



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## General Meeting

09 May 2018  
09:30 am – 3:30 pm

Level 1, TSB Building, 147 Lambton Quay  
Wellington

## MINUTES

**Committee members:** Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Graeme Doole, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Iain Torrance, Julie Wagner.

**In attendance:** s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Animal Welfare Science), s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (NAWAC Secretary), s 9(2)(a) (Adviser, Animal Welfare Science), s 9(2)(a) (Policy Analyst, Regulatory Reform & Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Policy Analyst, Regulatory Reform & Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Team Manager Animal Welfare Compliance Central), s 9(2)(a) (Manager, Sector Liaison Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Senior Adviser, Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Senior Policy Analyst, Regulatory Reform & Animal Welfare), s 9(2)(a) (Manager Research & Evaluation, Research & Evaluation).

**Apologies:** s 9(2)(a)

**Welcome:** s 9(2)(a)

**Any Other Business Part One (Public Excluded Agenda):**

**Any Other Business Part Two (Open to the Public):** The mini-tutorial, agenda item O1, was cancelled.

# PART ONE (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

## DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

(G Verkerk / I Torrance):

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

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) / All
C 4.	MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI	s 9(2)
C 5.	Rodeo discussion	G Doole
C 6.	Codes review update	s 9(2)(a)
C 7.	Compliance update	s 9(2)(a)
C 8.	Sector liaison update	s 9(2)
C 9.	Issues register	G Verkerk / 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:**

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>		<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
C 1.	Confirmation of previous minutes	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).
C 2.	Status of actions arising from previous meetings	As above.	As above.
C 3.	Work programme update	To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	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.
C 4.	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

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
			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).
C 5.	Rodeo discussion	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and/or:  To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.	To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and/or: To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.
C 6.	Codes review update	As above.	As above.
C 7.	Sector liaison update	To protect the privacy of natural persons; and/or:  To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.	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 sections 9(2)(a) and/or 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.
C 8.	Compliance update	To protect the privacy of natural persons; and/or:  To maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.	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 sections 9(2)(a) and/or 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA.
C 9.	Issues register	As for C5 above.	As for C5 above.

I also move that:

1. s 9(2)(a)
2. s 9(2)(a)
3. s 9(2)(a)
4. s 9(2)(a)
5. s 9(2)(a)
6. s 9(2)(a)
7. s 9(2)(a)
8. s 9(2)(a)
9. s 9(2)(a)
10. s 9(2)(a)
11. 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 (G Verkerk / K Schutz)*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 14 February 2018 (30/18) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments:*

- *Remove line about Auckland Pet Expo (Page 4) – unclear who was invited.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

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

The committee reviewed the list of actions (53/18). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, in regards to the review being done by the Canterbury group, is still in progress. No further correspondence has been received since the August meeting.
- Action 2, in regards to A&P shows and the rodeo code, is still in progress.
- Action 3, in regards to working with NZVA on reports of broken shoulders in dairy cattle, is still in progress. G Verkerk suggested that a letter should be written from NAWAC to NZVA to request further actions or publications.

*Action: G Verkerk and J Wagner to draft letter to NZVA on reports of broken shoulders in dairy cattle.*

- Action 4, in regards to NAWAC and regulations implementation, can be marked as completed once the final key messages have been shared with NAWAC. NAWAC had agreed that members would not sit on the implementation groups but would like to see the messages that will be shared.

*Action: s 9(2)(a) to share regulations key message document with NAWAC.*

- Action 5,

### C 3. Work programme update

The work programme update (32/18) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Dairy cattle code amendment – the draft code has been through legal and peer review. It is now with Policy, who are considering its alignment with the Regulations Review Committee recommendations s 9(2)(ba)(i)
- Animals in the wild – the snares report is being updated to give more information due to a new Minister. Aiming to bring to NAWAC for agreement in August. N Poutu has been working on generally accepted practice, planning to follow up on the 2015 work and see if any progress has been made. Is also keeping in touch with ex-NAWAC member s 9(2)(a) who is doing equivalent work in Australia.

- Poultry – The subcommittee had a meeting with industry representatives in regards to regulations and broiler breeding. They have asked stakeholders (including SPCA) to indicate areas that need the most animal welfare work. Also planning a farm visit.
- Temporary housing – The draft code has been recommended to the Minister (27/18) and Policy is putting together their briefing, including the date the code should come into force. G Verkerk explained that she had received a call from s 9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] G Verkerk, G Shackell, s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2) had discussed this request before the NAWAC meeting at the regular MPI/NAWAC/NAEAC liaison meeting. Policy is considering the request. s 9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The code is already very behind schedule – there has been a lot of notice. There were agreements from other committee members. How long the delay might be was questioned – G Verkerk indicated the request was for at least several months. It was agreed that NAWAC is not in favour of further delay (that is, any delay on top of already discussed slightly delayed commencement to allow time to publicise).

