

Guideline

Natural Resource Management

Guideline for environmental management of beekeeping on QPWS estate

This guideline defines the principles, minimum standards and practices to be applied to the environmental management of beekeeping on lands under the custody of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). This document will assist the QPWS, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and beekeepers to manage beekeeping activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

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Part 1: Policies and principles

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Guideline primarily focuses on the management regimes used by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Forestry, a business group within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for beekeeping on QPWS estate. It defines the environmental principles, minimum standards and practices to be applied to beekeeping activities.

The QPWS estate comprises the lands administered under the *Forestry Act 1959* (forestry areas such as State forests, timber reserves, forest reserves) and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (protected areas including national parks and regional parks). QPWS is the custodian of the QPWS estate, which embraces forestry areas and protected areas.

On HQ Plantation areas, HQ Plantations authorises and manages apiary activities according to approvals and standards established by QPWS.

QPWS authorises and manages beekeeping on identified protected area tenures.

This Guideline will assist the QPWS, DAFF and beekeepers to manage beekeeping activities to ensure:

- lands under the custody of the QPWS are protected from loss or degradation;
- beekeeping is planned to ensure that nature conservation, cultural heritage and other environmental values are identified and protected;
- activities are compatible with other site and/or estate users;
- activities are as safe as practicable, efficient, ecologically sustainable, protect the estate from damage, material and/or serious environmental harm and promote optimal community benefit; and
- beekeeping activities comply with relevant legislation, including the *Apiaries Act 1982* and the *Apiaries Regulation 1998*.

DAFF Apiary Section and the Queensland Beekeepers Association were consulted during the preparation of this Guideline.

1.2 Background

Beekeeping in Queensland is an important commercial industry and a popular non-commercial pastime. QPWS estate contains favoured locations for beekeeping due to the large quantities and varieties of nectar and pollen producing trees and wildflowers (including eucalypts, tea-trees, lophostemons) located on these areas. Historically, beekeeping has only been pursued on forestry areas and lands provided for under the *Forestry Act 1959*. The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* has provided for authorised beekeeping activities on some protected areas, including regional parks, where potential environmental damage and conflicts with other users are considered to be within acceptable limits.

In accordance with Queensland Government commitments, QPWS will manage beekeeping on nominated national parks beyond the previous 2024 end date

The Guideline is consistent with the following environmental management frameworks and processes:

- **National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity** – the goal of this strategy, as summarised in the Guide to the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity, is to “protect biodiversity and maintain ecological systems and processes”. Essentially, the strategy aims to “bridge the gap between current activities and those measures necessary to ensure the effective identification, conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity”. Furthermore, the “strategy acknowledges that much is being done which contributes to the conservation of biodiversity, and that all Australians – government, business, industry and the community – are important for its effective implementation”.
- **National Forest Policy Statement 1992 (NFPS)** – this strategy, to which Queensland is a signatory, provides a framework for efficient and ecologically sustainable management of native forests and the

broad range of commercial and non-commercial benefits and values that forests can provide to present and future generations. The NFPS requires that planning and managing of forests should maintain, to the maximum extent practicable, options for the full suite of forest values. Beekeeping is one such value providing the community with products, regional employment and economic development.

1.3 Standards

This Guideline defines the minimum standards to be applied to beekeeping in consideration of activity efficiency, acceptability and sustainability while optimising community benefit. Standards specified in this document seek to identify and accommodate the following:

- The **nature, scale, sensitivity and impact of use** on an area and its implications on sustainability, protection of environmental and cultural heritage values, and natural or operational capabilities for restoration and recovery of disturbed areas.
- **Operational needs** for efficient beekeeping including:
 - adoption of recognised industry best-practice by beekeepers (such as *DAFF Rural Guidelines for Beekeeping*); and
 - an onus on the responsible agency (such as either the QPWS or DAFF consistent with this Guideline) to ensure apiary sites and access to such sites are stable, any damage is corrected and environmental harm is prevented.
- **Legal and other obligations.** Beekeeping activities must comply with all legislation applicable to the activity and collection area. Queensland legislation can be viewed at the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website (<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/legislation.htm>).
- **Policies influencing management of QPWS estate**, such as the *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development 1992*, the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment 1992*, the *National Forest Policy Statement 1992*, the SEQFA, and other Queensland government policy and directions.
- **Worker and public safety** including legislative compliance and duty of care.
- **Community interests** including public accountability, involvement in decision-making processes where appropriate, due consideration of resource use equity, public education and encouraging community ownership of environmental issues.

1.4 Planning requirements and apiary site allocation

Beekeeping activities must also comply with any associated formal plan or written agreement that is relevant to the apiary site including, but not exclusive to:

- salinity management plans;
- operational harvesting plans;
- vegetation management plans;
- conservation plans;
- forest management plans; and forest agreements
- strategic activity plans.

DAFF is the responsible agency for beekeeping on forestry areas, while QPWS is the responsible agency for protected areas. However, QPWS will approve all new apiary sites, extensions to existing sites or the relocation of apiary sites in native forest areas on QPWS estate. DAFF will approve apiary sites in plantation areas, including native forest areas associated with plantations that are considered part of the gross plantation estate.

Management planning by QPWS covering native forest areas of QPWS estate will determine whether an existing, new or proposed apiary site is an appropriate use of a specific area, and whether it is within the boundaries set by legislation. Considerations include:

- the demand for new apiary sites (based on requests or new site proposals from beekeepers);
- the availability of existing or alternative/more appropriate new sites in the area;
- natural and cultural heritage values of the proposed area (for example, the presence of rare or threatened species, regional ecosystem status, proximity to visitor use areas and proximity to cultural heritage sites);
- potential impacts associated with the establishment and operation of an apiary;
- impacts of beekeeping activities on the local ecosystem backed by scientific data or an environmental impact assessment;
- potential conflicts between beekeepers and other site or estate users; and
- traditional beekeeping activities and the importance of the industry to the States economy.

Development or changed conditions at or near an existing apiary site (e.g. tenure changes) may force the relocation of an apiary site.

A QPWS protocol has been established for relocating apiary sites in protected areas. It outlines the steps to be followed when there is a need to relocate an existing site due to unacceptable environmental impacts, user conflicts or park management programs.

The permittee and the Queensland Beekeepers Association will be consulted on the need to relocate sites. The Regional Director, QPWS, must give approval for any relocation in native forest areas outside of plantation areas. DAFF will provide approval for plantation areas, including native forest areas considered part of the gross plantation estate.

1.5 Beekeeping registration and permit types

It is a requirement under the *Apiaries Act 1982* for a person with one or more hives to become a registered beekeeper with the DAFF Apiary Section. Registration is renewed annually.

Subject to approval of the apiary site location, beekeeping must be conducted under the authority of a permit issued by the responsible agency.

On a forestry area, an “apiary permit” must be obtained from DAFF. On protected areas, an “apiary permit (permit to take, use, keep or interfere with cultural and natural resources - location of an apiary)” must be obtained from the QPWS. Both DAFF and QPWS apiary permits are issued for a maximum of five years and have specific permit conditions that must be complied with (refer to schedule 4), which may be in addition to the provisions of this Guideline.

1.6 Guideline management

1.6.1 General

Guideline management is based on a continuous improvement approach involving a cycle of preparation, implementation, operation, audit and review.

1.6.2 Preparation

The QPWS is responsible for Guideline preparation and liaising with:

- other government agencies and stakeholders to define Guideline standards and establish roles, responsibilities, protocols and procedures for implementation; and
- the beekeeping industry to identify issues, expectations and to establish procedures for addressing conflicts or concerns in relation to this Guideline.

Independent of this Guideline, beekeepers should refer issues concerning permits to the responsible agency.

1.6.3 Documentation

The QPWS is responsible for maintaining and supporting this Guideline and ensuring that it is publicly accessible.

1.6.4 Implementation

This Guideline must be progressively and effectively implemented by the responsible agency. Responsibilities for Guideline implementation should reflect the respective responsibilities of the parties concerned:

- the QPWS is responsible for providing advice with regard to Guideline interpretation and direction arising from Guideline audits; and
- beekeepers must be informed and instructed by the responsible agency in relation to Guideline requirements, activity terms and conditions, cessation or suspension of non-compliant activities and for general assessment of activities through permit conditions.

1.6.5 Competence

Persons involved in administering the Guideline or supervising activities must be aware of, and capable of fulfilling their obligations.

