



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

Whaitua o rēhia: Microsoft Teams

Rā: 17th May 2022

Tāima: 09:00 – 16:00

MENETI | MINUTES

Komiti / Committee: Gwyneth Verkerk (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Grant McCullough, Nick Poutu, Ingrid Visser, Ruth Palmer, Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson, Mhairi Sutherland, Natalie Waran

Nuinga / Attendees: s9(2)(a)

Matangaro / Apologies:

Any Other Business (Open to the Public):

Any Other Business (Public Excluded):

G Verkerk opened the meeting with a karakia, I Visser and s9(2)(a) advised the Chair they may have to step out of the meeting for brief periods.

s9(2)(a), was introduced to the committee as a public attendee and NAWAC members introduced themselves.

NAWAC were informed that several agenda items will be discussed in closed session.

O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes from the 15 February 2022 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 15 February 2022 are adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: (G Verkerk / A Dale).

The motion was put: carried.

O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed and updated the Action List. For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Item on Napier Aquarium to be removed – matter resolved.
- Item on producing a response to Minister O'Connor on bees to be removed. A meeting will be arranged with NAWAC and Minister O'Connor and Minister Whaitiri for a verbal update after the August insect sentence seminar.

Action: s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) to provide NAWAC with a close out report on the closure of Napier Aquarium.

O 3. NAWAC correspondence

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2)(a) noted there has since been additional form submission emails received from the SAFE campaign to ban colony cages.

O 4. Strengthening Codes work programme update

s9(2)(a) updated the committee and confirmed the project is progressing within the agreed timeframes, with both the codes of welfare for pigs and dairy cattle currently out for public consultation. Several of the delivery dates for the Strengthening Codes Programme have been amended to factor in the election period.

G Verkerk advised that the rabbit code of welfare continues to be progressed by the subcommittee and the draft code and evaluation report will be finalised in due course. These documents may be presented at the August 2022 meeting.

O 5. MPI update and discussion

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2)(a) updated NAWAC on MPI staff changes and resourcing, with s9(2)(a) retiring and s9(2)(a) permanently appointed as Senior Adviser on the Animal Welfare Science Team. s9(2)(a) is currently leading the Deer Code of Welfare Review. s9(2)(a) will remain as the Science Team Manager until August 2022.

NAWAC discussed the compliance work MPI are undertaking in the Chatham Islands. Various options are being discussed regarding inter-island transport and caring for stock onboard these vessels.

Action: MPI to provide NAWAC with an update on the Chatham Island compliance work and systems to care for sick stock on board vessels.

NAWAC asked about the post-event animal welfare emergency management reports and s9(2)(a) informed the committee that the regional plans have been signed off by MPI Design and will be available online in a week, along with the associated reports.

Policy Update:

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The amendment to the Animal Welfare Act banning livestock exports (cattle, goats, sheep and deer) passed its 2nd hearing in the house. The next stage will be the committee of the whole house and will take place once Minister O Connor returns. The amendment is expected to come into effect on 30th April 2023.

Pig code:

MPI and NAWAC are currently undertaking joint consultation on the pig code of welfare. Face to face consultation sessions are scheduled with NZ Pork and farmers on 24th and 27th May and advocacy groups on 9th June.

Rodeo Judicial Review:

The judicial review for rodeo has a confirmed two-day hearing for 11th and 12th July 2022.

Proposed Regulations:

Minister Whitiri has been provided with advice and options to address concerns in relation to the two proposed regulations (SPCA – prolonged dog tethering and NZVA – tooth scaling by vet nurses)

Code Amendments:

Minister Whitiri approved the amendment to the Commercial Slaughter code, which is now in effect.

Compliance Report:

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2)(a) noted that if NAWAC would like Compliance to attend and speak to the report it can be arranged.

Action: MPI to ask if the compliance report can be shared with s9(2)(a).

The committee adjourned the meeting for a short break at 9.58am.

O 6. Issues register

NAWAC resumed the meeting at 10:05am.

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read

NAWAC requested the following items to be added to the issues register:

- UK Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, as it nears its one-year anniversary with only 3 items completed to date.
- Emerging technologies
- On Farm use of new drug therapies

NAWAC requested brief introductions and updates on international issues, and it was agreed that code leads can provide updates on specific themes.

