



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

Whaitua o rēhia: Charles Fergusson Building, 38 Bowen St
Rā: 17 August 2021
Tāima: 09:00 – 16:00

MENETI | MINUTES

Komiti / Committee: Gwyneth Verkerk (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Grant McCullough, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Ingrid Visser, Ruth Palmer, Sandra Faulkner (by videolink), Craig Johnson (by videolink), Grant Shackell

Nuinga / Attendees: s 9(2)(a)

Matangaro / Apologies: There were no apologies.

Any Other Business (Open to the Public):

Any Other Business (Public Excluded):

COMMITTEE MEMBER REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Member	Interest declared	Role
Gwyneth Verkerk	Lifestyle block farmer Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust Predator Free Hamilton Trust	Farmer Chair Trustee Trustee
Craig Johnson	Massey University	Professor
Grant McCullough	New Zealand Veterinary Association Veterinary Hospital Group Troy Laboratories McCullough Farms	President Managing Director Board member Sheep and Beef farmer
Sandra Faulkner	Wairakaia Partnership (Farming: Sheep, Cattle, Annual Crops, Citrus, Farm Forestry) Gisborne District Council Tairāwhiti District Health Board Campaign for Wool NZ Presbyterian Support East Coast (Arohiwi Stn) Gisborne/Wauria Rural Co-ordination Group	Farmer/Partner Councillor Board Member Trustee Board Member Chair
Peter Mason	Royal New Zealand SPCA Incorporated	Manager Animal Welfare and Veterinary Services
Ruth Palmer	Small holding	Farmer
Karin Schutz	AgResearch	Animal Welfare Scientist
Grant Shackell	National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee	Chair
Arnja Dale	National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee Companion Animals New Zealand New Zealand Companion Animals Trust National Cat Management Strategy Group Farm to Processors Animal Welfare Forum Pamu Visionary Veterinary One Health Group Environmental & Animals Sciences, Unitec Global Animal Welfare Alliance SPCA NZ Animal Welfare Committee	Committee Member Board Member Chair Chair Member Member Research Associate Board Member Chief Scientific Officer
Nick Poutu	Department of Conservation	Technical Adviser
Ingrid Visser	Orca Research Trust (New Zealand) Punta Norte Orca Research (Argentina) Dolphinarium Free Europe (Europe) Free Morgan Foundation (Netherlands) Whale Rescue (New Zealand)	Founder and Principal Scientist Co-founder and Co-director Co-founder and member Co-founder and Chairperson Co-founder and Principal Scientist

Opening Karakia:

E te hui
Whaia te matauranga kia marama
Kia whai take nga mahi katoa
Tu maia, tu kaha
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tatou a tatou katoa

For this gathering
Seek knowledge for understanding
Have purpose in all that you do
Stand tall, be strong
Let us show respect for each other

The Chair opened the meeting with a Karakia at 09:27 am.

Conflicts of Interest:

The register provided in the agenda was updated as per the above.

GENERAL

O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes from the 21 May and 04 April meetings were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

That the draft minutes of the general meetings held on 21 May and 04 April 2021 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

April Moved (Gwyn/Peter)

May Moved (Gwyn/Arnja)

The motion was put: carried.

O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

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

- Cetaceans – verbal report of the meeting with the Zoo code writing group who are supportive of inclusion of consideration of cetaceans, and also discussions with DOC. Matter resolved for now
- Webpage development - expect testing in September – now managed by s 9(2)(a) – in progress
- Standing agenda development – ascertained to be inappropriate under LGOIMA - abandoned
- Finalise public attendance at meetings procedures – ongoing discussion in particular processes to close parts of meetings under LGOIMA, to get clarification from MPI legal team regarding applicable processes. s 9(2)(a) – in progress.
- Finalise KPI table for the strategic plan – some further changes to be made - will be ready for November meeting - in progress

- Fish subcommittee reported on plans for joint NAEAC/NAWAC meeting in November to have a focus on fish. Member report on visits to two salmon hatcheries where some issues were rectified by SOPs, but the overall focus was sustainability rather than welfare

O 3. NAWAC correspondence

Recent correspondence to and from NAWAC had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Recently the focus of correspondence to NAWAC has been on:

- Meat chickens
- Doggy day care
- Traps

It was noted that SPCA and MPI get a lot of similar emails to NAWAC. There was discussion on efficiencies of a shared process for responses.

O 4. Work programme update

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

- The version of the GANTT chart prepared for the Minister was circulated, poultry matters and fish placed on hold so we can progress with Rodeos and Pastoral Codes
- Discussion on availability of resources to progress faster given the workload facing NAWAC. Agree that doing the pastoral codes together brings efficiency but need to acknowledge poultry and fish are both important too.
- Discussion on MPI process for allocating resources to NAWAC priorities. Best advice from MPI was to combine pastoral codes because of the many common issues these face, but that limits on resources will curtail new code work as MPI staff also have a role in reactive work that has to be fulfilled.
- Some budget may be available to support NAWAC's work through contractors to progress other codes and also discussion whether allied organisations can contribute to accelerate the work.
- Further discussion on the GANTT chart and ways to update it – suggestion to add a star and update monthly to show where work is tracking.
- Pigs Code is yet to go to Cabinet for approval - timeframes uncertain.