1.6.6 Guideline review

This Guideline must be periodically reviewed to ensure continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness in the light of submissions, research, best practice development, operational experience and the results of monitoring and audits. The QPWS is responsible for reviewing the Guideline in consultation with DAFF and other stakeholders (for example, the Queensland Beekeepers Association) as required or at least every five years.

1.7 Application and compliance

All persons involved in beekeeping on QPWS estate will be required to comply with this Guideline (refer to part 1, section 6). The responsible agency must incorporate Guideline requirements into permit conditions where applicable.

Where application of this Guideline may be unsafe or result in serious or material environmental harm, alternative practices must be implemented and the situation documented and reported.

Where an existing, occupied apiary site is non-compliant with this Guideline (for reasons such as. distance from other apiary sites; drainage structures; size of site; distance from visitor nodes, main roads, etc), continued use of the site for beekeeping may be permitted where:

- no damage, material or serious environmental harm or social impacts (user conflicts or incompatibility, safety issues, etc) are evident or likely to occur at the site; or
- damage, material or serious environmental harm and/or social impacts are evident or are likely to occur and the site is made Guideline compliant immediately; or
- closure, relocation or establishment of a new apiary site would result in greater environmental harm, social and/or economic impacts.

For an existing apiary site that is unoccupied or becomes unoccupied (e.g. expiry of a permit) and is non-compliant with this Guideline, the site must be reassessed prior to the issuing or reissuing of a permit and either:

- made compliant with this Guideline; or
- the site closed and an alternative or new site located¹; or
- an exemption be recorded and strategies devised to ensure damage, material or serious environmental harm or cultural heritage and other impacts are minimised.

1.8 Format

The Guideline is presented in two parts:

- Part 1 - Policies and principles; and
- Part 2 - Schedules: incorporating operational prescriptions.

¹ This option should only be adopted where relocation or establishment of a new apiary site would not result in greater environmental harm, social or economic impacts.

Operating guidelines concerning the operational management of beekeeping on QPWS estate will be established by QPWS (in consultation with DAFF for forestry areas) at a later date.

1.9 Definitions

Unless otherwise indicated in the Glossary (refer to appendix 1), all terms assume the same meaning as defined under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

All references to the “responsible agency” relate to the agency responsible for issuing the apiary permit, either QPWS or DAFF.

All references to the DAFF Apiary Section” refer to the DAFF - Biosecurity, Apiary Section.

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

2.1 Objective

Beekeeping requirements must be performed and managed in such a way that environmental and cultural heritage values are protected.

2.2 Principles

Beekeeping activities must be planned and managed in accordance with this Guideline, permit requirements and all other legislative requirements.

2.3 Policy

2.3.1 Risk assessment

The responsible agency must apply a risk assessment and risk management approach to all aspects of the environmental management of beekeeping activities in consultation with the Queensland Beekeepers Association where appropriate.

2.3.2 Nature Conservation

Beekeeping activities shall be regulated to:

- protect rare and threatened species;
- conserve indigenous flora and fauna;
- maintain ecosystem function and protect biological diversity; and
- comply with the requirements of schedule 5 of this document.

Consistent with the latest DSITIA (Dept of Science Information technology Innovation and the Arts) Regional Ecosystem numbering, status and subsequent revisions, all regional ecosystems must be managed to ensure that their ecological integrity is protected. The ecosystem's ecological processes, health and vitality and their ability to regenerate and evolve must be maintained. The protection measures detailed in schedule 5 are designed to meet these requirements.

2.3.3 Water and watercourse protection

Beekeeping activities shall be conducted in a manner that prevents or minimises pollution of water resources. The integrity of watercourses, the physical aquatic environment (including depth, light, temperature), water quality and biota must be protected from potential and actual environmental harm caused by beekeeping activities.

Water and watercourses must be protected through compliance with:

- the *Water Act 2000*;
- the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and associated *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997*;
- standards for protection of water and watercourse (refer to schedule 1);
- requirements for slope exclusion zone (refer to schedule 2);
- requirements for instability exclusion zone and soil protection (refer to schedule 3);
- requirements for waste management (refer to schedule 9);
- toxic and hazardous substance management (refer to schedule 9);
- road maintenance provisions (refer to schedule 10); and
- operational restrictions (refer to schedule 11).
-

2.3.4 Soil protection

Beekeeping activities must be conducted in a manner that limits soil erosion or any deterioration of the soil's physical, biological or chemical properties beyond what occurs naturally.

Soil will be protected through compliance with:

- the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*;
- slope exclusions (refer to schedule 2);
- standards for instability exclusion zone and soil protection (refer to schedule 3);
- road and track maintenance (refer to schedule 10); and
- operational restrictions during hazardous conditions (refer to schedule 11).

2.3.5 Landscape features and visitor values

All practical steps must be taken to limit loss or degradation of landscape and visitor values resulting from beekeeping activities, including effects on:

- visual resources;
- values of the recreation setting (physical, social and managerial values); and
- visitor opportunities.

Requirements for landscape and visitor use are outlined in schedule 6.

QPWS will advise of any requirements in this regard to DAFF when approving apiary sites.

2.3.6 Native title

With respect to beekeeping activities, native title considerations will be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the *Native Title (Commonwealth) Act 1993* and the responsible agency's native title work procedures.

This Guideline does not address environmental protection measures in relation to native title. As such, native title will not be subject to QPWS audit pursuant to this Guideline. Native title considerations regarding all dealings in land or resources, including beekeeping activities, will be in accordance with established native title works procedures.

2.3.7 Cultural heritage

Beekeeping activities are to be conducted in a manner consistent with cultural heritage protective management and duty of care obligations under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, *Forestry Act 1959* and, where applicable, the QPWS Cultural Heritage Manual or DAFF cultural heritage work procedures.

Where a cultural heritage object or place is identified, protective management prescriptions must be applied in accordance with the QPWS Cultural Heritage Manual or as otherwise agreed upon with the relevant Traditional Owners.

QPWS audit of DAFF obligations will be limited to affirmation by DAFF that cultural heritage work procedures are being applied; the specific work procedures will not be audited by QPWS.

2.3.8 Pests, weeds and diseases

All beekeeping activities must be managed to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to prevent or minimise the introduction and spread of pests, weeds and diseases.

Management and control measures for pests, weeds and disease must conform to the requirements of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Apiaries Act 1982*, the *Apiaries Regulation 1998*, the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*.

Notifiable diseases (including American foulbrood, small hive beetle, exotic bee mite) associated with

beekeeping must be reported to the DAFF Apiary Section immediately. Quarantining of hives and beekeeping equipment may be required.

In cases where swarming comes to the attention of the responsible agency, or any beekeeper unable to safely or competently contain a swarm, incidents of swarming must be reported to the DAFF Call Centre for control management (refer to schedule 4).

2.3.9 Air and noise

Beekeeping activities must be managed to prevent or minimise impacts on environmental values, as caused by smoke, dust, odour, noise or light.

Activities must conform to the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Environmental Protection Policy for Air (1997)* and *Environmental Protection Policy for Noise (1997)* and seek to avoid, ameliorate, isolate or restrict the source of the nuisance (refer to schedule 8).

2.3.10 Waste management

Waste generated during beekeeping activities, including human waste, can result in land or water pollution and degradation. Apiary sites must be kept waste free and managed in accordance with schedule 9.

2.3.11 Toxic or hazardous substances

To ensure the protection of natural resource values and the personal safety of beekeepers, government officers and the public, toxic or hazardous substances must be secured, stored, used and disposed of in accordance with label instructions, relevant legislation and schedule 9. The use of pesticides or herbicides must be approved by the responsible agency in writing prior to use.

2.3.12 Fire protection

Beekeeping activities must take all reasonable steps to minimise the likelihood of causing a wildfire through suspension of activities involving possible sources of ignition, such as smokers, when an unreasonable fire risk is apparent. The responsible agencies jointly manage fire on QPWS estate, including wildfires and prescribed burning for protection, ecological and regeneration purposes.

This Guideline does not include scheduled environmental protection measures (prescriptions) in relation to fire. Such measures and prescriptions are outlined in the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, the responsible agency's fire management system or manual and permit conditions. Furthermore:

- where safe to do so, any fire must be extinguished and the occurrence and actions taken promptly reported to the responsible agency; and
- hives may need to be relocated for reasons associated with fire management or any other basis.

The permit holder's responsibilities with regard to fire management at the apiary site are outlined in schedule 4.

