



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

30 August 2017
09:30 am – 2:30 pm

Room 2.08
3 The Terrace
Wellington

MINUTES

Committee members: Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Ingrid Collins, Graeme Doole, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Alan Sharr, Julie Wagner.

In attendance: ^{s 9(2)(a)}

Apologies: Grant Shackell, Katie Milne, Iain Torrance. N Poutu delayed by fog.

Welcome: ^{s 9(2)(a)}

Any Other Business Part One (Public Excluded Agenda): The layer hen item was removed from the agenda.

Any Other Business Part Two (Open to the Public): The discussion with compliance had to be postponed, so this was removed from the agenda.

**PART ONE
(PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)**

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(G Verkerk / A Sharr):

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

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|-------|--|---------------------|
| C 1. | Confirmation of previous minutes | G Verkerk |
| C 2. | Status of actions arising from previous meetings | G Verkerk |
| C 3. | Work programme update | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 4. | 10:30am Animal welfare regulations update | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 5. | Dairy housing update | G Verkerk s 9(2)(a) |
| C 6. | Implementation of standards: agreement on work plan | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 7. | Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter update | s 9(2)(a) |
| C 8. | Rodeos update | G Verkerk s 9(2)(a) |
| C 9. | Animal welfare issues register and discussion | G Verkerk / All |
| C 10. | MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI | s 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:

<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 1.	<i>Confirmation of previous minutes</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</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)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).</i>
C 2.	<i>Status of actions arising from previous meetings</i>	<i>As above.</i>	<i>As above.</i>
C 3.	<i>Work programme update</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.</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)(ii) of the OIA.</i>
C 4.	<i>Animal welfare regulations</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant</i>

	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
	update	of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees	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.	Dairy housing update	As above.	As above.
C 6.	Implementation of standards agreement on work plan	As above.	As above.
C 7.	Animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter update	As above.	As above.
C 8.	Rodeos update	As above.	As above.
C 9.	Animal welfare issues register and discussion	As above.	As above.
C 10.	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:

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.

C 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved s 9(2)(a)

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 17 May 2017 (41/17) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

C 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the list of actions (NAWAC 42/17). For items not discussed later in the meeting, the following updates were provided:

- Action one, to engage with the s 9(2)(a) group, is ongoing.
- Action two, to invite the Minister to a meeting in 2017, is complete; but with the election is unlikely to happen. Keep on the Action List for next year.
- Action three, to ensure groups such as A&P shows are aware of their obligations around the rodeo code, is in progress.
- Action four, to summarise the rodeo agreements and share a written draft to NAWAC before sending to NZRCA, is in progress.
- Action five, to invite compliance to a NAWAC meeting, is complete but will occur in November.
- Action six, for the implementation subcommittee to prioritise a topic, is complete.
- Action seven, to circulate a PowerPoint, is complete.
- Actions eight and nine, on rodeo and the poultry subcommittee, are to be discussed in this meeting.
- s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(ba)(i)

Action: G Verkerk to explore with NZVA's dairy cattle branch whether the report on broken shoulders in dairy cattle could be published in Vetscript.

C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (NAWAC 46/17) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme items not specified on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Codes update: information provided on progress of the codes of welfare survey, which has had hundreds of responses. Agreed to work on sharing it with more industry groups, particularly agricultural ones.
- Animals in the wild – s 9(2)(a) is the new chair. There are a few matters on the work programme to pick up e.g. snare regulation, 1080 use and deer repellent, and the meaning of generally accepted practice.

- Layer hens interpretation – The subcommittee has viewed the draft broiler code and agreed to progress a draft, and is looking at bringing this back to discuss as part of next years' work programme discussion in November.
 - Temporary housing of companion animals – The Minister has asked MPI Policy for their advice on the code.
 - Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter – opinion paper to be discussed, but a greyhound update was given as part of the update. s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(ba)(i)
- It was also noted that s 9(2)(a) of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has offered to come to the NAWAC meeting in November. Finally, s 9(2)(a) agreed to take over chairing the subcommittee.
- Fitness and health of the animal welfare system – this has been on hold s 9(2)(a)

C 4. 10:30am Animal welfare regulations update

s 9(2)(a) thanked NAWAC for their engagement in the regulations development process, which has been very helpful to MPI.

The next round of 46 animal welfare regulations have been approved by Cabinet. There was no push back on any proposals, but there was some discussion on detecting lameness in sheep for transport, which is seen as hard to implement.

Some additional engagement on the use of electric prodders is needed to determine appropriate weight of animals for their use - weight can be hard to determine practically. But there is progression on this.

Parliamentary Council Office is now working on the wording of the regulations.

The next group of regulations will be the surgical and painful procedures suite of regulations. NAWAC will also need to engage on some regulations around poultry and pigs.

