



Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025

Governing body of the Far North District Council

Bylaw made under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Health Act 1956.

The bylaw was made on 28 August 2025.

The bylaw is due for review by 28 August 2030.

Contents

Clause	Title	Page
1	Title	1
2	Commencement	1
3	Application	1
4	Purpose	1
5	Interpretation	1
6	General Requirements	3
7	Bee Keeping	3
8	Pig Keeping	4
9	Poultry Keeping	5
10	Keeping of Cats	5
11	Keeping of Horses, Goats, Sheep, Llamas, Alpacas and Cattle	5
12	Horse Riding in a Public Place	6
13	Killing of Animals	6
14	Approvals	6
15	Offences	6
16	Removal of Works	7

Part 1: Preliminary provisions

1 Title

This bylaw is the Far North District Council Keeping of Animals Bylaw 2025.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Bylaw comes into force on 28 August 2025
- (2) The provisions of this Bylaw that refer to the zones described in the **Proposed District Plan** apply to the land in those zones as from the date the rules for those zones have legal effect pursuant to section 86B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

3 Application

This Bylaw applies to the keeping of animals, including bees, pigs, poultry, and cats within the Far North District. This bylaw was written pursuant to the Local Government Act 2002, Part 8 and the Health Act 1956, Part 2.

4 Purpose

The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate the keeping of animals, including bees, pigs, poultry, and cats, so that they do not create a nuisance or endanger the health of the public.

Explanatory note: The Bylaw supplements, rather than duplicates other animal owner obligations, including but not limited to; the Animal Products Act 1999, Animal Welfare Act 1999, related codes of welfare and the Northland Regional Pest and Marine Pathway Management Plan 2017 – 2027. Council also has responsibilities and powers regarding animals under the Biosecurity Act 1993, Health Act 1956, Impounding Act 1955, Reserves Act 1977, Resource Management Act 1991 and the Operative Far North District Plan. Matters relating to the control of dogs are addressed in the Dog Management Bylaw 2018, the Dog Management Policy 2018 and the Dog Control Act 1996.

5 Interpretation

- (1) Any words, phrases or expressions in this Bylaw which have meanings assigned to them by the Local Government Act 2002 and Health Act 1956 shall have the meanings as are respectively assigned in those Acts and corresponding supplementary legislation, unless inconsistent with the context in which such words occur.
- (2) In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

Animal means any live member of the animal kingdom that is a mammal (excluding humans and dogs), bird, or any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal as defined under Section 2(a) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Approval means an Approval granted under this Bylaw and includes all conditions to which the Approval is subject

Beehive and hive mean any receptacle housing a honeybee colony for the purposes of honey production and includes 1 receptacle per colony used solely for the purposes of queen breeding, hive maintenance and swarm prevention purposes.

Bee keeping means the keeping of beehives and includes the removal of honey and bee products from the hive, but not the further processing of such products.

Beekeeper means a person who is keeping bees or owns hives.

Council means the Far North District Council.

District means the area with the territorial boundary of the Far North District Council.

District Plan means the operative plan approved by the Far North District Council under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and includes any proposed district plans. Upon adoption of the Proposed District Plan (24 May 2024), Council approves staff to make any changes to allow alignment with the operative plan.

Dwelling means a building that a person lives in and includes any separate buildings on a site that are lived in or used for sleeping in but are accessory to the main dwelling.

Enforcement officer means an enforcement officer appointed under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Keep or keeping includes owning, looking after, caring for, being in charge of, a custodian of or in possession of any animal.

Nuisance means, without limiting the meaning of the term “nuisance”, any unreasonable interference with the peace, comfort, or convenience of another person, whether by way of excessive noise or offensive odours, and includes the nuisances defined in section 29 of the Health Act 1956.

Owner, in relation to any animal, means a person who has an animal in their possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision, and includes the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who – (a) owns the animal; and (b) is a member of the parent’s or guardian’s household, living with and dependent on the parent or guardian; but does not include any person who has seized or taken custody of an animal under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 or the National Parks Act 1980 or the Conservation Act 1987 or any order made under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Person has the meaning given by the Legislation Act 2019.