*Action: Pass NAWAC's view on further commencement delay onto MPI staff who are writing the briefing for the Temporary Housing code.*

The subcommittee questioned whether they were still required. G Verkerk indicated it should still be in place for the implementation process, so at least until the code is issued.

- Exhibition, entertainment and encounter – Rodeos to be discussed.

s 9(2)(a) gave an update on the latest Greyhound Welfare Committee meeting. The new s 9(2)(b)(ii), stated Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ) commitment to the recommendations in the Hansen report, and wants to strengthen ties between the GRNZ Board and their Greyhound Welfare Committee. There have been several issues recently that the Racing Integrity Unit is dealing with. These include positive drug swabs in an instance which was publicised in the media. s 9(2)(ba)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In the instance mentioned above, they called both MPI and SPCA who agreed that RIU was the appropriate body to investigate in this instance. s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a) will continue to work with compliance on risks around jurisdiction for investigations as part of the regulations implementation in the greyhound industry. Finally, GRNZ is planning to provide regular updates (including on progress with points raised in the Hansen report) to the Racing Minister but could not confirm whether they would also send these updates to Minister Whaitiri or NAWAC. G Verkerk noted that GRNZ is to be commended on sorting out their governance, in that the CEO now has specific oversight of and responsibility for dog welfare.

- Implementation of standards – s 9(2)(a) continues to work on the shelter project, with help from graduate staff member s 9(2)(a) .
- Animal sentence and the 'good life' – NAWAC and NAEAC have received the workshop report from the facilitators, which has been uploaded to Workspace. There are also videos and other material, and s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2) are looking at getting the report and videos up on the NAWAC and NAEAC web pages. The subcommittee will meet to consider next steps.

#### **C 4. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI**

An additional staff change was noted. s 9(2) is leaving the Animal Welfare and Regulatory Reform team and working on the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act.

The Committee then moved onto item C6.

#### **C 5. Rodeo discussion**

G Verkerk opened the discussion, explaining the request from Associate Minister Meka Whaitiri for urgent advice on the welfare of animals at rodeos.

s 9(2)(a) and G Doole had put together an expert scientific panel who met with the exhibition, entertainment and encounter subcommittee at a workshop to consider animal welfare at rodeos which was facilitated by s 9(2)(a) . They developed an assessment framework based on a Five Domains assessment, and delivered the report which has been circulated to the whole Committee (35/18).

G Verkerk has a meeting booked with the Associate Minister at 3:15pm and is hoping to present her with options for rodeo after this discussion. She invited G Doole to lead the discussion.

G Doole expressed thanks to s 9(2)(a) , s 9(2) , s 9(2)(a) , the subcommittee and other NAWAC attendees at the workshop, and the secretariat.

He described the process for the workshop. It brought together 9 experts, including individuals with experience as rodeo veterinarians and welfare officers as well as some members of NAWAC. This group combined scientific review with assessment scoring (noting that some scoring can be quite subjective).

The workshop scored animal welfare status, event-by-event, looking at how the five domains of animal welfare were affected at each event. The whole life-cycle of the animal involved in the event was up for discussion, though the panel tended to focus the majority of the discussion on the duration of the event from the chute. The workshop generated a lot of discussion, which was brought together with participants' scores for the Five Domains assessment. The focus was on "average" conditions rather than any outside/extreme observations.

There was discussion about the recommendations that the Regulations Review Committee had for NAWAC and how they applied to balancing welfare needs and taking into account other issues like the impact on rural communities. G Verkerk suggested that NAWAC focuses only on the welfare impact. The Associate Minister will take a larger holistic view with the help of MPI. The Associate Minister has

asked for specific advice on the use of calves, tail twisting, rope burning, flank straps, and electric prodders.

The first two pages of the rodeo memo (35/18) provides information on how the current legislation and the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 will address these issues, which G Doole summarised.

The discussion then centred on pages 3 and 4 of the memo, which presents non-regulatory options.

G Doole summarised the non-regulatory options for rodeo-wide events, highlighting the need for formation of a new animal welfare forum/function in rodeo as a particularly important point.

The Committee discussed these points. Events outside of the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association (NZRCA) were discussed, for example bull riding and A&P shows, and it was suggested that they should be included as well.

All points in the first box on page 3 were agreed to be important, and relatively easily to adopt by the industry. Agreed that all four can be implemented, with the new animal welfare forum being the place to start. This is particularly important because although more research is suggested, it can take a while, and in the meantime developing standardisation through the proposed forum will likely have an immediate impact on management of animals at rodeos.

The non-regulatory options for each event and outcome from the workshop were then discussed.

#### Rope & tie:

- Unsure of the impact. Recommending further research.
- Alternatives discussed, e.g. tying a ribbon to a calf and removing it; using a bungee cord; using breakaway rope.

The Committee discussed the options and support was expressed for investigating substitutes, noting that engagement will be needed from NZRCA, and that this is also an area that can be considered for immediate welfare impact without the need for waiting for research.

