



THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Annual Report

2023 / 2024

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Welcome from the Board Chair & the General Manager

We are pleased to share this Annual Report with beekeepers and the wider primary industry to provide insight into the implementation of the American Foulbrood (AFB) National Pest Management Plan (NPMP) and the progress The Management Agency team and beekeepers have been making.


2023/24 was a financially challenging year for many beekeepers. This was reflected in a continued reduction of the number of beekeepers and colonies. Between 1 June 2023 and 31 May 2024, there was a 9.8% decline in beekeeper numbers (from 9,533 to 8,592) and an 11.7% decline in registered colony numbers (from 608,607 to 541,263). At the same time, there was a 9.6% reduction in AFB cases (from 3,451 to 3,118).

While the decline in AFB case numbers is encouraging, when taken as a percentage of total colony numbers the national AFB incidence has risen slightly from 0.56% in 2022/23 to 0.57% during 2023/24. We view this further reduction in colony numbers as an opportunity to make significant progress in reducing the incidence of AFB by working closely with the beekeepers that remain in the industry.

In 2023/24, the decline in colony numbers affected The Management Agency's primary revenue stream (beekeeper levies) with a 16% reduction in levy income which was \$1,378,501 compared to \$1,640,183 in 2022/23. Registration fees received from AFB Recognition course registrations showed a 53% decline to \$34,539 compared to \$74,349 in 2022/23. This reduction reflects the removal of the 'fees-free' tertiary education and training scheme affecting Level 3 Apiculture students who accounted for a significant proportion of course registrations. In response to this financial pressure, we adapted and reduced operational expenditure by 7% (compared to 2022/23), by identifying areas of cost savings and re-prioritising funding to areas of greatest need. We are committed to continually ensuring that our income is utilised in the most cost-effective and impactful ways.

The number of Authorised Persons (AP2) inspections carried out declined as a result of the reduced levy income. During 2023/24, 3,562 apiaries and 20,846 hives were inspected by AP2s, which was down from 3,793 apiaries and 23,377 hives inspected over the same period in 2022/23 (a decrease of 6% and 10.8%, respectively). Despite the reduced number of inspections, AP2s found 596 cases of AFB during inspections. The number of cases found by AP2s continues to be disproportionately higher than that identified by beekeepers themselves.

With reduced funding for future AP2 inspections, The Management Agency's expectations of self-reporting by beekeepers will increase. During 2023/24, the number of AFB cases self-reported by beekeepers was 2,522, a 6.2% decrease from 2,689 cases of AFB reported by beekeepers the year before. For the sake of the industry, we can't afford to become complacent. We urge beekeepers to identify, report, and destroy AFB cases within 7 days as they are required to do. This will allow us to deploy AP2s to monitor and audit beekeepers' efforts at eliminating AFB from their operations and investigate sources of AFB where AFB outbreaks are persistent.



Since submitting a proposal for a new AFB NPMP to the previous Minister for Biosecurity in March 2023 (an overview of the AFB NPMP proposed changes can be found [here](#)), The Management Agency has actively engaged with the office of the new Minister for Biosecurity to progress the review of the AFB NPMP. Over the coming months, we will be working closely with MPI on progressing the draft of the new NPMP through Cabinet and the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO). Subject to no further amendments, the new NPMP is expected to come into effect by mid-2025. We will keep all beekeepers updated through our regular communication channels.

Despite the delays to the NPMP review, in late 2023 we forged ahead, laying the groundwork for the implementation of the new NPMP. We introduced beekeepers to our AFB NPMP Change Programme and its five priorities (the AFB NPMP Change Programme can be found [here](#)). The objective of the AFB NPMP Change Programme is to pivot the sector's focus from presence/absence of AFB to a long-term behavioural change based on the implementation of sound biosecurity/AFB elimination practices by beekeepers. The Management Agency is committed to achieving this through education, training, the review and amendment of Disease Elimination Conformity Agreements (DECAs), and by providing information to all beekeepers at the right time, right place, and in the right format through our comms strategy.

Beekeepers will have noticed that we have significantly stepped up our communications with the sector in the past year. This increased interaction, both electronically and face-to-face, has had an immediate impact in communicating our role to the sector as well as reminding beekeepers of their obligations and clarifying the support that the Agency can provide beekeepers in their AFB elimination efforts. We will continue this level of interaction in the coming year and additionally step up our education efforts with the launch of a training programme specifically developed for commercial beekeeping operations.

We are also continuing to enhance the functionality of HiveHub. For example, we have now geo-coded the location of an apiary to a specific Regional Council. Our intention is to classify regions on a simple scale and focus our efforts on those locations where the incidence of AFB remains persistently high. Significantly reducing the incidence of AFB in a defined geographic area has been achieved – but to be successful it requires a concerted and collaborative effort on the part of all beekeepers in that location.

In November 2023, Dennis Crowley stepped down from both the Apiculture New Zealand and The Management Agency Board. In December 2023, Murray Elwood was welcomed as Dennis' replacement and as the Apiculture New Zealand Board representative on The Management Agency Board.

After six years (which included an extended term), in June 2024, Gabriel Torres and Jason Ward completed their respective terms on the Board. Together, Gabriel and Jason brought strong knowledge and expertise of the commercial beekeeping sector and have been present through the various changes to The Management Agency. We would like to recognize and thank both Gabriel and Jason for their significant contribution over this extended period of time. In July 2024, The Management Agency Board welcomed Lubomir Dudek to replace one of the two commercial Board member vacancies. This brings the representation on The Management Agency Board to an even split of three hobbyists and three commercial beekeepers, while continuing to carry a vacancy as a cost-saving measure.

In April 2024 and after over four years with The Management Agency team, Leonie Elliott-Mason finished her full-time role as an Apiary Coordinator. Leonie continued to work in a part time capacity until June to train her replacement. Leonie was an integral part of the team and has assisted hundreds of beekeepers during her time with the Agency with her immense knowledge and her impressive ability to make beekeepers feel heard. In April 2024, The Management Agency welcomed Paula Michelle Rich as Leonie's replacement. In her short time with the Agency, Paula has already added significant value.