Pigsty means a pen or enclosure of a pig or pigs.

Poultry means any live bird that is kept or raised to produce eggs, hatching eggs, or poultry products, or for rearing on behalf of any other person, and includes geese, ducks, pigeons, turkeys, emus, ostriches, pheasants, and all types of domestic fowls.

Poultry keeping means the keeping of poultry on a small scale for domestic use only.

Proposed District Plan means the Far North Proposed District Plan (24 May 2024).

Public place means:

- a. a place that is-
 - (i) under the control of Council and/or

- (ii) that is open to or being used by the public, whether or not there is a charge for admission and
- b. includes:
 - (i) a road, whether or not the road is under the control of Council, and
 - (ii) any part of the public place.

Swarm means a cluster or flying mass of honeybees, including workers, queen, and drones.

- (3) The Interpretation Act 1999 applies to this Bylaw.
- (4) Explanatory notes and related information boxes are for information purposes only, do not form part of this Bylaw, and may be inserted, amended, or removed by the Far North District Council without any formality at any time.

Part 2: Substantive provisions

6 General Requirements

- (1) Any person keeping, or permitting to be kept, bees, pigs, poultry, cats, and other animals as defined in this Bylaw on private land must always ensure that these animals:
 - a. do not cause or are unlikely to cause a **nuisance** to any person; and
 - b. are kept in conditions which are not offensive or injurious to public health and safety; and
 - c. do not damage any property belonging to any person.
- (2) The Council may by written notice require that an owner or person keeping bees, pigs, poultry, cats, and other animals as defined in this Bylaw take specified steps to ensure compliance with clause 6.1 or to mitigate or abate the conditions referred to in clause 6.1.
- (3) The Owner or person keeping the bees, pigs, poultry, and cats must comply with the steps set out in the notice provided under clause 6.2 within the specified time period.

Explanatory note: Animal owners are required under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to provide for the physical, health and behavioural needs of their animals, including food, water, shelter and exercise.

7 Bee Keeping

- (1) No person shall keep bees in the District if in the opinion of an enforcement officer the keeping of bees is likely to become a **nuisance** or potential danger to any person.
- (2) No person may keep bees in the District unless the beehive or the beekeeper is registered under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.
- (3) Where an enforcement officer considers an existing hive or hives is likely to become a **nuisance** or potential danger to any person, they may require removal of the hive(s).

- (4) A person may keep bees on any property zoned Residential, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan provided they comply with the following conditions:

- a. The property area is 500 square metres or greater; and
- b. The number of hives does not exceed that which is allowed for the area of the property as indicated in the following table:

Property Area	Maximum no. of hives
500 – 2000 m ²	2
2001 – 4000 m ²	4
4001m ² or greater	6

and

- c. take reasonable steps to prevent public safety and nuisance risks; and
- d. where bees are kept in a Residential area, in relation to those bees and associated beehives:
 - i. Take all reasonable steps to ensure any beehive is positioned and managed in a way that has minimal impact to any other person;
 - ii Take all reasonable steps to control swarming;
 - iii Ensure that there is a suitable water source for the bees on the premises on which the beehives are kept.

7(5) Properties in Rural or General Coastal Zones are excluded from the requirement to comply with clause 7(4).

8 Pig Keeping

- (1) Except with the prior written approval of the Council, no person shall keep pigs in any part of the District except on property zoned Rural Living, Rural Production, Rural Lifestyle, or Rural Residential or General Coastal in the District Plan.
- (2) No person shall allow any pig (excluding kunekune, Vietnamese pot-bellied and miniature or teacup breeds) to wander freely on any property within 10 m of a dwelling, or any building used for food storage or preparation of food for sale, or on any street or public place.
- (3) No person shall construct or permit the construction of a pigsty within 50 m of any dwelling, or any wholly or partly occupied building, or any street or public place, or any place used for the preparation, storage, or sale of food for human consumption, or from any boundary with any adjoining property.
- (4) All pigs kept in the District must be provided with a pigsty, which shall be maintained in good repair, in a clean condition, free from any offensive smell or overflow, accumulations of manure, food and vermin.

