



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## General Meeting

17 May 2017  
09:30 am – 3:50 pm

Cable Car Room  
Meetings on The Terrace  
152 The Terrace  
Wellington

## MINUTES

**Committee members:** Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Ingrid Collins, Graeme Doole, Penny Fisher, Katie Milne, Karin Schütz, Grant Shackell, Alan Sharr, Iain Torrance, Julie Wagner.

**In attendance:** 9(2)(a)

**Apologies:** Frances Russell. G Verkerk explained that F Russell has decided to resign from the Committee and will send a letter to the Minister.

**Welcome:** 9(2)(a), seconded to the animal welfare science team.

**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 / K Milne):

*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   | 9(2)(a) / All       |
| C 4.  | 10:15 Animal welfare regulations update   | 9(2)(a)             |
| C 5.  | 10:45 Legal update  | 9(2)(a)             |
| C 6.  | 11:15 <i>Safeguarding</i> update and new app  | 9(2)(a)             |
| C 7.  | Animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter (new chair; thoroughbred horses; greyhounds) | P Fisher / 9(2)(a)  |
| C 8.  | Rodeos update   | G Verkerk / 9(2)(a) |
| C 9.  | Layer hens, broiler breeders and poultry regulations  | G Verkerk / 9(2)(a) |
| C 10. | Rabbit calicivirus release application  | 9(2)(a)             |
| C 11. | Animal welfare issues register and discussion   | G Verkerk / All     |
| C 12. | MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI                                      | 9(2)(a)             |

**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:**

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
C 1.	Confirmation of previous minutes	To protect the privacy of natural persons.	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).

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
C 2.	Status of actions arising from previous meetings	As above.	As above.
C 3.	Work programme update	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	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.
C 4.	Animal welfare regulations update	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees	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.
C 5.	Legal update	As above.	As above.
C 6.	Safeguarding update and new app	As above.	As above.
C 7.	Animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter (new chair; thoroughbred horses; greyhounds)	As above.	As above.
C 8.	Rodeos update	As above.	As above.
C 9.	Layer hens and broiler breeders	As above.	As above.
C 10.	Rabbit calicivirus release application	As above.	As above.
C 11.	Animal welfare issues register and discussion	As above.	As above.
C 12.	MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI	To protect the privacy of natural persons.	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 also move that:

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 (G Verkerk / I Torrance):*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 22 February 2017 (20/17) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments:*

- *Fix spelling of the address: Alexandra road rather than Alexandria*
- *On page 8, amend "ensuring the Minister attends NAWAC meetings more regularly." to "ensuring the Minister attends NAWAC meetings."*

*The motion was put: carried.*

## C 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the list of actions (NAWAC 21/17). For items not discussed later in the meeting, the following updates were provided:

- Action one, to explore the idea of a new welfare forum, was removed from the action list. Since NAWAC and NAEAC don't have budget and 9(2)(a) (MPI) is working on the operating model for the animal welfare system, this was considered to be a matter for MPI. In the meantime, the sentience workshop is being planned and this could be considered as a prototype for future animal welfare forums.
- Action three, to draft the annual report, is waiting on a couple of outstanding expense claims but is otherwise complete.
- Action four, to engage with the Canterbury University group, is ongoing. They have received some information under the Official Information Act process but otherwise there is no other news.
- Action five, to send the glueboard report and letter to the Minister, is complete.
- Action seven, to invite the Minister to a meeting, is ongoing. G Verkerk will meet with him soon and he is on the invitation list for the sentience workshop, but it was agreed that the visit should be as part of a NAWAC meeting. It was noted that NAEAC went to his office recently.
- Action eight, to set up the Shared Workspace Service, is in progress. The workspace is set up but members have not been invited yet. 9(2)(a) suggested testing it by using it for the next meetings' papers, and then looking at how members felt about the experience and whether it is suitable for subcommittee work.
- Action nine, to ensure A&P shows are aware of their rodeo obligations, is still pending.
- Action eleven, to ensure circulation of compliance statistics, is complete. Statistics have been shared for 2016. However, an ongoing solution needs to be found, as the compliance team has moved away from the previous format of quarterly reports. It was agreed that compliance should come to NAWAC meetings semi-regularly, perhaps twice a year. NAWAC members gave feedback that they appreciate the reporting but also like to hear from the compliance manager to get a feel for what the issues are; there was also interest in getting information in a format that can be shared with farmers as well.

