

Public Land – Bee Keeping (Crown Land and Parks) Policy

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) recognises the economic importance of the apiary industry for the production of honey and other bee products as well as for pollination services and maintains the view that apiarists should continue to have controlled use of Parks and Crown land where appropriate.

What you need to know

Site numbers

While there are no plans to change the current number of apiary sites in Parks and on Crown land, if substantiated research supports new sites, DEW may consider the proposal.

Should land containing bee keeping sites be added to the reserve system, the number of apiary sites in Parks may increase.

Changes to Licence Administration

Licence administration changed from one licence covering multiple apiary sites to one licence per site, effective 2015-2016.

This new policy applies to all existing licences, new licence applications and transfer applications.

There will be no additional application fees for this licence conversion and annual fees will continue to be charged on a site by site basis.

Information requirements

Licence and licence transfer applications should be accompanied by:

- A copy of your registration pursuant to the *Livestock Act 1997*.
- A copy of your public liability insurance policy.
- A site plan showing the site boundary and associated access track(s). A site should generally consist of an area of 2000 square metres on which there should be no more than 120 (10 framed) hives or equivalent.

- A Global Positioning System (GPS) reference point for each site. The GPS should be accurate to within 10 metres and based on datum GDA 1994 MGA Zone 54.

Note: Licensees are requested to provide this information prior to March each year to enable licence renewal. Please contact DEW if you have any difficulties.

Licence fees

An annual licence fee will continue to apply, irrespective of the level of use of that site for that year. The fee will be reviewed annually by the Minister.

For further information regarding fees please contact the Crown Lands Berri Office on (08) 8595 2105.

Licence transfer

Licences may be transferred to another apiarist provided:

- An Application for Licence Transfer is submitted.
- The site is not identified as one to be resumed for other purposes.
- Licence fees have been paid up to date.

One application for multiple licence transfers between the same two parties will be subject to one application fee.

Banksia Ornata - Ngarkat CP



Licence Cancellation, Surrender or Suspension

A licence may be cancelled if the site fee is not paid, if there is a breach of licence conditions or for any other reason pursuant to either the Crown Land Management Act (CLM Act 2009) or the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (NPW Act 1972).

Notification of any cancellation, or surrendered licence, will be made publically available on the DEW website. If no new licence application is submitted within three years, the site may be resumed for other purposes. In the case of an environmentally sensitive area, it is unlikely the site will be returned for apiary purposes.

In certain circumstances sites may need to be permanently closed for management purposes and the licence cancelled. In this case the licensee will be offered preferential rights to a replacement site (and new licence) within reasonable proximity to the closed site.

Some sites may be temporarily closed for management purposes or due to other extenuating circumstances (e.g. a wild fire); in these instances licences may be suspended (no renewal fees) and reactivated when the sites become viable again. Licences for a new site will not be issued in lieu of a suspended licence. The apiarist may instead choose to relocate to an existing site, if a vacancy is available and apply for a licence (as occurred after the 2005, 2006 and 2014 bush fires in Ngarkat Conservation Park (CP)).

Other Licensing Consents

A licence will generally not be issued without the following consents:

- Consent from the respective Regional Manager, pursuant to the NPW Act 1972 and/or the CLM Act 2009.
- Consent from the respective Council (if not in a Park), pursuant to Council by-laws, if applicable. A copy of the Decision Notification Form is required if the activity constitutes development pursuant to the *Development Act 1993*.

New Sites

While it is unlikely that new sites will be created, particularly in Parks, there may be circumstances where further investigations are warranted.

In such circumstances DEW will consider applications on a site by site basis provided that the applicant submits substantiated research. Please contact DEW to clarify research requirements.

Research

While DEW is not the research authority with regard to apiary activities, DEW will cooperate with the apiary industry to pursue appropriate opportunities for research on the impact of managed and feral bees on native biota and consider applications for scientific research permits.

Why was this policy developed?

The previous policy enabled one licence to cover multiple apiary sites. A 'one licence per site' policy enables greater administrative efficiency and a higher degree of certainty in data and reporting. This will assist the flow of information across DEW, to the apiary industry and to other agencies.

The Policy ensures each licenced site is GPS referenced and appropriately sign posted. This is important for land management and monitoring purposes (e.g. fire management planning, identification of vacant sites, etc.).

The South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) and PIRSA (interface with the Industry Apiary Advisory Group) were consulted during the development of this Policy and will continue to be engaged through the implementation phase.

For more information

Park Management:

Berri Office
P (08) 8580 1800

Lameroo Office
P (08) 8576 3400

Murray Bridge Office
P (08) 8532 9100

Licensing Enquiries:

Crown Lands Berri Office
P (08) 8595 2105
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