AFB elimination requires collective effort. We would like to thank those beekeepers who have been diligently managing the elimination of this disease within their operations and express our gratitude to all beekeepers for the ongoing support of the work The Management Agency team does each day. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming year.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Dingle".

Mark Dingle
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Niharika".

Niharika (Niha) Long
General Manager

Objectives of the National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan

The Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998 (NPMP) specifies the legal obligations and powers for the management of AFB in New Zealand. The current NPMP was amended on 18 September 2012 and supersedes the original NPMP made on 7 September 1998. The current NPMP is under review and will continue to be in force until approval of proposed changes in 2025 by the Minister for Biosecurity.

Primary objective

To manage AFB in order to reduce its reported incidence by an average of 5% each year in managed beehives.

Secondary objectives

1. To locate all places where beehives are situated and ensure that each honeybee colony is inspected at least once each year for AFB.
2. To identify AFB cases in beehives.
3. To eliminate AFB in beehives by destroying any cases and associated bee products, as well as destroying or sterilizing associated appliances.

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.

HOW WE'LL DO IT

Beekeepers are responsible for registering apiaries with The Management Agency.	Beekeepers are responsible for ensuring that their beehives are inspected at least once per year by a person competent in recognising AFB as part of an annual Certificate of Inspection, or as agreed in their Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement with The Management Agency.	Beekeepers are responsible for notifying all cases of AFB to The Management Agency.	Beekeepers are responsible for destroying cases of AFB and undertaking actions to prevent the spread of AFB.	Beekeepers may enter into an agreement with The Management Agency whereby they agree to eliminate AFB from their beehives using the AFB elimination practices and procedures specified in the agreement. The Management Agency provides these beekeepers with an exemption from the annual Certificate of Inspection requirement in recognition of their commitment to eliminating AFB from their beehives.	The Management Agency is responsible for monitoring beekeepers' compliance with their legal obligations under the first five principal measures, and for undertaking enforcement actions where necessary.
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The AFB NPMP Change Programme

On 17 November 2023, The Management Agency Board endorsed the commencement of the AFB NPMP Change Programme (Figure 1). The AFB NPMP Change Programme takes a holistic approach by:

- Providing a framework for the implementation of the proposed changes to the new AFB NPMP.
- Ensuring changes are future-focused and executed/embedded in a positive manner.

The primary aim of the AFB NPMP Change Programme is to accelerate the elimination of AFB from managed beehives in New Zealand by transforming beekeepers focus from the 'presence or absence of AFB' to the 'implementation of good AFB elimination practices'.

The AFB NPMP Change Programme contains five priorities which will have a significant impact on the long-term direction of The Management Agency, its AFB elimination objectives, and the investment required. Each priority has touchpoints with the wider AFB NPMP Change Programme and the respective regulatory changes.

The operational delivery of the five Priorities is through The Management Agency's Annual Work Plan with sequential tasks spanning the 2024 and 2025 calendar years (dependent on resources and capacity).



Further details about the AFB NPMP Change Programme can be found [here](#).

Figure 1: Priorities for the implementation of the AFB NPMP Change Programme.

Progress updates

Priority 1: HiveHub upgrades and enhancements

The foundational element for the implementation of the AFB NPMP Change Programme is governed by the capability and functionality of HiveHub. HiveHub continues to be the central information management system for The Management Agency. Several changes were completed in 2023/24 (Figure 2) to support increased usage of this system by beekeepers.



Figure 2: Changes completed for HiveHub upgrades and enhancements during 2023/24.

Priority 2: Commercial beekeepers training and upskilling

Commercial beekeepers collectively own more than 60% of the honeybee colonies in New Zealand. Despite accounting for over half of all AFB cases, the annual incidence of AFB in their beehives is typically less than 1% and frequently much lower due to the large number of colonies owned (1,000 – 20,000). Employee beekeepers looking after honeybee husbandry may often be unaware of the benefits of AFB elimination for either their employer or themselves and their practices may or may not be appropriate for the scale of the beekeeping operation they are now working for.

During 2023/24, The Management Agency completed the first three stages of developing commercial beekeeper training which is focussed on the learning needs of commercial beekeepers, and those employing staff with responsibility for honeybee husbandry (Figure 3).

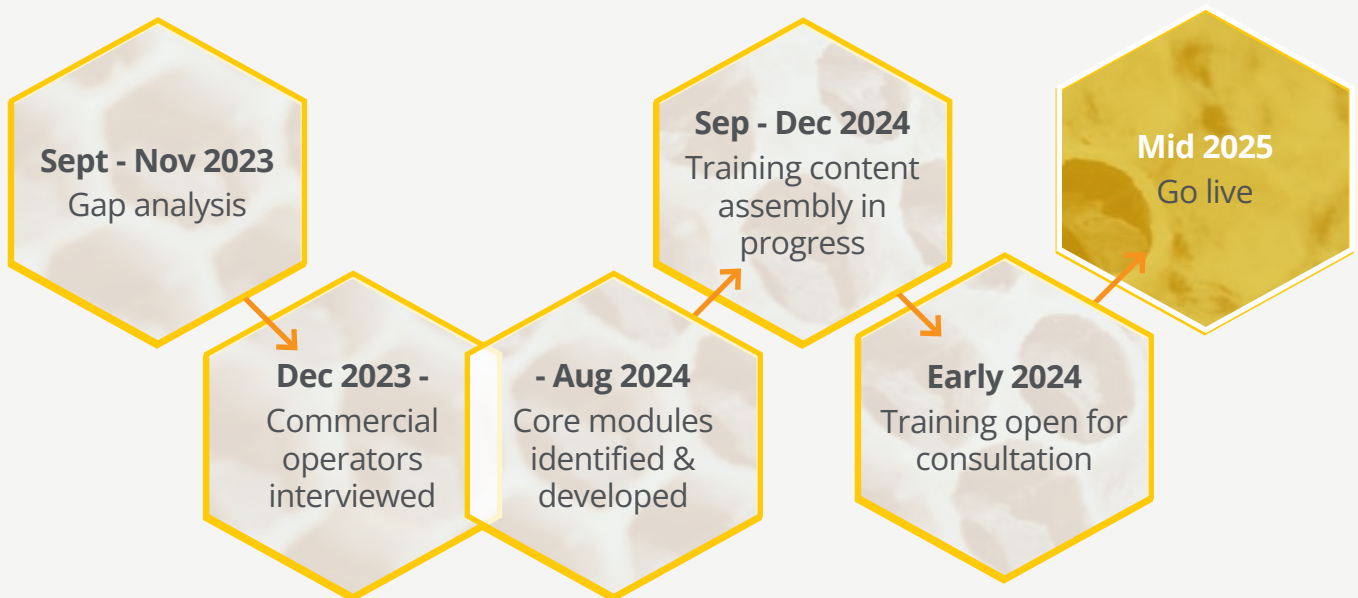


Figure 3: A timeline of the stages of development of the commercial training programme