QPWS audit of fire protection under this Guideline will be limited to the provisions of schedule 4, Sections 4.2.3 and 4.3.2.1

3. ACCESS TO APIARY SITES

3.1 Objective

Use and maintenance of existing access roads and tracks must protect estate values and be safe, sustainable and economically viable. Equally, the operational need for effective and efficient access must be balanced against minimising clearing and potential environmental impacts associated with maintenance and use (refer to schedules 4 and 10).

3.2 Principles

While undertaking beekeeping activities, permittees must only use roads and tracks designated for the purpose of placing and managing their hives. Any gates on or leading to apiary sites must be left as they are found (either open or closed). Locks may not be placed on gates without the permission of the QPWS District Manager.

Vegetation may only be cleared to the extent necessary to allow access to existing tracks.

Based on environmental, safety or management concerns, the QPWS may at any time restrict the permit holder's access to an area, consulting with DAFF and beekeeping permittees, as relevant to the particular situation. Any serious road or track damage must be reported to the responsible agency.

If QPWS restricts access by the use of locked gates, then QPWS must follow through by providing keys to authorised beekeepers and forest users or make other access arrangements.

3.3 Policy

3.3.1 Closure and decommissioning

The responsible agency must ensure that access that is no longer required must be stabilised, rehabilitated and permanently closed in accordance with schedule 10 and/or approved and documented in a formal management plan.

4. APIARY SITE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Objective

This Guideline aims to ensure that beekeeping activities are efficiently managed, safe and compatible with other area uses and users, while ensuring the long-term maintenance of the productive and regenerative capacity of the estate and its values.

4.2 Principle

Beekeepers must use equipment and techniques that are recognised and appropriate to beekeeping activities and to the requirements of this Guideline. Activities must comply with the operational restriction requirements as specified in schedules 4 and 11.

4.3 Policy

4.3.1 Location and site specification criteria

Apiary sites are generally quiet, flat, sheltered areas close to nectar and pollen producing trees and wildflowers and with access to water. Sites that have been previously cleared or disturbed will be favoured such as landings and decommissioned borrow pits. Beekeepers must contact the responsible agency before the placement of any hives and before vacating an apiary site; refer to schedule 4 for further information.

Apiary sites must conform to the following:

- Apiary sites must be located away from visitor use or recreation sites and safety hazards (refer to schedule 6).
- Apiary sites must be maintained without supplementary surfacing such as gravel.
- No new apiary sites are to be established on QPWS estate without prior approval from the QPWS for native forest areas, or HQ Plantations for plantation areas.
- Appropriate care must be taken when transporting hives. Hives must be secured in accordance with *Road Safety (Traffic) Regulations*.
- Buffer, firebreaks, vegetation removal, site spacing, beehive capacity, site size requirements and other essential management practices (refer to schedule 4).

4.3.2 Site management and maintenance

Apiary sites must be managed and maintained as follows:

- Beekeepers must only use an apiary site/s designated on their permit/s for beekeeping activities, including honey production and collection, queen bee breeding.
- Prior approval is required from the responsible agency for any site clearing (refer to Glossary) and must be documented in the appropriate permit.
- Hive marking, vegetation removal, buffer requirements, drainage and other essential management practices must be adhered to (refer to schedule 4).
- The permit holder must adopt a regular requeening program to minimise swarming and to maintain a docile strain of bee (refer to schedule 4).
- The permit holder must not move any diseased or potentially diseased material (including hives, equipment and vehicles) between or onto an apiary site.
- The permit holder must report any significant wildlife death, damage or disease to the QPWS and notifiable beekeeping-related diseases to the DAFF Apiary Section (refer to schedule 4).
- The permit holder must report any serious road or track damage to the responsible agency.
- Where necessary, the permit holder must adopt swarm control methods (refer to schedule 4).
- The permit holder must maintain hives and beekeeping equipment.

- No domestic animals (with the exception of an "apiary bee" under the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994* where authorised) are permitted on protected areas. Some domestic animals may be permitted on forestry areas in accordance with the *Forestry Act 1959*.
- Overnight camping on QPWS estate for the purpose of tending to the apiary site may be permitted. On protected areas, a camping permit must be obtained to camp (refer to Glossary) on an apiary site. A camping permit is not required on protected or forestry areas where a beekeeper sleeps in their vehicle overnight on an apiary site where prior approval from the responsible agency has been obtained. On forestry areas, and where allowed for under the apiary site permit, prior approval to camp overnight on an apiary site must be obtained from the responsible agency.
- Where sufficient water is not available, an approved artificial water source must be provided for the purpose of maintaining the bees (refer to schedule 4).
- The permit holder must ensure that any smoker to be used at an apiary site is functional and safe.
- The use of smokers must be in accordance with the fire control regimes introduced as required.
- No fences or other structures, except for beekeeping stands, are to be erected on a site unless otherwise approved.
- All rubbish, including old hives, beekeeping stands and artificial watering devices, must be disposed of in an approved manner off QPWS estate.
- Beekeeping activities must be supervised at an intensity relative to the permit holder's experience and performance to minimise the potential for damage or environmental harm and to ensure compliance with this document.
- Activities must be suspended or restricted where human safety, infrastructure or environmental values are threatened by weather or ground conditions (refer to schedule 11).
- Machinery and equipment must be appropriate to the operational and environmental conditions. Use of inappropriate equipment may be refused.

4.3.3 Research and development

Research and development into beekeeping practices, product enhancement and value adding should be encouraged provided that:

- methods are consistent with the intent of this Guideline; and
- the activity does not reasonably interfere with other estate uses or users.

5. WORKER AND PUBLIC SAFETY

5.1 Objective

The health and safety of permit holders, government officers and the public must be protected and not be subject to unreasonable risks.

5.2 Principles

5.2.1 Personnel

Personnel must be provided with safe and healthy working conditions. Permit holders must ensure that all staff are appropriately trained and informed on environmental and safety requirements.

5.2.2 Duty of care

All persons involved in beekeeping activities must exercise a duty of care to all other estate users.

5.3 Policy

5.3.1 Risk assessment

Risk assessment and risk management must be applied to maximise the safety of all beekeeping activities. In maximising safety, risk management must seek ways to avoid damage or material or serious environmental harm.

5.3.2 Precedence of human safety

Subject to risk assessment and risk management, human safety takes precedence over all other environmental or management considerations.

5.3.3 Compliance

All persons involved in beekeeping activities must meet their obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and other relevant legislation, codes, regulations and standards.

The terms and conditions of the apiary permit will be the vehicle for the responsible agency to stipulate safety requirements on permittees.

5.3.4 Competency

Persons operating chainsaws and other plant or equipment as part of apiary site management on QPWS estate must obtain appropriate certificates of competence.

5.3.5 Non-compliance

Non-compliance with apiary permit safety requirements will be considered grounds for suspension or cancellation of activities or permits by the responsible agency.

As safety obligations are established by legislation and apiary permit terms and conditions, independent of this Guideline, QPWS auditing pursuant to this Guideline will not address safety issues such as non-conformance notices will not be issued by QPWS for safety infringements. However, safety issues that come to the attention of QPWS auditors during the course of audits against this Guideline will be drawn to the attention of the responsible agency for actioning.

Consistent with duty of care, permittees or staff of either agency should intervene in situations where there is a high and imminent risk to personal safety that may lead to death or injury.

6. COMPLIANCE, PREVENTION AND CORRECTION

6.1 Objective

The aim of compliance, preventative and corrective action is to ensure that:

- the permit holder complies with the Guideline;
- non-compliance is detected, investigated and corrected;
- environmental harm is identified and corrected; and
- the effectiveness of this Guideline is assessed.

6.2 Principles

Principles concerning compliance, prevention and corrective actions for beekeeping include:

- compliance with this Guideline must be assessed and non-compliance addressed;
- damage must be prevented and corrected;
- material and serious environmental harm, as defined by the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, must be reported, addressed and managed as required by that Act; and
- effectiveness of Guideline standards must be monitored and reviewed.

6.3 Policy

6.3.1 Suspension, cancellation or refusal of permits

If the permit holder fails or neglects to comply with the terms and conditions of their permit, the permit can be cancelled and the beekeeper directed to vacate the site by the responsible agency.

6.3.2 Removal of unauthorised structures

Where unauthorised hives or beekeeping structures are found on QPWS estate, advice will be sought from the DAFF Apiary Section with regard to removal of the bees and structures.

