

NAWAC GUIDELINE 12:

Prioritisation framework

1. Introduction

NAWAC must consider many risks to animal welfare as part of its work, but the Committee has limited resources. In order to determine an order of priority for the animal welfare issues that come to the notice of NAWAC, a framework has been developed. This allows NAWAC to take advantage of the best opportunities to improve animal welfare in New Zealand.

2. Prioritisation framework

Any direct request from the Minister for Primary Industries automatically gives that issue highest priority, as the function of NAWAC as outlined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 is to provide advice to the Minister.

Substantial public and media interest in an area of significant animal welfare compromise may also change NAWAC's work priorities at short notice.

In all other cases:

1. The list of arising animal welfare issues for NAWAC to consider is first guided by NAWAC's current strategic plan. New or emerging issues can be raised by committee members at each of NAWAC's quarterly meetings. Correspondence received from the public may also raise animal welfare problems.
2. At the first quarterly meeting each year, an animal welfare impact score is determined for each issue; in some cases the the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) framework (see Guideline 8) can be used within this process.
3. Once an animal welfare impact score has been determined, this score is graphed against an estimate of the number of animals affected by each issue. The issues in the upper right quadrant of the graph will therefore have the highest priority ranking.
4. A further discussion of the results within the Committee will confirm the priority order and clarify why the rankings have occurred.
5. The final priority list will then determine NAWAC's work programme for the year.

The Committee's work programme, in order of priority, is available online. It will be updated once per year. Summaries of each meeting are also available to the public on the Ministry for Primary Industries' website.

3. Example

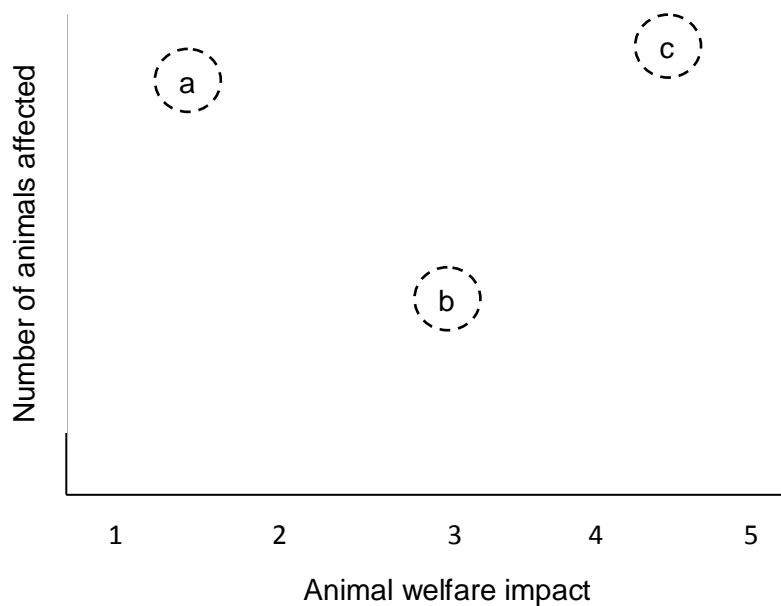
At the first meeting of the year, NAWAC should decide its work plan.

Animal welfare problems may have come to NAWAC's attention in many ways: they might have come from NAWAC's strategic plan, a committee member, a member of the public (contact: nawac@mpi.govt.nz) or from an industry group.

In this example, three animal welfare issues have been raised.

Issue (a) gets an impact score of 1.5. Issue (b) gets a score of 3. Issue (c) is scored 4.5. The number of animals affected by the issue is then estimated to the best of NAWAC's knowledge.

The three issues (a), (b) and (c) are graphed as below.



Result

- Issue (a) affects many animals but has a low animal welfare impact score.
- Issue (b) affects fewer animals but has a higher animal welfare impact score.
- Issue (c) affects many animals **and** has a high animal welfare impact score.

Issue (c) is the highest priority for NAWAC to consider. Further discussion may be required to prioritise between issues (a) and (b). The final list of issues will be posted on NAWAC's website.