The scope of the training combines the current educational gaps that we have identified exist within such operations and the areas where commercial operators have signalled requiring assistance from us (Figure 4). Based on feedback received, The Management Agency Commercial Training will deliver the following:

- Focus on the practical challenges of eliminating AFB from a commercial beekeeping operation.
- Educate employees with responsibility for honeybee husbandry to carry out the AFB elimination practices and processes specified in the beekeepers DECA.
- Provide knowledge and insights on best practice bee husbandry and ways to integrate AFB elimination while balancing competing priorities.
- Provide education and clarity on The Management Agency's expectations for DECAs.
- Define success measures for various-sized operations.
- Develop scalable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



Figure 4: Core training modules within The Management Agency's Commercial training course

The Management Agency will consult with commercial beekeepers in early 2025 on options for the mode of delivery of the training (i.e. either Agency-led or commercial operator-led).

Priority 3: The Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) review project

Over 56% of New Zealand beekeepers are DECA holders who collectively own 94% of honeybee colonies in New Zealand. Effective and consistent implementation of AFB elimination practices and procedures specified within DECAs by beekeepers should be sufficient to achieve an annual 20% – 30% reduction in the national incidence of AFB – well beyond the current 5% reduction target. As this has not been achieved, it is likely that:

1. The practices and procedures set out in the agreements are insufficient to eliminate AFB (or maintain at zero).
2. Too many beekeepers are not accurately implementing the practices and procedures set out in the agreements.

We commenced the DECA review project in 2023/24 to deliver new capability that will be the primary driver of AFB elimination from managed beehives in New Zealand. When paired with appropriate communications, training, and HiveHub enhancement support, this phased, multi-year project (Figure 5) will:

- Ensure practices and procedures set out in current DECA agreements are reviewed and amended, based on AFB risk.
- Ensure the DECA agreements are fit for purpose, scalable, and relevant to each beekeeper's operation for eliminating AFB from their beehives.
- Provide clarity to the sector of The Management Agency's decision-making processes for granting, amending, or revoking a DECA.
- Audit /assess beekeepers' implementation of their DECAs in relation to AFB incidence.

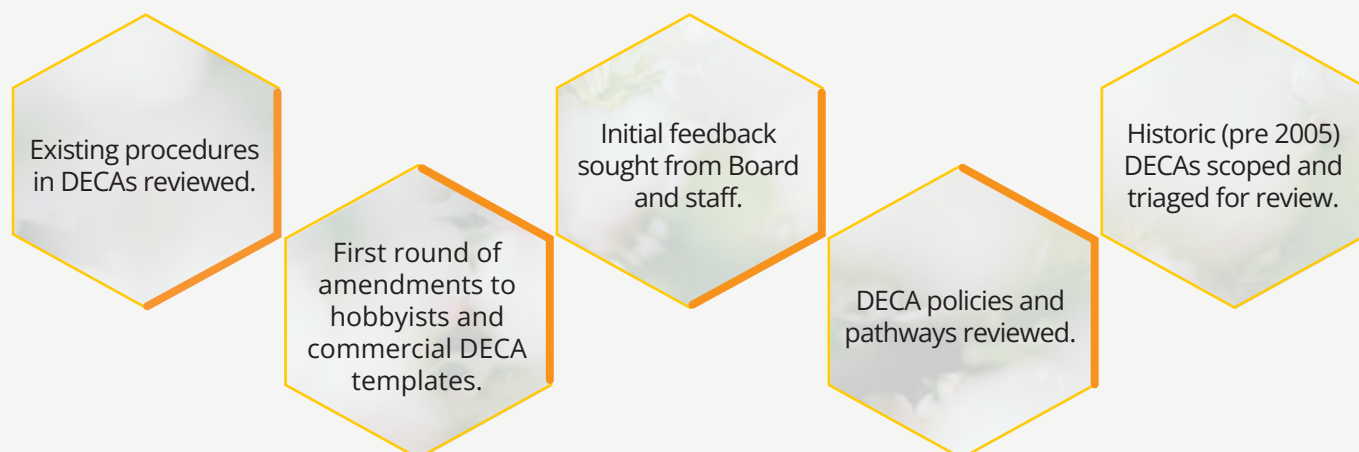


Figure 5: Phases of The Management Agency's DECA review project

We will be consulting with all beekeepers on the structure of future DECAs in 2025 supported by robust communications prior to a phased roll out, based on assessments of individual beekeepers' AFB history.

Priority 4: Building The Management Agency's communication strategy

Our communications and engagement with beekeepers are foundational elements of the AFB NPMP Change Programme. With an aim to create a culture of accepting and tackling AFB as a normal part of beekeeping operations, our communications strategy has been designed to:

- Address the gaps in the sector's knowledge and understanding of its functions.
- Provide easy access to essential AFB-related information and resources to assist beekeepers with their legal obligations and AFB elimination efforts.
- Remove AFB stigma and dispel AFB misinformation.

- Outline success stories and identify champions in the industry who have successfully achieved AFB elimination.

During 2023/24, we implemented the following to re-engage, educate, inspire, and empower beekeepers with the right knowledge to implement effective AFB elimination processes (Figure 6).

