



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

Whaitua o rēhia: Phoenix Motor Inn, Blenheim

Rā: 19 May 2021

Tāima: 8:30am – 4:30pm

MENETI | MINUTES

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

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

Matangaro / Apologies: Sandra Faulkner

Any Other Business (Open to the Public):

Any Other Business (Public Excluded):

COMMITTEE MEMBER REGISTER OF INTERESTS

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

PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

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

GENERAL

The Chair opened the meeting with a Karakia at 8:43am.

Moved (G Verkerk/R Palmer)

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

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1)(d), 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(ba)(ii) for the passing of this resolution
C1.	Dairy Code of Welfare	<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 48(1)(d) by virtue of 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, and that the public interest is not found to outweigh the need to withhold the information.</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 48(1)(d). The information discussed in this meeting is subject to an obligation of confidence and releasing would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the supplier or subject of the information, and the supply of further information. The public interest is not found to outweigh these grounds and so is reason for withholding under section 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(ba)(ii).</i>
C2.	Pig Code of Welfare	<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 48(1)(d) by virtue of 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the OIA, and that the public interest is not found to outweigh the need to withhold the information.</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 48(1)(d). The information discussed in this meeting is subject to an obligation of confidence and releasing would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the supplier or subject of the information, and the supply of further information. The public interest is not found to outweigh these grounds and so is reason for withholding under section 9(2)(ba)(i) and 9(2)(ba)(ii).</i>

I also move that:

s 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.

The motion was put: carried

O 1. Conflict of interest disclosure

Each committee member declared their conflicts of interest to the secretary prior to the meeting and were reminded to update this as their positions change.

O 2. Confirmation of previous minutes

The minutes from the 24 February meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

Moved (R Palmer/ G McCullough)

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 24 February 2021 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

O 3. Transparency

NAWAC public attendance memo was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The Chair of NAEAC discussed what the committee has proposed for public attendance at their meetings and is intending to align with NAWAC's public attendance standard operating procedure (SOP).

Action: G Shackell to share the NAEAC notes on the proposed public attendance SOP with the committee.

Discussion and questions on public attendance:

- Public attendance via teleconference and the logistics around this type of attendance were discussed. It was agreed to allow teleconference attendance but it should be noted in the request to attend and will depend on location.
- A discussion around recording and broadcasting the meeting, with concerns about recording devices. It was noted in the changes to be clear on the type of recording that is acceptable.
- A comment about including some wording about attending in a 'seemly manner' to the SOP, to ensure members of the public are wearing acceptable attire.

A final draft SOP will be circulated and agreed on, before being readily available on the NAWAC webpage.

Action: s 9(2)(a) to create a standing agenda to be on the NAWAC webpage alongside the public attendance SOP.

O 4. Strategic Plan

The draft strategic plan was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The Chair thanked the members for their work on the NAWAC framework and strategy.

The Minister's comments at the previous codes of welfare meeting and NAWAC's role in animal welfare in New Zealand were discussed.

Moved (G Verkerk/ A Dale):

NAWAC agrees to the draft document presented and that it will be the NAWAC Framework and Strategy for 2021-2024.

Motion was put: carried.

O 5. Work Plan and Prioritisation

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

Discussion and questions on the draft KPI document:

- The committee agreed to delete the baseline column.
- Communication with the public was discussed and suggested that the committee could have a section in Welfare Pulse, where each member takes a turn to write an article for each issue. The committee showed support for this idea to support public engagement.
- The committee agreed to change the target for reputation from 75% to 100%.
- Stakeholder surveys were discussed as a method to measure the effectiveness of the committee. There were concerns on the viability of creating these surveys and who should receive/process them. The approach agreed was for a survey to be given to stakeholders after presenting or after NAWAC has worked with them, to make a survey more valuable.

More work needs to be done on the KPI table and suggested changes need to be amended.

Action: s 9(2)(a) to finalise the KPI table for the August quarterly meeting.

A draft Gantt chart was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

Discussion and questions on the draft Gantt chart:

- The chart was explained, and committee members were added to subcommittees as required.
- K Schutz agreed to continue to assist with the Dairy Code of Welfare review once her term with NAWAC has finished.
- Turkey breeders have been included in the poultry breeder code review.
- Deer Industry New Zealand (DINZ) has presented a draft Deer Code of Welfare with suggested changes to the committee. A subcommittee will be formed towards the end of the year to start the review of the code.
- The draft Rabbit Code of Welfare from the SPCA is finishing the preconsultation stage and will be presented their draft to NAWAC in August.

Action: s 9(2)(a) to speak to MPI Verification about contact information for the meat rabbit farms in New Zealand.

