



**Confidential to the ApiNZ Board and AFB Management Agency**

## American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan

Governance Report  
Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)

**Report 38 – August 2024**

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## Highlights Report

### Quick Stats as of 20 August vs for the same period in 2023:

Category	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Number of registered beekeepers</b>	8,281 (9.6%) ▼	9,165
<b>Number of registered beekeepers with a DECA</b>	4,788 (3.4%) ▼	4,958
<b>Number of registered apiaries</b>	51,928 (7.6%) ▼	56,293
<b>Number of registered colonies</b>	526,616 (11.2%) ▼	593,347
<b>AFB cases</b>	<b>305</b> (1 June 2024 – 20 August 2024) (17.1%) ▼	<b>368</b> (1 June 2023 – 20 August 2023)

#### 1. Annual Disease Returns (ADRs)

A total of 6,854 beekeepers (79.8% of all registered beekeepers) had submitted their ADRs between 1 April 2024 and 1 June 2024, compared with 7,381 beekeepers (77.4% of all registered beekeepers) for the same period in 2023. The proportion of beekeepers who completed their ADRs on HiveHub was similar (i.e. 94%) for both 2023 and 2024.

Between 9 April and 03 July 2024, the Management Agency sent nine emails and six text reminders to all beekeepers advising them of their ADR obligations. Despite multiple reminders, on 1 August, 34 beekeepers had their DECAs revoked due to no ADRs being furnished. As of 20 August 2024, 567 beekeepers were in default of filing their 2024 ADRs. These beekeepers own 5,441 colonies on 1,301 registered apiaries.

#### 2. AFB NPMP Governance review and NPMP review timeline

Following multiple proposals of the NPMP review requesting the NPMP to be an independent agency, the Minister of Biosecurity directed Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) to commission an independent review of the governance and administration of the NPMP. A Terms of Reference was sent to the GM and to the Management Agency Chairman by BNZ. This review began in mid-June and is nearing completion.

The purpose of the review is to assess whether the governance structure, processes, working arrangements, and level of independence of the NPMP are fit for purpose and to identify opportunities for improvement. The operational delivery of the NPMP is out of scope. Some of the components of the review include:

- ❖ Are governance, administration and management costs appropriate given the purpose of the organisation and the scope and size of its operations?
- ❖ Are the structure of the Board and governance processes effectively delivering their desired functions?
- ❖ What are the benefits or costs of separating the Management Agency from ApiNZ to operate fully independently, compared with the current model?
- ❖ Are the Management Agency's assurance, communications, and other processes sufficient to give confidence to levy payers that funds are being spent appropriately?
- ❖ Are there systems for controlling costs and reviewing expenditure and are these effective?

- ❖ Does the Management Agency board follow best practice for a levy funded organisation of this scale?

The independent reviewer has completed interviews with the Chair, GM, Apiculture NZ, New Zealand Beekeeping Inc, and other key parties within the sector. The final report is due to BNZ by 31 August 2024.

A draft timeline of the steps of the NPMP review has been prepared by MPI which can be found here: <https://afb.org.nz/review-of-plan-order/>

### 3. 2024 Certificates of Inspection (COI)

The COI period began on 1 August and will run until 30 November 2024. A total of 3,555 non-DECA holders were informed of the requirement to complete a Certificate of Inspection on 1 August 2024. The list of DECA holders who have volunteered to assist with COIs has been reviewed and is live:

[https://afb.org.nz/certified\\_deca\\_accruited\\_inspectors\\_list/](https://afb.org.nz/certified_deca_accruited_inspectors_list/)

To assist beekeepers in their compliance with COIs, the Management Agency developed a COI matrix to encourage beekeepers to plan. The matrix has clear instructions on beekeepers' responsibilities for accurate completion and submission of the form in a timely manner. The matrix is available in both print and postal versions.

<https://afb.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/COI-Matrix-1.png>

<https://afb.org.nz/goal-of-the-afb-npmp/certificate-of-inspection/>

### 4. Train the Trainers and Annual AP2 refresher training days

Between 24 and 26 July 2024, the Management Agency held training days for both AFB Recognition Trainers (24 July) and AP2s (25 & 26 July) in Christchurch. The AFB Recognition course trainers last got together in 2021. As the first point of contact with new beekeepers, the AFB Recognition Course trainers have the potential to set the right foundation for new (and existing) beekeepers at AFB recognition courses. Eleven trainers were present on the day. The sessions were kept interactive and active participation was encouraged. Some of the topics that were covered included scoping out barriers faced by beekeepers for attending classroom AFB Recognition and refresher courses, learning styles and how trainers could cater to the different types of learners, techniques for delivering training, and other avenues for promoting the Agency's AFB courses.

Twenty-six AP2s attended the annual AP2 training days. Day 1 of the training was dedicated solely for AFB NPMP topics and Day 2 was allocated for MPI and Asurequality topics. The training days were kept interactive with multiple quiz questions, icebreakers, scenario-based discussions, and opportunities for AP2s to share their own experiences/knowledge with their peers. Core topics covered during the Training days included:

- ❖ Feedback on Operations Managers performance and feedback from beekeepers about AP2 inspections,
- ❖ Health & Safety, contacting beekeepers, de-escalation techniques
- ❖ Hivehub
- ❖ Swabbing 101 by John McKay (dnature)
- ❖ Compliance & enforcement actions
- ❖ Exotic Surveillance programme and recent bee-related incursion investigations (MPI)

- ❖ Exotic bee pests and field diagnosis (AQ)
- ❖ Legal powers relevant to AP2s (Biosecurity Act), the Privacy Act and Official Information Act (AQ).

#### **5. 2023/24 financial audits**

In October 2023 BDO Tauranga (the Management Agency's long-standing auditors) advised of their resignation from future audits due to overhead costs exceeding audit fees. Subsequently, the Management Agency engaged the services of Ainger Tomlin Chartered Accountants in April 2024, thereby making the current audit its first with this auditor. The 2023/24 year-end financial audit began on 17 July 2024. The business accountant and GM are working closely with the auditors to ensure all required information is provided and queries answered in a timely manner. The audit is expected to finish with all final reports complete by end of August/early September 2024.

#### **6. 2025/26 levy and budget consultation**

The Management Agency is getting ready to begin consulting with the sector on the proposed levy and budget for 2025/26. The consultation will begin from early September once the Management Agency Board has agreed on the proposed levy rate and budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