Where hives or beekeeping structures under an appropriate permit at an approved apiary site on QPWS estate are abandoned, removal of the bees and hive structures will be arranged between the responsible agency and the DAFF Apiary Section in accordance with relevant legislation.

6.3.3 QPWS review

Beekeeping activities will be reviewed and assessed annually by QPWS as a means of improving this Guideline. Corrective and preventative action must be taken to achieve continual improvement in environmental management. The responsible agency will be consulted before any corrective notices are issued.

6.3.4 Non-compliance

Non-compliance with this Guideline must be detected and corrected. The responsible agency must implement procedures to detect non-compliance and:

- identify the cause;
- identify and implement necessary corrective action/s;
- recommend actions to avoid recurrence; and
- report and record non-compliance.

6.3.5 Preventative action

Where application of standards within the Guideline are considered unsafe, inadequate or may result in greater environmental harm, additional or alternative measures must be applied:

- In an emergency, these measures must be applied immediately to avoid material or serious environmental harm and be promptly reported to the QPWS.
- Where implementation is not required as an emergency action, the intended measures must be referred to the responsible agency for approval prior to implementation.

6.3.6 Corrective action

Action must be taken where environmental harm is:

- an **environmental nuisance**: The event, cause of the event and action taken to mitigate and avoid further harm occurring or recurring must be recorded; or
- either **material or serious environmental harm**: The event must be reported to QPWS. Action must be taken in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

6.3.7 Records

All documentation related to beekeeping activities must be retained, maintained and able to be produced or examined on request.

Part 2: Schedules

Schedule 1

WATER AND WATERCOURSE PROTECTION

1.1 General

Watercourse systems must be protected from any adverse impacts of beekeeping activities to maintain their physical integrity, riparian environment and water quality.

Watercourses are defined channels that receive and conduct overland water flow for some periods in most years. Watercourse classifications include: streams, gullies, waterways and water features (refer to Glossary).

In addition to requirements in this schedule, all activities must comply with the *Water Act 2000*, *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the associated *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997* and schedules 2, 9, 10 and 11 of this Guideline.

1.2 Watercourse protection

A watercourse protection zone must be established and maintained for watercourse protection purposes. The width of the watercourse protection zone shall vary depending on the classification of the watercourse as follows:

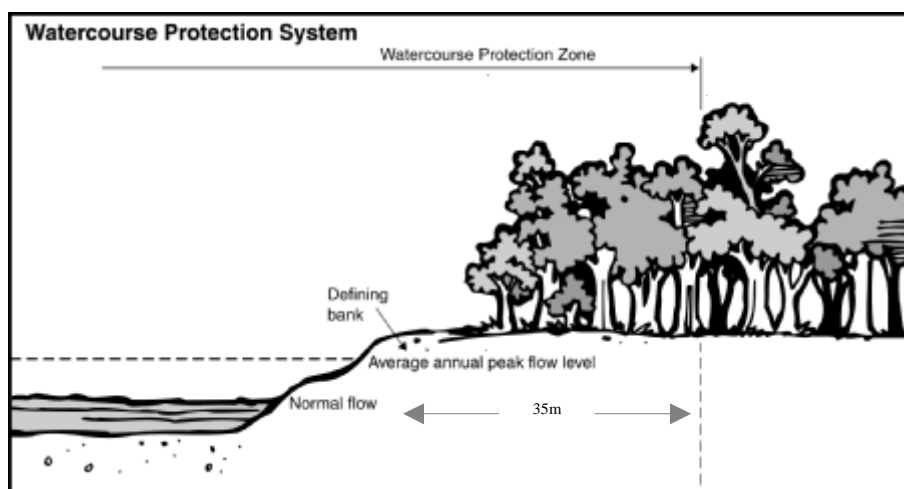
- streams - 35m buffer zone as measured from the defined bank (refer to Figure 1);
- gullies - (Both 'U' and 'V' shaped) 10m buffer zone as measured from the defined bank; and
- waterways - 5m from the active zone.

No apiary sites are permitted within the watercourse protection zone.

Water for artificial watering devices must not be obtained from any source on QPWS Estate estate unless otherwise approved by the appropriate agency. Additional watercourse protection zone conditions include:

- No machinery or vehicles are permitted unless at an approved crossing.
- No vehicles are permitted along any watercourse bed.
- Access to the watercourse by other legitimate site users/uses must not be obstructed.
- Debris must not be accumulated or burnt in this zone.

Figure 1. Watercourse protection zone for streams



Schedule 2

SLOPE EXCLUSION ZONES

2.1 General

Operational slope limits will apply to beekeeping activities to ensure environmental care and safety requirements are met.

2.2 Procedure

Apiary sites must be established on stable, easily drained and maintained areas with slope not exceeding 6 degrees.

Note: Box cutting or benching is not permitted on apiary sites.

Schedule 3

INSTABILITY EXCLUSION ZONES AND SOIL PROTECTION

3.1 General

Beekeeping activities must be excluded from areas of obvious past, present or potential instability.

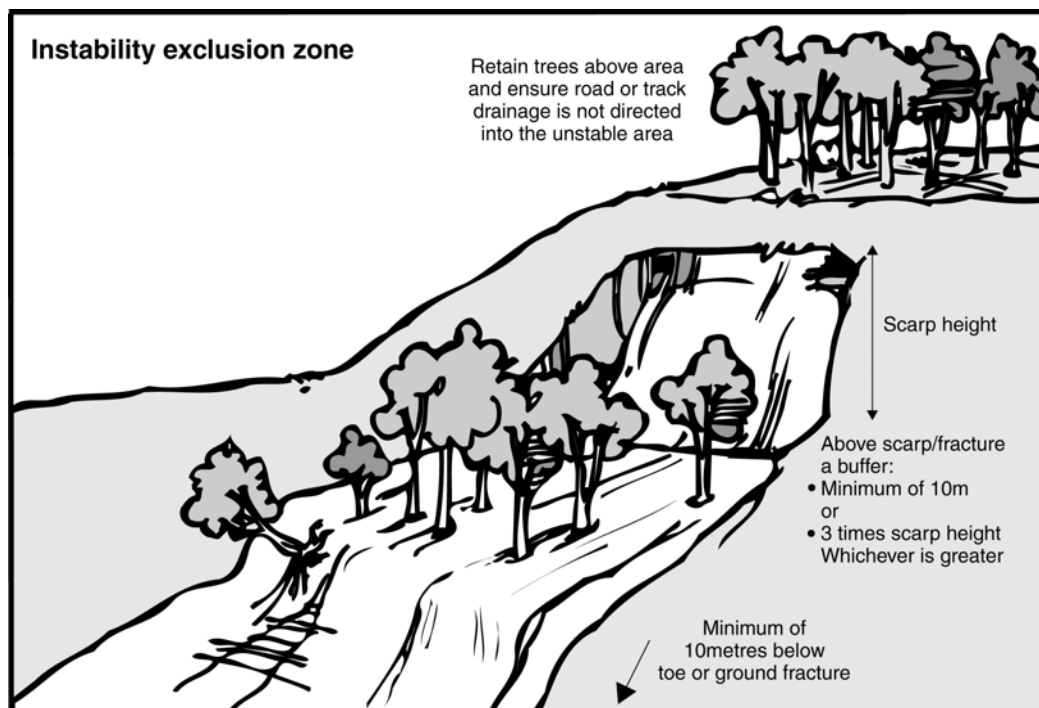
Evidence of instability may be obvious in the form of exposed slip face or scarp or suggested by ground cracks, geology or hummocky topography. It is important that these areas are not destabilised physically, particularly above the unstable area or by redirection of apiary site, road or track drainage into the unstable area.

3.2 Restrictions

Beekeeping activities are not permitted on unstable areas. A minimum exclusion zone must provide:

- a distance above the scarp height equal to three times the height of the face or 10m, whichever is greater; and
- a distance of 10m below the toe of the slip or unstable area (refer to the diagram below).

All beekeeping activities are prohibited in exclusion zones.



3.3 Soil protection

Soil erosion will be minimised through compliance with:

- slope exclusions (refer to schedule 2);
- management of apiary sites (refer to schedule 4);
- road and track maintenance (refer to schedule 10); and
- operational restrictions during hazardous conditions (refer to schedule 11).

