

GOVERNANCE OF BEEKEEPING IN NZ

By Kim Kneijber

The Government has several acts that can affect the apiculture industry, below though, I am going to concentrate on one of these acts, and how it works down to every beekeeper.

Biosecurity Act 1993

The Biosecurity act is enabling legislation that essentially provides the legal framework that says what things can be done with respect to controlling diseases. How certain activities are carried out for specific diseases, and this includes the exclusion, eradication and effective management of pests and unwanted organisms.

MPI – Ministry of Primary Industry

In the apiculture industry they are our front-line control at the border.

At this stage they are responsible for any exotic incursion and any beekeeper that finds a suspect pest or disease can ring 0800 80 99 66.

Have the power to enforce any government policies we have for the apicultural industry.

They contractASUREQuality to oversee the annual Exotic Surveillance Program.

MPI carries out data collection research on bee health and other apiculture research.

APINZ - Apiculture New Zealand

APINZ is an industry organisation that represents, beekeepers, marketers of apicultural products, processors and packers of apicultural products, exporters of apicultural products, food manufacturers using apicultural products, health product manufacturers using apiculture products, suppliers of apicultural equipment and support products, landowners who have apiary sites on their land.

APINZ is also the advocate in many other areas- this can be seen in the Constitution and Rules for Apiculture New Zealand Incorporated

APINZ also has 5 focus groups and I will explain more of their roles in a future article.

APINZ is a board of representatives voted by all registered in the industry, that board contains 2 from the commercial sector, 2 from the market sector and 1 from the hobbyist level (this is classed as having 24 or less hives) they employ a CEO – Karin Kos and a staff to carry out the necessary work.

AFB Management Agency

Under the Biosecurity act and Order in Council, the Management Agency Board make sure the act works for AFB and this works through an AFB PMP- American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan

To carry out this work a board of apiculture representatives are elected and employ a National Compliance Manager – Clifton King

The National Compliance Manager will see the AFB PMP is upheld.

For AFB the AFB MA board sets contracts for AsureQuality and these include: -

- Operating AFB PMP services
- - Managing the Apiary Database
- - Managing APIWEB (the beekeeper's interface to the Apiary database)
- - ADR's, COI's, etc
- - DECA's
- - Inspection warrants and contracts as AP1's or contracted to AP2's
- - Technical support
- - Contact for AFB sampling

AsureQuality

AsureQuality is a state-owned enterprise, this means that it is still owned by the New Zealand government, but operates on a commercial business independent from MPI. AsureQuality is a contractor to the apiculture industry to operate across several areas under the Biosecurity Act including managing the annual Exotic Disease Surveillance programme.

Also provide services to Industry including Live Bee Export Certification, Bee Product Export Certification and Risk Management Program Verification. Pollination hire Auditing and one - off consulting jobs. Food safety training and support in various industry initiatives.

AP1 or AP2

These are Authorised Persons appointed under the act and under sections 103 and 106 and powers will be found under 109, 121a and 123. they enable them to control or eradicate harmful organisms.

AP1's have more powers than an AP2 such as; require information be provided, can require assistance, can seize abandoned hives, can order destruction of diseased hives and can declare a restricted place. AP2's carry out work directed by an AP1 such as inspections, COI defaulter inspections and if requested by an AP1 carry out the destruction of diseased hives.

AFB Recognition Course Tutors

Tutors for the course are contract employed by the AFB board to present a copyright PowerPoint presentation, provide some AFB samples for a hands-on visual experience and proctor an AFB recognition exam for the AFB PMP.