



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## General Meeting

Rā: 24 February 2021  
Tāima: 09:45am – 4:30pm

Whaitua o rēhia: The Terrace Conference Centre – Room Thorndon 2

## MENETI | MINUTES

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

**Nuinga / Attendees:**

s 9(2)(a)

**Matangaro / Apologies:**

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

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

**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

## PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

*Moved (G Verkerk/A Dale)*

- *Agreeing to the public exclusion during agenda items in part two of the meeting*
- *The inclusion of MPI staff [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] to attend part two of the agenda*

*That motion was put: carried*

### GENERAL

#### 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

*Moved (G Verkerk / K Schutz)*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 18 November 2020 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*That motion was put: carried*

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

The committee reviewed the list of actions (02/21). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, will be discussed in the strategic planning session (part two of the agenda)
- Action 2, Complete
- Action 3, Complete
- Action 8, s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Action 9, complete
- Action 10, draft rabbit code has been circulated to stakeholders as part of pre-consultation
- Action 16, will be addressed at the NAWAC codes of welfare meetings held in April 2021
- Action 19, complete

### 3. NAWAC correspondence

*Correspondence was circulated to members of the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read.*

Main correspondence received since November 2020 was from individual members of the public, regarding dairy cows and shade/shelter.

No comments on correspondence received during this time.

### 4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

*(M) Conflict of Interest (03/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

The importance of disclosure was discussed and development and updating of a Conflict of Interest (COI) register will be a permanent agenda item from now on

Action: <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> to add COI disclosure declaration at the beginning of each meeting

Action: <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> to create a COI register for NAWAC committee

### 5. Transparency

*(M) Public attendance at meetings (04/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

The NAEAC committee are developing standard operating procedure (SOP) for public attendance at meetings. NAWAC agreed to align with that procedure.

Discussion around aspects of attendance versus participation and if we allow virtual attendance.

Action: <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> / R Palmer / G Shackell to lead SOP for public attendance for NAWAC meetings

Independent NAWAC/NAEAC webpages are currently being developed to ensure the independence from MPI to the public. Currently on track to be functional by June 2021.

Action: <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> to update committee in March 2021

### 6. Election of the deputy chair

I Visser was elected as NAWAC deputy chair for 2021.

Moved (G Verkerk / R Palmer)

*The motion was put: carried*

### 7. Shelter integration

*(M) Shelter Integrated and shared proposal (1121) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read.*

<sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> presented his shelter integrated and shared proposal paper and discussed his recommendations.

The main points from the proposal discussed:

- Our pastoral farming systems can make access to appropriate shelter for animals challenging.
- It depends on species, property, location and other variables.
- Comfort, production, and survival are three factors to consider with shade and shelter regulations.
- The differing views of animal owners and barriers to change need to be considered:
  - Good compliance (reward these farmers)
  - Understand importance but lack resources (need support for resources)
  - Resistant to change (compliance may be needed)
  - Lack of understanding why animal welfare may be compromised
- Public messaging is also important
  - NZ perception of animal welfare is often portrayed as negative and judgemental
  - The public also needs to have better understanding about animal welfare
  - Rewarding and acknowledging good compliance “make the farmer a hero”
  - Portray the good news stories as well

Discussion around the proposal and how it should be incorporated when reviewing codes. The committee also recommended for the document to be published for the public to access, helping their awareness around animal welfare. It was noted this is also relevant for others species and will become more important with climate change.

G Verkerk – Thanked s 9(2)(a) for his work with MPI and the years he has assisted to develop our thinking about animal welfare, as he retires.

#### **MPI update**

*MPI update (07/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Resolving these issues as the pastoral codes are reviewed requires a multi-stakeholder approach to capture all levels along the supply chain. G Verkerk has approached the Farm to Processor Forum at their November 2020 meeting, and currently awaiting the engagement.

A Dale referred to the increase in bobby calf slaughter and the need for finding ways to grow calves on.

#### **Work programme update**

*Work Programme Update (06/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

No further comments or discussion

#### **Issues Register**

*NAWAC Issues Register (08/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

No further comments or discussion

## PART TWO (Public Excluded)

MPI Staff in attendance – [REDACTED]

s 9(2)(a)

### C1. Pig farrowing and mating stall crate update

*(M) Pigs Subcommittee – NAWAC update and direction (05/21) was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting – taken as read*

G Verkerk thanked the subcommittee, the international speakers, [REDACTED] for their work toward the pigs review.

Discussions with overseas groups about their regulatory system changes show that transitioning to crate free systems necessitated a big change for both systems and personnel in those countries.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

NZ Pork have met with Minister Whaitiri and MPI to discuss assistance for extension and research work.

G Verkerk noted that NAWAC's role in the code review is to focus on animal welfare impacts, while MPI policy will focus assessing regulatory impacts such as financial implications and any community impacts of changes.

Recent research has shown the importance of sows being able to express maternal behaviours present and the need for opportunity to perform nesting behaviours. The subcommittee has a strong focus on supporting systems that provide these opportunities.

There was also discussion around pig genetics and hyperprolificacy, the systems used for artificial insemination, and management of aggression in sows including relationships between aggression and barren environments, lack of enrichment, and limited opportunities to perform normal behaviours, especially during the period that sows are coming into oestrus.

G Verkerk also identified that there are still some uncertainties around the judges' ruling and whether this would permit short term restraint. Once the draft changes are further developed, NAWAC will need to take legal advice.

There was then discussion around NZ Pork's expressed concerns about changes in the industry and their call for slower step-wise change. NAWAC would like to ensure that any changes made now are future-proofed so that the industry has certainty and any changes made will serve them well into the future. It was noted that overseas experts have recommended that while it may be challenging for the industry, this approach served best for both pigs and farmers.

The subcommittee has further farm visits to complete as well as further meetings with overseas and local experts. Additionally, the subcommittee are developing a Five Domains assessment of a range of farrowing and mating systems. It was noted that meeting summaries are being shared on the NAWAC webpage.

*Action: Pig Subcommittee will share their final recommendations at the codes review meeting in April 2021, ready for public consultation in June 2021*

## C2. Strategic planning & NAWAC direction

The balance of the meeting was dedicated to strategic planning and committee direction and was facilitated by s 9(2)(a).

As background information, s 9(2)(a) discussed the NZ animal welfare strategy, "Fit for a better world" and its importance to NZ. This included two videos, "Te Taiao report" and "Fit for a better world", with further information available online (<https://fitforabetterworld.org.nz/videos/>). The context of these expressions of government policy and animal welfare in Aotearoa New Zealand were also discussed.

*Action: s 9(2)(a) share the link for the videos with the committee*

In a workshop format, the group then considered this information and its relationship to our high-level animal welfare issues and the implications of future change for animal welfare in NZ.

Selected parts (decision making principles, hui conduct, the mission statement and vision) from the previous NAWAC strategy were then reviewed in this light.

With the assistance of the facilitator, relevant changes were then aligned into a new and briefer framework that can be reviewed regularly and be published online.

*Action: G Verkerk and R Palmer to finalise with s 9(2)(a) and recirculate to NAWAC*

*Action: A Spence add strategic planning review to agenda for May meeting to finalise 2021 version, and then for an annual review*

*Action: s 9(2)(a) codes for review in April 2021; Pigs, Dairy Code. Invite s 9(2)(a) to present her draft review of the rodeo code; and also to NZALA to give NAWAC an overview of their general position on animal welfare and to introduce NAWAC to the intent of their report to be released at Parliament,*

*Action: s 9(2)(a) add rabbits code to the August meeting*

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