



6177 Great Northern Highway
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BINDOON WA 6502



(08) 9576 4600



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www.chittering.wa.gov.au

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.

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 with a certificate and provided a 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 (Bunbury) on 9780 6195 or you can email Brands.Bunbury@dpird.wa.gov.au.

2. Shire of Chittering Development Approval

The second procedure is to apply for Development Approval from the Shire's Planning Department. Along with the application form, the application is to include a **Bee Management Plan** structured and detailed as follows:

- **Introduction/Background**
 - **Maximum number of beehives proposed onsite;**
 - **Duration beehives will be kept onsite;**
 - **Details of prior bee keeping experience; and**
 - **Agreement to register the beehives under the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (as amended); and**
- **Context**
 - **Details of the hive specification including design drawings and photographs.**
 - **Include a site plan showing the location of the hives at the address where they will be kept. The site plan is to include the location of:**
 - **A permanent water supply on the lot within 10 metres of the hives;**
 - **Any fences surrounding the bee hives;**
 - **Property boundaries;**
 - **Expected food sources and flight paths; and**
 - **All structures on the property.**
- **Contingency Plan**
 - **Detail the ways to reduce the occurrence of a swarm including but not limited to re-queening bees, regularly checking beehives, and replacing their water supply.**
- **Summary**
 - **Why the proposal is acceptable; and**
 - **Responsibilities of land owner and registered beekeeper.**

The Development Approval assessment **will** include community consultation with your neighbours. Please note that the Shire will require the registered beekeeper to keep a complaints register. Upon receipt of a bee related complaint, the Shire must be made aware within 48 hours.

3. 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 of Chittering's *Health Local Law 2017*. It should be noted that should there be evidence of non-compliance with the *Health Local Law 2017* 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.



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4. Food Act 2008 Registration

If you wish to process 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 (08) 9576 4614.

5. Use of Bee Smoker Devices in Restricted or Prohibited Burning Times

As the Shire of Chittering is a bushfire prone area, certain activities that may cause fire are strictly regulated during Restricted and Prohibited burning times. The following is an excerpt from the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954, Section 39CA*:

(1) *In this regulation —*

bee smoker device means a device used to generate smoke for the purposes of beekeeping;

prescribed period means —

(a) the prohibited burning times; or

(b) the restricted burning times; or

(c) a day or any period of a day for which the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth in respect of the locality where it is proposed to operate the bee smoker device is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, “severe” or “very high”.

(2) *The operation of a bee smoker device in the open air is an operation likely to create a bush fire danger.*

(3) *A person shall not operate a bee smoker device in the open air during a prescribed period unless —*

(a) at least one fire extinguisher is provided at the place where the device is operated; and

(b) the ground within a distance of 3 m from the place referred to in paragraph (a) has been —

(i) sufficiently cleared of inflammable material; or

(ii) sufficiently damped down with water, to prevent the escape of fire.

(4) *A person who operates a bee smoker device in the open air during a prescribed period shall —*

(a) ensure that neither the lighting nor the operation of the device results in the ignition of inflammable material outside the device; and

(b) place the device in a fire resistant container when it is alight but not being held by the person; and

(c) extinguish the fire in the device on completion of its operation.

(5) *A bush fire control officer may, subject to the directions, if any, of the local government by which the officer was appointed, issue —*

(a) to a person operating a bee smoker device during a prescribed period; or

(b) to the owner or occupier of the land on which that operation is carried out, such directions as the officer considers necessary for the prevention of fire on that land and the person, owner or occupier, as the case may be shall comply with those directions.