



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

Rā: 18 November 2020
Tāima: 09:45am – 4:30pm

Whaitua o rēhia: Charles Fergusson Building
34-38 Bowen St, Pipitea
Level 1 - Room 1.04

MENETI | MINUTES

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

Nuinga / Attendees: s9(2)(a)

Matangaro / Apologies: Ruth Palmer, Sandra Faulkner

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

Welcome: Grant McCullough and s9(2)(a) (Kaituhi / Minute taker)

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 Verkerk / A Dale)

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 20 August 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting

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 NAWAC guideline 8 - is in progress, will have to review in light of the ruling from the judicial review - Regulations 26, 27 are unlawful and minimum standards 10 and 11 are unlawful and invalid.
- Action 2, regarding transparency and NAWAC meetings - ongoing
- Action 3, Letter has been sent to NZVA from NAWAC around sentence being communicated to veterinarians
- Action 4, regarding Meat chicken fire case in November 2019 – report from compliance presented regarding this case.
- Action 5, regarding bees – Gwyn has met with ApicultureNZ and agreed to work together (led by ApicultureNZ) on welfare standards e.g. via their code of conduct.
- Action 6, regarding Donkey and Mule milking – talk to farm owner if possible – consider issue under horses and donkeys code review
- Action 7, regarding Covid debrief – pending until response is closed / to see if there will be a review
- Action 8, regarding fish welfare work- complete
- Action 9, regarding Greyhound Racing NZ independent review – Have requested timeline from GRNZ

O 3. NAWAC correspondence

Main correspondence received between November 2020 and February 2021 have been emails facilitated by a SAFE online form on the use of calves in rodeo. There have also been rodeo concerns communicated from Anti-Rodeo Action.

Comments around the content of the correspondence:

- They are facilitated by SAFE's website, but people do put in their own comments in
- 400 form emails about rodeos. NAWAC has drafted a letter to Minister Whaitiri to be sent this week (including cc to Minister O'Connor) to arrange a meeting before the end of 2020 to discuss current concerns around animal welfare.

Action: s9(2) agreed to put an auto-reply on to NAWAC's inbox for future emails regarding the 3Es

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:

- Animals in the wild – The good practice guidance document is still under development. Next step is to share with subcommittee for review, where it will be informed by best practice standards of other agencies. The snares/trap exemption report is with the Minister's office.

BSA – tentatively due to speak depending on Feb meeting date

GAC – Generally accepted practices – seeking an update from GAC on where they are at with generally accepted practices

- Poultry Breeder Code of Welfare – A memo has been circulated for the Committee. s9(2)(a) (MPI) will provide Secretariat support for the subcommittee.
- Farrowing Crates – After judicial review, the judge has ruled regulations 26 & 27 (farrowing crates) and MS 10 & 11 are unlawful and invalid.

s9(2)(h)

Pig subcommittee volunteers were identified as G McCullough, K Schutz, A Dale, G Verkerk.

Actions: If any other committee members are able to assist in the subcommittee, contact G Verkerk

- Live animal export – The Minister asked for a review in 2019, which was suspended when the Covid pandemic hit. After Gulf Livestock One incident, Mike Heron reviewed AWEC processes with recommendations to improve processes. These recommendations are being implemented by s9(2)(a) (MPI) as Programme Manager in the animal exports team.

The guideline for horses being transported by air is being reviewed.

- s9(2)(b)(ii)

AgResearch is holding a winter grazing seminar next week where presentations will be available and a suggestion to share the information from the Winter Grazing Action Group. Further work needs to be done to address the issue and it will need to be considered within the Dairy Cattle code review s9(2)(b)(ii). It was also discussed that practice changes will need to align with the Primary Sector Strategy "Fit for a Better World". One major change would be for animal welfare to be included in integrated farm planning.

- Animal sentience – s9(2)(a) is making the information available on the website for the public. G Verkerk attending Farm to Processor to elaborate on NAWAC's position as some feedback has been received.
- Rodeos – 3Es next welfare subcommittee meeting will be on 23 November. NZALA took a private prosecution on prodger use in a rodeo in Northland.

Action: Send prosecution on a rodeo event in Northland to committee. Resulted in a successful conviction.

- Veterinary paraprofessionals – Discussion around the lack of veterinary paraprofessionals available in NZ. NAWAC will write a letter to Minister Whitiri about the concerns in NZ.
- Cetaceans – Discussion to create a letter to Minister Whitiri and DOC (and possibly the conservation minister) about the importance of this area and further discussion. NAWAC will add this topic to their planning session.

