



**National Animal**

**Committee**

**Welfare Advisory**

## **General Meeting**

**18 February 2020  
09:30 am – 4:30 pm**

**Room 9.03, Charles Fergusson Building,  
Wellington**

## **MINUTES**

**Committee members:** Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Arnja Dale, Ruth Palmer, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Ingrid Visser, Julie Wagner

**In attendance:** <sup>9 (2)(a)</sup>

**Apologies:** Katie Milne

**Welcome:**

**Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public):**

**Any Other Business Part Two (Public Excluded):**

## PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

### GENERAL

#### O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

*Moved (G Shackell / R Palmer)*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 13 November 2019 (01/20) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with the following amendments:*

- *Cetaceans: Amend action. MPI requested to provide policy advice as the first step.*
- *Item O6 (MPI Update):* s 9(2)(b)(ii)

*The motion was put: carried.*

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

The committee reviewed the list of actions (02/20). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, regarding amending Guideline 08, is on hold until the court case brought by SAFE and the New Zealand Animal Law Association is closed.
- Action 2, regarding NAWAC agendas being posted online, is in progress. A statement has been posted asking for expressions of interest in attending emails. Another idea is targeting people for short presentations (5 mins) e.g. for poultry code discussion. There was doubt over whether people will notice the expression of interest statement and suggestion of social media. A joint comment from NAWAC and NAEAC chairs, to be posted in places such as *Welfare Pulse*, was suggested.

*Action: G Shackell and G Verkerk to publish joint statement on committee openness and attending committee meetings.*

- Action 3, regarding G Verkerk talking to stakeholders regarding transparency, is ongoing.
- Action 4, regarding contacting NZVA about animal sentience, is pending. Recent social media posts by NZVA addressing animal sentience were noted.
- Action 6, regarding submissions on consultations by Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines team at MPI, is partially complete. The brodifacoum submission has been made and G Verkerk is working with s 9(2)(a) on inhibitors (compounds that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the rumen of cattle). NAWAC interested in research on this in New Zealand and overseas.
- Action 7, regarding EuroFAWC responses, is complete.
- Action 8, regarding a meeting with Ray Smith on website progress and budget concerns, is due to occur on 19 February.
- Action 9, regarding the snares report being circulated, is in progress.
- Action 10, regarding social media posts on sentience, is underway.

- Action 11, share embargoed winter grazing report, is complete.
- s 9(2)(b)(ii)

### O 3. NAWAC correspondence

Recent correspondence included emails facilitated by a SAFE online form on the use of calves in rodeo; rodeo concerns from Anti-Rodeo Action; concerns regarding shade and shelter for livestock; and a complaint about the vet council. There were no further comments on correspondence.

### O 4. Work programme update

The work programme update (05/20) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Animals in the wild – The good practice guidance was drafted in 2019 and will be published in 2020. A Glueboard trap exemption report is due. Add A Dale to the subcommittee list.
- Aquaculture – s 9(2)(f)(iv)  
MPI is due to host a speaker on fish sentience. The Fisheries Leadership Team in MPI has requested a presentation on fish welfare. There was an update from NAEAC on zebrafish.
- Farrowing crates – Affidavits have been received, and more are being put together. It was noted that NAWAC is the 3<sup>rd</sup> litigant – the Minister of Agriculture and Crown Law are litigants as well. The Regulations Review Committee have not given a decision yet regarding the code of welfare for pigs. The indication was that they would set aside their decision until after the High Court decision.
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- Mātauranga Māori – Minutes from the 2019 workshop will be circulated.
- Greyhound welfare committee – The welfare committee is expecting the Year 2 update from Greyhound Racing New Zealand on their work plan against the Hansen Report. NAWAC's advice to Minister will follow.
- Rodeo welfare committee – s 9(2)(g)(i)  
G Verkerk noted her attendance at a rodeo with members of the rodeo welfare committee which include A Dale, and also G Shackell. They were given full access to all areas and no protestors were seen. A few light horses were scratched, there was a minor horse injury, one bull injured a leg and had a veterinary certificate issued for transport afterwards. Noted that animal welfare committee is working on support for vets at rodeos – to clarify what's expected when they are there, and updating the vet report forms. Discussed information sharing between vets at various rodeos on issues they may see on the day.
- Veterinary paraprofessionals – Watching brief item as the surgical procedures regulations come into force in 2020.