It is anticipated that codes and regulations will be aligned in the future and run through the same process (in terms of consultations etc.)

For the young calf regulations, there were 12 infringements last season with 2 million calves processed. The mortality rate reduced by 50% overall. This year more infringements have been given out (because compliance have toughened up the consequences and reduced the warnings given). Compliance with regulations has in general, been good.

There was discussion on balancing MPI priorities with NAWAC work programme. MPI's compliance priorities include shelter and poor body condition score. There was discussion around the application of non-regulatory interventions for poor body condition score in preference to regulatory options. The need for a policy person to sit on this process was mentioned. s 9(2)(a) to advise on this.

In terms of poultry regulations, NAWAC discussed their work on the broiler breeder code to come, which would include the subcommittee considering the need for poultry regulations. Consultation process around this will need to be discussed.

The three topics for this subcommittee were originally shelter, euthanasia and body condition score. Shelter is being progressed via MPI's operational research programme. It was proposed and agreed that body condition score should be worked on first.

The first part of this programme will be a survey to MPI compliance and verification services, SPCA, and NZVA to determine the main issues around too low or too high body condition score and the main animals and regions that it is occurring in.

A workshop will then be held to discuss the issues, with the organisations as above, and industry representatives in addition, to determine causes; and then the subcommittee will determine how these can then be addressed.

Inappropriate body condition score was also thought to be important to MPI and the development of regulations. Strategy needs thought on how to align MPI priorities and the work performed by NAWAC around this area. Evidence/statistics thought to be important. Agreement was obtained to begin this work programme.

C 7. Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter update

The subcommittee is seeking agreement on the direction of the work programme as circulated (NAWAC 51/17). The scope needs to be determined. The memo includes a written example on the format for the proposed opinion paper, using the greyhound industry as the subject.

It is anticipated that the paper would set thoughts for how animal welfare should work in the next 25 years in relation to animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter.

The challenge may lie making this paper interesting so that stakeholders want to engage, i.e. – not just commenting on immediate welfare issues that they are aware of, but pushing the thinking forward.

It was noted that ZAA are attending the sentence workshop and have a representative talking about the 5 domains model and how this is included as part of their accreditation programmes..

§ 9(2)(a) suggested that someone from MPI strategy might come to the subcommittee meeting and talk about tools and frameworks which can be used to engage stakeholders in thinking 25 years forward.

There was agreement from the Committee in regards to the approach suggested for the work programme.

C 8. Rodeos update

§ 9(2)(a) – overview of letter. Some collection of information by the NZRCA – but only parts. § 9(2)(g)(i)

Agreement with the letter. Moved by § 9(2)(a) Seconded by § 9(2)(a)

It was agreed that the NZRCA should also be asked to record the number of calves used more than once in events.

Anti-rodeo coalition. § 9(2)(a) had written to NAWAC to ask if § 9(2)(a) might speak to the committee about rodeos. There was discussion around the small number of animals involved in rodeo – and, as such, if this could be considered a priority. With NAWAC not considering a review of the rodeo code at this time, it was considered that an invited speaker on rodeos may not be the best use of NAWACs time.

C 9. Animal welfare issues register and discussion

Discussion was welcomed on any point raised in the issues register (NAWAC 54/17).

s 9(2)(g)(i)

s 9(2)(a)

arrived and introductions were carried out.

C 10. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI

There were no comments on the information circulated by MPI.

Running ahead of schedule, the next item discussed was O3.

PART TWO (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

O 2. National Cat Management Strategy presentation

This item was presented last (after O8), once the speaker Arnja Dale arrived.

A Dale introduced herself as the Chief Scientific Officer at the RNZSPCA and the chair of the National Cat Management Strategy Group.

Cats, their care and their impact on biodiversity are a significant issue in NZ, and so the group is working on recommendations to help with this and to be implemented by all players sitting around the table. Cat ownership is a positive thing, but they can affect the environment. The data for feral and stray cats is also unknown/inaccurate. There are diverse opinions in NZ population. In consultation around the strategy, many people had the opinion that you can't tell people what to do/how to control their cats.

The long-term vision is that by 2025 all cats will be responsibly owned and valued, supported via a regulatory and education framework. One aim is for cat owners understand their legal obligations, in terms of animal welfare and in terms of things such as microchipping. Another is to protect ecosystems: by aiming for no feral cats, no stray cats, and for the public to understand the impact of cat predation on the environment.

Effective management will be a long term approach, focusing on non-lethal control methods and education. The potential for a National Cat Act (mirroring the Dog Control Act, for example) was discussed.

The final strategy released before the end of 2017. Will be presented to central government, and emailed to MPI to go to NAWAC.

