



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

NAWAC 83/18

General Meeting

15 August 2018
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Level 1, TSB Building, 147 Lambton Quay
Wellington

MINUTES

Committee members: Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Iain Torrance (Deputy Chair / Acting Chair for items C1 and C2), Graeme Doole, Katie Milne, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Julie Wagner.

In attendance: Privacy

Apologies: A Sharr

G Verkerk arrived late due to attending the opening of the Primary Industries Chief Executives Animal Welfare Forum.

Welcome: Privacy

New Animal Health & Welfare director Privacy also arrived during the morning to introduce himself.

Any Other Business Part One (Public Excluded Agenda):

MPI website

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

NAWAC annual report

**PART ONE
(PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)**

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(I Torrance / J Wagner):

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

- | | | |
|------|--|---------------------|
| C 1. | Confirmation of previous minutes | I Torrance |
| C 2. | Status of actions arising from previous meetings | I Torrance |
| C 3. | Work programme update | Privacy / All |
| C 4. | MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI | Privacy |
| C 5. | Issues register | G Verkerk / Privacy |
| C 6. | Codes as amended by regulations | Privacy |
| C 7. | Farrowing crate update | Privacy |
| C 8. | Rodeo update | G Verkerk |
| C 9. | Compliance update | Privacy |

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>
<i>C 1.</i>	<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>
<i>C 2.</i>	<i>Status of actions arising from previous meetings</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
<i>C 3.</i>	<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>
<i>C 4.</i>	<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</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
			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).
C 5.	Issues register	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and/or: To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and/or: To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.
C 6.	Codes as amended by regulations	As above.	As above.
C 7.	Farrowing crate update	As above.	As above.
C 8.	Rodeo update	As above.	As above.
C 9.	Compliance update	To protect the privacy of natural persons; and/or: To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.	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 sections 9(2)(a) and/or 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.

I also move that:

Privacy



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.

PART ONE (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

C 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved (I Torrance / K Schütz)

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 09 May 2018 (52/18) 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 (53/18). 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, is still in progress. No further correspondence has been received regarding this review.
- Action 2, in regards to familiarising A&P shows with the rodeo code, still in progress.
- Privacy [REDACTED]

Action: G Verkerk and J Wagner to draft letter to NZVA on reports of broken shoulders in dairy cattle.

- Action 4, in regards to NAWAC and regulations implementation, can be marked as completed once the final key messages have been shared with NAWAC. NAWAC had agreed that members would not sit on the implementation groups but would like to see the messages that will be shared.

Action: Privacy [REDACTED] to share regulations key message document with NAWAC.

- Actions 5 and 6, in regards to delayed commencement of codes of welfare and giving advice on the commencement date of the temporary housing code of welfare, can be closed.
- Action 7, for compliance to update NAWAC on saleyards, can be marked as complete. Privacy [REDACTED] is due to speak to NAWAC and has been briefed that NAWAC expects an update in this area.

- Privacy [REDACTED]

Action: Privacy [REDACTED] to upload the latest RHDV information to Workspace.

O 1. New Animal Health & Welfare Director Privacy [REDACTED]

Privacy [REDACTED] the new director for the Animal Health & Welfare Directorate (containing the NAWAC & NAEAC secretariat), arrived to the NAWAC meeting. He introduced himself to NAWAC, stating that he looks forward to working with the Committee and the Minister.

C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (56/18) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Regulations – MPI has asked for input from NAWAC via NAWAC members attending the workshops for Surgical and Painful Procedures (SPP) regulations. Further detail can be found in the MPI update (57/18).
 - Dairy cattle code amendment – the draft code is almost ready to be recommended to the Minister. There are some updates needed in regards to the grandparenting arrangements, particularly in light of the new animal welfare framework and the focus on promoting recommended best practice.
 - Wild animals – there is no change in terms of the snares report. N Poutu has been in contact with P Fisher (ex-NAWAC) about Generally Accepted Practice in hunting in Australia. The subcommittee is considering whether guideline 09 (trap testing) needs an update. Noted a review of the function of the Game Industry Board. Reported that there has been correspondence – NAWAC wrote to the Pig Hunting Association to support their code of ethics, and a member of the public wrote to NAWAC with concerns about the lack of deer repellent used in 1080 operations.
 - Poultry – this workstream is being led by animal welfare policy and is currently on hold as other topics (rodeo, farrowing crates) have taken priority in terms of resources. Broiler breeder standards are still on the work plan to be considered.
 - Temporary housing – the code of welfare is at the Minister’s office, and will hopefully be approved for issue within the next few weeks.
 - Exhibition, entertainment and encounter – the opinion piece is still to be drafted, though the focus lately has been on rodeo. In terms of greyhounds, Privacy reported an incoming update from GRNZ in regards to their progress against the Hansen report, and the implementation of their new Health and Welfare standards. Privacy
- Privacy
- Privacy
- Implementation of standards – Privacy has been working on shelter and body condition score. The shelter workstream has received the report from a survey of 24 farmers and 22 stakeholders, and is now working on a public survey to be released next week. In terms of body condition score, Privacy is putting together a draft summary of the issues for the subcommittee.
 - ‘Good life’ and sentience – the subcommittee met the day before NAWAC, and concluded that the sentience part of the workstream is essentially concluded. The workshop is complete and documents are now online. NAWAC guidelines 8 and 12 need amending to include positive welfare. The subcommittee suggested having a workshop (not just a presentation) on the 5 domains. This was suggested as a topic for a combined NAWAC/NAEAC meeting.

