

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR NEW BEEKEEPING ORGANISATION

PURPOSE

To protect and advance the interests of the New Zealand beekeeping sector by:

- Acting as a recognised, leader and representative of beekeeping interests by providing strong and independent advocacy with regulators, industry, and the public of New Zealand.
- Supporting members by offering services that help their hives and businesses thrive including;
 - promoting best practice in beekeeping including bee health, biosecurity and honey production and pollination services.
 - providing support to beekeepers engaged with regulators on developing honey market access and product standards.
 - collecting and collating relevant industry information and sharing it with the beekeeping sector for its benefit.
 - facilitating regional and national information-sharing meetings and forums on issues relevant to the beekeeping sector, and encouraging cooperation and communication between regional groups, affiliated bodies, and individual members.
- Enhancing the reputation of the beekeeping sector and its contributions to New Zealand (including economic and environmental contributions to sustainability).
- Raising funds for the purpose of funding the Society's activities, including through levies, fees and other means. Advocating for research and innovation that drives beekeeper sector resilience and profitability.

FUNCTIONS

The Society will carry out its purpose by:

- Advocating for fair and effective policies, rules, and laws.
- Facilitating meetings, training, and events in collaboration with regional groups and affiliated organisations
- Building national and regional networks to connect beekeepers.
- Working with government agencies and other stakeholders on issues affecting beekeeping.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

3.1 Eligibility

Membership of the Society is open to all persons and organisations engaged in beekeeping or the beekeeping industry in New Zealand, including both commercial and non-commercial participants.

3.2 Membership Categories

The Society recognises the following categories of membership:

(a) Full Members

New Zealand beekeepers who are directly involved in any of the following activities for commercial purposes:

- Honey production
- Provision of pollination services
- Queen rearing

Full Members may be individuals, partnerships, or companies operating in these areas.

(b) Associate Members

Associate Members support the Society's aims but do not have voting rights. They include but are not limited to:

- Non-commercial beekeepers
- Companies or organisations involved in honey processing, packing, and/or exporting but without beekeeping operations.
- Research and education organisations,
- Businesses and individuals providing professional or technical services or supplies to the beekeeping sector.
- Non-commercial beekeeping clubs

(c) Affiliation

Recognised affiliated bodies (such as a regional or special interest group) may enter into an affiliation agreement with the Society on terms acceptable to the Board, and subject to ratification by a General Meeting.

(d) Life Members

Individuals who have given outstanding service to the beekeeping industry where the Society may be granted Life Membership in accordance with rules approved by the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

3.3 Application and Consent

Each applicant for membership must:

- Apply in writing, providing their name, contact details, and relevant business or organisational information,
- Specify which membership category they wish to join,
- Declare their hive or apiary numbers (if applicable), and
- Give written consent to abide by this constitution and any rules or policies of the Society.

A member may change their category of membership by notifying the Society in writing.

3.4 Membership Fees

Membership fees will be set annually by the Board and approved by the AGM. Fees may include the following options:

For Full Members:

- An annual flat fee, or
- A fee based on hive or apiary numbers, or
- A combination of both.

For Associate Members:

- A standard annual membership fee, which may vary depending on the type of member (e.g. non-commercial, corporate, or research-based).

For Life Members

- Life Members are not required to pay membership fees unless otherwise determined by Full Members at an AGM.

3.5 Ending Membership

Membership ends if:

- The member resigns in writing,
- The member fails to pay membership fees,
- The member dies or ceases to exist, or
- The Board decides, after a fair and transparent process, that the member has acted against the purposes or interests of the Society.

Before any removal, the member will be given written notice of the proposed decision and an opportunity to respond.

4. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

4.1 Full Members

Full Members have the right to:

- Attend and participate in all General Meetings and to stand for office,
- Take part in discussions on fees, levies, and policy matters,
- Vote in elections for Board members,
- Vote on proposed changes to the constitution, and
- Access all services offered by the Society on terms set by the Board.

4.2 Associate Members

Associate Members have the same rights to attend and speak at meetings, access services, and receive information as Full Members, but they do not have voting rights.

4.3 Life Members

Life Members enjoy all the rights of Full Members without the obligation to pay fees, or as determined otherwise by Full Members at an AGM.

5. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Society is governed by the Board.

The Board

5.1 Role and Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for the overall governance, management, and compliance of the Society under and in conformity with the *Incorporated Societies Act 2022*.

It shall:

- Maintain a registered office and ensure that up-to-date contact details are recorded with the Registrar,
- Keep proper records, including minutes, a register of members, financial accounts, and conflict of interest registers,
- Notify the Registrar of any changes required under the Act,
- Set overall strategy, priorities, and budgets in consultation with the membership and the Advisory Group when appropriate.
- Manage the Society's finances and ensure annual accounts are filed within six (6) months of balance date,
- Oversee any paid staff or contracted professional services,
- Represent the Society publicly,

- Establish subcommittees as needed, with defined purposes and timeframes (for example, a funding oversight committee),
- Ensure fair and transparent processes for consultation and decision-making, including but not limited to receiving correspondence from members and arranging national and regional discussion days where issues are raised, discussed and resolutions reached.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

5.2 Composition

- The Board will consist of a minimum of **five (5)** and maximum of **seven (7)** elected members.
- All elected directors must be **Full Members** with substantial experience in commercial beekeeping.
- Directors are elected at the AGM for a term of **two (2) years**, with rotation to ensure continuity. Directors may be re-elected. Initial terms may be shorter or longer to establish a suitable rotational pattern.
- The Board may **co-opt up to two (2)** additional non-Full Member directors with relevant expertise (e.g. legal, financial, or scientific), who will have full speaking rights but no vote unless otherwise decided by the Board.

5.3 Officers

- The Board will appoint from among its members a **Chairperson**.
- The Board will appoint at least one **Contact Person** whose details are provided to the Registrar.
- Officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and for communication with members and the Registrar.

5.4 Regional Commercial Beekeeping Arrangements

The Board may promote regional groups and arrangements in any form it considers helpful to the Society and its members.

5.5 Ad hoc advisory groups

Ad hoc Advisory Groups may be formed around specific areas of interest.

Membership of ad hoc Advisory Groups may include both Full and Associate Members with relevant experience or expertise. The Advisory Groups may also co-opt representatives from Affiliate Groups who have relevant expertise. Other persons with relevant expertise may also be co-opted.

Each Advisory Group will have terms of reference set by the Board and report its findings and recommendations to the Board and, where appropriate, to the membership.

Advisory Groups have no decision-making powers.

5.6 Affiliation Advisory Body

The Board may utilise these groups (regional and advisory groups) as an Affiliation Advisory Body for advice and guidance on policy and matters relating to their specific interest.

5.7 Professional Services

The Board will look to engage professional staff or contractors, either full-time or part-time, to assist in carrying out the purposes and operations of the Society.

5.8 Decision-Making and Conflicts of Interest

- Decisions of the Board are made by majority vote. The Chair to have the casting vote if required.
- A register of interests will be maintained and updated annually following the AGM or when new Board directors are appointed.
- The Board will maintain written procedures for identifying and managing conflicts of interest.
- The Board must provide for time at the AGM for membership concerns that have been notified as Notices of Motion and circulated prior to the meeting to be discussed and voted on to give direction to the board.
- Members may request, through written notice, a Special General Meeting to discuss matters of major concern under rules approved by the Board.
- The Board will ensure that the financial reports of the Society are independently scrutinised by a qualified accounting firm.