O 5. MPI update and discussion

The MPI update had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Taken as read.

- Discussion on progress of Minister Robertson's enquiry on greyhound racing (a copy of NAWAC submission was forwarded to Minister Whaitiri) and the petition to ban greyhound racing presented to parliament. This remains ongoing and is up to DIA as to next steps.

- Discussion on progress of the complaint to Regulations Review Committee on commercial slaughter of crayfish – amendments have been suggested – waiting for legal opinion whether proposed change will be a minor or major amendment, which will inform next step.

O 6. Issues register

Discussion on the issues register and whether some issues might be removed.

Concerns for animals at Napier aquarium were raised, in particular the distribution of animals if it closes. Discussion whether NAWAC could write to aquarium advising concerns. MPI have discussed this with ZAA - **ACTION - provide an update on the situation.** There needs to be clarity on the value of these animals to breeding programmes and sources of funding if the facility is maintained.

MPI were questioned on current issues for them given recent emergency responses. MPI to provide information on current issues and regional responses. **ACTION s 9(2)(a) for November meeting.**

UPDATES

O 7. MPI policy update

The recent changes to the AW Policy team were by s 9(2)(a), such as departure of s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a) they are currently recruiting for staff to replace them.

Further work on the livestock export ban was discussed, including recent amendments to protect animal welfare during the journey. NAWAC asked for further details to be provided

ACTION s 9(2)(a) to provide further information to board members about recent livestock amendment.

NAWAC were given an update of the progress of the draft Pigs code of welfare proposed for public consultation. Policy and G Verkerk have met with the Minister and a Cabinet paper is being prepared. Six weeks public consultation is proposed and the target is September. NAWAC is comfortable with this so long as they meet the September deadline.

There was discussion on collation of the public consultation and reporting to NAWAC. MPI will collate and document all submissions but the time frame will depend on the volume of submissions.

Policy also updated NAWAC on the progress of the dairy housing regulations which are shortly to go for consultation.

O 8. Dairy cattle code of welfare

s 9(2)(a) from MPI Verification Services (VS) was introduced. s 9(2)(a) is a member of several code working groups. He gave a brief presentation on the work of VS and its focus on animal welfare.

- VS 250 staff
- live animal import/export
- aquaculture/poultry
- monitoring compliance with Act
- 26 million animals through red meat establishments

- 3000 animal welfare cases per year
- 95% of regulation cases identified by VS
- Covering the whole country
- Farm audits for market access
- Introducing more and more animal welfare into the programme
- Currently working on bobby calf season work
- Currently working on the issue of the cull cows

s 9(2)(a) presented her report on progress with the code review and its supporting documentation. Things are going well with the additional secretariat report. The target is now the November meeting which is a slight delay but necessary to have a full discussion with a wider group

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

G Verkerk has discussed the proposals with the Farm to Processer Animal Welfare Forum and meat industry, transport and stock buyer representatives have asked for involvement in the working group. Working group meetings will be held in the coming weeks to finalise recommendations for regulations.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

ACTION G Verkerk to follow-up on information available.

NAWAC s 9(2)(g)(i)

s 9(2)(g)(i)

O 9. Sheep & beef cattle code of welfare

The report was taken as read. Pre-consultation feedback is being documented. There are ongoing discussions with the dairy sheep industry which may need to be taken more widely as there are many different systems. There was discussion on indoor and outdoor systems as they have very different issues to be considered. It was noted that SPCA have certification standards for dairy sheep systems. The next working group will be in mid-September.

O 10. Zoo code of welfare

The report was taken as read. There was discussion about how the NAWAC subcommittee can support this work in the meantime since secretariat resources are scarce. Fortunately, s 9(2)(a) have indicated their willingness to drive the process.

ACTION: Add Zoo code to GANTT chart with an extended timeline to acknowledge it is within the work plan - s 9(2)(a)

O 11. Rodeo code of welfare

NAWAC received an update from G Verkerk of progress with the request for judicial review of the rodeo code by the High Court action initiated by s 9(2)(b)(i) and s 9(2)(b)(ii).

Before the request was initiated, NAWAC had already agreed to conduct a review based on the draft code presented by s 9(2)(a) and a rodeo code review subcommittee has begun planning with work scheduled to a tight timeline. As legal action could take some time, NAWAC agreed to continue with the review as was planned. There was discussion on the level of pre-consultation required and it was decided that since there are only limited interested parties that the subcommittee should work on the review directly and that no working group with industry representation is required.

PRESENTATIONS

O 12. Broadcasting Standards Authority

s 9(2)(a) from the s 9(2)(b)(ii) spoke about animal welfare in broadcasting standards. Main points:

- The standards are fundamentally about allowing freedom of expression but without harm
- Three main functions: complaints determination, oversight and development of broadcasting standards, education and outreach.
- Four codes.
- Standards – good taste and decency (List of 40 bad swear words)/balance (can get over time)/accuracy/privacy/fairness/children's interests/violence/law and order/discrimination and denigration/alcohol/programme information.
- 70% of complaints are about news and current affairs.

- Lots of hunting shows in New Zealand – causes widespread offence. Lots of hunters in NZ. Want to know what the nature of the programme is, who is the target audience, what is the classification.
- Showed some examples of complaints about animal-related activities – hunting/violence.

There were questions about how BSA conduct research into public agreement/disagreement with their decisions on complaints. Prosecutions of animal cruelty come primarily from videos posted on social media etc, rather than broadcasting.

O 13. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(a) from the **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** about their work with hunters. Main points:

- Manifests from AWA1999 and functions include advising Minister, other advisory service
- AWA Amendment 2015 – introduced ‘generally accepted hunting practice’ as a defence.
- While council has an overarching statement, each hunting organisation is responsible for its own code of conduct and these can be viewed online.
- **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** considering training programmes but finds regional inconsistency in practices.
- Looking to cover dog and weapon related issues - long range shots/dealing with wounded animals/wounded/injured dogs/horses.
- New technology emerging e.g. drones, night vision, thermal imaging equipment development is largely focused on increasing accuracy so generally beneficial to animal welfare.
- Development of ammunition – lead-free after concerns around lead ingestion by wildlife, but less precise. Copper projectiles have to travel faster to mushroom more effectively and can be less humane than lead, however less toxic.
- There was discussion/questions about whether/how ‘generally accepted hunting practice’ should be defined. The proposition requires some analysis of who would be the beneficiaries, and who would be charged with this if tasked to do so. The difficulties in defining ‘generally accepted hunting practice’ for prosecutions were raised.

O 14. s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(a) from **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** spoke to NAWAC by video link about animal welfare in harness racing. Main points:

- Acknowledge that now more than ever they require a social licence to operate.
- Since 2017- really increased AW provisions including traceability and life after racing.
- Microchips replaced freeze-branding on 1 Aug 2021.
- App developed for scanning horses for ID.
- Now have a dedicated employee to manage traceability of horses since 2012.
- Updated horses naming and registration - must be registered post 6 months old.
- HERO programme- rehoming and re-education, launched 2020 in Canterbury and Southland, North Island 21/22, horses have 8 weeks training, between 4/8yrs of age.
- Support casual rehoming via grants.
- Campaign launched via radio - a horse’s life does not stop post racing.
- Retired standardbreds found widely in equestrian sports and recreational riding.

- Raceday injury reporting app – used by vets on race day, shared by equine codes and with Massey University to collect data and determine trends.
- Whip and rein regulations, breeding (banned frozen embryos), prohibited substances and practices - linked to AW legislation. No striking with a whip, only tapping - infringement offence.
- MOU with SPCA and financial support to SPCA and foster homes.
- Looking to increase horse ambulance numbers up to 11 in the fleet.
- 1% of funding from TAB allocated for Animal Care.
- Harness rules of racing to change to include: an accountable person for a horse at any life stage, harness welfare compliance notices, welfare possession orders, breaches of these rules will be deemed as a serious racing offence.
- Focussing on 5 domains model.

There was discussion and questions were raised about microchip migration - have an anti-migratory component and have been used in Australia for 4 years without problem. The success of retraining to recover their natural gait was discussed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

O 15. Meeting attendance guidelines

NAWAC discussed the advice around meeting procedures that had been circulated. LGOIMA is the overriding legislation that must be followed, and it outlines the conditions wherein a meeting can be closed largely for privacy and commercial interests. Some changes were discussed, and it was agreed that virtual attendance should be possible.

ACTION: Further edit of guidelines and recirculate as a final draft - Grant Shackell

O 16. Animals in Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter

A final version of the NAWAC Guideline has been circulated. The process for its completion was discussed and pending any final changes and legal opinion the intention is for out-of-session approval. NAWAC agreed with this approach so it can be completed and forwarded to the Minister who is anticipating its arrival. There was discussion on the Minister's expectations of the document and its purpose. It was noted that she will be seeking advice once the greyhound enquiry report is released, and this will be an opportunity to discuss it with her.

O 17. Wildlife Subcommittee Guideline 09 Review

The subcommittee report and proposed process for review of Guideline 9 was discussed. Further meetings are scheduled with experts from **s 9(2)(b)(ii)** and their observations of traps and the implications for trap testing are being considered.

O 18. Rabbit code of welfare

A draft code of welfare for rabbits with an accompanying report was presented to NAWAC for consideration.

It has been sponsored by the SPCA who have consulted widely. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

When it receives a draft code, NAWAC is required to consider its suitability for recommendation.

A subcommittee of R Palmer, A Dale and P Mason were delegated to report back to NAWAC in November on its suitability for recommendation.

Acknowledgements

In closing the meeting, the chair thanked several people. She congratulated s 9(2)(a) on her new position with SPCA and noted the committee's gratefulness for her work as secretary and more recently with the review of the Pigs code.

It was also noted as finishing their terms on the committee were Karin Schutz and Grant Shackell who at the end of October 2021 will each have completed six years of service to the work of NAWAC and the welfare of animals in Aotearoa.

Meeting closed at 3:40pm

Closing karakia

E te hui

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Aroha atu, aroha mai

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