- Resources and having an end date for some of the codes, so the Gantt chart looks less cyclical were discussed. The Chair has showed MPI's Animal Welfare Steering Committee the NAWAC work plan and emphasised the need for more resources to produce the review of codes in a timely manner.
- A comment was made on trying to shorten the preconsultation time to move things forward with code reviews.
- The working group process was discussed, and it was suggested to have more meetings to help process the codes.

O 6. Racing Policy Submission

The Chair discussed the review of the greyhound racing industry and the request for submission on the racing policy due 4 June 2021.

NAWAC agreed to write a submission for the racing policy.

Action: A Dale, R Palmer and G Verkerk to draft a response submission for the greyhound racing policy.

O 7. Status of actions arising from previous minutes

The committee reviewed the list of actions and following were discussed:

- Action 1, needs to be updated now to review all NAWAC guidelines.

Action: N Poutu to share the trap guidelines with committee for review for the following quarterly meeting in August.

Action: All NAWAC guidelines to be reviewed by NAWAC.

O 8. NAWAC Correspondence

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

No further comments or discussion.

O 9. Work Programme Update

The Work Programme Update was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s 9(2)(a) noted:

- The republishing the codes of welfare with the new Significant and Surgical Procedures (SSP) regulation amendments are underway.
- Mātauranga Māori commissions have been approved for Te Reo translations and Te Ao Māori designs for NAWAC.

The Chair noted her discussions with Apiculture NZ to develop an introduction document for their farmers around good welfare. A Massey University Fellow is currently assisting their development of a Code of Practice for bee welfare.

O 10. MPI update discussion

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

A comment was made on the number of washing deaths being very high and disappointing. It was noted this should be looked at when reviewing the commercial slaughter code of welfare.

There were no further comments or discussion.

O 11. Issues register

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

Emerging technology and the use drones for filming animals were discussed and it was noted that DOC and NAEAC are addressing this issue.

O 12. Annual report

The draft annual report was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

Amendments that were agreed:

- Delete the first paragraph in the Chair's comment as unclear about resourcing.
- Adjust the wording on 3Es paragraph.

Moved (G Verkerk/R Palmer):

The draft annual report for 2020 with amendments, is true and accurate and can be published.

The motion was put: carried.

C1. Dairy Code of Welfare

A draft Dairy Code of Welfare and accompanying memo was circulated prior to the meeting and are taken as read.

s 9(2)(a) made suggested changes to the draft as the committee discussed the points in the memo.

Discussion and questions on the memo and draft code:

- s 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s 9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

Proactively Released

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Action: NAWAC members to send further comments about the draft Dairy Code of Welfare to s 9(2)(a).

A final draft will be shared with the committee for approval to go forward to the Minister for recommendation for public consultation.

UPDATES

O 13. Fish Code of Welfare

NAWAC Fish Welfare paper and the finfish current state report was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The committee discussed the farm and research facility visits from the previous day.

It was agreed the next steps are to review the draft code of welfare that NZ Salmon have developed for finfish farming and for the subcommittee to formulate a plan for the code development.

Action: Subcommittee to develop plan for further information gathering, pre-consultation and draft development

O 14. Rodeos

NAWAC Rodeo Code of Welfare memo was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The subcommittee has reviewed a draft code of welfare proposed by a member of the public. They noted it proposed that several events would be prohibited along with spurs, prodders and flank straps. The subcommittee is unable to recommend that NAWAC progress the draft in its current form. There are additional stakeholders that would need to be consulted before this could happen, and the subcommittee also recommended the need for more detail of a welfare assurance scheme and additional amendments. The subcommittee did however recommend that NAWAC's response to this submission by the public should be to re-prioritise.

NAWAC agreed to reprioritise its review of the rodeo code of welfare and start preconsultation. R Palmer and P Mason will join the subcommittee.

O 15. Other code updates

3Es

Memo 3Es Societal function consultation tool was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The subcommittee support the revised approach and considered that this is a more appropriate for the function of NAWAC in decisions on 3Es. It was also noted to be more defensible and a robust approach.

The principles/guidelines suggested for NAWAC when using the tool were discussed and will be included in the opinion piece that is being drafted.

NAWAC agreed to the suggested principles and the points raised in the memo:

- The revised approach of the 3Es Consultation Tool noting that further development is needed.
- Publishing the Tool within a NAWAC guideline noting a final draft will be brought to the committee in August for approval.

Action: Final guidelines and tool to be presented to NAWAC at the next quarterly meeting.

