



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

NAWAC XY/18

General Meeting

14 February 2018
09:30 am – 4:30 pm

Pastoral House
25 The Terrace
Wellington

MINUTES

Committee members: Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Graeme Doole, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Iain Torrance.

In attendance: s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Animal Welfare Science), s 9(2)(a) (NAWAC Secretary), s 9(2)(a) (Adviser, Animal Welfare Science), s 9(2)(a) (Senior Policy Analyst, Regulatory Reform & Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Animal Welfare Compliance), s 9(2)(a) (Senior Adviser, Sector Liaison Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Contractor, Project Manager, Animal Welfare Regulations Implementation).

Apologies: Katie Milne, Julie Wagner, Alan Sharr

Welcome:

Any Other Business Part One (Public Excluded Agenda):

Any Other Business Part Two (Open to the Public): The Associate Minister for Primary Industries is scheduled to visit at 12:15pm.

PART ONE (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(G Verkerk / I Torrance):

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| C 1. Confirmation of previous minutes | G Verkerk |
| C 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings | G Verkerk |
| C 3. Work programme update | s 9(2)(a) / All |
| C 4. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 5. Dairy cattle amendment decision | G Verkerk |
| C 6. 11:00 Regulations update | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 7. 11:30 Compliance update | s 9(2)(a) / G Verkerk |
| C 8. Codes review discussion | s 9(2)(a) / A Sharr |
| C 9. Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter | s 9(2)(a) |
| C10 Issues register | G Verkerk / All |

THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 48(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<i>General subject of each matter to be considered</i>		<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
C 1.	<i>Confirmation of previous minutes</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).</i>
C 2.	<i>Status of actions arising from previous meetings</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 3.	<i>Work programme update</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA.</i>

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
		<i>pressure or harassment.</i>	
C 4.	<i>MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).</i>
C 5.	<i>Dairy cattle amendment decision</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>
C 6.	<i>Regulations update</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 7.	<i>Compliance update</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 8.	<i>Codes review update</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 9.	<i>Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 10.	<i>Issues register</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>

I also move that:

1. s 9(2)(a)
2. s 9(2)(a)
3. s 9(2)(a)
4. s 9(2)(a)
5. s 9(2)(a)
6. s 9(2)(a)
7. s 9(2)(a)
8. s 9(2)(a)

be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of meeting procedure and the subject matter under discussion. This knowledge is relevant background information to assist the committee in its deliberations.

C 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved (N Poutu / G Doole):

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 14 November 2017 (01/18) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

C 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the list of actions (02/18). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, in regards to the review being done by the Canterbury group was questioned. Have any updates been provided? It was explained that no updates on their projects have been received, but they have been in contact with concerns about rodeo.

C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (08/18) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Wildlife – N Poutu has reviewed NAWAC's snares report and is satisfied with it, but unclear on where the report is now

Action: s 9(2) / s 9(2)(a) to email N Poutu an update on the snares report.

- Poultry – The subcommittee has a field trip scheduled to Henergy in Masterton on 27 February. On 28 February a committee of the Poultry subcommittee will meet with MPI Policy team and representatives of the poultry industry for an initial scoping discussion about poultry regulations.

- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- Greyhounds – s 9(2)(a) reported that the Greyhound Welfare Committee have signed off their internal standards. Some aspects of NAWAC's recommendations were lacking, but the group wanted to make clear to NAWAC that these will be picked up as part of large work programmes. G Verkerk will be attending the next planning meeting, where they will discuss implementation of Hansen recommendations and these wider issues. G Verkerk noted that she would be happy to take comments from other members of NAWAC. s 9(2)(g)(i)

- Implementation of standards – apologies from s 9(2) that this has not progressed. s 9(2)(a) will be taking over as the MPI contact for this subcommittee, and will be in contact shortly.

- Sentience – The subcommittee is awaiting the final report from Groundwork Associates.

Action: s 9(2) to follow up with Groundwork Associates, with G Verkerk to follow if necessary. NAWAC should be releasing the report within the next quarter.

C 4. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI

The MPI update (09/18) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A question was raised about the Ministry for Primary Industry rebranding its branches. s 9(2) explained that it is not expected that the animal welfare team will be significantly impacted, though reporting lines may change. In general, it appears that teams will stay the same, but connections between them will change.

