



Beware of the Bees at Ohinewai

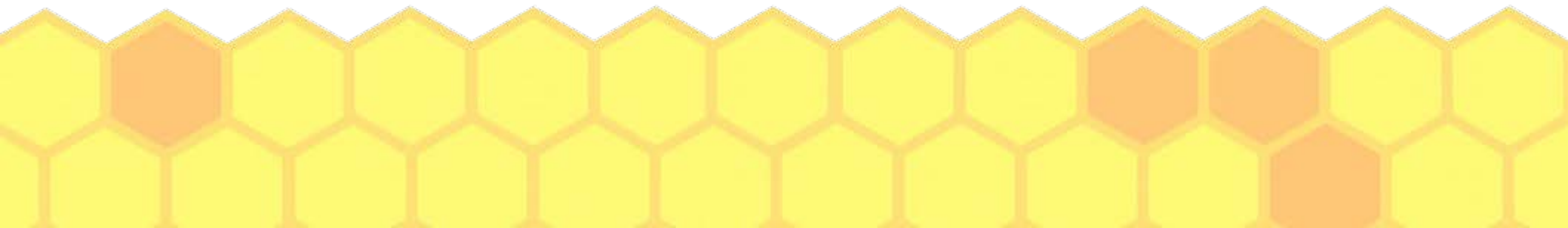
Ohinewai Area Committee

Peter Brown Chair, **Catherine Maher** Secretary

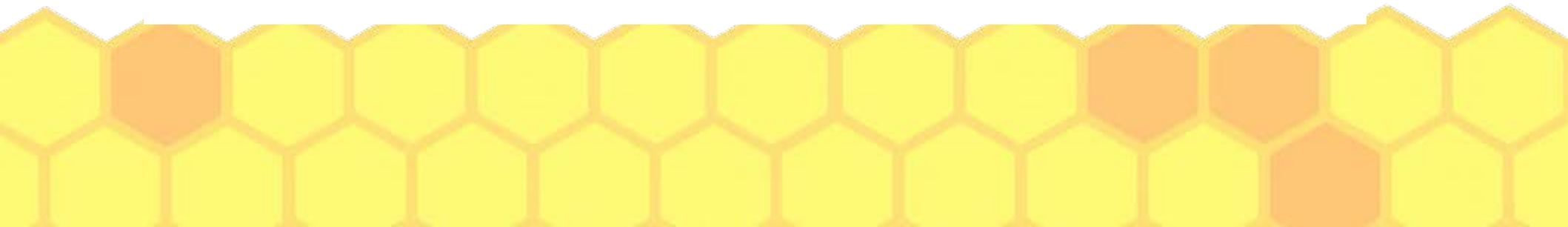
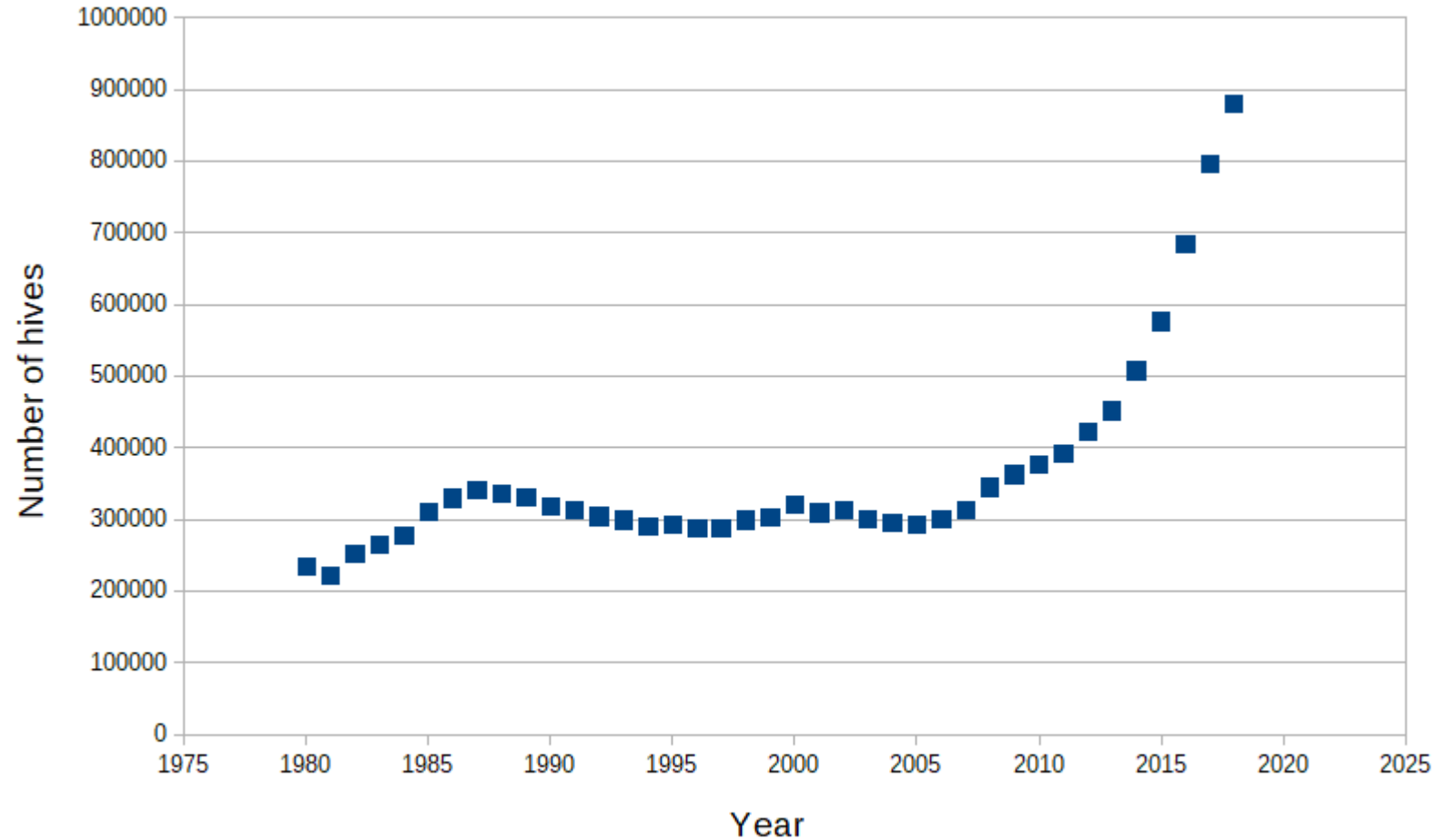


Bust Two myths And an additional fact

1. Honey bee numbers are declining
No they are Not !



Tripling of bee hive numbers <15 yrs





Honey production Stats

- Low end
