



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 41

BEEKEEPING ON CROWN LAND

June 2017

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy and associated *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land* is to facilitate the management of beekeeping on Crown lands, where it is compatible with other land uses, and without compromising biodiversity and conservation objectives

2. SCOPE

The Department of Parks and Wildlife is the authority responsible for administering the apiary permit/licensing system for managed honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) on the majority of Crown lands in Western Australia.

This policy and *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land* apply to State forest, timber reserves, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, and section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), as well as to certain Crown lands, including unallocated Crown land (UCL), unvested reserves and pastoral leases. This policy also applies to section 8A CALM Act land to the extent that the relevant provisions are applicable under the terms of the section 8A agreement. The policy and guidelines do not pertain to reserves vested with or managed by other agencies or authorities.

A *permit* can be issued under Part VIII Division 1 of the CALM Act to take forest produce, which includes honey and beeswax, from State forest and timber reserves, certain section 8A land and certain Crown land (UCL, unvested reserves and pastoral leases).

A *licence* can be issued under Part VIII, Division 2 of the CALM Act to take honey, beeswax or pollen from national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, CALM Act section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves and certain section 8A CALM Act land, but not State forest, timber reserve, or classified wilderness areas.

3. CONTEXT

Continued access to floral resources on Crown land is important to the beekeeping industry. Beekeeping on Crown land will be facilitated when it is compatible with the primary purpose of the land.

Beekeepers collectively hold several thousand permits and licences for registered apiary sites on Crown land. The department processes applications for sites chosen by beekeepers and if approved, issues apiary authorities and collects apiary authority annual rental fees.

The Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia (DAFWA) manages biosecurity with respect to beekeeping, and provides technical and scientific advice on apiculture to the industry and to Parks and Wildlife.

4. LEGISLATION

Access to Crown land for beekeeping will be managed in accordance with the CALM Act, Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 (CALM Regulations), and other relevant Acts and Regulations cited below.

The CALM Act requires the department to consult with the Conservation and Parks Commission and gain the approval of the Minister for Environment (in accordance with section 87A) before granting a permit (sections 88(1) and 89(2)(a) refer) for lands covered by Part VIII Division 1 of the CALM Act. Similarly the CALM Act requires such consultation and approval (in accordance with section 99(1)) before granting a licence (sections 99A(1) and 101(1) refer) for Part VIII Division 2 lands. In both cases, the permit or licence authorises the occupation of the land and the taking of the forest produce. The CALM Act definition of 'forest produce' includes honey and beeswax.

Part 8A of the CALM Regulations deals with apiary permits and licences. Beekeepers making an application under Part 8A (i.e. regulations 98A – 98K) may be given lawful authority to occupy Crown land by the placement of hives and the taking of forest produce.

When applications are made by beekeepers, the department will ensure that the use of the Crown land, including the clearing of vegetation if required, is consistent with the CALM Act, the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (which may require beekeepers to apply to the Department of Environment Regulation for a clearing permit).

Honey, pollen, beeswax, honeycomb or any other product of bees are animal products covered by the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) and regulations administered by DAFWA. Relevant regulations made under the BAM Act are described below.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013:

- Regulation 3 defines beekeepers.
- Regulation 19 deals with movement of bees, hives, hive products and equipment in the event of detection of small hive beetle.
- Regulation 86 provides power for DAFWA to destroy abandoned or neglected bees and apiaries.
- Regulations 87 to 90 deals with storage of hives and hive products, prevention of robbing of hives by bees, and the requirement to provide water to apiary sites and include penalties for non-compliance.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 (BAM (IMSA) Regulations):

Beekeepers are required to be registered with the Brands Office of DAFWA in accordance with Division 3 of the BAM (IMSA) Regulations. Parks and Wildlife will only grant apiary authorities to beekeepers registered under those regulations.

Powers under the BAM Act and regulations are exercisable by DAFWA and its authorised staff. Parks and Wildlife can notify DAFWA if it believes action needs to be taken by DAFWA in relation to matters covered by the BAM legislation.

5. POLICY

Management principles

- 5.1 The department will support and administer beekeeping activities at appropriate locations on Crown land, in accordance with *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*, when it is compatible with the primary purpose of the land.
- 5.2 The department will work with the beekeeping industry to ensure that beekeepers carry out their activities on Crown land in accordance with industry best practice and *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.
- 5.3 The department will establish and maintain an Apiary Site Management Database to manage apiculture activities on Crown land.
- 5.4 The department recognises the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice prepared by the beekeeping industry in consultation with DAFWA. The department will require beekeepers to adhere to the Code.

Access

- 5.5 Access to CALM Act land for beekeeping will be in accordance with the CALM Act which requires, where there is a management plan in place, the granting of apiary authorities to be in accordance with that plan.
- 5.6 Access to all Crown lands will be managed in accordance with *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.
- 5.7 The department will manage beekeeper access to former pastoral lease areas that have been acquired for conservation, in accordance with the assessment criteria described in *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.

Assessment criteria

- 5.8 Apiculture on all tenures of Crown land will be considered based on application of the assessment criteria described in *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.

Industry and planning

- 5.9 The department will provide DAFWA with a list of all apiary site authority holders to assist in determining whether a beekeeper should be registered under the BAM (IMSA) Regulations, in accordance with *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.
- 5.10 The department, in consultation with the beekeeping industry, will develop a beekeepers' handbook in accordance with *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.

5.11 Beekeeping activities on CALM Act land will be considered during the preparation of management plans which may provide a general guide to beekeeping in the planning area, however applications and renewals of specific apiary sites will occur through application of the assessment criteria outlined in 6.25 of *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

6.1 The policy will be implemented in consultation with the beekeeping industry subject to the legislative framework provided by the CALM Act and CALM Regulations and other relevant legislation, such as the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the BAM Act and regulations and *Corporate Guideline No. 21 - Beekeeping on Crown Land*.

6.2 The department's Parks and Visitor Services Division will administer the Crown land apiary site permit and licence system including the Apiary Site Management Database.

7. ASSOCIATED POLICIES / STRATEGIES

[Corporate Policy Statement No. 3 – Management of Phytophthora disease.](#)

8. CUSTODIAN

Director Parks and Visitor Services.

9. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

10. KEY WORDS

Beekeeping, apiary, apiary site, apiary authority, apiarists, hives, bees, commercial management of bees, beehives, apiary permits, apiary licences, beekeeper.

11. REVIEW

The policy shall be reviewed no later than June 2022.

12. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL

Approved by



Jim Sharp
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 30 June 2017