



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

## American Foulbrood National Pest Management Plan

Governance Report  
Apiculture New Zealand (Inc)

### **Report 39 – November 2024**

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## Highlights Report

### Quick Stats as of 6 November 2024 vs for the same period in 2023:

Category	2024/25	2023/24
<b>Number of registered beekeepers</b>	8,218 (9.7%) ▼	9,103
<b>Number of registered beekeepers with a DECA</b>	4,877 (3.4%) ▼	5,052
<b>Number of registered apiaries</b>	50,966 (9.8%) ▼	56,510
<b>Number of registered colonies</b>	522,569 (11%) ▼	587,208
<b>AFB cases (1 June – 6 Nov)</b>	1,211 (0.23%) ▼	1,482 (0.25%)

### 1. 2025/26 levy and Budget consultation

The Management Agency undertook consultation with beekeepers on a proposal for the American Foulbrood Beekeeper Levy for the 2025/26 levy to remain the same at \$40 per beekeeper, and \$1.95 per colony.

The consultation period was for a period of three weeks; from 9 September 2024 to 06 October 2024.

Link to the 2025/26 consultation page: <https://afb.org.nz/levy-consultation-3/>

A total of 93 submissions were received:

- 71 of these were completed online SurveyMonkey and 22 through postal versions of the survey.
- Two written submissions supplementary to the SurveyMonkey were also received.
- 61.2% of beekeepers (57 out of 93 submitters) were in favour of the proposed levy rates remaining the same.

All submissions have been analysed by the General Manager and presented to The AFB Management Agency Board. During an out-of-cycle Board meeting on 23 October 2024, The Management Agency Board decided to **retain** the 2025/26 2025/26 levy at the same rate as 2024/25.

The Management Agency will confirm the 2025/26 levy rate around in late November 2024 through its usual communication channels (email, website, social media). The 2025/26 levy rate will be sent to the New Zealand Gazette in December 2024, followed by publication in the January 2025 Beekeeper magazine.

### 2. Annual Report 2023/24

The 2023/24 Annual report was prepared and delivered to the Minister for Biosecurity on 24 October 2024.

A copy of the Annual report can be found here: <https://afb.org.nz/reports-to-industry/>

### 3. Certificates of Inspection (COI)

The 2024/25 COI period began on 1 August and will finish on 30 November. A total of 3,555 non-DECA holders were informed of the requirement to complete a Certificate of Inspection on 31 July 2024.

As of 31 October 2024, 679 COIs had been completed, up 19.1% from the 570 COIs completed in the same period the year before. 318 of the 679 COIs were completed through HiveHub; up 51% from the 210 COIs completed online for the same period last year. The split between beekeepers completing COIs through HiveHub or manually is evenly split this year.

Reminders for COIs and Zero colonies' declarations will continue to be sent out during November.

### 4. New Commercial Beekeepers' AFB refresher course

The development of an AFB refresher course solely for commercial beekeepers is Priority #2 of the AFB NPMP Change Programme. The technical content for each of the lessons in the Commercial beekeepers' AFB course was finished by mid-August 2024 and a series of nine pedagogically sound lessons have been created on the Bracken Platform (the platform that also hosts the online AFB Recognition course).

On 25 October 2024, videos and photography to support hive inspections and hive swabbing lessons were completed. Three local commercial beekeepers (Taylor Pass Honey, Lindis Honey, and Neil Andrews) assisted the team with extra staff, hives and colonies, and other equipment for the filming.

The Management Agency Board is currently reviewing the draft lessons. The course is expected to be finalised by the end of November. The Board is also assessing options for the delivery of this course in 2025.

### 5. New website

As part of Priority #4 of the AFB NPMP Change Programme, The Management Agency's current website is undergoing a review, in preparation for a new website. The structure of the new website has been confirmed and the new website is expected to go live by 31 March 2025.

### 6. AFB NPMP review update

On 2 October 2024, MPI officials presented a briefing to the Minister for Biosecurity on the proposed changes to the AFB NPMP and the independent Governance review that was conducted in the middle of the year. The Minister has conveyed his comfort at the proposed amendments of the AFB NPMP.

The Minister has expressed his concerns regarding the sector's fragmented state and wider industry issues. MPI officials and The Management Agency are working together to examine options for addressing the Minister's concerns.

The Management Agency and MPI Policy teams are also working together on determining how the Agency will implement an infringement scheme made under regulation for the purposes of better enabling the achievement of objectives under the AFB NPMP.

