



KEEPING OF BEES

1.1 A maximum of 4 bee hives per premises is permitted to be kept. Prior development approval from Council is required for the keeping of more than 4 hives.

1.2 The keeping of bees on residential land must be conducted in accordance with the *Beekeeping Code of Practice for NSW* and the *Backyard Beekeeping* factsheet (published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries).



1.3 All beekeepers, even those with only one hive, must be registered with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The beekeepers registration number must be clearly displayed on each hive.

1.4 Nuisance bee complaints should be made to the Department of Primary Industries.

1.5 Hives should be located in a dry, sunny area in the rear yard of the premises. The hives must be designed and located so that the flight path of the bees is a minimum of 2m above neighbouring properties. This can be achieved by using screens, shrubs, walls, hedges, fences, etc. Council recommends that hives be located at a **minimum distance of 9m from any neighbouring residential dwelling**, school or child care centre.

1.6 It is recommended that any handling of the bees or the hive be conducted during the day during warm, sunny weather, as this is the time when the most aggressive bees will be out working in the field. It is also recommended that hives are opened in the evening so that bees can settle down overnight before leaving the hive the following day.

1.7 You must provide a source of water close to the hive for the bees, which use the water for controlling the temperature and humidity of the hive. The water source should be replenished regularly, and should provide landing sites for the bees to prevent drowning (e.g. by using rocks or sand protruding from the water surface). A common complaint from neighbours relates to bees in and around their swimming pool, so by providing an alternative source of water for the bees, you will be reducing nuisance to neighbours.