The secretariat's impending move to the old Department of Internal Affairs building was noted.

The release date for the operational research report on sustainable outdoor farrowing systems for pigs was questioned. The report was confirmed to be complete and is going through final approvals before circulation. It was noted that the report can be released to NAWAC before public release.

Action: s 9(2) to circulate the operational research report for NAWAC's awareness.

C 5. Dairy cattle amendment decision

A covering memo, the draft code, draft code report, and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) report had been circulated prior to the meeting (10/18).

The floor was opened to comments.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

After reviewing the memo and requirements listed, there were no further comments.

Moved (G Verkerk / K Schutz):

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

There was more time available before the regulations update. NAWAC moved straight to the codes review item.

C 6. 11:00 Regulations update

s 9(2)(a) gave the update on behalf of s 9(2)(a). s 9(2)(a) handed out an A3 document summarising the regulations and noted that it would soon be available online.

Cabinet had given its approvals for the regulatory proposals that NAWAC has been consulted on in July 2017. Since then, MPI has been going through the drafting process with the Parliamentary Counsel Office. Currently they were up to version 8, and getting down to details like the placement of commas.

MPI is hoping to have the final wording of the regulations through Cabinet in March/April 2018.

Most regulations have an implementation date of 1 October 2018.

MPI continues to work with stakeholders on some outstanding issues, namely tail docking and removal of dew claws, as there are still queries from advocates concerned about the process. s 9(2)(g)(i)

One other issue is still ongoing with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), in regards to penalty amounts.

It was noted that while it appears that more regulations have been progressed, this is down to drafting, which has broken some proposals into multiple regulations – there are the same number of issue covered, but the numbering has changed. MPI will no longer refer to '46 new regulations'.

With no further discussion on regulations, s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a) presented an update on regulation implementation to NAWAC. They gave the update on behalf of s 9(2)(a) (Acting Manager, Sector Liaison Team).

The Sector Liaison team has the responsibility for implementation of the new regulations: that is education, awareness, answering questions to allow people to meet their obligations. The team is looking for any opportunities to inform people.

The regulations have been broken into themes so that stakeholder groups can be formed to discuss communications plans and key messages. The regulations implementation groups were listed. These are:

- Stock transport
- Husbandry & farm management
- Pigs
- Companion animals
- Research, Testing and Teaching
- Layer hens
- Crustacea
- Llamas/alpacas
- Horses
- Rodeos
- Greyhounds
- Lifestyle

- Zoos
- Traps

This represents a big work programme, and so s 9(2)(a) has been contracted as a project manager.

s 9(2)(a) described the project structure. There are six work streams: regulations implementation (important to work with stakeholders to ensure that material is coherent – this is a two-way stream); codes of welfare (updating codes affected by regulations as necessary); compliance; verification; monitoring & evaluation; communication.

There should also be smart messaging about why the regulations are important as well: why it is in their benefit to have these coming into force.

The risks identified so far:

- Time: A lot of work; but have until October.
- Resources: important to every project. Working closely with verification and compliance to ensure the regulations can be enforced alongside business as usual.
- Lack of stakeholder engagement: lots of work going into this, as per the groups listed by s 9(2)(a).

Committee members can expect to hear from implementation teams as to whether members will join implementation groups.

In terms of the regulations subcommittee, NAWAC appreciates these updates. The subcommittee is essentially on hold while the regulations are approved in March/April.

Action: include NAWAC in regular project updates done by s 9(2)(a).

C 7. 11:30 Compliance update

s 9(2)(a) arrived to give a compliance update to NAWAC.

A demonstration of the compliance dashboard was displayed. This is a new system for MPI that can gather and present data from complaints easier than before. As MPI gets used to the new system, compliance hopes to be able to present data to NAWAC regularly.

NAWAC found the information valuable, and expressed interest in seeing future reports and having the information available on Workspace. s 9(2)(a) confirmed that compliance can work to having reports available to NAWAC.

Visit from the Associate Minister Meka Whaitiri

Associate Minister Meka Whaitiri arrived at 12:15pm. She was introduced to the Committee and MPI staff. She thanked NAWAC for allowing her to attend and for their work done on animal welfare e.g. regulations.

