

The AFB Order Review



Making sense of the language

The **Biosecurity Act** creates the framework for managing risks, creates powers and processes. The Minister is at the top.

Orders (in Council) can establish Pest Management Plans. This is the bit being reviewed.

A **Management Agency** is appointed. Levies can be set.

An **Operational Plan** sets out actions.



The Situation...

- The current PMP Order expires in 2023.
- Anyone can make a proposal for a new or amended PMP Order.
- ApiNZ has said it will propose changes to a renewed Order, and is consulting on them.
- NZ Beekeeping Inc has also decided to make a proposal for an amended order, and has also been running a consultation.

What have we learned?



Key points from consultation

- There's general support for the idea of a refreshed PMP, and real goodwill to make it work
- Some important points of difference with ApiNZ
- What matters: Governance, and on operational relationship between beekeepers and the Agency.



From NZBI consultation: Governance

- Independent elected Management Agency – levy payers represented with possible positions for specialist skills to ensure technical requirements are met.
- Call for an audit process, so beekeepers can see where levy money goes and how effective it is.
- Call for a complaints process. There's seen to be a lack of appeal/review for compliance decisions. This really matters, given ApiNZ wants extra powers for Aps.





From NZBI consultation: Operational improvements

- DECA to play main role as the tool to manage (and decrease) AFB levels – agreement between beekeeper and Management Agency - only to be taken away for persistent non compliers
- Call for greatly improved education – field days, online, refresher . Must ensure that tutors are properly qualified to carry out the education on offer. Compulsory for newer beekeepers.
- MA to allow for participation in developing operational plan – get better understanding by being involved – transparent. Better communication.

Key Issues for NZ Beekeeping

- Real independence for the Management Agency.
 - Representative, accountable, skilled
 - ApiNZ is an advocacy body, not a regulator. Irreconcilable conflict
 - No one disagrees – ApiNZ claims Board of MA is independent.
- Not using spores as basis for compliance
 - The current deal: clinical signs (visual), no compensation.
 - Using spores as basis for compliance changes that
 - Making Laboratories share results with MA creates unmanageable risks
- Limiting proposed extra powers for APs to order destruction when they think it 'necessary' to control AFB. No appeal, no compensation, and not necessarily any clinical signs





What next?

Be involved: -

- respond to ApiNZ's proposals.
- Join NZ Beekeeping's work standing up for ordinary, responsible beekeeping.

Discussion