Action: s9(2)(a) *to update the Zebra Fish item to be assigned to N Waran.*

O 9. Updated Delivery Timelines

NAWAC reviewed the decision register and change requests to the delivery of the strengthening codes programme, with several change requests requiring NAWACs approval. Several code milestones have been expedited to consider the election period in Q3-Q4 of 2023 and to allow for stakeholders to be consulted during appropriate times of the farming calendar.

NAWAC agreed the public consultation timeframe for the sheep and beef code should be 8 weeks.

Moved: (G Verkerk / P Mason).

That the pending strengthening codes programme decision register is accepted and those pending are updated to approved.

The motion was put: carried.

O 10. Code Prioritisation

NAWAC discussed confirming the code prioritisation plan and which code review should be initiated after tranche one of the Strengthening Codes Programme. Previously, the committee voted, and the quorum decided the commercial slaughter and transport codes should be expedited.

The rabbit code is expected to be presented at the August 2022 meeting and the codes for dogs and cats may be ready for presentation at the May 2023 meeting. Discussion took place on how this aligns with NAWACs priority framework. Due to the expedited delivery timeframes for the pastoral codes, NAWAC agreed it would be preferable to have more industry involvement before consultation.

The committee noted that two codes have been subject to judicial reviews, which has impacted the workload and that NAWAC would benefit if it could be more proactive and less reactive.

R Palmer noted NAWACs work programme aside of the Strengthening Codes Programme but acknowledged that codes submitted by stakeholders should not be put on hold.

NAWAC discussed the issue of committee members availability potentially causing an imbalance in decision making.

The committee discussed which code should be prioritised next, codes suggested include the development of a farmed fish code, the transport code and companion animals. The committee concluded that the poultry codes would be the next code to be reviewed.

Moved: (G Verkerk / A Dale).

Proposed master plan approved / Poultry code to be next priority and then commercial slaughter and transport.

The motion was put: carried.

NAWAC noted both the pig and dairy codes will require further work after public consultation, and another code review should not be started until this has been completed.

Action: G Verkerk to discuss this with s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) .

s9(2)(a) reminded NAWAC that subcommittee members can be co-opted and that planning and pre-engagement can occur before a full code review is underway. The committee can reprioritise their work programme but cannot have an additional code incorporated. NAWAC will consider whether they begin developing a farmed fish code or review the supply chain codes.

P Mason requested "members reports" be added as a standing agenda item.

Action: s9(2)(a) to include "Members Reports" as a standing agenda item.

O 14. Poultry Workstream

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

NAWAC were asked to provide nominations for a new poultry subcommittee and Julie Wagner (previous NAWAC member) was suggested based on her industry experience, she has also previously expressed willingness to work on this.

Moved: (G Verkerk / A Dale).

That J Wagner to be co-opted as a member of the poultry subcommittee.

The motion was put: carried.

Action: G Verkerk to contact Julie Wagner to ask if she will join the poultry subcommittee.

Following discussion, the subcommittee will be comprised of P Mason, A Dale and R Palmer.

G Verkerk will act as Chair of this subcommittee until she retires from NAWAC and noted the subcommittee chair must also be a NAWAC member.

Action: s9(2)(a) to develop a ToR for the poultry working group and subcommittee to review at their first meeting.

O 12. Greyhound Racing (verbal update)

G Verkerk provided a verbal update to the committee that Minister Robertson has implemented a deadline for the greyhound industry to address identified issues. The 3Es subcommittee have reviewed several reports received from the Racing Integrity Board and Greyhound Racing New Zealand and are currently preparing a letter for Minister Whaitiri advising NAWAC's opinion of the progress made. NAWAC are pleased some progression is being made but acknowledge the number of issues to be addressed in a short timeframe. Once completed, this letter will be shared with the wider committee.

G Verkerk is now the NAWAC observer at the GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee meetings, this committee meets 6 weekly to work through the identified issues.

Action: N Waran to introduce Madeline Campbell (Chair of the Animal Ethics Committee UK and the UK Greyhound Animal Welfare Commission) to the 3Es subcommittee.

O 16. 2021 Annual Report

G Verkerk provided the verbal update that this document will be circulated, and subcommittee chairs will be contacted to provide updates on their subcommittee's activities for inclusion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am for a short break.

