

Due to the impact that beekeeping can have on the community, particularly to those who are allergic to bees, it's important that commercial apiaries and domestic hobby beekeepers are closely regulated. If you are interested in keeping bees in the Shire of Chittering there are procedures that you need to be aware of in order to get approval.

## How To Apply

### Step 1

#### Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Approval

Firstly, to be a beekeeper in Western Australia it is a legal requirement that you register with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). Upon registration, you will be issued a certificate and Unique Brand Identifier. Your Brand Identifier **must** be printed on all your beekeeping equipment (e.g. hives).

Applications can be obtained from the Brands Registrar Officer which is in Bunbury and contactable on 9780 6195 or you can email: [brands.bunbury@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:brands.bunbury@dpird.wa.gov.au)

### Step 2A

#### Development Approval

The second procedure is to apply for Development Approval from the Shire's Planning Department. The application form should include the following information:

- A site plan showing the location of the hives at the address where they will be kept.  
The site plan must include the location of:
  - a permanent water supply;
  - the fence surrounding the bee hives;
  - property boundaries;
  - expected food sources and flight paths; and

- all dwellings on the property and immediate neighbours' properties.
- Details of the hive specification including design drawings and photographs; and
- Details of prior bee keeping experience.

**The planning assessment will include community consultation with your neighbours.**

### Step 2B

#### Health Local Law 2017 compliance

Concurrent with the Development Application procedure, the Shire's Principal Environmental Health Officer will assess compliance with requirements under the Shire's [Health Local Law 2017](#).

It should be noted that; if there is any evidence of non-compliance with the Health Local Law, or there is a valid nuisance complaint - such as a neighbour in the area suffering from a bee allergy, the Principal Environmental Health Officer has the right to cancel the approval to keep bees.

Once the application has been determined by both departments, the applicant is then able to establish bee hives on their property in accordance with the conditions of approval.

### **What if I would like to bottle and sell my honey?**

If you wish to process and bottle the honey for sale you will need to be registered as a food business under the provisions of the Food Act 2008. Further details of this process can be obtained from the Shire's Principal Environmental Health Officer on 9576 4614.

**Please contact the Shire if you wish to obtain more information on (08) 9576 4600 or email [chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au](mailto:chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au)**