 - 2 kg honey / Ha typical farm grassland
- High end
 - 500 – 1500 kg honey produced from 500 trees (my 0.5Ha lifestyle block)
- 15-30 kg per hive considered reasonable production



2. Honey bees not essential for life

- .Glass house
 - Tomatoes
 - Capsicums
- .Bumble bees !



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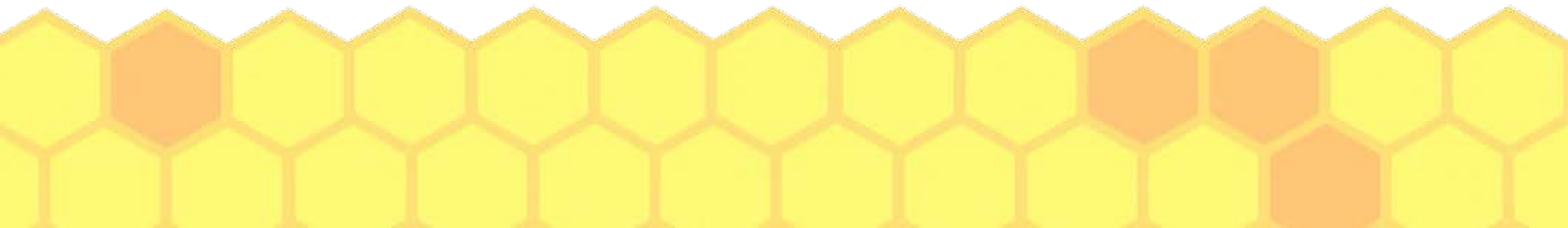
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SEARCH