Schedule 4

MANAGEMENT OF BEEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

4.1 General

Further to general requirements in part 1 of this document, beekeeping activities must comply with the following requirements in addition to relevant legislation and permit conditions:

- All accidents or incidents on QPWS estate must be reported to the responsible agency as soon as practicable.
- Hives must not be placed in a manner that will interfere with other legitimate area users/uses or their associated activities.
- Access to any apiary site will not be closed by the responsible agency or beekeeper permittee unless all parties having an interest in that site are consulted. Gates on or leading to apiary sites must be left as they are found (either open or closed), locks may not be placed on gates without the permission of the QPWS District Manager.
- Apiary sites must be located to prevent the need to fell trees for site establishment or fire prevention purposes. With the exception of firebreaks around apiary sites, no tree larger than 150mm diameter at breast height over bark (dbhob) or over 10m in height is to be removed or cleared (refer to Glossary) during site establishment or maintenance without the responsible agency's written approval. All vegetation (refer to Glossary) removal or clearing must be in accordance with any existing plans relevant to the management of vegetation at that site, this schedule and schedule 5.
- The DAFF Call Centre (telephone: 13 25 23) maintains a "swarm list" of apiarists throughout the state who are willing to capture swarms voluntarily or for a fee. Where persons on the swarm list are unavailable or unable to assist in the capture of swarms, the responsible agency may capture swarms where it is safe to do so. Captured swarms can either be relocated or destroyed. Advice should be sought from the DAFF Apiary Section before attempting to capture a swarm.
- Where bees have established a feral bee colony in/on a tree or structure (such as within a tree hollow, at a cultural heritage site/place) the colony must be reported to the responsible agency. The responsible agency may destroy the colony where it is safe to do so. The destruction of feral bee colonies usually involves the use of chemicals. Advice or instructions must be sought from the DAFF Apiary Section before attempting to destroy a feral bee colony. Please note, apiarists on the swarm list do not remove or destroy feral bee colonies.

Additional information and advice relating to beekeeping can be obtained from the *DAFF Rural Guidelines for Beekeeping* and *DAFF Information Notes*.

4.2 Establishing new apiary sites

Where a potential new apiary site is identified by the responsible agency in consideration of planning requirements (refer to part 1 section 1.4), the following principles must be adhered to in conjunction with policy requirements specified in part 1 section 2.

QPWS will approve all new apiary sites, extensions to existing sites or the relocation of apiary sites in native forest areas on QPWS estate. DAFF will approve new apiary sites in plantation areas and native forest areas associated with plantations that are considered part of the gross plantation estate.

4.2.1 Locating new apiary sites

Apiary sites must be located:

- in such a way that there is no need to fell trees that are larger than 150mm dbhob or over 10m in height. However, an exemption may be granted by the responsible agency for fire prevention purposes where there is no alternative;
- a minimum of 300m from formal recreation nodes/sites (including water bodies, walking tracks, camping areas) (refer to schedule 6);

- a minimum of 1000m from other authorised apiary sites for sites containing 40 to 150 hives on and off QPWS estate. Where queen bees are being bred for sale, a minimum of 1.6km is required between apiary sites;
- a minimum of 50m from the boundary of any type of national park to minimise incompatibility, safety and aesthetic impacts;
- a minimum of 50m from the boundary of private lands unless negotiated otherwise with the landowner;
- a minimum of 40m from the edge of major roads and stock routes on and off the QPWS estate. A greater distance may be required for high-use roads where the public safety risk is perceived as high;
- in a stable and easy to drain location;
- in accordance with regional ecosystem protection requirements (refer to schedule 5.6);
- a distance equal to the average tree height away from all active fauna structures (refer to schedule 5.4);
- close to access tracks but out of public view wherever possible; and
- on the outer margins of a regional park rather than in its core where possible. Any rare and threatened

or 'of management status' flora species identified must be managed in accordance with *Species Management Profile* 'protective measures' where clearing is considered a 'possible threatening process'. Where the rare and threatened or 'of management status' flora species is not listed in the profiles or where clearing is not considered a 'possible threatening process' a minimum buffer of 50m must be applied around the species (refer to schedule 5.2);

4.2.2 Apiary site size, capacity and signage

Apiary site size, capacity and signage restrictions are as follows:

- The extent of clearing allowed for an apiary site must be specified by the responsible agency in the permit conditions. The amount of land permitted to be cleared within the apiary site must be the minimum necessary to support 150 beehives. Groundcover must be retained on the apiary site (excluding the firebreak) to prevent erosion. The maximum amount of land permitted to be cleared is 600sq.m, inclusive of firebreaks.
- The responsible agency should ensure that all apiary sites display an approved permanent signpost indicating the apiary site number.

4.2.3 Firebreak construction

Firebreaks must be clear of vegetation, a minimum of 2m and a maximum of 5m wide and located on the outer boundary of the apiary site. Firebreaks must be in accordance with schedule 5.

4.3 Management of existing apiary sites

Management of existing apiary sites is divided into three categories:

- general management (standards applicable to both occupied and unoccupied apiary sites);
- management of occupied sites (sites under a current permit with hives on them); and
- management of unoccupied sites (sites either under a current permit but without hives on them or unallocated sites).

4.3.1 General management

4.3.1.1 Permits and notification of placement

Permit holders must apply or re-apply for permits through the responsible agency. The permit holder must notify the responsible agency prior to placing any hives on an approved site and prior to vacating a site on QPWS estate. Re-allocation of existing, unoccupied apiary sites is undertaken by the responsible agency.

4.3.1.2 Site capacity

No more than 150 beehives are permitted on any one apiary site on QPWS estate.

4.3.1.3 Marking of hives

All apiary sites must have the mark or brand issued by the DAFF Apiary Section at the time of registration clearly and visibly marked on at least one hive in 50 or on a notice erected in a conspicuous position within the site, in letters and figures not less than 25mm high.

4.3.1.4 Vegetation management

Any rare and threatened or 'of management status' flora species that emerges on an apiary site (including the firebreak) must be reported to the responsible agency for management advice. Groundcover must be retained on the apiary site (excluding the firebreak) to prevent erosion.

4.3.1.5 Drainage

Apiary sites must be maintained to prevent ponding and soil erosion. Where they exist, drainage structures must divert water onto stable, vegetated surfaces.

4.3.2 Management of occupied sites

4.3.2.1 Fire management and firebreaks

An apiary site permit holder has the following operational responsibilities for fire management:

- The permit holder must construct and maintain a firebreak a minimum of 2m and a maximum of 5m wide and kept clear of vegetation around the outer boundary of the apiary site. Firebreaks must be in accordance with permit conditions and schedule 5.
- Any emergent rare and threatened species or 'of management status' species identified in the firebreak must be reported to the responsible agency for management advice (refer to schedule 4.3.1.4).
- Under no circumstances should a fuel reduction burn be conducted by an apiary site permit holder. The permit holder may be required to participate in co-operative fuel reduction burns if hives are present on a site within the designated burn area.
- All equipment, including any apparatus used as a smoker, must be maintained so that it does not constitute a fire threat.
- The permit holder shall provide, and have available on site at all times when smoking of the hives is being carried out, a knapsack sprayer with a minimum capacity of 20L filled with water and in good working order.
- Use of smokers must be contained within apiary site boundaries.
- Smokers must be completely extinguished after use and prior to transporting.

4.3.2.2 Swarm management and requeening

Examples of swarm management and requeening practices include, but are not limited to:

- development of requeening programs and/or other methods (such as colony division) to minimise swarming and maintain a docile strain of bee (refer to *DAFF Information Note* on requeening); and
- utilising swarm capturing/collection practices where necessary (refer to schedule 4.1).

4.3.2.3 Thinning operations

Native forest tree thinning and harvesting operations in the vicinity of apiary sites are addressed by the *Code of Practice for Native Forest Timber Production - 2002*.

4.3.2.4 Disease management

All notifiable diseases (specific bacteria, fungi, protozoa, viruses, parasites and/or pests) of honeybees must be reported to the DAFF Apiary Section in accordance with the *Apiaries Regulation 1998*, and notify the responsible agency.

4.3.2.5 Watering

Where sufficient water is not available, an artificial source of water must be provided at each apiary site (refer to schedule 1). All artificial sources of water must be approved by the responsible agency (covering volume, sourcing of water, locating the device within the apiary site (including the firebreak) provided the device does not diminish the function of the firebreak) and provided in such a way that access by wildlife is denied wherever possible. Water for artificial watering devices must not be obtained from any source on QPWS estate unless otherwise approved by the responsible agency.