- Cetaceans – MPI to provide advice in first instance. It was noted that NSW is doing an inquiry into cetaceans in captivity.

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

J Wagner – Attended deer parasite workshop. Because none of the registered anthelmintics work well in deer, a new product is being developed. Industry also working on good use of new drugs so that they remain effective.

I Visser – Attended World Marine Mammal conference. Very interesting to see papers coming out about cetacean welfare.

A Dale – SPCA has hosted an avian botulism workshop with 50 different stakeholders across New Zealand. Process of writing up a guideline on this. Co-hosted a workshop with MPI on animal mental suffering, with <sup>9 (2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED]. The workshop looked at how to do prosecutions when using psychological evidence, not just physical. Attended International Society of Applied Ethology meeting in Wellington. Attended Primary Sector Council's release of released Fit for a Better World, a vision for New Zealand's agriculture, food and fibres sector.

*Action: Send information on this to NAWAC.*

All NAWAC and MPI attendees were requested to share details of upcoming conferences.

#### **O 6. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI**

The MPI update had been circulated prior to the meeting.

There was one comment on the combination of coronavirus and drought. Appears to be a significant issue for farmers and slaughterhouses.

<sup>9 (2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED] gave update: the emergency management function has swung into action, working on kill chain capacity and freezer space backlog. This has affected livestock as well as crayfish. MPI has had meetings about supporting industry with coronavirus. The Minister of Agriculture has declared an adverse event in Northland. Noted concern of impact of climate change on animals.

### **PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES**

#### **O 7. Cattle tail-breaking prevention project**

<sup>9 (2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED] introduced the cattle tail-breaking prevention project.

In 2013, MPI took its first tail breaking case. There have been a handful of cases a year since, and the problem doesn't seem to be getting better. Average tail dislocation data appears to be 18% dislocation among the dairy herd. <sup>s 9(2)(b)(ii)</sup> [REDACTED]. Does seem to be a New Zealand-specific issue – due to pressures from spring calving and training cows all at once.

The project has three work streams. The first is detection reporting. The second is communications – improving awareness that causing tail injuries is unacceptable. The third is behaviour change, for example providing alternatives to using tails (while avoiding options like electroimmobilisers).

It's important to demystify the process around reporting tail injuries. Farmers are worried about what happens when they report a staff member. So, tell people what happens, what an inspector will ask on

a visit, etc. It's important to intervene, because at the moment farmers may notice a problem and fire the person responsible. That only fixes it on that property, but the person will work somewhere else.

Question – is the checking by inspectors or verification only visual? Because without palpation, problems may not be picked up. At this stage, visual is probably only practical on farm/in saleyards, but MPI is looking at palpations by verification services in processing plants. A NAWAC member suggested a small percentage of palpations on-farm if possible. Another member noted devices on phones that can do scans.

DairyNZ has started rolling out a "tale of a tail" package, which asks people to think about heifer training as a key risk area for tail injuries, and help farmers to build a training programme using things other than the tail.

DairyNZ will provide plans to NAWAC when complete. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

#### **O 8. Safeguarding update**

s 9(2)(a) arrived to provide an update from the sector liaison team.

The team is in the middle of the events schedule; have been doing field days. It's really important to do these events to get out and talk to farmers. In Southland, team members have just been at Waimumu. Heard from farmers about flooding, bad summer, feed shortages, feed not coming from North Island.

There is a 6 week backlog of killing space due to coronavirus & other issues.

