was first identified in New Zealand it was blamed for a 70% reduction in our national honey production. Due to the serious nature of the disease, AFB has been under regulatory control in New Zealand since 1906.

Evidence shows that clinical AFB elimination will occur if infected hives are identified and destroyed before they infect one other hive on average. **Our role at The Management Agency is to support beekeepers in their fight against AFB. The AFB PMP is one of the tools we use. This consultation is our collective opportunity to strengthen the AFB PMP for the next 10 years.**

What's the impact of AFB?

Without the AFB PMP over 99,000 colonies are predicted to become infected with AFB over 10 years from 2023/24 to 2032/33. Implementation of the proposed AFB PMP is predicted to reduce the number of colonies infected with AFB by over 60,000 over the same 10-year period.

Implementation of the proposed AFB PMP also protects access to the United Kingdom, European Union, and China export markets. New Zealand exports \$235 million worth of honey products to these markets annually.

Hive losses and financial viability for beekeepers

Honey sales and export markets

HOW THE AFB PMP WORKS

THE PROPOSED RULE & POWER CHANGES

The current AFB PMP is based on simple yet effective mechanisms for eliminating AFB. It proposes to achieve 1 primary objective by achieving the 3 secondary objectives which are supported by 6 principal measures.

The current AFB PMP contains 30 plan rules and 10 powers which support the principal measures. These rules give legal effect to achieve the elimination of AFB. In consultation with beekeepers, we propose that the plan is strengthened by adding 4 new rules, amending 8 existing rules, and adding 2 new powers. These are described in the following tables.

Principal Measures

In consultation with beekeepers, we are proposing changes to the rules that enforce these principal measures

- 1. All beehive locations are notified as an apiary.
- 2. All beehives are inspected at least once per year by a competent person.
- 3. All cases of AFB are notified to The Management Agency.
- 4. All honey bees, bee products, and appliances associated with AFB are destroyed; and other actions are undertaken to prevent the spread of AFB.
- 5. Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) holders eliminate AFB from their beehives.
- 6. The Management Agency monitors beekeeper compliance with their elimination obligations and undertakes enforcement actions when appropriate.

Secondary Objectives

In consultation with beekeepers, we propose that the AFB PMP's primary and secondary objectives should remain unchanged.

- 1. To locate all places where beehives are situated and ensure each honeybee colony is inspected at least once per year for AFB.
- 2. To identify American foulbrood cases in beehives.
- 3. To eliminate American foulbrood in beehives by destroying American foulbrood cases and associated products and destroying or sterilising associated appliances.

Primary Objective

To reduce the reported incidence of AFB by 5% per year.
Measure: Annual incidence of AFB.

Principal Measure	1	All beehive locations are notified as an apiary		
		New & amended rules	What are the implications and benefits?	Who's affected?
		Prohibition on keeping bees in place other than an apiary	The requirement for beekeepers to register apiaries within 30 consecutive days of beehives being situated in that place remains unchanged. However, should you fail to register an apiary after being advised and/or directed to do so, then The Management Agency may impose an infringement fine of \$400 for an individual or \$800 for a corporation.	All beekeepers
		Allocation of identification code	You can apply for a beekeeper registration number before registering your first apiary. This will make it easier for the beekeeper that supplied you with the beehives to meet the new requirement to notify the transfer of beehives within 14 days.	Beekeepers who intend to register for the first time, and beekeepers that transfer beehives to these beekeepers

Apiary registration is vital for AFB elimination and infringement fines will deter non-compliance.

Principal Measure 2

All beehives are inspected at least once per year by a competent person

New & amended rules

What are the implications and benefits?

Who's affected?

Obligation to keep honey bees in moveable-frame hives

The requirement to keep bees in moveable frame hives to facilitate inspection for AFB remains unchanged. However, should you fail to keep bees in moveable frame hives after being directed to do so then The Management Agency may impose an infringement fine of \$400 for an individual person or \$800 for a corporation.

All beekeepers

Keeping honey bees in moveable-frame hives is vital for AFB elimination and infringement fines will deter non-compliance.

Certificate of inspection (COI)

The requirement for beekeepers without a COI Exemption to complete an annual COI remains. However, should you fail to complete a COI after you have been notified that you are in breach of your COI obligations The Management Agency may impose an infringement fine of \$400 for an individual or \$800 for a corporation.

Beekeepers who do not have a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) with The Management Agency

Completing an annual COI (without an exemption) is vital for AFB elimination and infringement fines will deter non-compliance.

Principal Measure 4

All honey bees, bee products, and appliances associated with AFB are destroyed; and other actions are undertaken to prevent the spread of AFB

New & amended rules

What are the implications and benefits?

Who's affected?

Obligation of beekeeper to destroy honey bees and materials

If you fail to comply with your legal obligation to destroy all honey bees, bee products and appliances associated with a case of AFB within 7 days The Management Agency may prosecute you for this offence.

All beekeepers

Compliance with this legal obligation is vital for AFB elimination. Making it an offence to breach this rule will deter non-compliance.

Principal Measure 5

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) holders eliminate AFB from their beehives

New & amended rules

What are the implications and benefits?

Who's affected?