- Introduction of The Management Agency's quarterly newsletter sent to all registered beekeepers and beekeeping clubs.
- Re-started our social media account to achieve greater reach with the sector through regular posts and interactions. This has led to an 113% increase in Follower counts.
- Undertook 14 in-person engagements with hobbyists and commercial beekeepers across Wellington, Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui, Nelson, Canterbury, Otago, Southland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, and Auckland (city).
- Audited and amended all outgoing communications to beekeepers.
- Released several flowcharts, several frequently asked questions (FAQs), and industry announcements to support the sector's understanding of The Management Agency's decision-making and administrative processes.
- Began re-designing the structure of The Management Agency's new website to make it fit-for-purpose and easily navigable.



Figure 6: The Management Agency's avenues of engagement



Priority 5: Efficient resource management

Current economic conditions have been challenging for the beekeeping industry and an 11% decline in colony numbers between June 2023 and May 2024 (from 608,607 to 541,263) negatively impacted our revenue. The increased level of AFB risks faced by beekeepers due to the increasing number of abandoned/neglected apiaries, rate of inflation, and rising administrative and operational costs to implement the AFB NPMP requires The Management Agency to administer beekeeper levy funds carefully with decisions on expenditure carefully considered.

During 2023/24, The Management Agency undertook the following steps as part of our review of existing resources, operational expenditure, and the identification of cost-saving areas.

- Re-prioritising funding from honey surveillance to targeted apiary inspections in areas of high AFB risk.
- Closing the Wellington office that was shared with Apiculture New Zealand.
- A \$4,015 reduction in postage costs associated with the New Zealand Beekeeper magazine moving to online in the latter half of 2023/24.
- Reducing the number of in-person Board meetings and trialling more frequent virtual meetings.

The Management Agency's 47 Authorised Persons Level 2 (AP2) are frontline staff who assist in implementing the educational and monitoring/auditing aspects of the AFB NPMP Change Programme. During 2023/24, the following were undertaken to improve the efficiency of The Management Agency's pool of AP2s which have downstream impacts on expenditure.

- A review of the capabilities within the current AP2 pool and performance management.
- Continuous improvement of the service provided by AP2s, based on survey results from beekeepers who have been inspected recently.
- Identifying potential AP2s to take over those who are due to retire (succession planning).
- Balancing the number of AP2s required per region and strategically recruiting AP2s to ensure an even spread of AP2 presence across New Zealand (i.e. reduced travel costs).
- Tapping into AP2 local knowledge to monitor for blind spots within AFB surveillance processes.

Reported Incidence of American Foulbrood Over a 12-Month Period

In the 12 months to 31 May 2024, 3,118 cases (0.57% of colonies) of AFB were notified compared with 3,451 cases (0.56% of colonies) notified the previous year. The total number of AFB cases being reported is inclusive of beekeepers who were de-registered during the reporting period and benefitted from accurate geocoding of apiaries due to recent improvements made within HiveHub. The annual reported incidence of AFB since 1998 is shown in Figure 7.

Reported AFB incidence 1998 – 2024

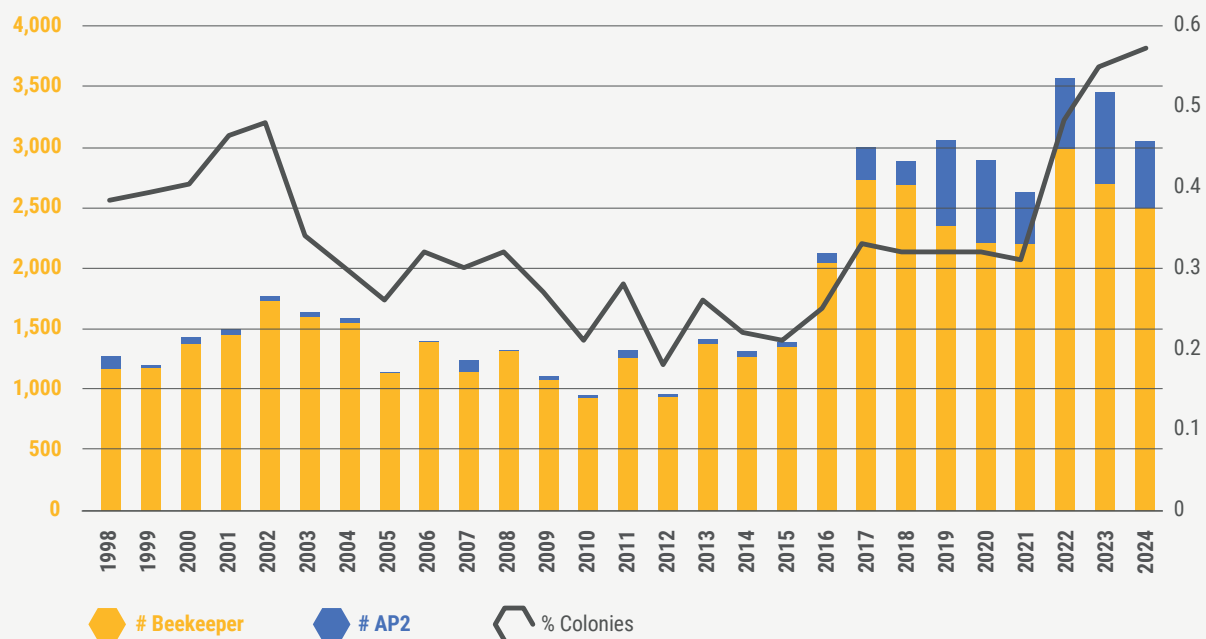


Figure 7: Reported AFB incidence 1998 – 2024



Regional breakdown of AFB

Reporting by both beekeepers and AP2s led to The Management Agency receiving 2,070 AFB notifications during the 2023/24 year, compared to 2,044 AFB notifications during the 2022/23 year—a 1.3% increase.

The regional breakdown of AFB cases for 2023/24 (Figure 8) is indicative of a positive downward trend. With the exception of Canterbury and Southland, other regions such as Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Nelson/Tasman, Marlborough, and Otago have shown marked improvements in the management of their AFB cases.