There was some discussion on updates needed to the companion cat code of welfare, which is due for review (under NAWAC's current guideline which states all codes should be reviewed after 10 years). NAWAC could consider issues such as indoor cat enrichment and stray cat management as part of this process.

O 3. Regulations implementation

The implementation of the next 46 regulations was discussed.

The Animal Welfare Sector Liaison Manager will have the overall responsibility for the Animal Welfare Regulations Implementation programme. To support the Animal Welfare Sector Liaison Manager, a Programme Manager will be contracted for an initial period of six months. The Programme Manager will be responsible for setting up the work programme – planning, monitoring and reporting.

The approach will be the same as the implementation of the young calf regulations – a collaborative effort with industry/sector groups and persons in charge to ensure animal owners are aware of and meet their responsibilities.

It is proposed to split the regulations into three main groups (production and working animals; companion animals; and, RTT) and nine other smaller groups (e.g. rodeos, llamas and alpacas, Greyhounds etc.). Some regulations fall across multiple groups, e.g. for dogs, and will need to be treated carefully to ensure consistency of implementation.

It is proposed that, for the three main groups, project boards are set up to lead each group, comprising MPI, SPCA if relevant, NAWAC or NAEAC if relevant, and industry/sector representatives. The regulations in the following smaller groups will be implemented by MPI working directly with the sector and key stakeholders. Work has commenced to identify key stakeholders and whether they will be directly involved in the implementation work, or just need to be informed of it.

It was also noted that codes are being modified as a result of the regulations (e.g. see the four codes modified for the calf regulations).

§ 9(2)(a) arrived to the meeting and introductions were carried out.

It was noted that NAWAC was previously involved with development, but not implementation. The first task for committee members will come when MPI has a good first draft of the regulations, and the regulations subcommittee will handle feedback on those.

There is potential to involve specific members on specific issues. There was agreement from the committee on the overall approach

Action: NAWAC members to be appointed to regulations implementation working groups, once they have been formed

O 4. Sentience workshop update

§ 9(2)(a) gave an overview of the planning status.

Still to finalise: the structure of the workshop and pre-survey questionnaire. A final agenda will be circulated out of session. NAEAC and NAWAC committee members will be asked to facilitate on the day, and training will be provided at the November meeting i.e. the day before the workshop.

Good life subcommittee will then take the information gathered from the workshop and develop the programme from there.

OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

O 5. Workspace – first impressions

First impressions of the Workspace to share meeting papers was discussed.

Feedback was generally good. Helpline is useful for questions, if you can get through to the right people. Login can be a little repetitive. Can only download one document at a time, which ^{s 9(2)(a)} will follow up on in case there is a workaround.

Action: ^{s 9(2)(a)} to investigate whether there is a way to download multiple documents from Workspace (e.g. useful for situations where there is no wi-fi).

O 6. Welfare Pulse article request

It was agreed to include a summary of the sentience workshop in the next issue.

O 7. NAWAC correspondence

There were no comments on recent NAWAC correspondence.

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

^{s 9(2)(a)} – recent visit to Hawaii – noted multiple dogs chained

^{s 9(2)(a)} – Feed on sheep & beef farm was low this year due to the drought ^{s 9(2)(a)} came to visit the farm as part of their private accreditation/verification programme.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – attended AgCarm, with the topic 'Future of Agriculture'. There was a presentation on extinction of NZ agriculture, due to synthetic meat, which received a mixed reception.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – Attended a Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (UFAW) conference on how to measure animal welfare. There was focus on positive emotions and challenges of measuring, and how neuroscience relates to positive and negative emotions.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – ^{s 9(2)(a)} in DOC, has been involved in pest control work, including intensively managed sites. Works in a national team and provides support to the people in the field. Recently attended a biosecurity workshop, which included a presentation from ^{s 9(2)(a)} on animal welfare impacts. *Action:* Presentation from ^{s 9(2)(a)} to be shared with Committee.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – visited Australia Zoo. This zoo has emphasised wildlife encounters, e.g. bird feeding. Has talked to New Zealand Grazing Company about regulations implementation, and is due to speak to the poultry industry on the same topic later in the year. Noted the recent Environmental Defence Society conference – there are papers available online including from the CEO of Landcorp about how things might look in the future, in terms of NZ contributing to feeding the world.

^{s 9(2)(a)} – attended Vet Science Week in Australia. Met with QLD government in regards to rodeos and they seem to be heading the same direction as NZ. Visited Dreamworld and saw tigers & tiger shows. They are hand reared, but the ones that demonstrate aggression are sold on to another zoo as non-interaction tigers. Interesting to note that their cortisol levels increased when they weren't being used for interactions, and lowered when 'rent-a-crowd' brought in.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 2:30pm.