Action: Privacy and subcommittee to amend NAWAC guidelines 8 and 12

- Codes review – there is no active work, but the work done by the subcommittee in the past has come up or been referenced in the discussions around the animal welfare framework and the new amendments to the codes of welfare.

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

An additional item was noted: the Regulations Review Committee received a complaint from the New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds, stating that the process used in developing this regulation was flawed and that the independent reviewer that MPI commissioned to perform a review of tail docking was not an appropriate person to perform this review. MPI responded with details of the process used when developing the dog tail docking regulation, and when choosing an appropriate reviewer. The complaint was rejected by the Committee.

C 5. Issues register

Discussion was welcomed on any point raised in the issues register (58/18).

Several new items were noted:

- The egg industry is raising concerns that new facilities for housing layer hens are not getting through the resource management process fast enough or at all, and so the industry as a whole will not be able to meet its obligations in terms of moving away from battery cages, as according to the code of welfare and the new regulation on layer hens to come into force on 1 October, without disruption to the egg market.
- The first Animal Rights March is due to be held in Auckland.
- Drowning traps have been spotted for sale and Privacy has drafted an article for PMANZ magazine and an addition to the MPI website.
- Under new technology, a product under the business name “equilume” has been spotted for sale, which is a light that shines into a dairy cows’ eye at night and is marketed to increase milk production.

C 6. Codes as amended by regulations

Privacy invited discussion on NAWAC memo 59/18 which covered the changes required to codes of welfare as a result of the regulations. NAWAC must be satisfied with the changes before they are issued by the Minister.

In summary, changes include amendments as required by the regulations themselves (see Schedule II of the 2018 regulations); changes to guidance to match new requirements; and changes to formatting, web links, or updating names and references.

Larger changes include:

- Painful Husbandry Procedures: remove a paragraph detailing NAWAC’s 5 year plan to review painful procedures, as this is out of date
- Pigs: remove guidance on sow stalls
- Slaughter: remove guidance on desliming eel transition, as it is complete. Add guidance on crustaceans to support regulation
- Zoo: removed two RBPs that pointed to websites that are now unavailable
- Dogs: guidance on tail docking and dew claws heavily amended

Similar changes can be found throughout all the codes, which have been uploaded to Workspace for NAWAC to check themselves.

NAWAC agreed to recommend the amended codes to the Minister for issue.

Moved (G Verkerk / K Milne)

That NAWAC will send the letter attached to Memo 59/18 to the Ministers office, which recommends that all codes of welfare be reissued with the changes as described.

The motion was put: carried.

There was some discussion around the regulations for disbudding and dehorning. Potential problems have been noted in regards to implementation of the anaesthetic requirement in 2019.

Action: NAWAC to send concerns to NZVA / Vet Council / DairyNZ / Beef & Lamb expressing concerns about implementation of disbudding and dehorning regulations. Need to see effective training of practitioners and that trainers are effective

C 7. Farrowing crate update

Privacy first discussed NAWAC memo 60/18, which describes technical changes needed to regulations for sow stalls (regulations 24 and 27). In summary, the regulations may not have effectively banned the use of sow stalls and there is a lack of clarity over the use of stalls for mating. NZPork and SPCA are in favour of the amendments.

Moved (G Verkerk / K Schütz)

That NAWAC accepts the amendments as per memo 60/18

The motion was put: carried.

The Committee moved on to discuss the farrowing crate petition to the Primary Production Select Committee (NAWAC's response filed as 62/18). Confirmed that MPI submitted to the Committee as well as NAWAC.

NAWAC (G Verkerk) is due to speak to NAWAC's submission (proposing that a timeline is established for industry to move away from farrowing crates) in October.

C 8. Rodeo update

G Verkerk reported on progress with the rodeo workstream.

There has been a meeting between the NZ Rodeo Cowboys Association, the Minister, and NAWAC (G Verkerk) (where NAWAC's recommendations were discussed. The Association seemed positive and committed. The Minister asked for a timeline for changes to be made.

