



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

NAWAC 73/17

General Meeting

14 November 2017
09:30 am – 3:30 pm

Pastoral House
25 The Terrace
Wellington

MINUTES

Committee members: Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Ingrid Collins, Graeme Doole, Katie Milne, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Alan Sharr, Iain Torrance, Julie Wagner.

In attendance: ^{s 9(2)(a)}

Apologies:

Welcome:

Any Other Business Part One (Public Excluded Agenda):

Any Other Business Part Two (Open to the Public):

**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) |
| C 4. | MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 5. | Dairy cattle amendment update | G Verkerk |
| C 6. | Codes review update & discussion | A Sharr |
| C 7. | Regulations update | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 8. | Compliance update | s 9(2)(a) G
Verkerk |
| C 9. | Prioritisation exercise | 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 pressure or harassment.</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>
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</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
		of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).
C 5.	Dairy cattle amendment update	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees
C 6.	Codes review update & discussion	As above.
C 7.	Regulations update	As above.
C 8.	Compliance update	As above.
C 9.	Prioritisation exercise	As above.

I also move that:

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.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

C 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved ^{s 9(2)(a)} [REDACTED]

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 30 August 2017 (61/17) 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 (NAWAC 62/17). The following updates were provided:

- Actions four and five, about sending a letter to the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association, are complete.
- All other actions are in progress.

The new Minister responsible for the animal welfare portfolio was discussed. It is not confirmed yet who will hold the portfolio, but it will be important to engage early with the Minister responsible and ensure that their understanding of animal welfare issues is up to date.

s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (NAWAC 63/17) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Wildlife – the subcommittee has had a meeting to identify key priorities. These are detailed in the memo that was circulated (71/17). ^{s 9(2)(a)} [REDACTED] ran through the priorities which include the definition of generally accepted practice (including operational research being commissioned around pig hunting); updates that may be needed to Guideline 09 on kill traps; the recommendation for the prohibition of snares; working on guidance for the public on humane best practice in vertebrate pest control; and ongoing glueboard trap approval monitoring. There was also an update given by MPI on the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus. The application has been received, and is out for public consultation. MPI is likely to ask for NAWAC's input, and it was agreed that this would go through the wildlife subcommittee in the first instance but the final output (e.g. letter of advice) will be seen by the whole committee. The aim for the applicant is to release the virus in Canterbury in March 2018.
- Layer hens – It was noted that this subcommittee will be absorbed into the poultry subcommittee.
- Poultry – This subcommittee has been considering progressing a broiler breeder draft code. Will need confirmation that this is a priority in NAWAC's overall work programme in order to continue.

- Animals in Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter – s 9(2)(a) is working on this document. Many of the subcommittee members are shared with the Good Life subcommittee, so looking at picking this up again after the workshop.

s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(ba)(i)

- Implementation of standards - It has been agreed by the subcommittee to first progress the issue of body condition score. The subcommittee has asked for statistics on this from MPI, verification services, New Zealand Veterinary Association, and the SPCA. Euthanasia and on-farm killing is seen as a lower priority in this work programme and is on hold for the moment. s 9(2)(a) suggested obtaining data from slaughterhouses, DairyNZ and Livestock Improvement Corporation – they may have weight data that could be useful.
- Fitness and health of the animal welfare system – s 9(2)(a) working on this. Difficult to get statistics; no consistent national data to figure out animal welfare problems objectively. May need to discuss this in the prioritisation work in the afternoon.

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

The committee congratulated to s 9(2)(a) on his permanent appointment to the secretariat.

The release date for the operational research report on pigs was questioned. The report was confirmed to be complete and is going through final approvals before circulation. The bobby calf report will also be available soon.

C 5. Dairy cattle amendment update

A memo had been circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read (NAWAC 65/17). The issues in the memo were summarised.

Several NAWAC members who had been on a recent trip to visit housed dairy systems reported on their visit and showed some photos of the systems. Noted positives and negatives of the system – for example, robotic systems eliminate the issue around staff losing patience with the animals, and can gather health information of the animals; while some photos showed cows ‘perching’ in their stalls which is an indicator that they are reluctant to lie down, and also cows in stalls lying in unnatural postures.

After some discussion based on the memo, the committee agreed to the minimum standard as proposed in the memo.

Moved s 9(2)(a)

To amend the draft minimum standard in the dairy cattle code amendment to state -

§ 9(2)(g)(i)

C 6. Codes review update & discussion

A memo had been circulated prior to the meeting (NAWAC 67/17) which was taken as read. § 9(2)(a) thanked § 9(2)(a) for the work in summarising the survey responses and summarised the survey for the committee.

The response numbers and drop-off issues (perhaps because of a lack of knowledge about specific codes) was discussed.

§ 9(2)(a) ran through the subcommittees' recommendations and the committee's thoughts were invited. There was general agreement on all points.

Codes of welfare structure

- Publish regulations inside codes of welfare
- Promote recommended best practice
- Include a link to the code report inside the codes
- Keep codes separate per species

NAWAC processes

- Review codes based on welfare risks, not deadlines
- The secretariat should be tasked with routinely reviewing minimum standards based on good practice, scientific knowledge and available technology
- NAWAC's priorities should be published in a way that better reflects the timeframes
- NAWAC shifts to recommending welfare outcomes, not drafting specific wording
- Increase access to the information in codes of welfare - NAWAC should continue to produce comprehensive and science-backed codes of welfare, but work with partners (MPI, industry groups) to publicise them or make useful/short/easy-to-read guidance
- Publicise submission processes directly to users

§ 9(2)(a) confirmed that the NAWAC process changes could be supported by the secretariat. In terms of resourcing, § 9(2)(a) and § 9(2)(a) recommended that NAWAC makes changes without cutting out options based on resourcing – make the recommendations needed, and MPI will inform NAWAC if resourcing becomes a problem.

§ 9(2)(a) also noted that for future code and regulation recommendations, the consultation process for both standards and regulations development can be aligned more efficiently. MPI could develop the regulatory wording once NAWAC has provided the policy direction so that codes and regulations (including consultations) progress at the same time.

Moved § 9(2)(a)

That the recommendations as detailed above should be adopted by NAWAC.

The motion was put: carried.

It was noted that the subcommittee should review the NAWAC guidelines against these recommendations to make sure they are still aligned.

Action: Codes review subcommittee to report whether there are any required changes to NAWAC guidelines as a result of the recommendations

NAWAC then moved on to the prioritisation framework and the open agenda.

C 7. Regulations update

§ 9(2)(a) arrived to give NAWAC an update on the animal welfare regulations and the progress of the draft code of welfare for temporary housing of companion animals.

Work on the regulations is continuing. New Cabinet approval will be sought in February (around the regulations as drafted).

MPI have been having workshops with stakeholders on the wording and implementation of the regulations (not the policy intent). Ongoing issues include use of electric prodders and sheep lameness.

There was a question around calf weights and practicality of the 150kg measurement. MPI sticking with 150kg. Will need to monitor the outcome and see what happens.

A memo had been circulated prior to the meeting on the temporary housing of companion animals code of welfare (NAWAC 68/17). The code had been recommended to the Minister, but on advice from MPI, that the code report was not completely clear about the role of minimum standards vs guidance. § 9(2)(a) made the decision to withdraw the code. Given the context of a new Minister and that the new code of welfare would have been the first significant engagement with them, it was agreed to recall the code from the Minister's office so that residual concerns can be addressed. The secretariat can address the necessary changes.

The subcommittee raised concerns – it was understood that even though MPI had reviewed the draft, that did not prevent their recommending that the code was withdrawn after final NAWAC approval. NAWAC does not want to see perpetual delay.

§ 9(2)(a) assured NAWAC that the secretariat followed all the correct steps, and MPI would work with NAWAC to issue the code quickly.

NAWAC moved to item C6.

C 8. Compliance update

§ 9(2)(a) introduced himself and gave an overview of the animal welfare compliance function in MPI.

- Well placed to inform standards setters on what is happening on the ground.
- Known for prosecutions but do so much more – much of the work is around managing farmers to up their game – i.e. educating unintentional offenders. Directions and advice is common.
- Generally response driven. Call centre, triaging etc. Trend data shows that generally, year-on-year, calls are increasing. Large spikes from calf regulations (internal referrals from verification)

services) and increasing referrals from industry. Recently, there has been a shift to intelligence-led proactive work, including pilot projects on dairy goats and rabbit farming.