Seedless often means no pollination

.Citrus – don't require pollination



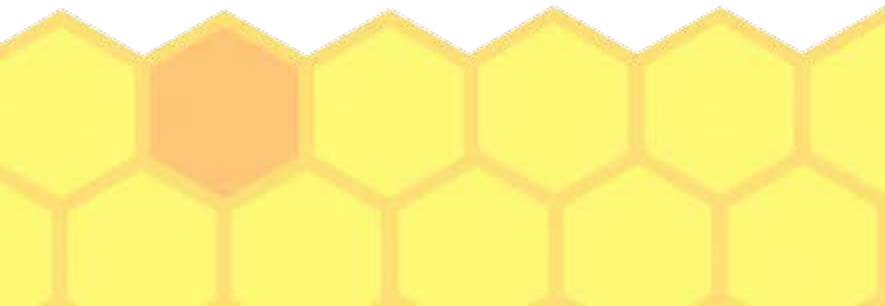
Other insects also pollinate

“The studies spanned five continents and examined pollination of 17 different crops, including coffee, apples, mangoes, and radishes, as well as almonds and watermelons. The analysis showed that flies, beetles, butterflies, ants, and wasps were responsible for nearly 40 percent of the workload. That number varied by crop and location; in some places, that number reached 50 percent. In other places, non-bee bugs were the only pollinators.”



Additional fact

- NZ has 28 species of native bees
- There is overlap in feeding for some species
- Excess honey bee numbers may impact NZ native species