The Association is working on a timeline of implementing the recommendations next season. NZRCA has also implemented some changes including heavier weight of animals for calf riding (and weighing children before riding), requiring new competitors to be sponsored to ensure they are competent before competing, ensuring all stock are contracted, and prohibiting multiple catch attempts at calf roping (i.e. if the rope does not get the calf on the first try, the event is over).

A further meeting is due on the 27 August.

Splitting the rodeo workstream away from the exhibition, entertainment and encounter workstream was discussed but agreed present arrangements are satisfactory.

Noted that the rodeo industry has had some trouble sourcing animals due to M. bovis.

MPI Website

Concerns were raised in regards to MPI's website and animal welfare. In particular:

- It's difficult to find animal welfare. Needs a button on the front page. At the top of the main website, there is a grouping of topics and animal welfare is not there – it's not immediately clear that MPI manages animal welfare at all. With the new regulations especially, this is not ideal.
- People need to see how the system works, that there are independent committees
- Having more prominent information would cut down on basic enquiries to NAWAC or MPI
- Not many people know what NAWAC is – and the webpage is 'secret', buried in MPI's website
- Asking people to google to find what they need is not good enough

Action: NAWAC to raise concerns in regards to the website with MPI

Discussion then moved to the open session (O2).

C 9. Compliance update

Acting Animal Welfare Compliance Manager, Privacy arrived to give NAWAC an update.

He introduced himself to NAWAC and gave an overview of recent animal welfare compliance statistics.

There were questions in regards to prominent cases, in particular the recent investigation around a Police officer that tasered a goat.

Privacy gave an update in regards to compliance activities at saleyards. The lack of standards is a gap.

PART TWO (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 2. Animal Welfare Framework

G Shackell gave a summary of the Minister's animal welfare hui, which he attended on behalf of both NAWAC and NAEAC.

He presented to the hui, and made sure to explain that the two animal welfare committees exist, are independent from MPI, and are advocates for animals. The list of speakers was very wide ranging – huge list of animal advocacy groups, lots of topics.

The main concerns raised were in regards to the need for an independent committee; concerns around how independent NAWAC and NAEAC are from MPI; and suggestions of new members for the Committees.

G Verkerk then gave a summary of the meeting in the morning (joint Farm to Processor and Primary Industries Chief Executives Animal Welfare Forum). Their question: What would a more proactive approach to animal welfare look like? This theme and idea for a joint meeting with animal advocates had predated the hui, but came was timely. Martyn Dunne Director General of MPI, had spoken stating that animal welfare is a shared issue, there is a need to resolve things by everybody working together, and it's not just MPI on its own. He mentioned the "One Farm Plan" idea, which is farming systems change project looking at having more holistic farm plans.

The Minister then spoke. In summary, she was asking for a step change. She sees animal welfare as a key part of maintaining New Zealand's position in the international market. She wants a science-based

system and encourages transparency. Noted that we are only hearing the bad news; let's hear the good as well. She talked about a vision of management systems moving towards best practice. Challenged the chief executives to ask "how do we stay ahead of the game?"

G Verkerk asked NAWAC to work through the animal welfare framework and identify which parts relate to NAWAC. What can NAWAC offer to do? G Verkerk has indicated that NAWAC supports the framework, but this is an opportunity to give the Minister more specific feedback.

Beginning at the top of the page:

- Recognises the two committees, but negative feedback from hui was noted.
- General thoughts expressed that the place of minimum standards can be confusing and there needs to continue to be room for farmers to aim for best practice to differentiate their products. Could there be a different name for 'minimum' standards?

Independent voice column:

- Committee raised questions in regards to the role of an independent commissioner. Considered that it is up for debate as to how they would interact with NAWAC. Questions to ask – how would a commissioner work, how does it interact with NAWAC and NAEAC? There was general support, given that the focus is a bit like environment commissioner, where a person has the role to get public attention on animal welfare – e.g. NAWAC has a function under the Act, and the commissioner could go even wider. However there was not support for a double-up of roles, or getting rid of NAWAC.
- Cross party animal welfare working group point – risk of being political? Noted that this is bipartisan – and has existed before.
- In terms of NAWAC function, the Minister was not happy with new members put forward. She is coming back with other suggested members instead. Wants more advocacy group viewpoints on the Committee. NAWAC agreed with this if there is room on the Committee. Would prefer not to remove expertise (e.g. veterinary, farming) to make room for this. There is already space for animal advocacy. Noted that G Verkerk has expressed to the Minister that the timeframe for appointing new members has been too long.

