

23 December 2023

Waitomo District Council
PO Box 404 Queen Street,
Te Kuiti 3941
Via Email: districtplan@waitomo.govt.nz

To whom it may concern

Submission to draft Waitomo District Plan

ApiNZ is the national body representing the apiculture industry in New Zealand representing the full range of sectors in the industry, from hobbyist and commercial beekeepers to honey exporters and suppliers.

We have very recently been advised of potential changes to the District Plan with regards to aerial spraying changes in flight times.

We have not had time to review the Plan in detail but would ask that consideration is given to any potential impact on bee health.

Our advice in working with the farming community is that any spraying of a flowering crop, likely to be visited by bees, if needs to be done, should be done very early in the morning (day break) or at dusk (sunset), even spraying in the dark. Bees are normally in their hives at this time. It is also recommended to choose a calm, dry day to avoid spray drift.

Here is a link to our website and information that outlines good background on this.
<https://apinz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Bee-Tri-Fold-Brochure-web.pdf>

Any move to place early morning or evening restrictions regarding aerial spraying would concern us in light of the information outlined above.

We are happy to provide more information.

Yours sincerely



Karin Kos
Chief Executive