*Action: Invite compliance to August meeting for a presentation on current compliance issues and to discuss information sharing.*

- Action thirteen, to send updated e-invites, is complete.
- Action fifteen, to respond to the rodeo emails from members of the public, is complete.

### C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (NAWAC 24/17) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme items not specified on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Codes review – the subcommittee had a meeting on 19 April. It was agreed that the subcommittee will work to put together two surveys: one to reach stakeholder groups and one to reach the general public. It will include questions such as: do you know about codes of welfare, how do you find them, how do you use them, etc. The subcommittee is also considering preferred access (print vs. online) and updating the review schedule. It was noted that some codes need reviewing now. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 July.
- Regulations – 9(2)(a) explained that some intermediate decisions need to be made about changes to codes as regulations come out, i.e. within the next few months and before the codes review subcommittee will make their recommendations. The changes will include mandated changes to minimum standards made by the regulations or references to regulations next to the minimum standards (see dairy cattle/transport/commercial slaughter code amendments for the calf regulations for examples).
- Dairy housing – 9(2)(a) is making final changes to the code which include changes recommended by the regulations review committee. A stakeholder meeting is planned within the next two months, and then a final draft to all of NAWAC in August. G Verkerk noted changes to the subcommittee: J Wagner will step down due to workload, and K Schütz has agreed to join.
- Temporary housing – the re-recommendation will be complete within a few weeks. The changes suggested by the regulations review committee have been made and the code is with MPI legal for final checks. The subcommittee is committed to getting this done quickly, and flagged to the Minister in the withdrawal letter that this is important.
- Exhibition, entertainment and encounter – 9(2)(a) is developing the opinion piece with 9(2)(a). A draft will be brought to the meeting in August.
- Implementation of standards – The subcommittee requested direction on the scope of the work. The subcommittee was prioritising body condition score and euthanasia (as shelter is on MPI's operational research programme already), but cannot do both at the same time. The Committee discussed the relative merits of doing each programme first. It was suggested that euthanasia had a clearer scope, and it would be useful to discuss on-farm killing while transport regulations are being released, since new transport regulations could result in more killing on farm. It was also noted however that industry has had a big focus on body condition score, so the timing is right for them to join the discussion. The policy team will not progress body condition regulations yet, so it will be useful to have NAWAC look at the issue. Euthanasia and on-farm killing could be put off until the impact of the regulations is better known. The subcommittee agreed to consider these points and report to the next NAWAC meeting.

*Action: Implementation subcommittee to agree on one topic to tackle first; take a proposal to NAWAC.*

### C 4. Animal welfare regulations update

9(2)(a) provided an update on the regulations process.

MPI originally consulted on 91 regulations, and have since released young calf and live export regulations. This left MPI with 77 regulation proposals, which have been prioritised due to workload. In



consultation with stakeholders and NAWAC, MPI is progressing a group of proposals with the greatest animal welfare benefit.

MPI is progressing regulations related to stock transport, some related husbandry procedures (e.g. disbudding and dehorning); proposals related to companion animals; and proposals related to pig and chicken farming.

Dew claw and tail docking regulations have proven particularly controversial.

In terms of feedback from stakeholders, much of it was expected; some groups consider that the regulations do not go far enough, and others that they are too onerous. Industry was sometimes quite divided, e.g. for pain relief for disbudding. Some strongly disagree and others consider it to be a requirement for access and opportunities in terms of trade. MPI met with veterinary sector recently to discuss access to pain relief, cost to farmers etc.

Some proposals relating to layer hens have been put on hold. With NAWAC's agreement, MPI would like to re-evaluate particular minimum standards in the two relevant codes around broiler hens and layer hens.

Next steps for MPI is to work with Ministry of Justice about penalties and defences. There will also be more conversations with the transport forum, who dislike the idea of being liable for loading stock. There is a possibility for an offense for injuries during transport.

MPI will be approaching NAWAC for formal consultation on 7 June. There will be a two week turnaround. A subcommittee meeting is scheduled and they will keep all of NAWAC up to date. The tight turnaround is due to the need to get the cabinet paper in before the election period.

Questions were welcomed.

There was a question about layer hen regulations – which ones specifically are being pushed back? It was explained that MPI is looking especially at things like stocking densities in free-range farms. There is a need to work cross-sector with both SPCA and EPF. The current timeline is that this work will begin in 2018.

The cost of pain relief was discussed. It was noted that the source affects costs a lot – can vary across veterinary clinics. It was noted that in MPI's meeting with vets, they agreed that this should not happen; but price difference may be because some vets sell the medicine alone, while some sell the medicine and the professional service alongside. It was also noted that resistance to the idea of pain relief is small - the pushback is mostly about cost and the idea that vets might 'screw me over'. If this can be mitigated then farmers are generally supportive. MPI has been very clear with vets that they are pivotal in implementing the proposed pain relief requirements.

## C 5. Legal update

9(2)(a), Senior Solicitor at MPI, introduced herself to NAWAC.

An overview of the Animal Welfare Act and NAWAC's role was presented. Key points:

- NAWAC is a statutory body established by the Animal Welfare Act, and its functions are defined in the Act.
- The key role is as an advisory body that is separate to MPI, and in particular, to make recommendations via codes of welfare.

- Members are appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries, not MPI. The expertise in the Committee is prescribed in the Act.
- NAWAC is required to consult with stakeholders when drafting codes of welfare, and is subject to the Official Information Act. Codes of welfare are subject to the Regulations Review Committee.
- NAWAC is not an advisory body to industry and should not interpret its minimum standards to industry.
- It is important to carefully record NAWAC's decision-making and rationales. The Regulations Review Committee recently requested that more information be put in code reports. What is obvious to NAWAC is not to others. Regulations Review Committee is not an expert committee – they only check process.
- Questions were welcomed and there was a discussion on the consideration of economic considerations, particularly where the Minister requests this. It was noted that economic and practical concerns are explicitly allowed for in the Animal Welfare Act, though should not come above animal welfare considerations, and that one of the positions of expertise on NAWAC is an economist.

Action: Circulate 9(2)(a) PowerPoint to NAWAC

#### C 6. Safeguarding update and new app

9(2)(a) had circulated a general Safeguarding update in NAWAC 32/17 and took it as read.

The new 'Fit for Transport' MPI app was demonstrated for the Committee and feedback was welcomed. Several members preferred photos in the app rather than stylised diagrams. Further feedback was welcomed by email at any stage once the app is available for download on all systems.

9(2)(a) also summarised the information that had been gathered from the survey of lifestyle farmers. The first survey was with about 70 vets who deal with lifestyle block owners. Main feedback was that there are gaps in knowledge, particularly in regards to animal welfare standards. In particular there can be issues with nutrition and body condition (including overweight animals) and general husbandry e.g. not shearing sheep often enough.

They suggested new ways to educate and engage, such as a new code; more material on basic husbandry; and more MPI monitoring. 9(2)(a) noted that there is already a website with a lot of good information aimed directly at lifestylers (lifestyleblock.co.nz), and other resources like the Farmlands lifestyle guide.

#### C 7. Animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter

9(2)(a) gave an update from recent Greyhound Welfare Committee meetings. A memo has also been circulated (NAWAC 26/17).

The main points were that 9(2)(a) has been appointed as the head of welfare, that the Independent Enquiry is underway, and that there are decisions underway in regards to track construction and euthanasia. The chair, 9(2)(a), has also proposed that a ball should be used on the tracks instead of a furry lure – this would hopefully decrease the association with dogs chasing prey.

There has also been discussion around dead baiting (using a dead animal to train greyhounds). NAWAC discussed socialisation of greyhounds and in particular that NAWAC's comments on the greyhound industry code raised that socialisation is missing as a topic. On the other hand, there are no direct welfare issues arising from feeding dead animals to other animals.