Transparency column:

- In terms of well-advertised meetings, G Verkerk and Privacy have discussed this. One idea rather than general meetings being open, is to have occasional public forums - e.g. on specific topics like 3E's.
- Another idea for transparency would be proactively releasing minutes.
- Suggested asking a legal representative to come and talk through options of having people under LGOIMA, how other groups do it, how it works practically.
- Suggested a subcommittee really looking at a major change to how NAWAC works in terms of transparency.

Strengthening codes column:

- Ideas for breeding standards work – could do a second round of consultation on the opinion paper.
- Suggested reporting to the Minister the results of codes survey.
- Requested data on how bad the welfare environment is, if we have no data on how many issues are there then how do you improve it? SPCA and MPI need the same database, same triage process for reporting purposes.
- Supported review of safeguarding program to highlight how much good work comes out of a small team – if more is wanted – they need more resource.

- In regards to animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter, suggested holding a forum as an open meeting. This meeting would be talking about principles – how do we justify different uses of animals in entertainment?
- Agreed to roll over the rodeo subcommittee into a 3E's subcommittee. Add Privacy to subcommittee.
- Privacy explained the codes review programme within the secretariat. A quick review of all codes underway.
- Codes review to be morphed into a subcommittee that supports the review of codes by secretariat. Rather than overall codes, look at specific issues). Add K Schütz.

Action: Privacy update subcommittee list

Capacity building column:

- NAWAC agreed that stockmanship is a huge part of animal welfare and overall supported the idea expressed in the column. However, questioned the statement 'bringing back the focus' – it has always been a focus.
- Concern raised on point 2 in capacity building – seems to state that local community groups would be enforcing? Enforcement building should be via warranted animal welfare inspectors.

Resourcing:

- Support more resourcing for the animal welfare system.

O 3. Mini-tutorial ideas

Privacy asked NAWAC what kind of mini-tutorials they would like over the next year or so. Ideas were:

- DogsNZ (update on breeding)
- Emergency management
- Greyhound racing industry (update on Hansen report)
- 6 months after regs implemented – how did it go? August meeting 2019
- LGOIMA
- What drives behavioural change? Anyone who can talk about it in general? Maybe Privacy F and Graeme together – he is also doing a workshop
- Virtual fencing

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

O 4. NAWAC correspondence

Email from Privacy on behalf of NAWAC to Mat Walker was noted. There were no further comments.

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

N Poutu – Has been talking to people about traps and Predator Free 2050; people interested in NAWAC testing status; willing to spend on good traps; noted risks around remote monitoring, appreciation for the MPI guideline.

G Doole –taking on role of Principal Economist at DairyNZ.

G Shackell – attended hui as reported. Attended ANZCCART conference in Brisbane. Noted interesting alternatives, new technology to replace animals. Co-hosted Peter Sandoe with Mike King in Dunedin.

Talked about animal ethics including brachycephalic dogs. Visited kiwi house in Northland and national trout centre in Turangi.

I Torrance – presented at ZAA conference on advising Government. Not many attendees knew about the code of welfare for zoos. The industry has done well on animal welfare, however. Suggested ZAA could propose an amendment to the code as they have gone past it. Updates from the Chathams – bovis is affecting imports. Hosted MPI staff **Privacy** and **Privacy** recently. They visited farms, looked at varying stockmanship. Noted no vet on the island.

Action: Investigate whether MPI visit report can be shared with NAWAC.

K Milne – Zero Invasive Predators project for Predatorfree2050 is happening on the West Coast. Talked to Fish and Game at a conference about the mud issue. Also noting issues around broken bones (ribs) in dairy cattle – is this data being collected at the works? How do farmers see it? Federated Farmers conference was about the NZ Food Story, which would include animal welfare aspects. Met with IDF (International Dairy Fed) – talked Anti-Microbial Resistance.

J Wagner – NZVA conference had a strong welfare aspect. Working with wormwise – suggesting more welfare aspects. Fieldays Mystery Creek – had a ravensdown booth, took some brochures from the MPI stand, asked people of their awareness of regs, not much awareness.

K Schütz – Attended ISAE meeting in Canada. Presented AgResearch work on bedding surfaces for dairy cows. Whole session on play behaviour. Attending Dairy Animal Care Stakeholder Action Group next week – many stakeholders looking at welfare.

G Verkerk – Visited USA, noted some different husbandry practices, e.g. in terms of coping with heat and swimming holes (not allowed in NZ). Running workshops in Hamilton in terms of wildlife trapping and good welfare traps to choose.

Annual Report

Privacy noted the draft annual report had been circulated the day before. Comments were requested by the end of the month, and then it would go through publishing.

Acknowledgement

G Verkerk noted that A Sharr had been an apology due to poor health. She and the Committee thanked A Sharr for his considerable contribution to NAWAC across many subcommittees, particularly in regards to the code of welfare for temporary housing and the function of the Committee and review of the codes of welfare. His plaque would be presented at home by J Wagner.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed.