

Keeping of Bees

Bees may be kept without permission in a Gisborne Urban Area Residential Zone (mainly Gisborne City) if:

- The property where the bees will be kept has an area greater than 600m².
- Only 1 beehive on a property with an area of between 600m² and 900m².
- A maximum of 2 beehives on a property with an area of 900 m² or more.
- 3 beehives maybe kept on a property with an area of 900 m² or more so long as there are no dwellings or sensitive uses on adjoining properties.

Bees may be kept without permission within other Residential Zones (mainly rural townships) if:

- A maximum of 2 beehives on the property.
- 3 beehives may be kept on the property so long as there are no dwellings or sensitive uses on adjoining properties.

The following conditions apply for keeping bees in all zones:

- Placement of beehives is a critical factor in avoiding problems for neighbours.
- Place an obstruction in front of hives or elevate them to ensure that bees fly at least 2.5m above the ground before crossing the site boundary.
- Position hives so as to ensure that the primary flight path will not affect your neighbours homes or living areas.
- Provide a water trough.
- Talk to your neighbours about when they are happy for you to do hive working and manipulation.
- If you split beehives already on a property, causing a greater number of beehives than that allowed, the beehives must be removed:
 - By the 30th of September – for beehives split between March and August;
 - Within 6 weeks – for beehives split between September and February.
- Hives must be constructed and maintained so as to ensure that no nuisance occurs from its existence or use.
- Parasites, flies and other pests must not reach levels that may create a nuisance to neighbours or a health risk to humans or animals.
- Bees must be located and kept in such a manner that no other nuisance occurs.
- No nuisance shall be caused by any activity associated with the keeping of bees including storage of honey and waste.

NOTE

If an Environmental Health Officer considers that any bees are being kept in a manner or position that is considered to constitute a nuisance action may be taken which may include the destruction of bees.

NOTE

Written Council approval is necessary to keep bees outside of the abovementioned conditions. Please complete and return the application form on reverse side if approval is required.

PLEASE also refer to the [Keeping of Animals, Bees and Poultry Bylaw 2005](#)



APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Property Address:

.....

Phone number (day)..... (night).....

Size of property where bees to be kept:m²

Number of beehives to be kept on property:

Please attach a plan of the site with the location of activity marked, including any other information that maybe required for the assessment of this application.

Signed:Date:

For Office Use Only:

Date Received:Fee payable Y / N :

Application Number:Authorising Officer:

Decision:

Updated 11.05.2007