

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES TO HOUSE BEEHIVES ON APPROPRIATE LAND MANAGED BY WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL

The NSW Apiarists Association have said that thousands of hives, housing many millions of bees, have been destroyed in the bushfires.

It could take between five and 20 years for some flowering gums to fully recover and to produce enough nectar and pollen to feed bees.

It is estimated that fires will lower NSW honey production by about 30 per cent for at least the next 10 years. NSW is largest honey-producing state in Australia. Bee pollinating is also a vital to other agricultural industries in regional NSW.

Industry groups and amateur associations are calling for access to more NSW national parks to feed and strengthen bees. Wollongong City Council should investigate whether any green spaces within our local government areas could be accessed by approved apiarists to help maintain bee numbers.

The Illawarra Beekeepers Association supports this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that Wollongong City Council:

1. Acknowledges the ongoing impact of recent bushfires on honey production and bee pollination due to the loss of habitat on which bees rely.
2. Explore opportunities for approved apiarists affected by bushfires to safely locate beehives in appropriate parks and green spaces managed by WCC.
3. Encourage other Government agencies to make greenspace that is under their management available to locate beehives.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.