

Information on proposed new beekeeping organisation

Introduction

In 2025, we all saw the need for a single body to represent beekeeping interests. Apiculture New Zealand (ApiNZ) and the New Zealand Beekeeping Inc (NZBI) are working together to get this started, and it is intended to act as the “One Voice” for beekeepers and beekeeping. They are supported by an Industry Advisory Group made up of commercial beekeepers.

Membership

Under the emerging proposal, the new organisation will have two membership classes. Full members would be those who are involved in beekeeping for commercial purposes. Associate members would be those who are not involved in commercial beekeeping (non-commercial beekeepers, suppliers, research organisations and honey exporters without beekeeping operations) but have co-interests in the commercial sector’s success and support the organisation’s goals.

Representation

Full members of the new organisation would be voting members and represented by elected Board directors. The organisation would also support regional engagement for all members.

Non-commercial beekeepers and others

Non-commercial beekeepers, suppliers, researchers and non-beekeeping exporters would work through advisory groups (like standards, market access, science & research, bee health). The new organisation would continue to support Beekeeping Clubs. Regional meetings and national conferences will be open to all.

Possible cost

We want a broad membership base. We are working to make membership affordable.

Our initial idea (reflecting feedback from the advisory group) is to have an annual fee + a low per hive fee for commercial beekeepers. The current working proposition is:

	Annual membership fee	Additional hive levy for beekeeping businesses with more than 500 hives (capped at 4,000 hives) \$1 per registered hive
Commercial beekeepers	\$400	
Non-commercial beekeepers	\$80	-
Beekeeping clubs	\$200	-
Companies involved in extraction, packing, exporting honey without beekeeping operations	\$1,000	-
Industry supplier, research organisation etc	\$500	-

Voting

We are starting from the premise that one commercial beekeeper (or beekeeping business) has one vote.

There is an alternative structure that awards more votes to those making greater financial contributions to the organisation. An example might be:

Commercial beekeepers with <500 hives	1 vote
Beekeeping businesses with 500 - 1,500 hives	2 votes
Beekeeping businesses with 1,500+ hives	3 votes

We welcome feedback on this.

Budget

Our ability to act for beekeepers depends on how many members join.

This will take time. We want to start by doing what individual beekeeping businesses cannot do alone. We have heard through successive regional meetings that this includes the profitability of beekeeping operations, securing bee health and biosecurity, and wider re-engagement with the industry.

So, we are taking a conservative approach to a potential budget for the first two years:

Potential Budget`

	Year 1: (start up) Jul 2026 - Jun 2027	Year 2: Jul 2027 - Jun 2028
Revenue		
Memberships	\$140,000	\$200,000
Expenditure		
Campaigns (including projects, advocacy)	\$95,000	\$125,000
Member services (including promotion and communication)	\$20,000	\$35,000
Regional events (plus national event Year 2)	\$15,000	\$30,000
Admin (compliance)	\$10,000	\$10,000

Year 1: based on 120 commercial beekeepers, incorporating 80,000 hives in total; plus 70 associate members.

Year 2: based on 200 commercial beekeepers, incorporating 125,000 hives, plus 80 associate members

Timing

The aim is for the new organisation to be ratified by a conference and meeting in June/July 2026. To do that we will need to establish an inclusive governance group until a Board can be elected, along with necessary support to administer the process. We plan to do that in advance of feedback.

Proposed timeline:

Industry consultation on new organisation framework	Now: March 2026
Refine framework and prepare proposals	April/May 2026
Interim governance group	March 2026
New organisation ratified	Conference
Conference	June/July 2026