- Question around social change – is there a way to identify the reasons for behaviour change? MPI doesn't do a lot of social science work - but noted that this is a gap.
- Offered to have anyone come along with inspectors for a day and observe if interested.
- Noted the SPCA's move to One SPCA, which offers new opportunities.
- Question around social media – does it add power to intelligence, rather than just an alarmist side? Absolutely. Can source information from nuanced areas such as social media posts. But capability needs to be added for animal welfare – has been used successfully for other areas such as biosecurity.

NAWAC agreed to invite the national animal welfare compliance manager to NAWAC regularly to help inform NAWAC's work programme.

Moved to item O1 as ^{s 9(2)(a)} (New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing) had arrived.

C 9. Prioritisation exercise

NAWAC viewed a compilation of all the issues registers from 2017. There was discussion around rabbit farming, fish standards, sheep milking, farrowing crates and cat management – these items should be kept on the register as watching briefs.

However, NAWAC's workload is already large, and there should be some overhead kept open for the new Minister and any additional priorities they may have. No new work items were added to the programme, and so the prioritisation framework was not needed.

The following changes were discussed for the work programme:

- Remove selective breeding
- Remove shelter and euthanasia options from the Implementation of Standards workstream – NAWAC focus only on BCS at the moment
- The layer hen subcommittee to be changed to 'poultry' subcommittee, who will be charged with considering an amendment to the meat chicken code to address breeding (rather than a whole new code). Regulation issues to be dealt with by the regulations subcommittee.
- Change the text in the Exhibition, entertainment and encounter section to be amended to "Publish the NAWAC position on..." rather than "review the use of..."

Action: ^{s 9(2)(a)} to revise the work programme; bring this to the February meeting for approval before it is published online

Action: all subcommittee chairs to bring timelines for their work programmes to the February meeting so these can be incorporated into the document.

**PART TWO
(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 1. 11:00 am New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing presentation

s 9(2)(a) [redacted] New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) was welcomed to the meeting.

s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(ba)(i), s 9(2)(b)(ii) [redacted]

- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]
- | [redacted]

[redacted]

NAWAC moved to item C7.

O 2. Meeting dates for 2018

Meeting dates for 2018 were agreed as follows:

- Wed Feb 14
- Wed May 9
- Wed August 15
- Tues Nov 13

Action: s 9(2)(a) [redacted] to send e-invites

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

O 3. *Welfare Pulse* article request

An open offer for articles from AgResearch was noted.

O 4. NAWAC correspondence

Letters and emails were noted, including a letter from ^{s 9(2)(a)} notifying NAWAC of a new animal welfare fellowship, and MIA's annual report. Other correspondence is listed in the reading list, including many (at least 6,000) form emails facilitated by SAFE in regards to rodeos.

O 5. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

^{s 9(2)(a)} – Spoke to Egg Producers Federation in Queenstown, particularly about regulations. Also spoke to NZ Ag Resource Economists Society, invited by ^{s 9(2)(a)} (ex NAWAC). ^{s 9(2)(a)} spoke at that conference about PigCare, and ^{s 9(2)(a)} spoke about the economics of animal welfare.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – visited China. Learned about social change and marketing changes around food.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – visited Australia, and attended the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee meeting.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – Attended hunting expo on behalf of the Department of Conservation, which was centered around a trophy competition. DOC was approaching hunters as community pest control participants. Noted encouragement to kill more hinds rather than bucks, but questions around how to manage fawns were not addressed very well at the event.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – visited China, observed evidence of the Government addressing pollution and corruption.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – visited UK and Netherlands, including SPCA offices. They are in a bit of disarray, as some MP's are calling for removal of inspector powers from the UK SPCA. Visited dolphinarium, observed stereotypy. Still attends Wellington Zoo welfare committee. Living in Chatham Islands – interesting attitudes to animal welfare. Particular issues around live export to NZ.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – discussed remote trap monitoring in Gray's Bush in Gisborne.

[Not relevant to request]

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was closed at 2:45pm.
The meeting was followed by a training session with the sentence workshop facilitator at 4pm.