The Greyhound Welfare Committee has requested that NAWAC consider adding minimum standards to the dog code that dogs must not be trained with live or dead animals, and that dogs should not be used to kill another animal. NAWAC discussed this and raised that this may impact people who use dogs for hunting vermin (or whose dogs hunt animals such as rabbits on their own), as well as hunters who use dogs for pig hunting.

It was noted that greyhound coursing could be covered by the opinion piece.

NAWAC also requested that GRNZ be reminded that the Committee wishes to see more statistics in regards to greyhounds.

**9(2)(a)** agreed to take all feedback to the next Greyhound Welfare Committee.

NAWAC noted that the Greyhound Protection League has submitted another petition to Parliament for consideration.

**9(2)(a)** then introduced the thoroughbred racing letter (NAWAC 25/17). The secretariat has been approached by **9(2)(a)**, manager at New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing. They request NAWAC feedback on their initial report including a set of recommendations regarding the welfare of thoroughbreds. **9(2)(a)** have reviewed the document from MPI, but NAWAC's input is also requested by the beginning of June. It was suggested and agreed that the exhibition, entertainment and encounter subcommittee works on this.

Finally, the composition of the subcommittee was discussed. The subcommittee is losing two members (P Fisher and F Russell). G Verkerk, G Doole and I Collins volunteered to join. A chair is also required; the subcommittee was requested to decide on this. Ongoing work includes a discussion around the principles that will be included in the opinion piece.

#### **C 8. Rodeos update**

**9(2)(a)** and G Verkerk gave an update on a recent meeting with the Anti-Rodeo Coalition and ongoing work with the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association (NZRCA).

At the last general meeting, it was agreed to write back to NZRCA around some interpretations of the code. It was also proposed that NAWAC asks for more statistics from NZRCA in order to see evidence of animal welfare progress. The Committee suggested that there should be a focus on a few key areas, particularly in regards to calf events, to avoid a jumble of data that is difficult to tie to welfare outcomes. This approach was supported by the Committee and it was agreed that a letter would be drafted to send to NZRCA to request statistics.

*Action: **9(2)(a)** and G Verkerk to send letter to NZRCA asking for statistics.*

The meeting with Anti-Rodeo Action was also discussed. It was noted that the members of the group tended to focus on small details, e.g. in sending hours of video footage to MPI; there was an attempt to get them to see a bigger picture. Work on the exhibition, entertainment and encounter work was discussed as well as the sentience workshop, as a way to invite them to feedback into higher deliberation processes as well.

#### **C 9. Layer hens, broiler breeders and poultry regulations**

G Verkerk opened with the decision to pull back on some of the poultry related regulations. In particular, the regulation related to free range allowance has been put on hold. This has become a sticking point



with industry who believe the space allowance in the codes of welfare is too large. Another thing that has become clear, and the NAWAC members who recently visited egg farms may have seen, is that farmers are sometimes still learning how to use the range, they are still working on providing cover, and they still need to work on getting the birds outside more consistently.

Regulating space allowance alone may affect birds (as fewer farmers may wish to move to free range); NAWAC may be better to review free range standards in general, including provision of cover or enrichment in the range, and enable or encourage the industry to innovate. NAWAC also discussed the handling of end-of-lay birds, which are not in scope of regulations at this time, but may need to be considered.

The regulations subcommittee and MPI will need to define exactly which regulations and points they wish to review, and then they will come back to the layer hen subcommittee to review the science (in 2018), and will look to re-recommend regulations by 2019.

Another thing the layer hen subcommittee will need to consider is broiler breeders. In that case it was agreed to rename the subcommittee to the poultry subcommittee. As circulated in NAWAC 28/17, Cobb-Vantress, Inc. has received approval from the Overseas Investment Office to acquire land to build a grandparent breeding facility. NAWAC will need to find the old draft of the broiler breeder code and establish how much work there might be to bring it up to standard. Timeline will depend on how long the facility takes to build, but it would be best to have a code ready by the time the facility is opened.

The subcommittee was asked to bring an idea of scope and timeline for either the August or November meeting.

*Action: Poultry subcommittee to review and scope work for the broiler breeder code and present this to NAWAC for August or November meeting.*

#### **C 10. Rabbit calicivirus release application**

A memo in regards to RHDV1 virus had been circulated prior to the meeting (NAWAC 29/17) and was taken as read. 9(2)(a) summarised the memo and invited questions or discussion.

P Fisher confirmed that the virus had been successfully released in Australia and while it was still early, the initial results were successful in terms of pest control.

Members expressed concern at the animal welfare impact. The impact of RHDV1 compared to other poisons (e.g. pindone, 1080) was discussed - RHDV1 compares well.

Demand for such a virus was questioned, but Committee members confirmed that rabbits are still a significant pest animal.

Vaccination availability was discussed. MPI will consider this as part of the application.

#### **C 11. Animal welfare issues register and discussion**

The issues register had been circulated as NAWAC 30/17.

G Verkerk shared further information on the issue of broken shoulders in dairy cattle. An epidemiological study is due to be published in NZ Veterinary Journal. It concludes that there is something happening, at quite a low level, but there are still information gaps. There does not seem to be an appetite to investigate much further. G Verkerk has also spoken to vets who report that they see it regularly but were not involved in the survey – in some areas there is quite serious concern. Anecdotally, at times, 10% of a group can be affected. It was suggested that NAWAC pushes industry to investigate further.

J Wagner also raised discussions with vets about an increase in metabolic disease, including a recent paper done at Lincoln University on subclinical ketosis which is related to low calcium and may be a possible link. It could also link into selective breeding and pushing the animal genetically, as well as soil runoff and nutrient issues – it may be a holistic problem involving many different systems.

*Action – G Verkerk to raise the issue of broken shoulders/metabolic disease with DairyNZ; confirm what they know and what they are planning on doing about the issue*

The issue of cattle inductions was also raised. DairyNZ have confirmed that the process to apply for approval to do inductions is working as expected.

The New Zealand Animal Police item was queried. I Torrance noted that new animal charities are created all the time. In terms of New Zealand Animal Police, there is no evidence that they are actively caring for animals at this stage – they are still fundraising.

#### **C 12. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI**

There were no comments on the MPI update (NAWAC 32/17).

## PART TWO (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

### STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 1. 9(2)(a) : PhD project on animal transport

9(2)(a) was invited to speak about his PhD work on animal transport. Key points:

- While working at a Timaru abattoir, had noticed pigs could arrive dead or stressed, even when it was known that the animals were leaving the farm in good health. 9(2)(a) began a survey to establish what was happening.
- 85% of pig deaths occurred in the bottom front section of the truck. This section is first to be loaded and sits next to the truck engine, and a literature review suggested that heat stress was a likely cause of death.
- The next stage was temperature and camera logging in different sections of the truck.
- Pigs ideal to study transport conditions – and are particularly susceptible to heat stress - because they don't sweat.
- Air flows over a truck in such a way so that the front bottom pen is the last to get fresh air. The slits on the side let air out, they don't let air in.
- Literature suggests that at least 20% of the side of transport trucks should be open.
- Conditions heat up significantly when the truck stops moving. Drivers have mandated breaks where they must stop the truck. It is important that they seek shade when parking.
- Possible changes to improve the situation include forced ventilation such as fans on the lower deck, and reduced stocking density in the front of the truck. The front wall of the truck that is adjacent to the engine should be insulated.
- Mortality not correlated directly with journey length – more to do with temperature and length of breaks.

O 2. 9(2)(a) : Transport and crate design

9(2)(a) (Manager Verification Services) was introduced and invited to give a presentation. Highlights:

- Discussed background of the transport minimum standards and showed a video on animal transport, which also emphasised temperature and ventilation.
- Had some photos of conditions such as backrub, and showed different truck designs from around the world.
- 9(2)(a) requested that NAWAC look into minimum standards or regulations that would support better crate design.

O 3. Sentience workshop update

9(2)(a) handed out a document with an outline for the sentience workshop.

It has been agreed that there will be a one day workshop on 15 November hosted jointly by NAWAC and NAEAC. The venue is Westpac Stadium, large enough for 200 seated and break out rooms.

Before the workshop, a survey will be sent to try and gather participants' view on what sentence is. In the morning, this will be discussed by the opening speaker and then various speakers will define sentence for the audience.