9. Poultry Keeping

- (1) No person may keep a rooster or cockerel on any property zoned Residential, Rural Living, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan.
- (2) No person may keep more than 10 head of poultry hens on any property zoned Residential, Rural Living, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan, except with the written approval of the Council.
- (3) All Poultry kept on any property zoned Residential, Rural Living, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan shall at all times be confined to a poultry house or a run on the property on which they are kept.
- (4) All poultry kept on any property zoned Residential, Rural Living, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan must be provided with a poultry house, which shall be maintained in good repair, in a clean condition, free from any offensive smell or overflow, accumulations of manure, food and vermin.
- (5) Poultry houses or poultry runs must be at least 10 metres away from any dwelling, factory, or any other building and at least 2 metres away from the boundary of adjoining properties.
- (6) The Council may by written notice, require that an owner or person keeping poultry take specified steps to ensure compliance with clause 9(4) or 9(5).
- (7) Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent any person from keeping Poultry:
 - a. In an auction room for not more than 48 hours; or
 - b. In a shop for the purposes of sale; or
 - c. in a coop for the purposes of immediate consumption.

10. Keeping of Cats

- (1) Any person keeping, or permitting to be kept any cat(s) must always ensure that:
 - a. Any such cat(s) over the age of four (4) months is microchipped and the cat's microchip registered with New Zealand Companion Animal Register.
 - b. Any such cat(s) over the age of four (4) months is de-sexed, unless:
 - i. the cat is kept for breeding purposes and currently registered to breed with a nationally recognised cat breeders body, or
 - ii. the owner provides a certificate from a veterinarian stating that the de-sexing of the cat will adversely affect its health and/or welfare.

11. Keeping of Horses, Goats, Sheep, llamas, Alpacas and Cattle

- (1) No person shall keep, or allow to be kept, horses, goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas or cattle on property zoned Residential, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan.

12. Horse Riding in a Public Place

- (1) Any person riding or taking a horse or horses on any public place within any area zoned Residential, Commercial or Industrial in the District Plan must promptly remove or safely dispose of any horse manure or droppings deposited by that horse or horses in that place, if it is safe to do so.

13. Killing of Animals

- (1) Any person that kills and /or disposes of any animal must do so in a manner that does not cause nuisance or endanger the health of the public.

Part 3: Approvals

14. Approvals

- (1) Where any Approval from Council is required by this Bylaw, a person who seeks that Approval must:
 - a. Apply in writing to Council for the approval using the prescribed form for that Approval;
 - b. Provide the information required or requested by Council; and
 - c. If applicable, pay the fee for that Approval as set out in the Far North District Council Fees and Charges Policy.
- (2) Council may grant or refuse to grant the requested Approval.
- (3) The Approval from Council will be in written form and may include a licence, permit, order, letter, or other written document.
- (4) The Approval may be granted on such terms and conditions as Council considers appropriate.
- (5) Council may revoke the Approval if any of the terms and conditions of the Approval are not complied with.
- (6) Council may revoke any Approval that has been granted at any time if the circumstances under which the Approval was granted have changed since the Approval was granted.

Part 4: Enforcement

15. Offences

- (1) Every person who fails to comply with the requirements of this Bylaw or breaches this Bylaw commits an offence under the Local Government Act 2002 and is liable to the penalties set out in that Act upon conviction, being a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

16. Removal of works

- (1) Council may, in accordance with section 163 of the Local Government Act 2002, remove or alter a work or thing that has been constructed in breach of this Bylaw or in a manner that is likely to become a **nuisance** or annoyance to any person or potentially dangerous or injurious to health and recover the costs of so doing from the person who committed the breach.