The Management Agency is required to align with the Ministry of Justice Guidelines for setting of new infringement schemes which involves:

- a. Developing operational guidelines to ensure consistent issuing of infringements.

- b. Ensuring the recipient of the infringement notice are aware of their rights when receiving such a notice, and that they do not get a conviction.
- c. Outlining payment options to encourage voluntary payment.
- d. Ensuring enforcement procedures in the Biosecurity Act and Summary Proceedings Act is followed, such as that notices are filed within 6 months of the date of offence and complying with reminder notice provisions.
- e. Maintaining an annual statistic on infringement notices issues and filing with the Secretary of Justice.

Aside from mapping out its existing operational processes for the four rules, TMA will need to develop significant comms material to educate beekeepers about the purpose of infringement fines (i.e. a deterrent vs a revenue-gathering steam), the timeline of implementation, and a clear appeal process for beekeepers.

## 7. The Management Agency's submission to the Biosecurity Act 1993 review

The Management Agency Board approved hiring Jan Mackay (Senior Analyst) on a short-term (3 month) contract to assist with drafting a coordinated submission to MPI for the Biosecurity Act review. Jan Mackay has previously worked with The Management Agency for:

- the review of the AFB NPMP between 2021 and 2022,
- analysed submissions for the 2018 and 2019 levy order consultation and,
- the 2021/22 budget consultation.

Jan will also be assisting the General Manager with reviewing/updating outdated policies & procedures, and creating (wherever, required) new operational policies.

## 8. The Management Agency Christmas – New Year Period

The Management Agency's last working day for the 2024 calendar year will be Friday 20 December and it will re-open on Monday 6 January 2025.

The Agency will send comms out to beekeepers with key messages for the holiday period, including advice on contact for urgent AFB issues. Beekeepers are advised to ring the 0800 number and leave a message. During the holiday period, voicemails will be checked by one of the Operations Managers and addressed accordingly.

Management Agency 2023/24 Activity Report	Jun24	Jul24	Aug24	Sep24	Oct24	Total
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>						
# Hivehub portal logins	7,041	3,802	4,304	5,621	6,624	27,392
# 0800 AFB PMP phone calls	561	426	306	266	386	1,945
Outgoing	195	188	101	116	185	785
Incoming	366	238	205	150	201	1,160
# Help and support cases opened	1,009	575	481	598	772	3,435
# Help and support cases closed	952	569	549	569	747	3,386
Apiary Coordinators	640	491	407	487	666	2,691
Administrator	280	61	114	51	55	561
Operations Managers	31	16	28	31	26	132
General Manager	1	1	0	0	0	2
# New Beekeeper Registrations	10	19	29	53	99	210
# Beekeepers Deregistered	196	105	151	118	123	693
# BK Employees granted HiveHub access	2	1	1	3	3	10
# New Apiary Registrations	220	158	189	1276	595	2,438
# Apiary Deregistrations	982	375	486	461	656	2,960
# Colony Returns Completed	920	58	3	2	0	983
# ADRs Completed	1,058	175	4	5	0	1,242
#COIs completed	0	0	64	229	386	679
# Zero colonies declaration	0	0	67	90	190	0
Registered	0	0	53	62	141	0
Deregistered	0	0	14	28	49	0
# DECAs Approved	12	28	63	54	39	196
#Hobbyist	8	16	48	45	33	150
#Commercial	4	12	15	9	6	46
<b>TRAINING</b>						
# Training Course Participants	30	103	70	80	112	395
# Class-Room Full Course + Test Participants	0	41	10	15	65	131
# Online Full Course +Test Participants	7	16	15	16	10	64
# Class-Room AFB Refresher Participants	0	18	15	32	32	97
# Online AFB AFB Refresher Participants	23	28	30	17	5	103
<b>OPERATIONS</b>						
# AFB Notifications Reviewed	87	42	177	255	227	788
Northern Region	26	22	99	127	103	377
Southern Region	61	19	78	128	124	410
# Apiaries Inspected	138	69	202	444	431	1,284
# Total number of Hives inspected by AP2s	209	464	1,642	2,887	2,776	7,978
# Total number of AFB Hives found by AP2s	24	13	60	82	48	227
# Surveillance	110	58	160	335	339	1,002
# Appliance inspection	1	1	0	1	1	4
# Unregistered Apiary	7	10	38	27	25	107
# Default COI	18	0	1	19	0	38
# High Risk Beekeeper	0	0	0	62	64	126
# Monitoring Compliance with s122 Notice	1	0	3	0	1	5
# s128 Action on Default	1	0	0	0	1	2