4.3.2.6 Waste management

Apiary sites must be kept waste free at all times (refer to schedule 9). All beekeeping equipment must be removed from the site on expiration of a permit. Where the site is to be vacated yet the permit for that site is still current, all beekeeping equipment must be removed from the site within seven days of the hives being removed.

4.3.3 Management of unoccupied apiary sites

In accordance with Core Section 1.7 and irrespective of whether the unoccupied apiary site is currently under a permit or is an unallocated site, the site must continue to comply with Guideline requirements, including maintaining drainage structures and protection of Rare & Threatened species.

4.4 Stabilisation of retired apiary sites

Once aware or notified that a permit holder intends to abandon an apiary site, the responsible agency must ensure that all retired (refer to Glossary) apiary sites are stabilised within two weeks of the site's vacation by:

- providing surface drainage to prevent ponding or soil erosion where the site has no vegetation cover, including: necessary surface smoothing, cross fall drainage, removal of berms or construction of diversion drains (refer to the *Code of Practice for Native Forest Timber Production - 2002*);
- constructing water bars on tracks where necessary to divert water flowing on to, or from, the apiary site into surrounding vegetation;
- restricting access to the site by other forest uses, such as grazing, until regeneration is adequate; and
- applying an appropriate fire regime to the site.

Schedule 5

NATURE CONSERVATION

5.1 General requirements

Beekeeping activities must be undertaken in a manner that ensures:

- the protection of native flora and fauna species;
- habitat protection; and
- minimal site disturbance.

5.2 Rare and threatened species

On QPWS estate, rare and threatened species listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*; and prescribed with 'of management status' species in *WildNet* and *Species Management Profiles*; must be protected from potential impacts when establishing a new apiary site. Emergent rare and threatened and 'of management status' species on an existing apiary site must be managed in accordance with schedule 4.3.1.4.

5.3 Habitat and retained tree management

Habitat trees are living trees selected to be retained because they have features of special value to wildlife. They contain at least one hollow more than 10cm in diameter and at least 2m above ground level.

Habitat trees must not be felled or damaged during the establishment of an apiary site. No tree is to be damaged in any way as part of apiary site operations, unless otherwise approved.

5.4 Habitat protection

Active nests (canopy, sub-canopy and ground nests), bowers, burrows, caves, hollows or other structures used by a protected animal must not be damaged, destroyed, marked, moved, dug up or otherwise interfered with during beekeeping activities. Where there is a possibility that a structure is active, a precautionary approach should be used and the structure protected. Trees with nests of birds of prey, which are re-used year after year, must be protected.

5.5 Trees containing other animals

Trees in which any protected fauna species is visible (including birds) must be protected from impacts caused by beekeeping activities. This is particularly important during site establishment. An animal must be allowed to move out of danger of its own accord. Beekeepers must inspect trees for the presence of protected fauna species before clearing a firebreak or conducting vegetation management activities.

5.6 Regional ecosystem protection

As the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* does not apply to tenures defined under the *Forestry Act 1959* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, assessment for clearing on QPWS estate is carried out by QPWS officers.

No new clearing should be required on QPWS estate, as beekeeping will be carried out on existing sites. The clearing of regrowth on existing sites is permitted. Any clearing required for the relocation of sites will be negotiated with QPWS.

Schedule 6

LANDSCAPE AND VISITOR USE

6.1 General

The objective of this schedule is to minimise the loss or degradation of visual resources, recreation settings and visitor opportunities resulting from the inappropriate management of beekeeping activities. In particular, this schedule establishes standards for protecting areas identified for landscape protection and/or visitor use. This schedule is primarily concerned with the establishment/proposed establishment of a new apiary site.

Landscape management techniques must be incorporated into QPWS management plans and beekeeping activities should be spatially and temporally planned to reduce the amount of disturbance in an area at any one time (refer to part 1 section 1.4 and schedule 4).

Where areas are zoned for landscape protection and visitor use, both sets of protection measures must be applied.

6.2 Landscape protection

6.2.1 Determining areas of landscape value

The need to apply management techniques to protect the visual resource depends on the significance of the landscape values. Landscape value is determined by considering the scenic quality of an area, the level of public concern and the distance that the area can be seen from. The highest priority in landscape management should be given to:

- areas assessed as high scenic quality;
- areas seen from viewpoints by high numbers of users and/or by users with high concern for the visual landscape; and
- areas closest to viewpoints.

6.2.2 Identification of protection areas

Protection requirements should be proportional to the significance of the landscape. Three main types of protected landscapes include:

- **Feature Protection Area (Landscape) (FPA)** where the visual resource has outstanding natural scenery, spectacular biological or geological features, unique or unusual qualities, or significant, stimulating or aesthetic sensory qualities that must be fully retained;
- **Visual Resource Protection Areas (VRPA)** where the visual resource value is high and must be managed; and
- **other areas** where there is moderate or low concern for the visual resource value and no specific management requirements.

Where a management plan for the proposed apiary site exists, the QPWS will identify any FPA, VRPA or proposed FPA within the area. Where such a plan does not exist, the QPWS must be consulted to identify any existing or proposed VRPAs or FPAs.

6.2.3 Management of areas of landscape value

Feature Protection Areas (Landscape) – beekeeping activities must be in accordance with management plans for FPAs, where they exist, and any relevant QPWS policies and procedures. In the absence of a management plan, activities within the gazetted or proposed FPA should be restricted to those that serve to protect the landscape value.

Visual Resource Protection Areas – beekeeping activities should range from being inconspicuous to temporarily apparent. Any activities should not significantly alter the forms, lines, colours and textures found in the natural landscape. Appropriate management techniques must be developed by the QPWS.

6.3 Visitor use

6.3.1 Identification of areas of high visitor use values

Visitor activities occur in two main locations:

- at nodes (points where people gather to undertake specific activities, including camp grounds, picnic sites, viewing points, climbing sites); and
- along roads and tracks used by visitors (including 4WD tracks, roads, walking tracks, horse trails).

Visitor use is either:

- formal: planned activities using properly designed and constructed visitor facilities such as camp grounds, roads, graded walking tracks; or
- informal: self reliant use of the estate and features in an unguided manner.

In the absence of a management plan that incorporates the proposed apiary site, the QPWS should be consulted regarding the location of visited areas and the nature of visitation. Where a management plan exists for an area, the responsible agency must check for the location of visited areas and the nature of visitation.

6.3.2 Management of visitor use areas

In high use visitor areas, beekeeping activities should range from being visually and audibly inconspicuous to temporarily apparent.

Management of beekeeping activities in relation to visitor use areas must be incorporated into management plans and permit conditions. The following activity restrictions will apply:

- **Formal visitor nodes:** a 300m site exclusion zone around formal visitor nodes;
- **Vehicular roads and tracks used by visitors:** a 40m exclusion zone. A greater distance may be required for high-use visitor roads where the public safety risk is perceived as high; and
- **Informal tracks and trails:** no specific management is required.

Schedule 7

PESTS, WEEDS AND DISEASES

7.1 General

Beekeepers must take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the introduction and spread of pests, weeds and diseases consistent with legislative or agency requirements.

7.2 Identification of pests, weeds or disease on an apiary site

All parties involved in beekeeping activities and/or their management must note the presence of any declared or problem pests, weeds or disease within or around the apiary site or where a pest could be potentially introduced to a site. Requirements must be included in planning processes and permit conditions.

Beekeepers must report any instances of vegetation death or damage, and any animal, weed, insect or disease activity that may threaten the site/area to the responsible agency.

Incidents of notifiable hive-related diseases must be reported to the DAFF Apiary Section and the responsible agency notified.

7.3 Operational practices

Examples of measures to prevent the spread or introduction of pests, weeds or diseases include:

- Where it is planned that an infected area will be used for beekeeping activities, permit holders should work from clean areas into infected areas.
- All equipment and vehicles should be washed down and be clean and free of plant seeds and other vegetative material and deposits of mud or other debris before entering the estate.
- Any potentially infected soil, gravel or vegetative material should not be moved between areas or directly imported onto the site.

7.4 Notification of bee-related diseases

The DAFF Apiary Section should be notified regarding notifiable hive or bee-related diseases.

7.5 Requirements for pest, weed and disease control

The QPWS should be notified of the discovery of declared or problem pests, weeds or diseases. Where control measures are required, QPWS approval and advice regarding methods must be sought. Control must:

- adopt accepted methods and have regard for any adverse primary or secondary environmental impacts; and
- be in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*.

Schedule 8

AIR AND NOISE MANAGEMENT

8.1 Procedures

Beekeeping activities must be managed to prevent or minimise unreasonable interference with any environmental or social values as caused by smoke, dust, odour, noise or light.

Further to part 1 section 2.3.10, air and noise management strategies include, but are not limited to:

- restricting activities to defined weather conditions as per schedule 11;
- restricting and minimising the use of equipment and machinery to defined periods or times (such as daylight hours) near sensitive places wherever possible;
- use of buffers and setbacks;
- orientation of equipment to direct noise away from sensitive places; and
- use of specially muffled equipment or other noise attenuation methods appropriate to the specific activity or equipment.

Schedule 9

WASTE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

9.1 Waste management

All persons involved in beekeeping activities, including associated works, are responsible for waste management for their activities.

9.2 Operational requirements – waste management

- Waste management must be in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000.
- All wastes are to be continually collected, contained in bins or other suitable receptacles and removed from the estate to an authorised disposal site.
- Wastes should be stored a minimum of 40m from any watercourse protection zone.
- If toilets are not provided, human waste must be buried at least 15cm deep and at least 50m from tracks and water bodies.
- No waste is to be buried on the estate (with the exception of human waste).
- Disperse vegetation material away from the general area so that it does not create a fire hazard or interfere with other users of the area.
- Before activities are completed, all waste must be removed.

9.3 Toxic or hazardous substance management

The use of toxic or hazardous substances must be minimised wherever possible. Materials intended to be used, including herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers, paints, oils and other petroleum products, must be approved by the responsible agency and documented.

Toxic or hazardous substances must be secured, stored, used and disposed of in accordance with label instructions and relevant legislation to ensure the personal safety of beekeepers, government officers, the public and estate values.

In all cases:

- Emergency preparedness and response procedures must be available on site and implemented for all classes of chemical or toxic substances used. These procedures must be in accordance with the Material Safety Data Sheets prepared by the manufacturers, which must be available on site.
- Fuel trailers, storage, filling or wash down areas must be located in a secure, fire-safe location at least 40m from a watercourse protection zone.
- On-site storage of toxic chemicals in drums is not favoured and must be approved by the responsible agency. Where absolutely necessary, on-site storage will only be permitted at remote apiary sites while the beekeeper is on-site, for example overnight. The storage area must be secured and bunded to at least 110 percent of the capacity of the largest vessel stored within the bund.
- Agricultural chemicals must be used according to the manufacturer's directions and conform to the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966* including the obtaining of necessary licenses or permits.
- Machinery and equipment must be maintained to manufacturers' specifications so leaks are minimised.

9.4 Spills and leaks

In the event of a toxic or hazardous substance spill or leak:

- **General:**
 - Any toxic or hazardous substance must be contained as soon as practicable. Clean-up procedures must be promptly implemented according to emergency and preparedness response procedures and any wastes generated during the clean-up disposed of according to the manufacture's guidelines and waste management requirements; and
 - Measures must be implemented to ensure the event does not occur again.
- **Greater than 20L in a single incident:**
 - QPWS must be informed as per the notification requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- **Less than 20L in a single incident:**
 - where there is the potential for material or serious environmental harm to occur, for example 15L of a pesticide spills into a stream that feeds the local water supply, QOWS must be informed as per the notification requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Schedule 10

ACCESS

10.1 General

This schedule identifies the environmental management requirements for operational access including road and track maintenance and decommissioning.

10.2 Operational access

Operational access to apiary sites must use existing roads and tracks. In general, no new temporary or permanent roads are to be established.

10.3 Maintenance

The responsible agency, in consultation with permit holders, must ensure that roads and tracks are maintained to a state that minimises environmental harm. The exception is forest reserve and those areas of State forest and timber reserve where commercial timber production interests have been withdrawn. In these areas, QPWS will carry responsibility for road and track maintenance, in consultation with DAFF (while DAFF remains the responsible agency for authorising apiary permits) and the permittee.

Access roads and tracks must be maintained to ensure a stable running surface and to keep drainage systems operative. Road surfaces, crossings and drainage systems must be inspected by the responsible agency to ensure that they are functional, safe and in a stable state. Maintenance techniques should:

- minimise or avoid disturbance of soils beside the road and minimise deposition of spoil or sediment;
- avoid lowering the road surface in a way that impedes surface drainage or concentrates flow along the road edge;
- restore drainage systems including any erosion control devices;
- ensure water can freely drain from the surface and is not blocked by vegetation or a berm; and
- manage roadside vegetation to maintain safety and road edge bank stability.

While such works are being undertaken, hazard-warning devices consistent with the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* should be used.

10.4 Temporary closure

Road or track use should be temporarily closed or restricted by the responsible agency in accordance with schedule 11.

Where roads or tracks are closed, they must be stabilised, drained and encouraged to revegetate to control soil erosion without the need for maintenance. These roads must be blocked with a barrier or sign to prevent unauthorised access.

10.5 Permanent closure and decommissioning

When roads are permanently closed they should be stabilised, rehabilitated, permanently closed, decommissioned and encouraged to regenerate in accordance with the following:

- Recovery of materials is permitted provided it does not result in environmental harm. Removal must not adversely impact on water quality and disturbed areas must be drained and stabilised;
- Road surfaces should be levelled to avoid concentrations of water on or along the surface;
- Water bars or other cross-drainage structures should be constructed;
- Road surfaces should be stabilised, as necessary, by the sowing of cover crops, the placement of debris including tree heads or other obstruction that will inhibit use; and
- Entry should be barred with earth mounds or other obstacles and disguised with debris.

Temporary watercourse crossings should be removed unless their presence does not pose a threat and/or removal will create greater damage and/or environmental harm than retention. In addition:

- Crossing materials should be removed from the watercourse;
- Bed and bank contours should be returned and stabilised; and
- Approaches should be barred, drained and stabilised.

Schedule 11

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

11.1 General activity and access restrictions

Beekeeping activities must be temporarily ceased or restricted if use:

- is unsafe (in situations such as fire risk, hazardous weather conditions);
- has the potential to cause serious or material environmental harm; or
- is likely to cause excessive damage to roads or tracks.

11.2 Operational restrictions

All activities should be timed to avoid periods where there is a reasonable expectation of heavy rainfall, storms or cyclones.

Permit holders must, whether required by the responsible agency or not, cease beekeeping activities when travel on unsealed roads:

- is unsafe; or
- causes or has the potential to cause damage because:
 - vehicles cannot move unassisted along the road; or
 - water runs in fresh wheel ruts more than 20cm deep for a distance of more than 50m and usage will lead to increased rutting and damage to road drainage; or
 - water is ponded on the surface and will cause road damage; or
 - damage will either render the road unusable or require substantial repair and the permit holder is not equipped for or cannot guarantee timely restoration; or
 - a hazard to water quality or a nuisance dust hazard is, or will be, created that cannot be ameliorated by reducing speed or watering and has the potential to cause environmental harm.

The responsible agency must suspend or restrict activities, including road access and maintenance, when hazardous or excessively wet, windy, dry or dangerous fire conditions threaten safety, infrastructure, or environmental protection of site/area values.

11.3 Road maintenance

In general, the responsible agency must temporarily cease road maintenance activities when surface water is flowing on the road works, and continued works:

- are likely to cause excessive damage to the road surface; or
- pose a risk of sedimentation of a watercourse; or
- will enable access into an area that is susceptible to damage.

Appendices

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

Active zone – zone of active erosion or deposition characterised by either an erosion face more than 10cm high or a scour / deposition area of more than 1m. Deposited material may be loose, unconsolidated sand, gravel, or water-washed stone. The zone may be obscured by litter or associated with a significant reduction in surface cover. Width is measured between erosion faces where these exist, or across the deposited material where no erosion face exists.

Apiarist/beekeeper/permittee – a person keeping bees.

Apiary site – a place where beehives are kept.

Apiculture/beekeeping – the management of beehives.

Beehive – a removable framed housing for a honeybee colony.

Berm – a heap or mound of soil associated with the sweeping of material towards the edge of the road or track and which prevents runoff from draining from the road surface.

Best practice management – management to achieve the ongoing minimisation of an activity's environmental damage and harm through cost-effective measures assessed against the measures currently used nationally and internationally.

Biodiversity – “the variety of all life forms – the plants, animals and micro-organisms – the genes they constitute, and the ecosystems they inhabit” (*National Forest Policy Statement 1992*). Includes flora and fauna.

Brand – a unique identification code issued to each registered apiarist in Queensland by DAFF Apiary Section. Brands are used to mark ownership of beekeeping frames and hives.

