

AFB PMP Management Agency Board Videoconference Minutes

Date: 3:00pm Wednesday 27 July 2022

Attendance: Russell Marsh, Val Graham, Jason Ward, Gabriel Torres, Mark Dingle, Murray Lewis, Dennis Crowley, Jane Rollin, Jan Mackay, Mike Harre, Clifton King

Apologies: None

1. Welcome Jane Rollin to the Board

Mark welcomed Jane to the Board and the meeting attendees were introduced.

2. Draft proposal to amend the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan

The Board discussed the strategic requirement to improve the rate of elimination of AFB and whether the proposed changes to the plan order go far enough to support the elimination of AFB.

The Board noted that the draft proposal is consistent with the submissions made by beekeepers in the first two rounds of consultation and that there are two key aspects to improving the elimination of AFB: the regulatory framework and the operational implementation.

The Board concluded that on balance, the regulatory framework described in the draft proposal did support improving the rate of elimination of AFB. The Board also noted that further work is required to decide upon additional operational interventions to improve the rate of AFB elimination.

Clifton presented the draft proposal to the Board highlighting the key updates to the proposal since the previous Board meeting including changes requested by the Board. Further changes requested by the Board are described below:

3. *The subject of the proposal [s.61(2)(b)]*

- Remove reference to drifting as this is not a significant cause of AFB spread.

9. *Reasons why a national plan is more appropriate than a regional plan [s.61(2)(c)(vi)]*

- Replace the reference to 'manuka honey' with just 'honey' as all honey production can result in beehives being moved across regional boundaries.

17.1. *Effects on economic wellbeing*

- Noted that two different reference numbers refer to the reference to the \$5 billion impact of pollination on the economy due to the use of footnotes.

17.2. *Effects on the environment*

- Replace the first word in the section "there" with "the".
- The environment impact of burning beehives for AFB should be included in this section noting the that: initially the plan order will result in more beehives being burnt for AFB than if there was no plan, and that in the later years the plan order will result in less beehives being burnt as there will be less AFB.

- Remove the phrase “...especially if these hives pose a threat to native species of flora.”

17.3. *Effects on human health*

- Remove reference to ‘financial health’ as it is not relevant to this section.

18. *Effects of the plan on the marketing overseas of New Zealand products [s.61(2)(e)(ii)]*

- Add access to UK and EU Markets into this section
- Add reference to 100% Pure campaign in this section

21. *Proposed rules and an explanation of purpose [s.61(2)(h)]*

- Table 5: Proposed Plan Rules and explanation of policy intent
 - Insert the word ‘recognised’ to refer to ‘a recognised course in American foulbrood recognition’ for the new rule ‘Training of employee beekeepers’
- Consider hyperlinking plan rule terms referenced in glossary.

22. *Rules whose contravention is proposed to be an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993 [s.61(2)(i)]*

- Amend the plain English description of rule 15 to clarify that beehives only have to be on registered apiary sites if they have been there for 30 consecutive days.

23. *The management agency [s.61(2)(j)]*

- The first two paragraphs of this section need to be rewritten to reduce potential confusion over when the text is referring to ApiNZ and when it is referring to the Management Agency Board.

The Board approved the release of the draft proposal to consultation subject to the changes described above.

3. Next steps to initiate consultation

Clifton advised the Board that the initiation of consultation is planned for 15 August 2022 and that consultation is planned to close 23 September 2023. He advised the Board that development of a beekeeper communications friendly summary of the proposal is underway and the Board can expect to see this later next week. Planning for the roadshow meetings is also underway.

The Board discussed whether it was possible to extend the timeframes for consultation. Clifton advised that this was not possible as the Management Agency was also required to complete consultation on the budget for 2023/24. It was advisable to start this consultation process after consultation on the plan order had closed to prevent confusion. Delaying the close of plan order consultation would delay the start of the budget consultation, and this may make it difficult for the Management Agency to complete considerations of submissions in time to announce the rate of levy in the December Beekeeper Magazine as it is legally required to do.

4. Next meeting

The Board confirmed the next board meeting would be on Friday the 19th of August in Wellington.

5. Meeting closed

The meeting closed at 5:15pm.