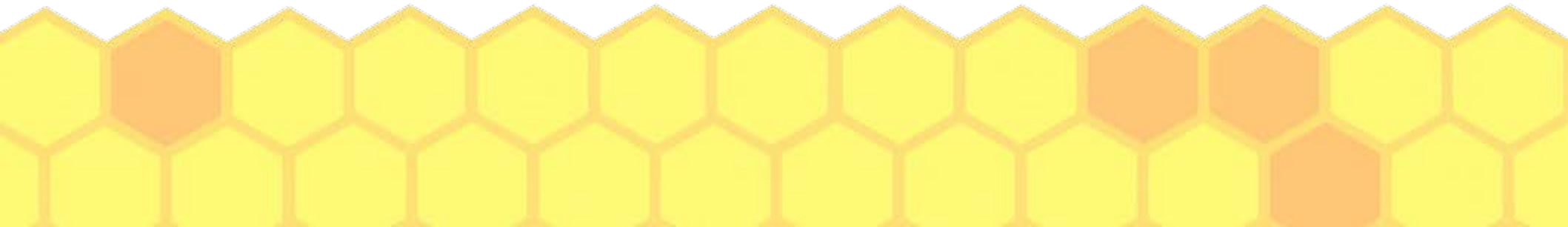


The problem at Ohinewai

Approximately 150 hives on 3.3Ha

– 750 000 – 1 500 000 bees

At the Rural - Urban interface




Rural – Urban interface



Rural – Urban interface



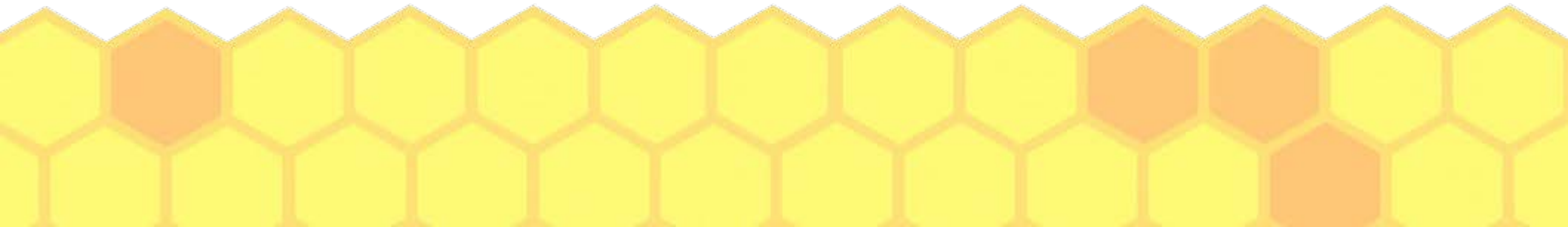


Impact of placing
750 000 – 1 500 000
bees at Rural-urban
interface

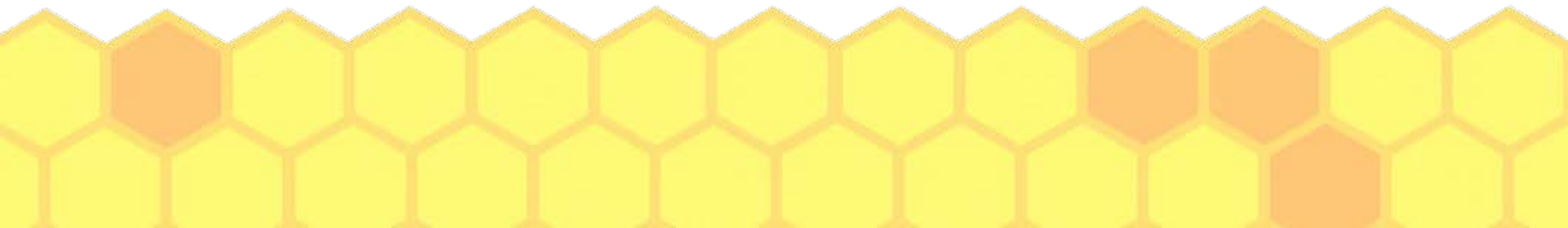




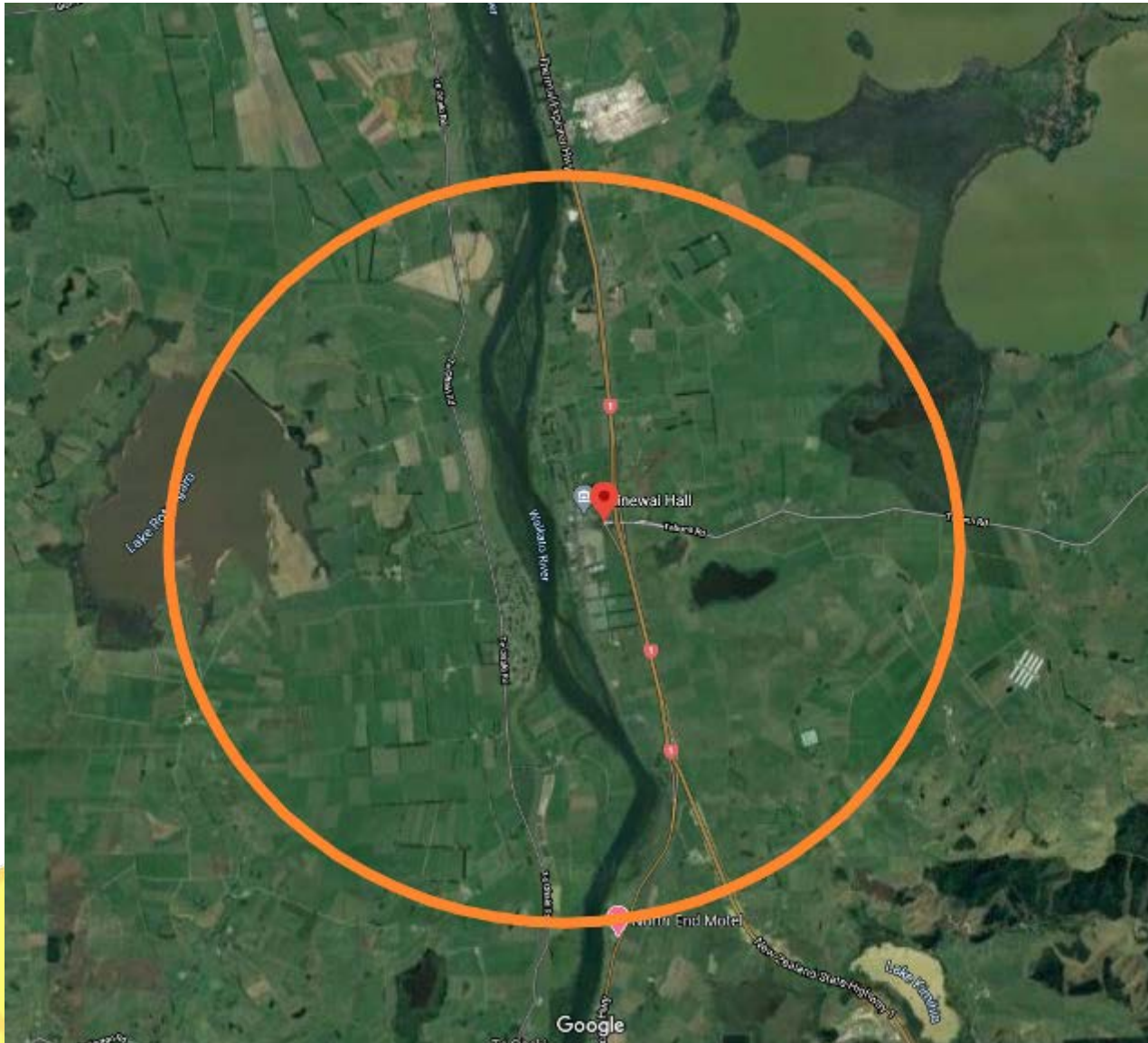
Poo rains
down over
many folks



Mass bee attack

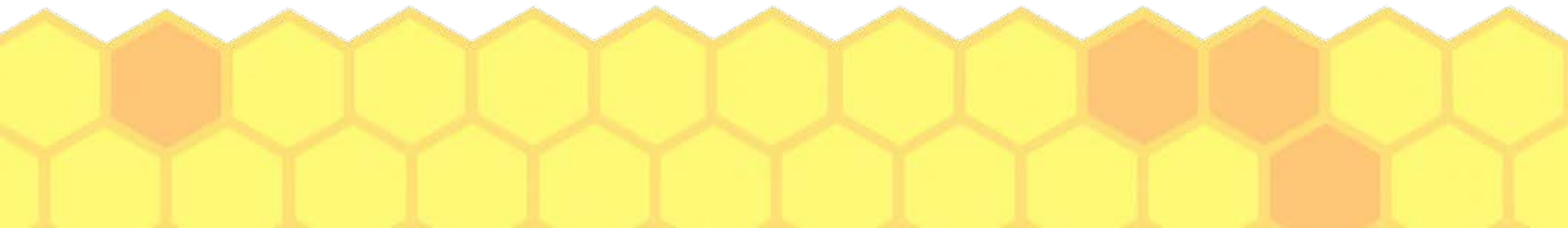


Over exploitation of resource



Current system isn't working

- Attempted to address problem ad hoc
- Formally raised by Ohinewai resident October 2020
 - Doesn't appear to have appeared to meet the standard for public nuisance
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Recommendation

.Either new district wide by law

- Limit of 5 or 10 / Ha

- This still gives very high stocking ability for the average hobbyist or reasonable hive density for commercial operators

.Or extend the bee part of this policy to include all areas and include limit of 5 or 10 / Ha in rural zone.

