

**National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand (Inc)**

Notes of a workshop to discuss the planning for the pending levy referendum and recommendations during 2002, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2002 in the Ormond Room, Federated Farmers, Agriculture House, 12 Johnston Street, Wellington.

**1. Participants**

Don Bell	President	Frank Lindsay	Compliance Committee Chair
Lin McKenzie	Vice President	James Ward	Compliance Committee
Jane Lorimer	Executive	Michael Wraight	Compliance Committee
Philip Cropp	Executive	Trevor Corbett	Compliance Committee
Fiona O'Brien	Executive	Catherine Petrey	Federated Farmers
Gerard Martin	Executive	Ken Armstrong	MAF (9.30am-12.30pm)
Tim Leslie	Executive Secretary	Peter Silcock	VegFed (10.00am-12.30pm)
		Don Crump	MAF (2.00pm-3.00pm)
		Richard Hatfield	
Apologies:			
Nick Wallingford			
Peter Ferris			

**2. Welcome/Introduction**

Don Bell welcomed all to the workshop and thanked participants for their time and work to date on the levy project.

He highlighted four points:

1. The Executive recognise that this is effectively another meeting of the Compliance Committee meeting to pick up where 2001 ended with Levy discussion.
2. The meeting is to sort out the steps ahead and distil definitive opinions.
3. Setting a new levy/ies, not rolling the old one over.
4. Executive is present to hear the discussion and get a feeling for the Compliance Committee's recommendations.

**3. Lin McKenzie took on the role of facilitator and handed over to Frank Lindsay.**

Frank Lindsay recapped discussion from December 2000 to June 2001.

A discussion paper was formulated recommending a 3-tier levy.

91 Submissions were received of which 8 were from "commercial" beekeepers.

Most hobbyist didn't want to be members of the NBA but would contribute to a disease programme.

The submission meant a slight change in thinking and the following was adopted by the NBA AGM in July 2001.

Conference also agreed to a process for applying for a Commodity Levy.

**4. Ken Armstrong reminded the meeting that the requirements of the Biosecurity Act and the Commodity Levies Act are different.**

His concern is the Commodities Levy Act. **Remember:** to have a Commodities Levy the National Beekeepers Association must receive beekeepers agreement to have a levy for named/specific activities and these must be compliant with the Act.

**5. Don Bell asked: is a registered beekeeper who has supplied a Statutory Declaration an eligible beekeeper when it comes to voting?**

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6. Ken Armstrong : It starts with what or whom you're going to levy. Anyone with hives is a potential levy payer, therefore the NBA AGM has to be specific about who can vote on how Commodities Levy Act money is spent.

7. Peter Silcock: Remember the organisation wanting a levy must do a lot of background work including a cost benefit analysis - a broad outline.

MAF has to be sure that **everyone** who could vote has had the opportunity to vote.

8. Ken Armstrong: Section 5 2 of the Commodities Levy Act is very important - ensure publicity about referendum is thorough.

Remember, the Levy Order can not include anything that is not in the ballot paper.

9. Peter Silcock: Vegfed and Fruit Fed have listed on their ballot papers, what's in the act. They've been as broad as possible.

10. There is a need to start drafting a ballot paper (1<sup>st</sup> draft) ASAP and start talking with MAF.

11. Round table discussion - the main issues.

- P** concern over costs of holding a referendum.
- P** need to show people/voters what the NBA does.
- P** at ballot, the ballot paper outlines what the levy will be set at.  
(Needs to specify a maximum if this is the road followed.)
- P** need to ensure that NBA's rules allow only levy payers to vote on levy issues at the NBA AGM.
- P** the cost of the PMS is a concern. Obviously the largest cost to the NBA.
- P** more emphasis needed on the cost/benefit analysis. Need a plain english broad outline of why the benefits of a levy outweigh the costs.

12. Ken Armstrong: To speed the process up, start preparing a levy application concurrently with the ballot paper. MAF will need six months minimum from application for a levy to implementation.

The process:

Drafting Order, Paper to Minister, Paper to Cabinet Policy Committee, Paper to Cabinet Legislation Committee, Cabinet, Governor General signs Order in Council, Gazetted on the Thursday, the 28 days after gazetting Order comes into force.

**Remember:** the Referendum must be held within 12 months of the Minister recommending a levy order.

Something to check - if NBA misses the time, might be able to levy again at current rates and levy if invoices dated prior to current levy expiry date as it might be argued that this is a debt owing if it is invoiced.

13. **Sum up:**

1. Need next round of consultation to start ASAP.
2. Drafting needs to start.
3. Cost benefit analysis must be written.
4. Prepare info for "Beekeeper".

Lunch at 12.20pm.

Returned at 1.30pm.

14. **Biosecurity Section 90 Levy discussion.**  
The main issues around a Biosecurity Levy were discussed.

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The idea of this levy is to cover the cost of the NPMS for AFB. It is hoped this will simplify the administration of the levy system for the NBA by having one form for beekeepers to file each year i.e. the ADR will cover all information needed.

There will be two levies under the Biosecurity Section 90 levy:

1. A levy for administration and registration.
2. A hive levy.

15. Don Crump - MAF Biosecurity joined the meeting to discuss the requirements to put a levy in place.

Basically, the same level of consultation with stake holders as for a Commodities Levy act levy is required. The consultation has to convince the Minister that a levy would be necessary and desirable.

Objectors must have an opportunity to put their opinion direct to the Minister.

Once all the submissions have been dealt with and the Minister is happy for a levy to be put in place, MAF needs three months to put the levy in place.

16. **Discussion on process**

It was decided that there needs to be two levy projects. They will run concurrently until the end of the consultation period and then split to achieve their respective aims.

*"The Compliance Committee recommends to the Executive of the NBA that the Commodity Levy proposed for industry good functions and the Section 90 Biosecurity Act Levy for the funding of the AFB NPMS be adopted."*

M Wraight/J Ward                      Carried

Further discussion decided that the NBA needs to appoint project managers for the Commodity Levy Project and Biosecurity Act Levy ASAP and that the Compliance Committee Sponsor/Chairman progress this with the Executive Secretary as they develop the timelines for the projects.

17. **Closure:**

Don Bell wrapped the meeting up by thanking all who attended for their time and input and closed the meeting at 3.45pm.