The liaison team is also supporting the Winter Grazing Action Group, which was one of the recommendations from the Taskforce. Their first meeting is 24 February. Meetings are roughly monthly.

A date has been set for an animal welfare livestock workshop - 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

s 9(2)(a) asked G Verkerk how NAWAC would like to be involved. It's a good opportunity to work with an important group to explain and advance NAWAC's work. Opportunity to challenge industry – happy to receive ideas.

It was noted that the codes review process is underway, and changes needed have been signalled in the code review documents by Farm to Processor. Suggested a focus on shade and shelter.

Action - Confirm s 9(2)(a) / G Verkerk, s 9(2)(a) ) NAWAC members and topics for 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



s 9(2)(f)(iv)

## **STRATEGY AND PLANNING**

### **O 10. Work programme 2020**

The work plan agreed in November 2019 had been circulated for final approval.

The codes review was questioned. Is that a top priority? Because it's not on the work plan.

G Verkerk explained that it is, but has been tasked to MPI to do the first redraft. Codes review plan will go on the website alongside the work plan.

*Action: Check when the deer and commercial slaughter codes are due from the Farm to Processor forum, and when the zoo code will be sent from ZAA.*

Does NAWAC risk being accused of being industry-led if industries do first draft?

G Verkerk is comfortable with process if NAWAC takes ownership of code after drafting. Remember NAWAC does the public consultation. <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> noted that the Animal Welfare Act lays this process out. The normal process is always to have a drafting group, then the code is handed to NAWAC, and the Animal Welfare Act has safeguards to ensure the process is not industry-led. On top of that, these codes are being updated – they are not brand new.

The mātauranga Māori item needs an updated title.

*Moved (G Verkerk / I Visser)*

*That the draft 2020 work plan and codes review plans are accepted as final, with the above changes, and posted onto NAWAC's website.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

#### **O 11. Issues register**

*Action: Provide updates on meat chicken fire case, and Infectious Bursal Disease Virus outbreak in the South Island*

The bees item was noted. G Verkerk considered that this may be raised by the Minister of Agriculture at their next meeting. It was noted that there are veterinarians that specialise in bees now (overseas).

A racing industry meeting is planned (March 24<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the industry's image and social license and will include discussion on animal welfare issues such as post-racing career management and traceability. G Verkerk and A Dale to attend.

Cat management strategy is soon to be updated and submitted to Ministers of Agriculture, Conservation and Local Government.

Fireworks petition to the Select Committee - has not reached a decision yet.

#### **O 12. Chicken breeder code of welfare**

A memo numbered 10/20 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A draft code is anticipated for the committee's consideration in May. The subcommittee is not anticipating many controversial issues but a list will be developed for NAWAC to have a full discussion.

The regulations and codes process will mean two consultations.

Selective breeding was raised and should be added to the list of potentially controversial issues.

Concern raised that the subcommittee has consulted with PIANZ but not all industry groups? What about their groups like Tegel? They will be included in the public consultation stage.

The subcommittee has scheduled a visit to another hatchery.

Noted that G Verkerk will update timeline on consultations with the Minister of Agriculture at their meeting.

#### **O 13. Transparency & website**

It was agreed that this had been covered earlier in the meeting.

#### **O 14. Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter**

Two documents numbered 11/20 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

There was a discussion around the different groups of stakeholders, particularly around the wording of "opposed parties" (i.e. people who have objections to animal use in entertainment for animal welfare reasons as opposed to philosophical). Concern that groupings like this exclude an animal rights philosophy which must be considered in some way if the framework is to achieve what NAWAC wants it to achieve.

It was agreed that all interested parties should be able to submit, including people that have a belief that animals should not be used for entertainment for any reason.

It was flagged that further changes to document is coming and it will be finalised out of session.

A question was raised. The framework says that NAWAC will use it, but doesn't say how? What will NAWAC do with the scores?

The document will say that the resulting score may result in changes to codes of welfare or regulations.