There is a need to confirm facilitator(s). For such a large group, the facilitator will need specialised skills. The subcommittee may ask NAWAC/NAEAC members to facilitate break-out groups, and can organise some training for those people.

Invitees and how the groups will be mixed was discussed – all attendees will be assigned to a group for breakout sessions, but it was still to be decided whether different viewpoints (e.g. animal rights vs. industry) would be mixed together or kept separately.

G Verkerk and G Shackell are due to meet with the Minister and will tell him about the sentence workshop to ensure he is aware of and approves the idea.

#### **O 4. NAWAC OIAs and transparency ideas**

G Verkerk asked for the Committee's thoughts on publishing the full minutes online.

It was questioned whether information given from OIA's has to go online, or whether this was a choice? It was clarified that this is a choice, but MPI's view is that once information is released it is in theory in the public domain and at that stage it may as well be published if it is anticipated that others will also ask for it.

It was noted that in the past, putting up more information has stimulated more OIA requests rather than reducing them. In this case, putting up the minutes may lead to requests for all meeting papers.

It was suggested that NAWAC either needs to release everything, or leave things as they are. Putting up some documents but not others would only produce more interest.

It was agreed that NAWAC would continue to release meeting summaries but not full meeting minutes.

#### **OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **O 5. *Welfare Pulse* article request**

Ideas for *Welfare Pulse* articles were welcomed.

- There are a few consultative things coming out – in particular the codes review and the opinion piece. Both of these are due to proactive work that NAWAC is undertaking. A Sharr and K Schütz agreed to publish an article (either separately on each work programme, or together on general proactive work).

##### **O 6. NAWAC correspondence**

There have been a few pieces of feedback on the selective breeding paper, and the subcommittee is expecting a letter from the Livestock Improvement Company.

There has been a letter from a concerned member of the public on 1080 and deer repellent. The wildlife subcommittee, once the new member is added, will continue to correspond with him. P Fisher had some ideas on how to progress improvement of deer repellent addition in 1080.

There has been another letter from 9(2)(a) (EPF/PIANZ) requesting that NAWAC defines free range.

## **O 7. Dates for a pig farm visit (Canterbury)**

G Verkerk recently met with NZPork in Christchurch, and they extended an invitation for NAWAC members to visit pig farms in June or July. 9(2)(a) to contact those interested and organise transport to visit these farms.

## **O 8. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences**

P Fisher – attended the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference. A bit of interest in RHDV1, and there was discussion around the Predator Free 2050 initiative. New high-tech ideas were presented such as genetic modification strategies.

J Wagner – attended the AgCarm meeting where there was also some discussion about genetic engineering, but from the perspective of it not being welcome in New Zealand.

I Torrance – met with Queensland SPCA. Noted that since Australia has no equivalent to NAWAC, everything is very state-based. For example in Queensland, anything over 11 animals, irrespective of what they are, is run by their MPI, and even then the SPCA only runs in metro areas. Also visited Australia Zoo and Corumbin sanctuary.

G Doole – working with DairyNZ on a number of projects, e.g. the RIO process on the principles of design thinking and creating a shared vision of what dairy might look like in 20 years. Amazing to hear feedback from people who feel under attack from media, and how this exercise has helped.

K Milne – working with Federated Farmers on things like labelling, water quality and runoff perceptions. Dealing with some pushback about building raised platforms for calves. Attended a DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb conference in Australia. They see better outcomes when including farmers early and often in decisions.

G Shackell – no conferences but has continued to try and visit places related to animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter. Attended Waikuiti rodeo, and at the recent ABWCC meeting the members received a tour of the zoo explaining philosophy of displaying animals. Also visited Sheep World in Whangarei, which is a type of petting zoo aimed at tourists. Last weekend went to a penguin colony in Otago, where all viewing areas are in tunnels.

G Verkerk – covered most activity already in the meeting. Trying to meet all heads of industries as the new NAWAC chair.

I Collins announced her resignation at the end of the year; last meeting will be in November.

G Verkerk farewelled P Fisher who has resigned from the Committee. She was thanked for her significant contribution, particularly in the wild animal and pest management work as well as the entertainment and greyhound work.

With no further items to discuss, G Verkerk closed the meeting at 3:50pm.