Raised concerns that are coming through via correspondence and social media, rodeos in particular.

Aims to continue leading an animal welfare system that is internationally recognised and exemplary.

Discussed with NAWAC upcoming plans for animal welfare. This fit in with work to do with well-being and employment in the agriculture sector – clear link between social and economic issues and animal welfare.

The Associate Minister is committed to the vision of 'everyone taking responsibility' for animal welfare.

C 8. Codes review discussion

NAWAC had received a memo last year summarising the subcommittee's work so far (67/17). The secretariat had a few items that they wanted more input on, summarised in a new memo (11/18).

§ 9(2) spoke to these items. Main points as follows:

- § 9(2) and the secretariat are not questioning any of the decisions, but hoping to work smarter at each recommendation.
- Gave a wider background about standards writing as a business as usual function of the secretariat as part of the Regulation & Assurance branch of MPI. NAWAC's role identified as being more useful in identifying future issues. Secretariat can operate to the committee as a standards writing group. This would include the secretariat taking a proposal to NAWAC about reviewing minimum standards regularly.
- I Torrance noted that the codes review subcommittee haven't had a meeting about this, but it comes back to amending the codes in line with NAWAC's recommendations or community expectations. In terms of reviewing minimum standards, the idea was to be able to amend codes by parts rather than as a whole every 10 years which was not fit for purpose.
- The subcommittee don't have a view yet on how often minimum standards should be reviewed, but the secretariat needs to give information on what is possible.
- On code reports, it was agreed that one thing that they can be better at is identifying the gaps: why we made decisions we did; when public opinion was taken into account (e.g. when science is lacking)
- § 9(2) discussed things MPI is doing on transparency – for one, looking at getting the summaries of submissions online. Years ago this was the case (submissions were part of the code reports). Aiming for this to be the case in the future.
- It is crucial to record decision making clearly.
- § 9(2) envisions more comprehensive code reports in the future (not changing the old ones though)
- There are other things to discuss e.g. in the past, NAWAC has commissioned its own economic reviews. Should this be the case in future? Perhaps MPI does this instead, and presents it to NAWAC?
- Noted old codes development plan document (to be able to say 'yes we know this is an upcoming issue'). Requested a rolling development plan run by the secretariat identifying code amendments and new codes. The issues register was noted as possibly filling that function.

Action: Take this discussion back to subcommittee before May. Look at planning/review structure for codes. Include § 9(2) and § 9(2) in the discussion.

C 9. Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter

A verbal update was given on this work programme.

In summary, the pressure from advocacy groups on rodeos is increasing. It appears that a private member's Bill will be introduced. It's not clear exactly what it will include but may ban calf events and flank straps.

If it's selected from the ballot and goes to select committee, NAWAC will need to provide an opinion, and the Minister has requested this in the shorter term, since the significant anti-rodeo correspondence is requiring her to take a position.

MPI updated that a lot of Ministerials were coming in on the topic of rodeos, and there is a large workload in drafting responses.

s 9(2)(ba)(i)

§ 9(2)(a) and G Verkerk met with § 9(2)(a) and § 9(2)(a) when she visited. It was a useful meeting though there was not a lot of new information in terms of animal injuries.

§ 9(2) sent through information about post-mortem data, to be shared.

The 3E's subcommittee plans to meet in the afternoon before G Verkerk is scheduled to update the Minister, to finalise a plan.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

C 10. Issues register

Discussion was welcomed on any point raised in the issues register (14/18).

There was discussion on the TradeMe ban of brachycephalic breeds. NAWAC supportive of the move. Noted some opposition articles which will be circulated in weekly mailout.

G Shackell summarised the issue on zebrafish (when to zebrafish become an 'animal' according to the Animal Welfare Act?) and the work NAEAC is doing to address this.

