Bees - How many can I have at my property?

The number of bee hives (excluding native bees) you can have is dependent on the size of your property and is regulated by council’s local law. Beehives in residential backyards must be managed to ensure bees don’t become a nuisance to neighbours.

If a permit from council is required for you to keep the number of animals on your property, an Additional animal permit application must be lodged to council, along with payment of the application fee.

If you are keeping bees, you must register as a biosecurity entity with Biosecurity Queensland. When you’re registered as a biosecurity entity, you’ll receive a unique Hive Identification Number (HIN) to mark your hives.

Don’t know the size of your property or want to know more about getting a permit for additional animals? Contact council on 07 3205 0555 for assistance.

For information on other animal types please visit www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au

For more information on hive registration and hive marking, and beekeeping in Queensland please visit www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/niche-industries/beekeeping

### Bees excluding native bees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property size</th>
<th>Total number of hives permitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Properties of 599m² or less</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properties of 600m² or greater, up to 800m²</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properties of 801m² or greater, up to 2,000m²</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properties of 2,001m² or greater</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum standards for keeping animals

Animals must be kept in accordance with the requirements of any code of practice approved by resolution of the local government.

If you own or keep any of the following, you must comply with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2014 including identification and movement records and be registered with Biosecurity Queensland as a biosecurity entity:

- cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, deer, alpacas, llamas, horses, ponies, donkeys
- 100 or more birds that are raised for human consumption (e.g. poultry), or the production of eggs for human consumption (e.g. poultry) or have been released into free flight since they started being kept in captivity (e.g. pigeons)
- 1 or more beehives.

When you register as a biosecurity entity, you'll receive a unique Property identification code (PIC) for stock, birds/poultry or a unique Hive identification number (HIN) to mark your beehives.

Animal enclosures

- Enclosures built specifically for the keeping of animals are to be maintained to an acceptable structural condition to ensure that the animals cannot escape; and
- Uneaten food scraps, manure and any other material likely to become offensive (i.e. faeces, soiled bedding, litter) and create a nuisance must be collected at least daily and if not immediately removed from the premises, must be kept in a suitable vermin proof container prior to disposal; and
- Vermin and pests including fleas, flies, ticks, lice, and rodents, must be controlled in and around the enclosure; and
- Run off from animal enclosure(s) must not be allowed to discharge to any adjoining property.

Animal identification

- Dogs and cats must wear the tag supplied by the local government.
- National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) accredited devices for cattle must be an electronic Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID). This can be either a single ear tag, or a rumen bolus/visual ear tag combination.
- National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) accredited devices for sheep and goats can be either an electronic Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) device or a visual (non-electronic) tag. Sheep and goats can only be identified by ear tags/devices.
- Birds excluding poultry must have an identifying leg band or be micro-chipped.

Minimum distance from boundary

- Roofed or fully enclosed (caged) structure for the housing of animals must be a minimum 1.5 metres from any property boundary.

Minimum standards for keeping particular animals

The minimum standards for keeping particular animals are identified in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species or breed of animal</th>
<th>Minimum standards for keeping particular animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Racing pigeons</td>
<td>Racing pigeons must be confined to their home loft after their designated race or exercise period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Ratites (ostrich, emu, and other similar birds) | A person must not on any premises keep ratites in densities greater than:  
   (i) Chicks 0 to 12 weeks of age - a shed density of not more than 3 chicks per m2 with an additional outside run of 5 m2 per chick; or  
   (ii) Juveniles 12 weeks to 6 months of age – a maximum density of not more than two per m2 with an additional outside run of 40 m2 per chick; or  
   (iii) Yearlings 6 months to 18 months of age – a maximum density of not more than 100 per hectare; or  
   (iv) Mature ratites over 18 months of age – a maximum density of not more than 18 per hectare. |
| Bees excluding native bees | Bees must be kept in a manner so as not to create a nuisance to any person on an adjoining property; and  
The owner must ensure that bees are kept in accordance with the Code of Practice for urban bee keeping in Queensland and the Apiaries Act 1982. |