There was a general comment around Guideline 07. It needs to be explained, including its history, and its links to the Animal Welfare Act. Agreed to attach Guideline 07 as an appendix and explain it more.

What about weighting? Animal cost vs societal benefit – are they equal? One criticism will be that NAWAC's mandate is animal welfare, so their weighting should not be equal. It was explained that descriptions will accompany scores; which will cover these questions.

Comments were invited to be sent to G Shackell via email.

There was discussion on methods of consultation. It's important not to set up stakeholders as opposing parties – that is already framing a conversation which NAWAC is intending to start even earlier in the process. NAWAC wants to identify what are people's values? Some NAWAC members perceived the discussions in the document as a done deal, rather than an open question. The document should be framed more openly. Questions to ask stakeholders may include, is this a good way we can describe pros and cons? What should we do with the results?

G Verkerk suggested another step in consultation. It was noted that stakeholder list is stakeholders involved in any given 3E's activity, not a list of people to consult

G Verkerk suggested that the subcommittee could set up meetings with stakeholders on a more personal level.

Next steps agreed. G Shackell and <sup>9 (2)(a)</sup> to make changes and circulate revised version. Subcommittee to think through process for consultation and identify targets and make proposal to whole committee.

## **O 15. Appointment of Deputy Chair**

*Moved (R Palmer / I Visser)*

*That J Wagner is appointed as deputy chair of NAWAC for 2020.*

*The motion was put: carried.*



## PART TWO (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

### DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(G Verkerk /J Wagner):

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

C 1. Snares recommendation to Minister

N Poutu & 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.	Snares recommendation to Minister	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 48(1)(d) by virtue of section 48(2)(a(ii), and that the public interest is not found to outweigh the need to withhold the information.	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 48(1)(d).

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. Snares recommendation to Minister

A memo and report (12/20) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The majority of the report was drafted in 2017 when N Poutu joined the committee, but because it has been some time and many members are new, the report is being circulated again. Changes made include clarifications that prohibition made wouldn't apply to hand-held snares, and will not apply to a snare used as an effective kill-trap mechanism.

It was suggested that it is critical that customary use is mentioned when talking about neck snares. In terms of killing neck snares, there are concerns about time to loss of consciousness.

Suggested that when talking about catchpoles (i.e. as used by Animal Control Officers) – use that term rather than handheld neck snares, so it's be clear what is being talked about. It was noted that this is just an example – vets also use them. The idea is to prohibit snares in wildlife killing but to be clear that use in terms of restraint is allowed – so add other examples (e.g. used when restraining pinnipeds, veterinary use).

Under "next step, concern was raised about the overall structure of trap regulations. There is an ongoing debate about the fact that traps that can be used until prohibition, rather than only allowing approved traps. 9(2)(a) noted that both NAWAC and NAEAC have tried to change this before, e.g. during the 2015 review of the Animal Welfare Act.

9(2)(a) noted that an amendment to the Act would be needed for this to happen. The framework would need to be turned around from allowing traps by default to the other way round. NAWAC has written two or three times that Act should be amended in this way. Suggested that NAWAC reiterates their position in the letter.

Discussed snare mechanisms in kill traps (e.g. possum master, nooski). Neck snares do have potential (possum master) or have been shown to be effective kill mechanisms by testing against NAWAC guideline (nooski). Discussed why neck snares have these exemptions but leg snares do not. Explained that people don't tend to use leg snares as often and they are not covered by leg hold provisions.

In terms of process to regulation, there will be further consultation via MPI Policy. Timeline is unsure, but G Verkerk considers that it is important to send to the Minister of Agriculture and get the work underway.

In the interim, until the regulation is in place, NAWAC will publish these documents as advice on their website to signal that snares are under scrutiny.

*Moved N Poutu / R Palmer*

*NAWAC's neck snare recommendation to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, with minor modifications as discussed.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 4:30pm.