The decline in AFB cases in the above regions is due to improved AFB management practices being actively undertaken by beekeepers, under the guidance of The Management Agency's Operations Managers. Other factors include:

- 🍯 Beekeepers changing their management practices to minimize the risk of AFB spread from one colony to another.
- 🍯 Destruction of old/used beekeeping gear associated with dead-outs.
- 🍯 Improved traceability of hive movements between apiaries (i.e. minimising the spread of AFB by keeping hives together).
- 🍯 Beekeepers with a known AFB issue either leaving the beekeeping industry or improving their AFB management practices.
- 🍯 Prompt compliance and enforcement actions on a minority of high-risk beekeepers, to ensure they no longer pose an AFB risk to neighbouring beekeepers.

As a result, AFB cases were being found as light infections and fewer repeat AFB cases originating from the same apiaries were reported.

Regional Breakdown of AFB Cases 1 June - 31 May

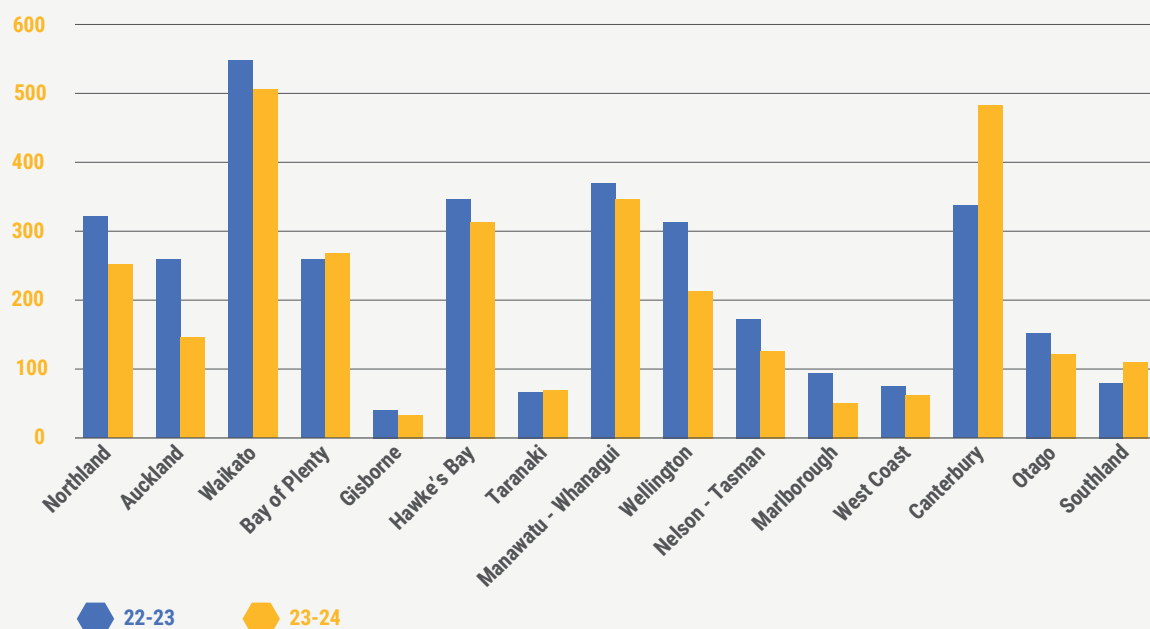


Figure 8: Regional breakdown of AFB cases across 2022/23 and 2023/24

AFB cases in Gisborne have been reported only in a handful of commercial beekeeping operations. This suggests AFB elimination in this region is achievable and The Management Agency will continue working with these beekeeping operations to ensure they succeed in their AFB elimination efforts.

More work ahead

Two regions that have shown an increase in reported cases of AFB compared to the previous reporting period are Canterbury (138 extra cases) and Southland (37 extra cases).

In Canterbury, 29% of the total AFB cases for 2023/24 (140 out of 481) were associated with:

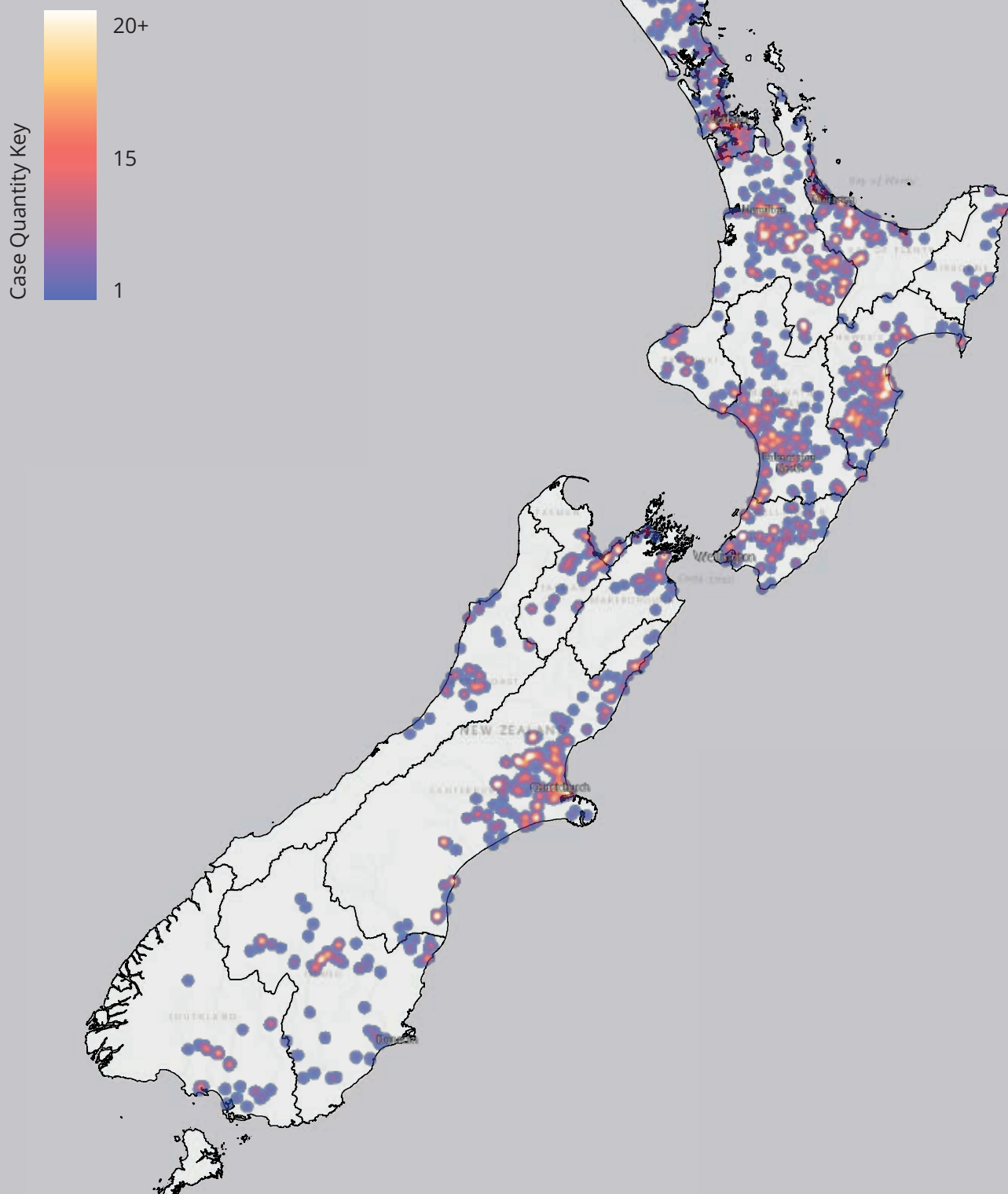
- ⬡ 63 cases from six high-risk beekeepers, and
- ⬡ 77 cases from 11 beekeepers who had multiple AFB outbreaks and have since left the industry.