Action: I Visser to write a draft letter to the Minister Whitiri and DOC about cetaceans.

Action: s9(2)(a) will add cetaceans to the February agenda for discussion.

- Bees – Discussed earlier (Action 5)

It was noted that the commercial slaughter and transport within New Zealand codes of welfare are coming up for review. G Verkerk would like the approach to be a supply chain issue. She will propose this at the Farm to Processor Forum.

The Zoo and Aquarium Assn (ZAA) have been working on a review of their code and met with G Verkerk recently to discuss this. They have indicated that they will have a document to present to NAWAC early in 2021. I Visser noted interest in the Zoos code of welfare when it is presented for review.

O 5. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI

MPI document was circulated prior to this meeting and has been taken as read by the committee.

Questions around the document:

- Acknowledgement about the addition of staff being a positive for animal welfare. Applications are closed but interviews are underway for new positions.
- MPI Policy team is currently waiting to be provided with the direction for the livestock export review.
- Complaints regarding the crustacean standard in the slaughter code, and horse whipping. The Select Committee is reformed following the election, they will need to consider what their agenda will be.
- Anticipated completion date for the livestock export review is pending Will know more once delegations for associate Ministers are chosen

- NAWAC's submission has been provided to the Heron review. Some changes from the Heron review include better reporting on ships and after arrival, closer inspection of ships

Action: s9(2)(a) to provide an update on live exports for the committee

- Thoroughbred racing workshop looking at social licence for horse racing has been rescheduled 8 December in Cambridge. 3Es work for discussion. G Verkerk will present at this meeting/workshop on behalf of NAWAC
- FPAWF forum – The Annual Production Sector Livestock Welfare Workshop, a workshop for members of the Farm to Processor Animal Welfare Forum and their Chief Executives, has been deferred from 22 June until the first Quarter 2021. This workshop may be opened by Minister Whaitiri. Suggested that NAWAC should have an attendee.
- Select committees – is there a chance the complaints won't carry over – yes

Action: s9(2)(a) to send Whips use in horses papers (Australasian/Oceania, or European) to the committee

O 6. Issues register

Action: Update farrowing crate information post judicial ruling

Moved for Feb meeting to create a subcommittee for rabbit code review/report. Peer review of rabbit code draft within the committee for public review.

Action: SPCA draft code of welfare for Meat and companion rabbits to be shared with MPI

Action: s9(2)(a) (MPI) to send code writing instructions to A Dale

A Dale noted emerging technology 14th December webinar, virtual fencing and welfare issues coordinated by RSCPA Australia and recommended committee to attend webinar.

Veterinarian/veterinary paraprofessionals shortage is causing concern with the possible animal welfare implications it may have

Action: Agreed NAWAC will raise with Minister Whaitiri their concerns around the lack of veterinarians/veterinary paraprofessionals and its implications on animal welfare

Action: s9(2)(a) to add veterinary paraprofessionals to NAWACs watching brief

Noted that MPI staff has been reminded to seek NAWACs advice on issues similar to these as there may already be work being done, they are not aware of.

PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

O 7. Sector Liaison update

s9(2)(a) reported the changes in MPIs sector liaison team, including new staff in regional areas, focusing on improving voluntary compliance and emergency coordination. MPI is currently recruiting for a new programme manager.

Integrative farm planning work will begin at the start of next year with s9(2)(a) as the lead.

FPAWF discussion tomorrow where G Verkerk will discuss with NZVA, SPCA and industry, about their position on animal sentience as has been published on the NAWAC website.

Winter action grazing group forum are prioritising a guidance document for good animal welfare in wintering systems, along with finalising mapping for diary, sheep and beef farming. They are also focusing on improving information distribution within industry groups and encouraged a collaborative effort, to distribute information to the public. Workshops on winter grazing will be held by Agresearch with primary industries advisory services.

Significant surgical procedures changes have been focusing on educating industry and the public about the new regulations. Additional guidance and support around understanding compliance has been noted and new collateral to reach target audiences is available. NZVA, veterinary council, SPCA and industry organisations have been asked to share the final collateral and messaging with the public to have consistent and aligned messaging.

MPI events program has been used as a tool to engage with animal owners about the new SSP regulations, and other animal welfare matters.

