

Beehive Concessions on Public Conservation Land

Beekeeping refers to the owning and caring of honeybees. Beekeepers require a concession from the Department of Conservation (DOC) to place and operate their beehives on public conservation land (PCL).

DOC is responsible for the protection of conservation values on PCL. 'Conservation values' includes ecological, recreational, historical, and cultural values.

When granting a concession DOC must ensure the known or potential adverse effects of a concession activity on conservation values are appropriately managed. To manage any adverse effects from commercial beekeeping DOC has developed and implemented [DOC's Standard Operating Conditions for beekeepers](#)¹. These conditions ensure conservation values are protected, and good beekeeping practices are consistently applied.

To be granted a beehive concession an Applicant must:

- Familiarise themselves with DOC's Standard Operating Conditions for beekeepers; and
- Comply with DOC's Standard Operating Conditions for beekeepers.

For more information on applying for a beehive concession on conservation land see [Beekeeping on PCL](#)².

Legal / statutory basis

DOC is responsible for accepting and processing concession applications. A concession can only be granted if the concession activity is consistent with Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987.

DOC also has the power to impose operating conditions on Concessionaires under Section 17X of the Conservation Act 1987.

Relation to DOC outcomes

DOC's work is guided by our strategy, which outlines [our purpose and outcomes](#)³.

This position is aligned with the DOC outcomes:

- Improved performance of our conservation regulatory system

Review

This position statement will be reviewed within 1 year of implementation.

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/beekeeping-on-public-conservation-land/>

² <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/beekeeping-on-public-conservation-land/>

³ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/our-purpose-and-outcomes/>