

Beekeeping

Within the Launceston Municipality

Urban Beekeeping

Urban beekeeping is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby for individuals and families. Not only do bees produce healthy and nutritious honey for home consumption but they also play an essential role in the pollination of crops, plants and garden flowers which helps to bring a wide range of food and enjoyment to many members of our community.

Allergies to bees and bee products are a risk to people and as such many people in our community can be concerned about urban bee-keeping. This concern may arise between neighbours where one party keeps a beehive and the other is allergic to bees. However when bees are managed correctly, this risk can be significantly reduced.



Can I have beehives in the Launceston Municipality?

Currently there are no Council by-laws in relation to the keeping of bees; however, the Local Government Act 1993 allows Council to take action against anything that may cause a nuisance and may risk public health or safety.

Before starting beekeeping at your property, it is essential you consider the following steps to help manage the activity well;

- Talk to your neighbours first before establishing a hive,
- Make contact with organisations that can provide you with specific information, Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, DPIPW and Biosecurity
- Read through the Code of Practice on Urban Beekeeping for information on urban beekeeping to ensure you establish the recommended number of hives for your property size, hive location, hive protection and bee management.



What if the Council receives a Complaint about my hives?

If the Council receives a complaint about your beehives, in the first instance an Officer will make contact with you to discuss the situation and see if a resolution can be reached. However, if the keeping of hives is causing a nuisance, Council can direct you to stop the problem being caused, which may require you to remove the beehives.

What if I have a problem with my neighbours' hives?

In the first instance, if it is safe and reasonable to do so, we encourage you to discuss the issues with your neighbour first. If this doesn't provide you with an agreeable solution, you can lodge a customer service complaint with the Council.

Can I sell my honey?

Yes, however, if you wish to sell your honey either direct to consumers (e.g. at a market) or to another business (e.g. manufacturer), then you will need to register as a food business under the Food Act 2003. Food safety information and registration forms are available on our website via

www.launceston.tas.gov.au or by phoning

Council's Customer Service Centre on **03 6323 3000**



Further Resources

Department of Primary Industry Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) - Bees

<https://bit.ly/2yNp9W1>

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association

<http://tasmanianbeekeepers.org.au/>

Code of Practice for Urban Beekeeping in Southern Tasmania

<https://bit.ly/2NP6ONY>

Tasmanian Legislation Online - *Local Government Act 1993* and *Food Act 2003*.

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/>

City of Launceston—Food Business Registration Forms

<https://bit.ly/2yPMNkC>