

# FACT SHEET

## BEE HIVE ON PROPERTY GUIDELINES



### Information about keeping bee hives on your property



#### Keeping a bee hive on your property

Council recognises that residents may choose to keep a beehive in their backyard. Residents who keep beehives in the urban environment have a wider social responsibility to ensure that their bees do not become a nuisance or hazard to your neighbours.

It is always advisable to have a chat with your neighbours before you get started, it is friendly and you can ask them if anyone in their home suffers from a medical condition that may make the presence of bees potentially risky to their health.

*Please note: This is only a guideline to ensure that you maintain a healthy relationship with your neighbours and in the event that the hive creates a nuisance, Council can request that the hive be relocated.*

#### Keeping a hive

A property owner is recommended by Council to keep only one (1) hive on their property.

When deciding the location of your hives, be sure you choose an area where your neighbours are not going to be stung by hive-defending honeybees. Keep hives at least 20 metres from all boundaries, or behind solid boundary barriers at least 2.1 metres high, such that honeybees exit the property above head height.

When kept in residential areas, bee hives need to be managed by a knowledgeable beekeeper with good, responsible hive management. Council recommends investigating how to keep bees and there are a number of organisations and individuals that may be able to assist. As a starting point, Council recommends to visit the [Beekeepers' Society of South Australia website](#), there are some great resources on this site and in particular ['PIRSA's Recreational Beekeeping: A guide to beekeeping in South Australia'](#).

#### Biosecurity & Hive Registration

Beekeepers must be registered. Registration in South Australia is under the *Livestock Act 1997* and is free for under four (4) hives or less. The [PIRSA website](#) has instructions for registration.

#### Honey

The sale of honey requires notification of a [Food Business](#) and compliance with food safety laws, please visit [Food Standards Australia and New Zealand](#) for more information.

Pre-packaged honey must also be labelled correctly, including weight, nutritional panel and batch number for food recall purposes.

#### Contact

PO Box 28  
Mannum SA 5238  
T: (08) 8569 0100  
E: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au

#### Principal Office

49 Adelaide Road  
Mannum SA 5238

#### Cambrai Office

Main Street  
Cambrai SA 5353

#### Morgan Office

Cnr Fourth & Eight Streets  
Morgan SA 5320

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### **And lastly, don't create a nuisance or hazard for your neighbours!**

Bees are important for the environment and their honey tastes great, but bees are wild and in the wild they can take care of themselves, however in an urban setting they will need responsible management.

In the event that Council receives complaints regarding your bee hives, then under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*, we may ask you to relocate the hive either in your yard or offsite to an alternative location. To avoid this, responsible management of your hive is important!

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