Similarly, 66.3% of the total AFB cases for 2023/24 (71 out of 107) in Southland were associated with:

- ⬡ 54 cases from a single high-risk beekeeper, and
- ⬡ 17 cases from five beekeepers who had a persistent AFB outbreak and have since left the industry.

Over the course of the next 18 months, The Management Agency will continue working with the beekeepers from these regions to assist them with a decline in reported cases of AFB.

AFB Hotspot Map 2023/2024



Beekeepers, registered apiaries, colonies

Beekeeper and apiary numbers are continuing to decline (Figure 9). As of 31 May 2024, there were 8,592 registered beekeepers (down from 9,533 the previous year) and 53,355 registered apiaries (down from 57,139 the previous year).

The number of colonies (Figure 10) located on registered apiaries declined by 11.7% from 608,607 recorded one year earlier to 541,263 colonies as of 31 May 2024.

Beekeeper, apiary, and colony stats 1998-2024

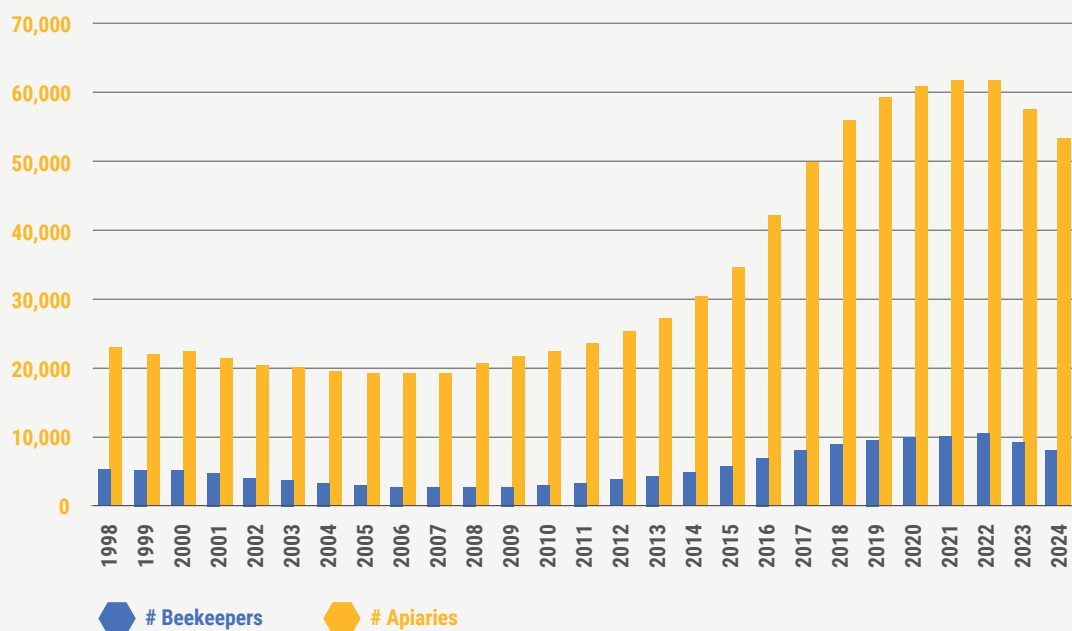


Figure 9: Beekeeper and Apiary statistics, 1998 - 2024

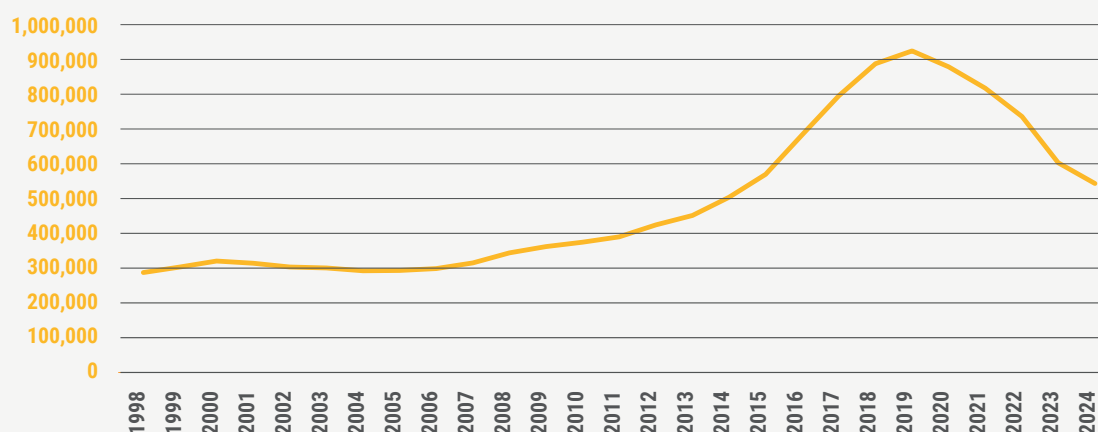


Figure 10: Colony statistics, 1998 - 2024

Monitoring & Auditing Beekeepers' AFB Elimination Efforts

In addition to monitoring the annual reported incidence of AFB, The Management Agency also monitors and audits the following beekeeper actions to achieve the NPMP's objectives of AFB elimination.

