

CONFIRMED MINUTES

DISCUSSION ON RESULTS FROM THE 2024/25 LEVY CONSULTATION

Name:	The Management Agency National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan
Date:	Monday, 30 October 2023
Time:	7:00 pm to 7:30 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Zoom, Zoom
Board Members:	Mark Dingle (Chair), Gabriel Torres, Jane Rollin, Jason Ward, Trent Proffit
Attendees:	Niha Long
Apologies:	Dennis Crowley, Val Graham

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Review of submissions

The Chair opened the meeting. Niha provided an outline on the process of the levy consultation. The consultation period was from 6 October to 20 October. Over 8,000 beekeepers were sent the email link for SurveyMonkey and 174 were sent the postal version. Only 6,000 beekeepers opened the email.

A FAQ page was also set up on the website and on the Agency's Facebook account.

Niha provided a breakdown of the submissions received. A full analysis had not been done, however, as of 30 Oct and out of a total of 74 submitters:

- 69 made an online submission
- 2 sent letters
- 2 sent emails
- 1 survey received by post (thus far)

There was an even split between those who agreed and those who disagreed with the proposal. 24/30 submitters who disagreed with the proposal provided comments citing financial strain and rising costs in other areas of operation; as did 15 submitters who each owned more than 50 hives.

Niha advised the webpage announcement will be accompanied by a summary document with an analysis of all submissions (and comments) received.

2. Decisions and Discussions

2.1 Board discussion and decision on setting of 2024/25 levy rate

The Chair enquired with the Board if there was some merit in a compromise based on feedback received, or proceed with the proposed rates.

The Board discussed the following:

- A 25 cents/hive increase or an extra \$250 for anyone owning 1000 hives is immaterial but it can make a difference in the fight against AFB.
- A need to continue reviewing the Management Agency's operational expenditure and cut costs accordingly.
- Levy hike is still needed to support the Agency's services until colony numbers return.

Niha touched upon the forecasted loss of \$200k for 2024/25, despite the 25 cent colony levy increase and tightening of the budget.

Mark advised that levy for 2025/26 will reduce further next year. As such, the Chair and Board agreed that the response will require careful crafting which:

- acknowledges the concerns around financial strain that have been raised
- states that levy rates have remain unchanged since 2020
- states the detrimental effect of abandoned hives and AFB risk
- states the inflationary environment under which the Management Agency is operating to tackle AFB.



Resolutions unanimously taken by the Board

After having reviewed the summary of submissions received post levy consultation, the Management Agency Board:

1. Agreed to proceed with increasing the colony levy by 25 cents (from \$1.70 to \$1.95) for 2024/25.
2. Agreed to retain the per beekeeper levy of \$40 (unchanged).

Decision Date: 30 Oct 2023
Mover: Mark Dingle
Seconder: Gabriel Torres
Outcome: Approved



Draft Messaging for the Agency's website re final decision

Niha to draft and circulate bullet points to the Board for conveying the Agency's final decision for the 2024/25 levy.

Due Date: 10 Nov 2023
Owner: Niha Long

3. Other Business

4. Close Meeting

4.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: AFB Management Agency - Board Meeting - 17 Nov 2023, 9:00 am

Signature:_____

Date:_____