

Proposed Natural Resources Plan:

Submitter:

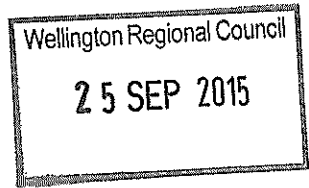
**Southern North Island branch of the
National Beekeepers Association**

Submitter Number:

S108

Darrell Young

From: Regional Plan
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2015 12:43 p.m.
To: Records
Subject: FW: submission on the regional plan



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From: Frank & Mary-ann Lindsay [<mailto:lindsays.apiaries@clear.net.nz>]
Sent: Friday, 25 September 2015 12:30 p.m.
To: Regional Plan
Cc: Pauline Downie
Subject: submission on the regional plan

26 Cunliffe Street
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25th Sept 2015

Propose Natural Resources Plan

I wish to put in a submission on the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region. I am making it on behalf of the southern North Island branch of the National Beekeepers Association. I am a life member of the association and the branch's ex-secretary. (Our current secretary is presently overseas).

My submission covers two aspects: open fire burning and clearance and planting of stream and lake beds.

Section 5.1.2 page 96 - Outdoor burning.

We have one major bacterial disease of honey bees in New Zealand. American Foul Brood (AFB - *Paenibacillus larvae ssp. larvae*) which is a contagious brood disease whose spores last indefinitely, (70 year plus). One larvae dying from this disease creates 2.5 million spores and it only takes 10 spores to infect a larvae less than two days old. This disease, if it remain undetected, kills the bees in the hive, bees from other hives rob the honey so the disease spreads.

AFB is controlled under the Biosecurity Act (American Foul Brood Pest Management Plan) which requires beekeepers on finding this disease to destroy the hive by burning the hives within seven days.

Up to 10 years ago this didn't pose a problem as the hives consisted of untreated wood and wax but now the majority of commercial beekeepers have changed to plastic frames and these have to be burnt which caused a considerable amount of black smoke and pollutants, albeit that the amount being burnt is generally small.

I am not sure of the chemical make-up of plastic but feel its probably covered under Schedule L as a hazardous air pollutant.

Until the government allows and regulates radiation plants that use cobalt 60 for the sterilizing of bee equipment, burning hives is the only option for controlling this disease.

Beekeepers don't want to cause air pollution and we would not like to be contravening the clean air policy but we do not have an option.

Can you please allow for this activity when it is necessary. All hives are burnt under the current fire regulations generally in a hole dug for the purpose or in a hole surrounded by a 44 gallon drum. All material left after burning is buried at least 300 mm so it is below the plough line. That way it won't be a future hazard to bees; (bees can detect exposed wax and nectar 2 kl away). For your information it takes between four and six hours to burn a hive completely.

Section 5.5 Wetlands and bed of rivers and lakes

Page 175/6 - Rule 123 Planting - permitted activity

(e) crack willow and grey willow removal.

(j) no planting shall be undertaken in an identified river management scheme area.

Statement : Willows are a key stone specie for honey bees. They provide both nectar and pollen necessary for the development of hives in the spring.

That being said, crack and grey willow are an invasive species that choke rivers and where necessary should be removed, however there are many other willow species that are not invasive and apart from controlling rivers, removes some of the pollutants, plus provide essential food for bees. Willows have been investigated by Dr Linda Newstrom- Lloyd from LandCare under the Trees for Bees programme. She has produced a booklet "Winning with willows - Extending the supply of nutritious pollen for bees in spring" based on her research at the New Zealand Poplar and Willow Research Trust's arboretum at Aokautere near Palmerston North.

<http://www.poplarandwillow.org.nz/documents/winning-with-willows.pdf>

There are many species which make good specimen trees that farmers and land owners can plant along riparian strips to provide stream stability, shelter, bee nutrition and fodder for sheep and cattle in times of drought. Unfortunately with the boom in dairying, in some parts of the country, a large number of trees and hedges on farms have been removed to allow for pivot irrigation systems, creating a green drought for bees, Yet bees are the main pollinators of clover that set the nitrogen necessary for plant growth that the farming economy of New Zealand depends upon. This make the trees lining river systems very important for the future of beekeeping in the lower North Island especially in the Wairarapa.

In the last 20 years we have seen a boom in hive numbers due to the high prices associated with manuka honey. Hive number have gone from 23,000 in the bottom half of the North Island to 127,000, yet the region remain marginal for beekeeping because of summer droughts. We also cannot depend upon manuka for honey production in this region because it so weather dependant. It flowers but doesn't secrete nectar when its too cold or too wet or when its too dry. It requires warm temperatures with rain once a week to produce nectar.

Some Region Councils have set a policy of removing all crack and grey willow trees. We do not disagree with this but contractors have been removing every willow including weeping, golden willow, pussy willows and several other non-invasive willow species .

This policy has upset the anglers as trout like shaded areas along the rivers but has perhaps also had some unforeseen circumstances which came to light in the recent mid-North Island floods in the Wanganui / Waitotara river areas.

The clearing of all willows cause considerable erosion of the river bed in the lower Waitotara River resulting in land and stock losses. It didn't help that this river rose 18 metres (40 kl upstream from the mouth) flooding flat areas taking out over 1000 bee hives as well.

We would like any contractors or Regional Council staff doing willow clearance to be given identification kits to help identify the invasive willows so that no-invasive willows can remain where they are not causing a problem. I would also like to encourage the Regional Council to replace some with those recommended in the Winning with Willows booklet.

There are a number of native species such as flax that provide stability to land plus provide excellent pollen for bees but nothing can compare to the amount of nectar and pollen that willows produce. Also please do not recommend the planting of tutu as this is poisonous to stock and can produce poisonous honey dew when the sucking insect *scolypopa australis* feeds on it.

If you would like further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for considering this submission. Sorry it is a last minute application. It was circulated early enough but didn't reach the top of my to do list until now. Congratulations on such a comprehensive plan.

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