- ⬡ Notification of places as apiaries
- ⬡ Annual Disease returns (ADRs)
- ⬡ Certificates of Inspection (COIs)
- ⬡ Notification of AFB cases

Apiary and beekeeper registrations

During 2023/24, a total of 5,988 new apiaries were registered, compared with 7,635 new apiaries being registered for the same period in 2022/23. Apiary deregistrations slowed by 15.3% with 9,838 apiaries being deregistered during 2023/24, compared to 11,613 apiaries deregistered during 2022/23.

A total of 638 new beekeepers registered during 2023/24, down from 1,147 in 2022/23 (a 40.8% decline). The number of beekeeper deregistrations decreased slightly to 1,878, compared to 1,932 beekeeper de-registrations the previous year.

Apiary Condition Assessment

The Management Agency's AP2s regularly encounter neglected apiaries. As these can pose AFB risk to neighbouring beekeepers, The Management Agency introduced an Apiary Condition Assessment Key (Figure 11), which ensures a consistent approach when classifying apiaries during every AP2 inspection.

Apiary Condition Assessment Key


Apiary Condition	All hives populated	Dead outs present	Hive ware	Frame condition
Good	Yes / No	If present, dead outs are properly blocked.	Tidy and well maintained.	Frames easy to remove.
Poor	No	Multiple dead outs on site, some accessible to bees.	Some hives well maintained, others in state of disrepair.	Frames not easy to inspect.
Neglected	No	Multiple dead outs, no evidence of beekeeping activity for extended period. Dead outs accessible to bees.	Grass overgrown, hives in state of disrepair.	Visual inspection is difficult or impossible to complete due to frames glued to boxes or frame deterioration.

Figure 11: The Management Agency's Apiary Condition Assessment Key for AP2 inspections

Unregistered apiaries

The number of unregistered apiaries identified by The Management Agency decreased by 1.9%; from 207 in 2022/23 to 203 unregistered apiaries in 2023/24.

- 104 of the 203 (51.2%) unregistered apiaries were found belonging to 57 registered beekeepers. 29 of these 104 unregistered apiaries were found in a neglected state. A total of 17 AFB cases were found across six apiaries.

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- Most of the unregistered apiaries were subsequently either registered or removed by the beekeeper. Of the 203 unregistered apiaries, 22 apiaries were destroyed under clause 25 ('Beehives posing risk') of the AFB NPMP. Six apiaries were destroyed under Section 119 ('Power to seize abandoned goods') of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
 - A total of 43 AFB-infected hives were found across 14 unregistered apiaries; 17 of the AFB cases were found in unregistered apiaries belonging to registered beekeepers.

Annual disease returns

A total of 6,379 ADRs were received by 1 June 2024, down by 27.4% from the previous year when 9,281 ADRs were received.

The Management Agency has continued to see an increased use of online ADRs in 2023/24 with over 94% of beekeepers completing this on HiveHub.

Certificate of Inspections

A total of 4,301 beekeepers were notified of their obligation to complete a Certificate of Inspection on their beehives in 2023.

- 2,156 COIs were received by 15 December 2023, compared to 2,859 COIs received the year before.
- By April 2024, 699 registered beekeepers owning 5,397 colonies on 1,339 registered apiaries continued to be in default of their 2023 COI obligations, compared to 873 beekeepers the year before.

The Management Agency scheduled COI default inspections for 92 beekeepers with greater than 5 apiaries or greater than 10 colonies. These default inspections led to the detection of 29 AFB cases through the inspection of 1,789 hives.

Notification and reporting of AFB (beekeeper and AP2)

In the 12 months to 31 May 2024, The Management Agency received 1,666 notifications from 528 beekeepers leading to self-reporting of 2,522 cases of AFB. The Management Agency's AP2s reported 596 cases of AFB through 280 notifications (Table 1).

Of the 596 AFB cases found during AP2 inspections, 217 cases of AFB were detected in hives owned by 21 beekeeping operations out of which six were identified as high-risk beekeeping operations during this reporting period. All six were DECA holders. Four of these beekeeping operations have deregistered.

AP2s findings represent 19% of the total AFB reported cases. This is a 22% decrease in relation to the previous reporting period and it shows that less AFB is being spread between apiaries and that most cases reported by beekeepers are self-inflicted cases detected early, before the infection can spread by robbing.

Table 1:
Comparison of AFB notification types (beekeeper and AP2) across 2022/23 and 2023/24

Notification Type	2022/23	2023/24
Beekeeper Notifications	2,689	2522
AP2 Notifications	762	596
Sum of hives with AFB	3,451	3,118

Compliance and Enforcement

During 2023/24, The Management Agency's Operations Managers received and investigated:

- 🟡 97 Non-Compliance reports from beekeepers through HiveHub, and
- 🟡 234 Non-compliance reports from AP2s through HiveHub.

The Management Agency's AP2 resources are limited. Thank you to those beekeepers who have continued to be vigilant and assisted The Management Agency in identifying beekeeping operations that require inspections or AFB elimination guidance.

During the 2023/24 year, The Management Agency's AP2s conducted:

- 🟡 Inspections on 3,562 apiaries and 20,846 hives
- 🟡 2,648 surveillance inspections
- 🟡 502 COI default inspections
- 🟡 9 visits related to monitoring Compliance with s122 Notice
- 🟡 203 inspections related to unregistered apiaries
- 🟡 28 visits related to section 128 Action on Default Notice
- 🟡 183 visits related to monitoring apiaries of High-Risk Beekeepers

In late 2023 and under section 25 of the AFB NPMP, The Management Agency, in collaboration with local beekeepers, safely destroyed hives located in 145 apiaries belonging to a commercial beekeeping operation that went into liquidation. The liquidator, having disclaimed all interest in the beehives, left the apiaries abandoned, creating a potential AFB risk to other beekeepers throughout the North Canterbury region.