C2. Pigs Code of Welfare


A draft pigs code and a memo seeking approval to submit to the Minister was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s 9(2)(a) noted changes suggested in the draft Pig Code of Welfare as the committee reviewed the document.

The points in the memo were discussed:

1. NAWAC agreed to 'clean' copy of the Pig Code of Welfare with no track changes to go for public consultation but would like to have the amended copy saved for those who may prefer this version.

s 9(2)(g)(i)



s 9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Proactively Released

s 9(2)(g)(i)

The accompanying code report was circulated prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

NAWAC agreed the code report was ready to recommend to the Minister for public consultation.

K Schutz shared the draft Five Domains report and explained the work that has been done, noting some parts are still being developed. The intention is to have the report ready by the time the draft has been approved by the Minister for public consultation along with the other documents.

NAWAC agreed with this approach.

There was discussion around peer reviewing this report for publication, and further strengthening of the analysis.

NAWAC acknowledged the extensive work that the Five Domains analysis had required and thanked everyone on the subcommittee and MPI secretariat for assisting.

Moved (A Dale/G Shackell):

That NAWAC agrees that the following documents with changes as above be finalised for recommendation to the Minister for public consultation:

- *draft code of welfare (filed on Piritahi 40/21)*
- *associated code report (filed on Piritahi 42/21) cover letter (Appendix One)*

The motion was put: carried

NAWAC then discussed its obligations under the Act of further matters that it must consider before recommending a code for public consultation:

Practicality and economic impacts

There was discussion that NAWAC did not undertake an economic analysis of the impact of their recommendations. MPI have been developing a regulatory impact report for their advice to the Minister which includes an economic analysis. NAWAC did consider practicality where relevant. NAWAC has also identified barriers for change for the industry in relation to pork imports and supports country of origin labelling. These have been noted in the code report. NAWAC acknowledges that the economic impact of proposed changes are significant, but considers that animal welfare is their primary focus obliging them to advise minimum standards that meet the purposes of Act.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Sufficient pre-consultation

NAWAC discussed whether the pre-consultation that had been carried out was appropriate and adequate. NZPork have communicated that they feel they have been insufficiently consulted as NAWAC has developed the draft. It was discussed whether there is further need to consult with the industry before sending the documents to the Minister as they have requested.

The subcommittee described number of contacts between themselves and NZPork representatives with meetings, video-conferences, presentations, written documents and farm visits in the previous five months. It was discussed that NZ Pork act as the “representatives of the persons likely to be affected” by the Code.

NAWAC agreed that pre-consultation has been sufficient, and that opportunities to continue to engage with industry and farmers will be sought through the public consultation period.

Moved (I Visser/R Palmer):

That NAWAC is satisfied with the requirements to put a code forward for consultation. The requirements NAWAC is satisfied with are:

- the draft code contains proposed standards that are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 will be met; and*
- The Committee has had regard to good practice, scientific knowledge, and available technology; and*
- The Committee has considered any other matters it considers relevant, including practicality and economic impact; and*
- the draft code is so clearly written as to be readily understood; and*
- the draft code indicates any matters that the Committee considers should be dealt with by regulations under this Act - including section 183A(2) transitions or exemptions; and*
- The Committee has consulted with representatives of the persons likely to be affected by it.*

Action: s 9(2)(a) to add a timeline outlining the pre-consultation processes to the code review report.

The motion was put: carried.

Action: NAWAC lawyer to review the documents that will go for public consultation and process for preconsultation.

c1. s 9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 9(2)(g)(i)

NAWAC agreed with the memo that was circulated along with the suggested amendments.

Action: G Verkerk to discuss with s 9(2)(a) as she had left the meeting

O 16. Member Updates

NAWAC congratulated C Johnson on the completion of his doctorate.

G Verkerk discussed her latest meeting with the equine welfare forum established by NZTR and also that Standardbred Racing would like to present their strategy to NAWAC. She also noted that NZTR is looking at putting a whole of life tracing system in place.

I Visser attended the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums webinar for welfare and noted it was very impressive the welfare advances in zoos and aquariums. She also commented on the research in handling, training and restraint methods.

G Shackell attended an AgResearch webinar on relationships and individuals understanding the human-animal bond.

I Visser recommended a paper on laughing animals for the committee to look at.

Action: I Visser to send the paper on laughing animals to the secretary to share.

K Schutz attended the winter grazing event held with AgResearch and MPI, which was well received and helped rural professionals to better advise farmers about animal welfare with winter grazing.

A Dale shared the NAEAC visit to Auckland Zoo, and noted the training of their animals for routine tests, such as blood samples.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:21pm with the Karakia.

Proactively Released