Training of employee beekeepers

You are required to ensure that all employee beekeepers employed or contracted by you have passed a recognised AFB recognition course before the initiation of their employment or within 6 months of the initiation of their employment.

Commercial beekeepers that have a DECA with The Management Agency and employ or contract persons to keep their bees

You must keep the following employee beekeeper records for two years and make them available to The Management Agency within 7 days of receiving a request:

- Their dates of employment
- Their AFB training records

Ensuring that employee beekeepers are trained to recognise AFB will accelerate the elimination of AFB from commercial beekeeping operations.

Review of COI Exemption

The Management Agency may cancel your DECA if:

- You breach the conditions of your DECA (current requirement)
- The annual incidence of AFB in your beehives is rising (current requirement)
- You have not completed an AFB recognition or refresher course within the last five years (proposed requirement)
- You breach the 'Training of employee beekeepers' rule (proposed requirement)

Beekeepers that have a DECA with The Management Agency

The proposed changes to this rule ensure that DECA holders comply with their training requirements.

Transitional provisions for Review of COI Exemption

You have a two-year transitional period from when the new rules come into effect to comply with your training requirements before The Management Agency may cancel your DECA.

Beekeepers that have a DECA with The Management Agency

A two-year transition ensures that all beekeepers have sufficient time to implement the proposed new training requirements..

The Management Agency monitors beekeeper compliance with their elimination obligations and undertakes enforcement actions when appropriate.

New & amended rules

What are the implications and benefits?

Who's affected?

Requirement for laboratories to provide all AFB test results

Persons in charge of diagnostic laboratories must supply all AFB test results to The Management Agency including the name and address of both the person that submitted the sample and the beekeeper whose honey bees, bee products or appliances were sampled.

Provision of all AFB test results will enhance The Management Agency's ability to monitor the AFB elimination progress of beekeepers.

Person in charge of diagnostic laboratories. Beekeepers and others (exporters and extractors) who submit samples to diagnostic laboratories for AFB testing.

Notification of beehive transfer

You must notify The Management Agency of beehive transfers within 14 days of the transfer occurring.

This will enhance The Management Agency's ability to trace AFB outbreaks and provide beekeepers with advanced warning of the AFB risks associated with recently acquired beehives.

All beekeepers

Annual Disease Return (ADR)

The requirement to submit an ADR by 1 June each year remains unchanged. However, you will now be required to provide beekeeper registration numbers when notifying beehive transfers. Should you fail to complete an ADR after you have been notified that you are in breach of your ADR obligations then The Management Agency may impose an infringement fine of \$200 for an individual or \$400 for a corporation.

Beekeeper compliance with their ADR obligations is important for AFB elimination and infringement fines will deter non-compliance.

All beekeepers

New powers

What are the implications and benefits?

Who's affected?

General powers

The Management Agency authorised persons can destroy beehives infected with AFB and take expedient actions to prevent the spread of AFB.

Beekeepers with beehives infected with AFB

Use of dogs and devices

The Management Agency authorised persons can use detector dogs to detect AFB in the future, should the scientific community confirm that detector dogs are effective.

Beekeepers, landowners, and land occupiers

THE COST OF AFB ELIMINATION

It is estimated that, against a baseline of no control* of AFB, the proposed AFB PMP will result in benefits of \$28.6 million (present value) and total costs of \$5.9 million (present value) over ten years.

*Beekeeper feedback rejected the 'no control option' in round 1 of the consultation. The 'no control option' revokes the AFB PMP making beekeeper control of AFB voluntary, without a central agency implementing disease control interventions.

The incremental cost of implementing the proposed AFB PMP is estimated to decline from \$3.1 million in 2023/24 to -\$1.4 million in 2032/33, because the savings gained from reduced AFB destruction and replacement costs will increase over time. This is due to a reduced incidence of AFB under the proposed AFB PMP, compared to no control of AFB.

The cost of implementing the AFB PMP includes beekeeper expenses associated with:

- Inspecting beehives for AFB
- Destroying AFB hives found
- Replacement of AFB hives
- AFB recognition and refresher training for beekeepers and their employees
- Registering apiaries and submitting Annual Disease Returns
- Payment of the levy to fund implementation of the AFB PMP by The Management Agency

It is proposed that The Management Agency continue to be funded by the existing Biosecurity (American Foulbrood - Beekeeper Levy) Order 2003 which allows a maximum base levy rate of \$40 per beekeeper and \$2.55 per bee colony. The levy is currently set at \$40 per beekeeper and \$1.70 per bee colony. The beekeeper levy takes account of the additional fixed plan implementation costs associated with each beekeeper, and the colony levy recognises that the benefits of AFB elimination accrue in proportion to the number of colonies owned.

THE NEXT STEPS

HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation Round 3

We are now seeking your feedback on the proposed changes to the AFB PMP, prior to submission to the Minister in December 2022.

This booklet presents an overview of the proposal, including all proposed changes and their implications. A full version of the proposal can be found on our website.

[VIEW FULL PROPOSAL →](#)

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ON THE NEXT 10
YEARS OF THE AFB
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ROUND 3**

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NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
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0800 AFB PMP
PO Box 44282
Lower Hutt 5040
info@afb.org.nz