The total expenditure on apiary inspections during 2023/24 was \$336,061, down 9.5% from 2022/23 (\$371,668).

A further \$7,603 was spent on those beekeepers who had defaulted on their section 122 obligations under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (i.e. Notice to Destroy AFB-infected hives within 7 days).

AP2 Inspection by Region

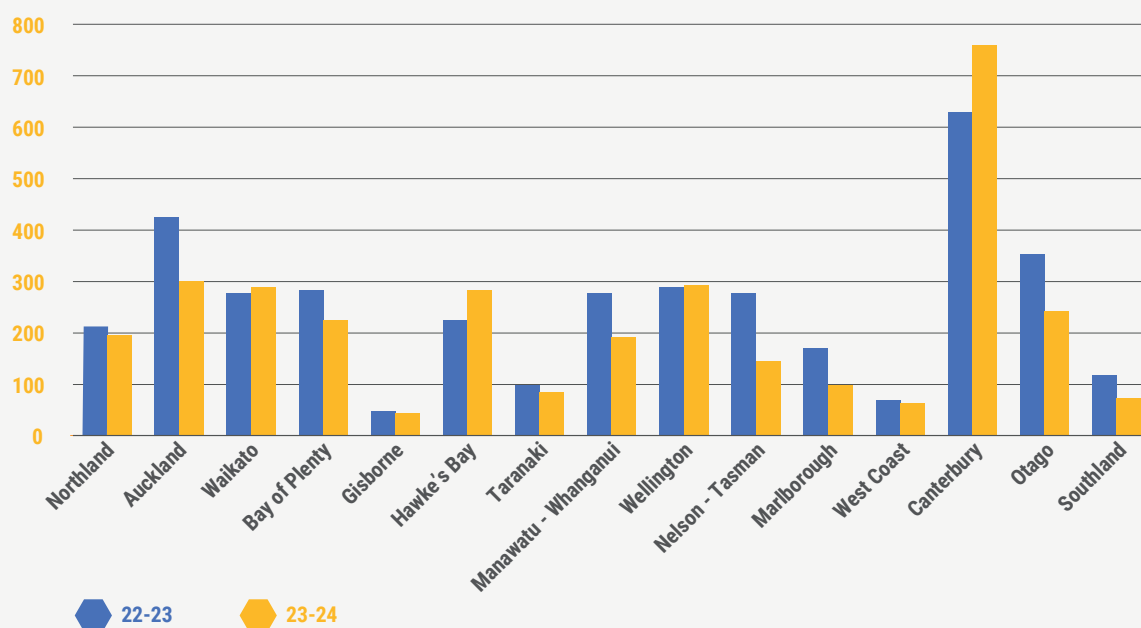


Figure 12: Number of AP2 inspections per region across 2022/23 and 2023/24

Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) holders

As at 31 May 2024, there were 4,852 DECA holders. A total of 465 DECAs were agreed in 2023/24, down from 475 in 2022/23. 403 of these were with hobbyist beekeepers while 62 were with commercial beekeepers.

A total of 59 DECAs were cancelled during 2023/24.

- 22 DECAs were cancelled due to beekeepers being identified as a High-Risk Beekeeper (i.e. AFB found greater than, or equal to, 10% of beehives at the time of AP2 inspections).
- 37 DECAs were cancelled on default for not submitting their Annual Disease Returns.

During 2023/24, The Management Agency spent \$20,015 on inspections related to High-Risk Beekeepers, up 48% from 2022/23 (\$13,497).

AFB Recognition Training

Other Support

A crucial part of supporting the elimination of AFB from managed hives is empowering New Zealand beekeepers with the skills and resources to recognise clinical signs of AFB and be aware of their legal obligations. Following the policy change in the fees-free tertiary education and training scheme by the new government, the last two quarters of 2023/24 showed a significant decline in the number of AFB Recognition courses being held for Level 3 Apiculture students around New Zealand.

Despite this change, The Management Agency continued to strengthen beekeeper education, training, and support by running:

- 31 full AFB Recognition (classroom) courses attended by 261 first-time participants and 102 participants attending the course as a refresher.
- 4 AFB Recognition Refresher courses attended by 40 participants.

The online AFB Recognition course was completed by 113 participants (112 during 2022/23) and the online AFB Refresher course was completed by 135 participants (160 during 2022/23).

During 2023/24, The Management Agency spent \$34,052 on expenses related to AFB Recognition classroom courses, down 28% from 2022/23 (\$48,685).

During 2023/24, The Management Agency team:

- responded to 9,929 beekeeper requests for assistance made via HiveHub or email,
- answered 3,347 phone calls made to the 0800(AFB PMP) number, and
- made a further 2,456 outgoing phone calls to provide beekeepers with the assistance sought.

A total of 72,373 Hivehub portal logins were recorded for the 2023/24 year, slightly down from 74,355 a year before. The Management Agency is committed to continually improving data functionality on this platform, in order to make reporting for all beekeepers simple, easy, and secure.

The Management Agency Board & Team

2024 Board Members

- Chair: Mark Dingle
- Deputy Chair: Val Graham
- Lubomir Dudek
- Jane Röllin
- Trent Proffit
- Murray Elwood
- Advisor to Board: Hayley Pragert
- MPI Observer: John Sanson



The Management Agency Team

- Niharika (Niha) Long **General Manager**
- Marco Gonzalez **Southern Operations Manager**
- Dwayne Hill **Northern Operations Manager**
- Janette Gwilliam **Training Coordinator**
- Tracey Gonzalez **Apiary Coordinator**
- Leonie Elliot-Mason **Apiary Coordinator**
- Paula Michelle Rich **Apiary Coordinator**



47 dedicated AP2s across the North Island and South Island.

17 AFB Recognition Course trainers across the North Island and South Island.



 THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NATIONAL AMERICAN FOULBROOD
PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

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