PART TWO (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 1. Agree to final workplan

A draft work programme had been circulated prior to the meeting (12/18). The following changes were suggested:

- Replace "Complete" with something like "Target"
- Milestones were discussed. Allow subcommittee chairs the opportunity to add more to this document, but in general, they will be discussed in quarterly work programme updates
- Implementation of Standards subcommittee – change timeline to say that information will be gathered in 2018 and recommendations in 2019
- 3E's – change timeline to say rodeos will be addressed in 2018, and the remainder in 2019
- Codes review – recommendation made to MPI for 2018, rather than continuing
- Fitness & health of system – picture of KPI's is complete – handed off to MPI
- Poultry – NAWAC asked MPI secretariat to develop a draft for breeder facilities. Secretariat to give quarterly updates, and NAWAC to keep it as a watching brief, but remove from NAWAC's work programme until drafted and presented to NAWAC for consideration. In the meantime the Poultry subcommittee will work with MPI Policy team to further the development of additional regulations which were put on hold during 2017 until further scoping and discussion could be held.
- Wildlife – break the timeline into several milestones. Follow up with N Poutu on what these are.

Action: s 9(2)(a) to circulate work programme to full Committee again.

Moved (G Verkerk / I Torrance)

Subject to the amendments discussed above, NAWAC accepts document 12/18 as its work programme.

The motion was put: carried.

O 2. NAWAC annual internal review

The NAWAC internal review summary had been circulated prior to the meeting (13/18).

Comments welcomed. Main points of discussion were:

- Several concerns raised about secretariat workload. This has been discussed earlier today and will be further discussed with the Codes Review subcommittee. MPI committed to providing support to NAWAC (and NAEAC) and will work to prioritise work that the Committees want to do. Hiring contractors or looking at other solutions not out of the question.
- G Verkerk asked the Committee to consider the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis process and suggest improvements if necessary. The Positive Welfare subcommittee will be considering this as part of their work as well. Positives and negatives of the MCDA were discussed. It works for some issues better than others. While the basis of the scoring uses science, the overall methodology could have greater scientific rigor in terms of including a process to standardise scoring which would reduce some of the variance around the scores. The procedure nevertheless does give a good picture of how the Committee is thinking about an issue. Some other interpretive solutions were discussed, such as the Implication Wheel. G Verkerk repeated her request and noted that NAWAC should be careful to speak of the MCDA as a test of opinion, not a robust scientific tool. G Shackell explained that from NAEAC's perspective, it is still useful.
- Agreed to remove legal advice review option from the questionnaire, or change the wording since NAWAC does not get legal advice from MPI directly.

O 3. Appointment of Deputy Chair

Moved (G Verkerk / G Shackell):

That I Torrance is nominated as Deputy Chair for 2018.

The motion was put: carried.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

O 4. Welfare Pulse article ideas

Standing request for Welfare Pulse article ideas was put to the Committee. No articles suggested. Send ideas to s 9(2)(a).

O 5. NAWAC correspondence

Several letters and emails have been received and responded to in the last quarter including on fireworks, layer hens, and rodeos. These were summarised and no further comments were raised.

O 6. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

- N Poutu attended a meeting in Nelson pulled together by local Department of Conservation office and the city council. Asked to speak specifically about animal welfare in pest control. Lots of attendees, discussion around Predator Free 2050. Good uptake and acceptance of NAWAC guideline of benchmark of trap performance.
- K Schutz and G Verkerk visited Lincoln for a DairyNZ workshop. It was looking at future farming systems and how to assess welfare in those systems. A lot of environmental perspectives – systems will change to meet environmental concerns and it is important to consider the needs of animals and how to improve their environment as well.
- s 9(2)(a) noted s 9(2)(a) is visiting from the UK. Coming to NZVA conference in June. MPI arranging a schedule of visits for policy matters.

- I Torrance – noted positive reception of sentience workshop. There have been fires in the Chathams, and was involved in the emergency response. Animals not highly prioritised. However stock are generally capable of moving themselves – fencing done differently to the mainland. Has been invited to present at the Zoos and Aquarium Conference in May, will bring some ideas back to committee, good opportunity to speak of 3E's work.
- s 9(2)(a) – went to International Society for Equitation Science in Wagga Wagga. Looked at science behind different areas of horse care & welfare.
- s 9(2)(a) - hoping to attend a global animal welfare conference in Paris coming up (OIE). Talking about animal welfare in pest animal management in NZ at Society for Conservation Biology in June/July.
- s 9(2)(a) –Noted formation of the New Zealand Animal Training and Behaviour Council, hoping to create an accreditation system for animal trainers. Coupled with the temporary housing code, should make a difference to companion animal welfare.