

9.14 - BEEKEEPING

1.0 Citation

This is a Local Planning Policy prepared under Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*. This Policy may be cited as Local Planning Policy 9.14 Beekeeping.

2.0 Introduction

This Policy provides direction and guidance for hobby beekeepers and commercial apiaries on the keeping of bees within townsites and rural residential estates within the Shire of Dandaragan. This policy intends to support the industry and avoid conflict with neighbouring landowners through development approval.

3.0 Definitions

“bee” means an insect belonging to any of the various hymenopterous insects of the super family Apoidea and commonly known as bee; and
“hive” means a moveable or fixed structure, container or object in which a colony of bees is kept.

4.0 Objectives

- To support the vital role bees play in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Encourage beekeeping as a rewarding hobby.
- Ensure the number of beehives on a given property is suitable for the surrounding environment and size of the property to not become a nuisance for neighbouring properties.
- Ensure bee flight paths (from hives to available flowers) do not interfere with neighbouring land, roadways, or footpaths.

5.0 Applications Subject to this Policy

This Policy applies to all properties zoned Rural Residential, Rural Smallholdings and Special Use – Rural Development (except Category 3).

5.1 Exclusions

This Policy does not apply to the keeping of beehives within a townsite, on a Rural property, or on reserve land where beekeeping is deemed consistent with the purpose of the subject reserve.

5.2 Exemptions

The keeping of up two (2) beehives is exempt from requiring development approval under this Policy.

5.3 Land Use Permissibility

A beekeeping development proposal under this Policy shall have the same land use permissibility under the *Shire of Dandaragan Local Planning Scheme No.7* as the “rural pursuit” use class.

6.0 Maximum Number of Beehives

The assessment of a beekeeping development proposal under this Policy will have due regard to Section 2.2 of the Western Australian Apiarist’s Society’s *Best-Practice Guidelines for Urban Beekeeping* to determine the maximum number of beehives permitted on a given property.

7.0 Application Requirements

A development application for beekeeping land use must be accompanied with a development application form and beekeeping management plan.

7.1 Management Protocols

At a minimum, a beekeeping management plan shall incorporate the following:

- Introduction/Background
 - Maximum number of beehives proposed onsite;
 - Duration beehives will be kept onsite;
 - Details of prior bee keeping experience; and
 - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development registration details; and
- Context
 - Details of the beehive specification including design drawings and photographs.
 - Include a site plan showing the location of beehives at the address where they will be kept. The site plan is to include the location of:
 - a) A permanent water supply on the lot within 10 metres of the beehives;
 - b) Any fences surrounding the beehives;
 - c) Property boundaries;
 - d) Expected food sources and flight paths; and
 - e) All structures on the property.
- Contingency Plan
 - Detail the ways to reduce the occurrence of a swarm including but not limited to re-queening bees, regularly checking beehives, and replacing their water supply.
- Summary
 - Why the proposal is acceptable in accordance with the *Best-Practice Guidelines for Urban Beekeeping* and *Beekeepers Regulations 1963*; and
 - Responsibilities of landowner and registered beekeeper.

8.0 Policy Statement

The Shire will not approve a beekeeping development proposal (rural pursuit) under this Policy unless it is satisfied the land use is generally consistent with the

Best-Practice Guidelines for Urban Beekeeping and will not result in adverse off-site impacts to neighbouring landowners or the general public.

9.0 Shire Register of Beekeeping Premises

The Shire will maintain a register of approved beekeeping premises which will include the following information:

- Property address;
- Approved beekeeper and contact details; and
- Maximum number of beehives approved.

10.0 Consultation

Development applications for beekeeping will be advertised for a minimum comment period of 21 days to the owners of properties immediately adjacent the application site, to the satisfaction of the Shire.

11.0 Nuisance

Landowners are prohibited from keeping animals (including bees) in a manner that creates a nuisance or is injurious or dangerous to health. Therefore, if a complaint is received it will be investigated to determine if a nuisance or dangerous situation exists.

Where a nuisance is deemed to exist, the Shire can serve a Notice on the beekeeper requiring them to take specific actions, including the possible removal of beehives. Failure to comply with the Notice would constitute an offence.

12.0 Sale of Honey

If the honey produced is only for your personal consumption, it is not considered to be a Food Business.

If honey is sold either to larger honey packers or direct to the consumer, the business will be required to submit an application to the Shire for a Food Business Licence as defined in the *Food Act 2008*.