

Beehive (Apiary Permits)

Crown Lands endorses the application for a Forest Permit to have bees on Crown land.

Who issues Forest Permits (Apiary Sites) in NSW?

The Forestry Corporation of NSW (Forestry Corp.) issues permits for apiaries in NSW.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) outlines the requirements for beekeepers in NSW. You can also find [current and vacant sites through the DPI website](#).

Why do I need to submit an application to Crown Lands?

The Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands is responsible for the use and management of Crown land to meet public interest principles. Crown Lands is responsible for issuing licences, leases and permits for the use and management of Crown land.

To keep an apiary on public land in NSW, you must hold a valid Forest Permit from the Forestry Corp. and have written approval from the agency that manages the subject land to do so.

While the permit itself is not issued by Crown Lands, the approval of the Minister administering the Crown lands portfolio must be sought to allow apiary activities to be carried out on Crown land.

If your proposed apiary is on Crown land, Crown Lands must approve your application, and endorse your permit application to the Forestry Corp.

What do I need to submit with my application?

The application form for applying for Minister's Approval to Lodge Forest Permit (Apiary Site) can be found at the Crown Lands website.

To support your application, and help us to process it quickly, complete the application completely and ensure that all required documents are attached. These documents include:

- Apiarist credentials and qualifications
- Satellite images of the proposed land
- Images of the access points to the proposed land
- Copies of any prior approvals from Crown lands.

How many applications can I make?

Apiarists can apply for multiple apiary sites. However, to ensure we can process applications quickly, one application form is recommended for each site, unless the sites are directly adjoining.

The maximum amount of land parcels considered under a single application is 5. This is to ensure each application can be processed in a timely fashion.

How long will my application take?

The processing time for can vary based on the number of sites in the application, information provided in the application, complexity of the proposal, the requirement for referencing to third parties who hold an interest in the land, and the outcomes of land search information.

Crown Lands aims to complete apiary applications within two weeks.

Why is my application rejected?

Applications can be rejected due to a number of reasons. The most common issues cited for refusal include:

- The land applied for was not Crown land
- The land is subject to a reserve vested with another government agency, such as a Council or Local Lands Services
- The site is already under occupation by another apiarist
- Information requested on the application form that is marked as a mandatory requirement has not been supplied following notice to the applicant to provide it
- The land is subject to a Native Title claim and the activity cannot be validated under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*, or by way of an existing Indigenous Land Use Agreement
- The land is subject to a reserve with a purpose incompatible with apiary activities
- The land is subject to a reserve, and the Crown land manager for that reserve made a reasonable objection to the proposal
- The land is subject to a lease, and the leaseholder made a reasonable objection to the proposal
- There are conflicting existing land uses which are incompatible with the undertaking of apiary activities
- The proposal would require substantial clearing or removal of vegetation that the Department would not consider authorising
- The proposal places unreasonable risk to European or Aboriginal heritage sites or objects known to be on the land
- The proposal is in close proximity to a bush fire asset such as a Bushfire Management Zone, access by a fire trail, or would otherwise reasonable impede bush fire prevention efforts
- The proposal is situated within close proximity to a major public or private asset and the risk to users of the asset cannot be mitigated

- The access points proposed cannot be authorised by the Department, such as where the proposed access route is:
 - over freehold (non-Crown) land, which the Department has no ability to authorise use thereof
 - over a Crown lease where the leaseholder has raised a reasonable objection
 - over a reserve where access by the proposed vehicles is not permitted.

How does Crown Lands process my application?

There are a number of steps to reviewing and finalising an apiary application. These steps are outlined in the process map on the next page.

The assessment of an application includes referencing to third parties that have interests in the subject land. The contact information of the apiarist will be supplied to certain parties. These include:

- Crown land managers on reserved Crown land, which can be other government agencies including Local Lands Services, a Council, or a board of volunteers.
- Tenure holders – licences, leases and Western Lands leases
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- Local Lands Services for sites on Travelling Stock Routes
- Local Councils for reserves for Public Recreation.

Can I begin apiary activities after approval is given?

Apiary activities cannot commence on Crown land until a valid Forest Permit for Apiary Sites has been issued by Forestry Corp.

What are the costs involved with apiary activities?

The application for Minister's Approval to Lodge Forest Permit (Apiary Sites) on Crown land does not incur a cost or fee to lodge.

The permit issued by Forestry Corp. is subject to an annual fee. There may be additional costs with applying or renewing a permit – please direct enquiries regarding the costs of the permit to NSW DPI.

How long does my approval last?

Approvals are valid for 12 months after the date the letter is issued to a successful applicant. If no action has been made toward applying for a Forest Permit from Forestry Corp., the approval will lapse and a new application will need to be made. Reasonable requests for extensions may be considered.

I have an existing site which required renewal – Why was my application rejected when the activity was already taking place?

If a request for approvals to renew a Forest Permit over Crown land is rejected, it is likely due to a change in the status or use of the land subject to the permit, or change to the status of the land used to access the site. Some of these reasons include:

- The purpose or use of the Crown reserve on the land has substantially changed and is now incompatible with the conducting of apiary activities
- The land is subject to a granted Aboriginal Land Claim, and the land is now freehold held by the benefitting Land Council
- The lease has been converted to freehold title and is no longer Crown land
- The land has been acquired by another Government agency in freehold title and is no longer Crown land
- The land has been vested with another agency and the Department is therefore unable to issue approval over the site
- A new leaseholder or new reserve manager has made a reasonable objection to the proposal
- The land is subject to a determination of Native Title and there is no longer a valid pathway to authorise the activity
- A change in Departmental policy or procedure no longer allows the use or access over a parcel of land in the same way it had been prior
- The inappropriate use of the site or activities that have breached conditions has been noted by the Department and the occupation will no longer be authorised as a compliance outcome

What if I have further Questions?

For further information about the Apiaries permit process, contact Crown Lands at 1300 886 235 or cl.enquiries@crowmland.nsw.gov.au.

Apiary Permit process flow

