



Bee Keeping

Status Council

Responsible Division Planning & Development

Objective To allow the keeping of bees within the City of Nedlands subject to appropriate management to avoid nuisance.

Context

On 28 February 2012 Council approved the retention of a hobby bee hive at a residence in the City of Nedlands. Conditional to this approval Council resolved that the City's Administration prepare a report outlining conditions under which approval for similar applications can be assessed under delegations by Administrative staff.

Statement

Honeybees possess a sting and therefore require proper and responsible management, so they do not create a problem for neighbouring properties. The City notes that whilst bees exist in the natural environment, there are residents who enjoy keeping bees for recreation. There are occasions where the keeping of bees may conflict with those who have allergies or experience nuisance as a result of the keeping of bees. Effective management has been demonstrated to minimise adverse consequences that may result from keeping bees in a residential environment.

The following items address essential considerations for keeping bee hive(s) in the City of Nedlands:

1. Hive density

A maximum of two (2) hives may be permitted within a single residential lot.

2. Hive Placement

- Bee hive(s) should not be positioned in the front yard of suburban residence
- Where possible, bee hive(s) should be positioned out of sight of the public
- Where practical the entrance of the hive(s) is to be located in such a direction that bees fly across the property allotment.



3. Barriers

Flight path barriers are recommended to be above 2m when crossing property boundaries. This may be achieved by using screens, shrubs, walls, hedges, fences, etc., thereby encouraging bees to fly at a height.

4. Lights

It is recommended that a physical barrier, screen or similar is provided between the hive entrance and light sources from immediate properties.

5. Water Supply

An adequate supply of water must be available with each hive.

6. Docile bees

The applicant is to monitor the hive to maintain a docile strain of bees.

7. Hive management

The applicant must be able to justify that they have sufficient knowledge, expertise or experience to manage a bee hive and are capable of identifying problems that may arise, particularly in relation to swarm control, temperament of the colony, disease management and prevention, and maintenance of safety to nearby properties. This includes management of any transport of the colony and hives that may be required.

8. Registration

Any person who owns or who has charge, care or possession of honeybees or beehives is required to register with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) within fourteen (14) days of becoming a beekeeper. Registered beekeepers, both amateur and commercial are allocated a hive identifier.

9. Quality Assurance Schemes

DPIRD have developed two (2) quality assurance schemes for beekeepers and honey producers being:

- B-Qual
- B-Safe



These are designed to ensure the consumer receives a safe and healthy Product. There is a further additional requirement to comply with the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Food Safety Standard, which requires food businesses to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) based food safety plan.

10. Notification to immediate residences

- A City of Nedlands representative will advise immediate neighbours following receipt of an application to keep a bee hive(s)
- Neighbours will be provided with 10 working days to comment in writing to the application.
- If an objection is received the application for keeping bees is to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

11. Approval for the keeping of bees can be revoked at any time by the Chief Executive Officer. In the event that approval is revoked, the applicant has 21 days to remove all bees and hives from the property.

Related documentation

Application to DPIRD for registration as a beekeeper.

Related Local Law/legislation

City of Nedlands Health Local Laws 2017 Division 5 - Bee Keeping

Related delegation

Nil

Review History

17 December 2019 (Item 13.7)
20 December 2016 (Report CPS33.16)
24 September 2013 (Report CPS28.13)