PART TWO (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

There being no further introductory items of business to discuss, it was moved (G Verkerk / S Faulkner):

A: That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

C 1. Sheep and Beef Code

C 2 Rodeo Code

C 3. Deer Code

C 4. NAWAC Wider Work Programme (KPIs)

C 5. Effective Communication Presentation / NAWAC Website

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.	Sheep and Beef Code	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 2.	Rodeo Code	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.

<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 3.	<i>Deer Code</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>
C 4.	<i>NAWAC Wider Work Programme (KPIs)</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>
C 5.	<i>Effective Communication Presentation / NAWAC Website</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>

B: I also move that s9(2)(a)

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

The motion was put: carried.

C 1. Effective Communication / NAWAC Website

The committee meeting recommenced at 11:31am and were joined by s9(2)(a), who presented communication advice to NAWAC.

The committee discussed points raised in the presentation:

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

- s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(i)

Suggestions made to the committee include:

- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Following discussion, a NAWAC comms subcommittee was stood up and will comprise of s9(2)(a) and M Sutherland. s9(2)(g)(i)

O 10. Website Content and Management

This agenda item was addressed under C1.

C 2. Sheep and Beef Code

The Code and associated papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(a) s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(a) reminded NAWAC that advocacy groups are not directly affected by the code and the Act requires consultation with impacted stakeholders.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Moved: (G Verkerk / A Dale)

That the sheep and beef subcommittee will continue reviewing the mentioned areas and engage with the relevant stakeholders and clarify any regulations relating to s9(2)(g).

The motion was put: carried

The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break at 1:11pm and S Faulkner gave her apologies as she will not be attending the rest of meeting.

C 3. Rodeo Code.

The meeting resumed at 1.32 pm and the committee were joined by s9(2)(a) . The Rodeo Code and associated papers were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. M Henderson provided NAWAC with background to the code review process for the rodeo code and confirmed that the documents which had been submitted were not final as it is subject to the results of the judicial review.

The draft review documents have been presented for NAWAC to consider the subcommittee's recommendations. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

The court is aware that the code review has been progressed.

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

N Waran joined the rodeo subcommittee.

C 4. Deer Code

A memorandum was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(a) noted that the subcommittee had identified three topics for further NAWAC discussion being s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Action: C Johnson to send s9(2)(a) literature collated on

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

C 5. NAWAC Wider Work Programme (KPIs)

s9(2)(g)(i)

The committee agreed that there should be two types of KPIs:

- s9(2)(g)(i)
- s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

G Verkerk, R Palmer and P Mason will continue to work on this.

OTHER BUSINESS

Members Reports:

- G Verkerk has met with the Equine Health Association and will be attending the annual Thoroughbred Welfare Forum in two weeks, joined by Helen Beattie and Mike Clements and presenting on "What is a horse's good life".
- A Dale has attended meeting with Europe and UK on multiple topics; better chicken commitment, Eurogroup on trade issues, internal and external greyhound welfare meetings. A Dale has also joined the Otago University Animal Ethics Committee.
- G McCullough noted the restructure at NZVA and recently attended the annual meeting for English speaking vet associations (internationally), where extreme conformation was discussed and the approach of regulating breeders instead of the breed was agreed.
- N Waran recently recorded a talk on "the brighter side of life", which focused on the positive aspects of farm animals for OIE and is working through the development of the Te Pukenga Kaupapa maori framework for their code of ethical conduct.
- s9(2)(g)(i)
- I Visser noted several papers which she has recently submitted that focus on the welfare of urban leopard seals and informed NAWAC she is currently working to coordinate transport to relocate animals from a Ukrainian Dolphinarium. She recently attended a workshop on out of habitat pinnipeds.
- M Sutherland informed the committee that Beef and Lamb NZ have funded a project to prioritise animal welfare and the associated survey will be circulated with NAWAC. This project may result in the development of an animal welfare strategy.
- N Poutu informed NAWAC that DoC are s9(2)(g)(i). The trap testing programme for 2050 Pest Free has received funding and are commercially logging available traps, many trap manufacturers have funded these tests themselves and as a result, the list of untested traps is not as large as once anticipated.

G Verkerk closed the meeting with a closing karakia at 4.01pm