Camp – to camp, as defined under the *Nature Conservation Regulation 1994*, includes to:

- pitch, place or erect a tent, caravan or camping structure; and
- place other camping equipment in position; and
- stay overnight.

Capillary moisture – water held in pore spaces of materials such as soil, sand, timber or gravel by surface tension.

Clearing – for the purposes of this Guideline, clearing means the removal of standing woody vegetation that is greater than 20 percent of the height of the surrounding forest for the establishment or maintenance of an apiary site, or for the maintenance of roads and tracks affiliated with an apiary site. Note: site clearing must be approved by the responsible agency and documented in permit conditions. Rare or threatened flora species must not be cleared without prior written approval from the responsible agency. Removal of introduced or declared plant weed species is not considered clearing and may be carried out without written approval.

Conservation plan – a plan approved by the Governor in Council under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* s119. Conservation plans can be compiled for any native wildlife, native wildlife habitat, critical habitat or area of major interest.

Cultural heritage feature or site – a place or object that has significance for present or future generations for aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, historical, scientific, spiritual, societal, technological or customary values, including those sites or features listed under either the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and the *Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2003*

Defining bank – the terrace, bank or point on the lateral flood plain that confines the average bankfull flows.

Environmental damage – sustained or periodic detrimental changes to the environment, beyond that allowed for in this Guideline or other relevant standards.

Environmental harm – any adverse or potentially adverse effect (whether temporary or permanent and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency) on an environmental value (as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*). See also **material environmental harm** and **serious environmental harm**.

Environmental nuisance – unreasonable interference or likely interference with an environmental value.

Exclusion zones – areas delineated in the Guideline or formal plans where beekeeping and other activities are excluded. These include:

- watercourse protection zones;
- cultural or heritage site protection buffers;
- areas with slopes greater than the allowable limits; and
- rare or threatened species protection buffers.

Fauna structures – include active nests (canopy, sub-canopy and ground nests), bowers, burrows, caves, hollows or other structures used by a protected animal/s.

Feral colony – “Syn., Wild colony. Bush bees. A colony that has established itself in a hollow tree trunk or branch or less often in a building, cave, etc., where it is beyond the control of man. A feral colony must live its life using only its innate resources to exist and reproduce. It is sometimes alleged that hive colonies which are totally neglected and managed to survive through successive seasons and generations queens are ‘feral’.” (Gulliford R B, (2001), *A Dictionary of Scientific and Practical Beekeeping*, Robert B Gulliford, Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia; p200)

Forestry areas – lands managed under the *Forestry Act 1959* (including State forests, timber reserves, forest reserves). Forest reserves are a holding tenure under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* for areas previously dedicated as State forest or timber reserve and which are to be converted to an appropriate class of protected area. Forest reserves are administered and managed under the provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959* and in accordance with management principles stated in section 70F of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

Formal visitor nodes – a point or location such as picnic site, camping ground at which people gather to undertake specific planned activities using properly designed and constructed facilities including graded walking tracks or roads.

Gully – incised, ‘u’ or ‘v’-shaped channels, conveying runoff during or immediately after periods of heavy rainfall. Bed and banks are clearly defined with at least one steep bank with a slope greater than 25 degrees. The bed generally has clear evidence of soil erosion or deposition. Gullies may be continuous or discontinuous and be formed as either hillside or valley-bottom gullies. Discontinuous hillside gullies may have an outlet fan that may be sensitive to disturbance. The ‘u’ shape gullies may be experiencing undercutting.

Hive – a honeybee hive, being a nucleus colony or standard-size colony usually housed in a beehive.

Landscape value – areas or features that are significantly aesthetically pleasing for reason of the variety, uniqueness or naturalness of the landform, vegetation, water form or areas of high public usage.

Major roads – permanent arterial roads that generally have:

- a minimum pavement width of approximately 6m;
- all-weather access; and
- gravelled or a bitumen surface for the road’s entire length.

Material environmental harm – environmental harm (other than nuisance) that:

- is not trivial or negligible in nature, extent or context; or
- causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount, or amounts totalling, more than

the threshold amount, but less than the maximum amount (refer to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*); or

- results in costs of more than the threshold amount but less than the maximum amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to:
 - prevent or minimise the harm; and
 - rehabilitate or restore the environment to its pre-harm condition.

Operational assessment – is a QPWS audit of operational compliance with the Guideline, with the primary intent of preventing non-compliance from further occurring and enabling rectification of non-compliance while the operation is current.

Operational review – is a QPWS audit of management systems for long established or newly expired apiary permits, and is primarily concerned with the ability of the Guideline to deliver the standard of operational outcomes required to deliver environmental management and conservation outcomes.

Permit holder - a person who is authorised under the permit and any other employees or agents of that person.

Protected areas – lands managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (note: in the case of beekeeping, protected areas include regional parks and national parks. For the purposes of this

QPWS estate – protected areas (administered under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*), and forestry areas (administered under *the Forestry Act 1959*, including forest reserves) under the custody of the QPWS.

Rainforest - a closed forest community (projective foliage cover of the tallest stratum exceeds 70 percent) ranging in development from semi-evergreen vine thicket to complex mesophyll vine forest, with emergent eucalyptus and lophostemons infrequent or absent.

Responsible agency – refers to the agency responsible for issuing the beekeeping permit, either QPWS or DAFF.

Retired apiary site – an apiary site that is to be closed/decommissioned and stabilised/rehabilitated.

Sensitive places (noise) – locations at which people dwell or congregate including residential areas, informal and formal visitor nodes.

Serious environmental harm – environmental harm (other than nuisance) that:

- causes actual or potential harm to environmental values that is irreversible, of a high impact or widespread; or
- causes actual or potential harm to environmental values of an area of high conservation value or special significance; or
- causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount, or amounts totalling more than the threshold amount (see the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* for threshold amount); or
- results in costs of more than the threshold amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to:
 - prevent harm or minimise the harm; and
 - rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm.

Slope limit – is based upon a risk assessment involving the potential for soil erosion with slope, expressed in terms of a majority slope.

Soil instability – actual or potential mass movement through such actions as landslide, earthflows and slumps.

Species management profile – a document prepared by the QPWS that provides information and protective measures for forest-dependent species contained in the *Species Management Information System*.

Streams – rivers and creeks with a channel or braided channel and distinct bed and banks. Terraces and lateral flood plains may also be present. Flow may be permanent, semi-permanent, intermittent, or limited to periods after heavy rain. Streams may often exist only as waterholes or a chain of waterholes. In the absence of surface water, the bed and immediate banks will have vegetation characteristic of frequent recharge of ground water or locally known water sources.

Swarm – “cluster or flying mass of honeybees including workers, queen and drones” (DPI&F, 1998, *Code of Practice for Urban Beekeeping in Queensland*).

Vegetation – Any plant matter such as trees, shrubs, grasses, leaf litter etc.

Watercourse – a defined channel that receives and conducts overland water flow for some periods in most years.

Watercourse protection zone – an area 35m up to and beyond the defining bank surrounding or adjacent to drainage features or water features where beekeeping activities are prohibited.

Water feature – water systems associated with, or separate to, watercourses:

- Major or minor features are natural or artificial waterholes, impoundments and wetlands where in all cases, water is detained for more than three months in a normal wet season.
- Springs and soaks are areas where water flows from the surface or where the soil is damp as a result of seepage.

Waterways – gently inclined, shallow, and open depressions, which are easily discernible to the eye. They have a concave cross-section and moderate approach slope (generally less than 15 degrees). Active zones may be vegetated or slightly incised. These can generally be traversed by vehicle. These convey water after heavy rainfall but may be seasonally waterlogged with ground vegetation indicative of a wetter microclimate.

WildNet – an internal, electronic wildlife information system capable of providing detailed information about Queensland's plants and animals. This system is managed by the DSITIA.

Appendix 2

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

4WD	Four wheel drive
cm	Centimetre
DBHOB	Diameter at breast height over bark
DAFF Apiary Section	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries- Biosecurity, Apiary Section
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DSITIA	Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts
EHP	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
ESFM	Ecologically sustainable forest management
FPA	Feature Protection Area
JRMP	Joint Road Management Plan
km	Kilometre
L	Litre
m	Metre
mm	Millimetre
NFPS	National Forest Policy Statement
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
sq.m	Square metres
VRPA	Visual Resource Protection Areas

Disclaimer:

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Approved by

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