Action: s9(2)(a) to distribute MPI brochures to committee members

Questions and discussion around document:

- A Dale reports concerns the regulations may be impacted due to the recent judicial review around farrowing crates and NAWACs processes. G Verkerk noted that across all of MPI the judicial review may have impacts for all of the regulations. The impacts will not be on the content but on the process, however still waiting for lawyers to review and advise.
- G McCullough shared that the veterinary profession has concerns about SSP regs that if veterinarians are not doing certain procedures on-farm, they may not have as much oversight/on-farm visits. Noted that many regulations do have provision for oversight e.g. where pain relief is required, vet oversight is required.
- Further discussion around the tail docking regulation and the impacts for many farmers, and the need for an increase in communication to the industry and public.
- MPI has brought on a new communications advisor for AW team to help improve communication with the general public before the new regulations are implemented. Looking at videos, webinars for information as alternative methods of promoting the information. A general press release for the country and targeted audiences was mentioned as recommendation before the new regulations are implemented.
- A suggestion that Lifestyle block owners / owners of small numbers of sheep, should be encouraged not to dock their animals and change the messaging around managing long tails by other methods.
- A suggestion to check with DogsNZ about how they handle dogs docked before the regulations were in place and messaging to contestants/public about the law.

08. Compliance update

There has been a significant increase in complaints this quarter compared to June and July and seems to be related to poor Body Condition Score following the drought.

There is also a new trend of increased complaints around woolly sheep and may possibly be due to the low wool prices currently however, too early to tell.

Verification Services (VS) referrals have been busier than usual (50% of compliance work is from VS department)

- Always peak in July/August/Sept due to bobbies but even on top of that it has been higher than normal
- There appears to be an increasing trend of sheep giving birth during transport, which may not be necessarily new, however due to an increase in referrals may increase the trend
- They will now be referring goats giving birth on transport to compliance as increase in sheep giving birth during transport incidences have increased
- Backrub concerns have doubled more than any other issue
- Inspectors have been preparing prosecution files post the busy winter period

Questions and discussion around report:

- SPCA compliance numbers queries about why the jump in dog infringements. SPCA also spent some time giving warnings before infringing with changes, so increase reflects change in inspector approach but not necessarily a worsening problem
- Discussion around woolly sheep and the possible relation with the skill shortages causing the increase in cases.

0 9. Aquaculture in New Zealand: FisheriesNZ Presentation

s9(2)(a) discussed aquaculture in New Zealand, focussing on our main fish farming industry – King Chinook Salmon. His presentation covered the benefits of farming in NZ compared to overseas industries and the current approaches in NZ with King Salmon farming.

Presentation main points:

- Industry overview
- King salmon vs. Atlantic salmon
- Less disease in NZ
- Sector drafting animal welfare guidelines
- Law – RMA is key. NZ Coastal Policy Statement (DOC)
- New technologies include open ocean and mobile aquaculture.

Action: s9(2)(a) to circulate presentation to committee

Discussion following presentation:

- Health vs. welfare in aquaculture farming
- Building animal welfare science expertise for the industry. It was suggested that NAWAC should talk with AquacultureNZ and the Cawthron Institute as this develops
- Development of Codes of Welfare for fish and what fish should be included (All fish, aquaculture, fish in research, ornamental). The committee decided to focus on aquaculture fish and commercial/ornamental fish to begin with.

NAWAC plans to meet with AquacultureNZ for further discussion around this area and plan visit current aquaculture farms in NZ.

The development for the codes will commence at the NAWAC February committee meeting with a subcommittee chosen and a review of current standards that are already in place for fish welfare.

Action: s9(2)(a) to add fish codes of welfare for February committee meeting. K Schultz, A Dale, Ruth, C Johnson, G Shackell volunteered for subcommittee.

Action: s9(2)(a) to organise aquaculture farm visit for May committee meeting in Nelson and extend invite to MPI's postgraduate scholarship winner from Massey University.

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 10. Prioritisation for 2021

NAWACs current plan for 2021 will remain unchanged apart from adding an acknowledgement that a rabbit code of welfare is likely to be received in 2021.

It was noted that a strategic planning session is being planned for May.

O 11. Strategic planning & NAWAC direction

G Verkerk discussed the planning of a NAWAC strategy that will align with New Zealand's national strategy. Mentioned that a questionnaire will be made and circulated to the committee in preparation.

Action: s9(2)(a) to send yearly review questionnaire to Committee in January.

O 12. Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter

s9(2)(a) provided an update on the 3E's subcommittee progress and assessment tool to the committee and has been taken as read.

The assessment tool was tested at the 3E's meeting (17th November) and was decided that it needs to be simplified further for public consultation. The tool will be effective by providing transparent decision making for NAWAC and have decisions made on good principles. Further 3Es meetings will be held to present a developed tool for the NAWAC committee meeting in February.

Questions and Discussion:

- A comment was made around the wording in the FAQ appendix and suggested edit to come from a positive position, instead of defensive.
- An FAQ document with questions from the public consultation will be developed and available on the NAWAC website.

Action: s9(2)(a) to add appendix 3 to the NAWAC website

- A discussion around possible rodeo event research and NAWACs view on recommending research, highlighted the need to be careful that NAWAC is not seen to be providing research/advice that defends rodeo events. NAWACs view is that it is not justifiable to put effort/money into research for rope & tie given the feeling that it will not be around much longer.

Previous ministers have focused on these events and further discussion with Minister Whaitiri and G Verkerk is required,

Action: s9(2)(a) to take to 3E's committee – NAWAC has not seen improvements/suggestions from the rodeo welfare committee and continues to have grave concerns about rope and tie. Would reconsider issue and advice in 2021/2022 season.

O 13. Mātauranga Māori and animals

NAWAC as a whole committee will need to commit to understanding Te Ao Māori going forward, with the subcommittee therefore no longer required.

NAWAC will start with increasing the use of Te Reo Māori and practicing some meeting tikanga.

A glossary and new templates have been developed for the committee to adopt for the meetings and use where possible.

Translations will be done on some work/documents.

NAWAC agreed to try and notify local Iwi when the NAWAC committee is on farms or site visits in their areas to involve them and ask if they wish to attend the visit/meeting.

Action: Committee to review the code and send any changes to s9(2)(a) who will update the text codes and finalise them

Action: s9(2)(a) to use updated templates and ask G Verkerk for the karakia to add to minutes

O 14. Codes of welfare – process for code reviews

s9(2)(a) circulated codes of welfare document that has been taken as read.

There was concern around why animal advocacy groups are not core members of the codes of welfare working groups. The reasoning was from previous codes they have found having all groups in the same room at the same time is difficult to manage and unproductive. From now they will be consulted separately to still have their consultation in a more productive manner.

A concern was raised that the public perception may be that the codes are industry-led without the influence of NAWAC and other groups. G Verkerk reminded that the role of liaison is to have NAWAC's point of view involved in the working groups.

G Verkerk feels it is reasonable for industry groups to have a stake in the animal welfare standards.

Action: s9(2)(a) to update codes of welfare table after the February committee meeting.

O 15. Codes of welfare – surgical and painful procedures regulations

s9(2)(a) circulated a document about the surgical and painful procedures codes of welfare and summarised memo for the committee.

Unless there are feedback/comments on these principles or the codes themselves, the codes will progress to the next stage in development.

s9(2)(a) thanked the subcommittee for reading through the codes.

Action: NAWAC to write a Letter to Minister O'Connor about consultation with NAWAC.

It was moved that:

NAWAC agrees with minor and technical amendments to the codes of welfare, (G Verkerk/C Johnson)

The motion was put: carried

O 16. Meeting dates for 2021

NAWAC discussed the 2021 meetings:

- Monday 22th February (Wellington)
- Tuesday, Wednesday 18,19th May (Nelson for Aquaculture farm visit)
- Tuesday 17th August (Wellington)
- Tuesday, Wednesday 16,17th November (NAWAC 16th, NAWAC/NAEAC joint 17th Wellington)

O 17. Website update Action: Review documents for the webpages to try improve NAWACs transparency

Action: s9(2)(a) to see what the internet cut-off dates are for adding documents to the webpages

s9(2) discussed the progress around NAWAC/NAEAC webpages being separate from the MPI website and plan to have them operational by June 2021. Decisions around managing the webpages are still to be made and may depend on the costing of the pages.

Action: s9(2)(a) to take the lead on developing committee websites – work with s9(2) for IT

O 18. Boiler/layer breeder code

s9(2)(a) circulated memo to the committee and taken as read.

The poultry breeder codes of welfare planning document with the next round of industry engagement will be shared at the February meeting and s9(2)(a) will be assisting now.

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was closed.

Closing Karakia

Te whakaeatanga e
Te whakaeatanga e
Tenei te kaupapa ka ea
Tenei te wananga ka ea
Te mauri o te kaupapa ka whakamoā
Te mauri o te wananga ka whakamoā

It is completed, It is done
We have achieved our purpose and completed our forum
For the purpose of our gathering rest for now
Let the vitality of our discussions replenish
We depart with fulfilled hearts and minds
Bonded in our common goal and unity