It was noted that a camera system is now available that can be used to check animals for injuries and bruising, and that this has been used successfully in prosecutions in the past.

There was discussion about the five domains assessment and taking into account positive welfare aspects. In general, across rodeo, alternative events would help to mitigate potential welfare issues in rodeos, as presented in the report.

#### Steer wrestling:

- Recommending further research.
- Particularly for this event, how the animals are kept outside the event is important. There were anecdotal reports of the animals used in this event being kept in low BCS.
- Suggest that NZRCA identify actions to mitigate risks for this event.

s 9(2) noted that advice can be given to MPI to help with the low BCS issue: e.g. NAWAC could ask compliance to keep an eye on the welfare of steers used in rodeo.

There was further discussion around research, with members noting that the suggestion comes up repeatedly across events, and that it may be needed but it shouldn't stall action being taken now.



Also noted Part 9 of the code of welfare: welfare assurance schemes still not meeting all Recommended Best Practices.

Adding a fifth point to the overall box at the top was suggested: working with stakeholders to come up with various substitutions for events. Reduce and replace wherever possible to lessen the risk of adverse animal welfare outcomes.

Noted that NAWAC can recommend research to MPI to commission.

#### Barrel racing:

- Another replacement/refinement suggestion here –can the event be done with modification. Not everybody uses curb bits, which can exert a severe force on the horse's mouth through leverage, so it was suggested that they are not absolutely necessary. Also the use/necessity of the whip was discussed, but noted that without the whip riders will still kick the horses hard to move them forward at speed.
- Training techniques for barrel racing is a gap in knowledge. There is room for a horse to experience positive welfare in the event depending on how it has been trained. It was however noted that this may be a difficult area to influence since practice sessions and training for barrel racing most likely occurs privately as participants train themselves.
- More research recommended especially into long-term injuries of animals used in this event.

#### Team roping:

- Better record keeping.
- Alternatives discussed, e.g. using breakaway rope.

#### Calf riding:

- Additional to the overall rodeo recommendations, no further recommendations around this event were made at the workshop.

The Committee discussed the findings that calf riding was rated as relatively low-risk. Did the panel take into account repeated use? It was reported that this had been considered, but that it remains difficult to know how often calves are re-used based on from the NZRCA information provided. This suggests that in some cases, some calves are used in more than one event, for example the NZRCA data indicates that a calf was used 3 times, once for calf riding, and then also in the rope and tie event. The rodeos code has minimum standards around the maximum number of times that contract and non-contract calves can be used each day which should manage this issue. The problem is more one of clear record-keeping – an issue which would be addressed by the proposed forum.

It was also noted that there is risk to animals from being ridden by overweight children - there is already a relevant minimum standard on this.

#### Bull/steer riding:

- Increase transparency in relation to the training of animals involved.
- More monitoring and collection of data.



- Increase transparency of what happens when animals retire from the rodeo.

There was discussion about the retirement age for bucking bulls, and this should be compared with retirement processes in other industries such as racehorses.

Also agreed that NAWAC should ensure that Bull Riding New Zealand is included in any future discussions.

#### Saddleback and bareback bronc riding:

- Expert panel noted relatively low impact of bronc riding. It was recommended that more focus be placed on steer wrestling and rope & tie. Then followed by 'more negative than positive' events.

Some NAWAC members questioned this recommendation. The report seems to contradict this result, saying that the impact on horses is worse than bulls, which suggested that the issue should not be de-prioritised. Agreed that NAWAC doesn't have sufficient information to be sure that one event is worse than the other. NAWAC advice to the Minister needs to focus more on the rope and tie and steer wrestling events. Advice to the Minister should also be tempered by summarising the Five Domains assessment, with the underpinning message that no events were rated as putting the animals into a positive overall state.

G Verkerk then went through the regulatory options. As listed in the memo, these are:

- Partial review of the Code of Welfare, focusing on the contentious issues raised in the workshop (e.g. Steer Wrestling and Rope & Tie).
- Complete review of the Code of Welfare.
- Recommend the banning of calves in the rope and tie event.
- Recommend the banning of calves in rodeos all together.
- Recommend the banning of rodeos in their entirety.

Given that NAWAC has taken into account and will recommend some non-regulatory options, does NAWAC want to recommend any regulatory options?

The code review option was discussed. This is a lengthy process. Unlikely to have an effect straight away, and probably not until the 2020 season.

NAWAC discussed the option of banning rodeo entirely. The committee considered such action would be premature; rodeo people should be given the opportunity to improve, and to work within the rules to mitigate animal welfare risk. Further regulation remains an option if the industry fails to achieve the recommended changes.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

Committee arrived at a consensus view: All non-regulatory options would be presented to the Associate Minister, with a focus on a new animal welfare forum/function. In terms of events, concerns will be raised in regards to calf events and steer wrestling, and it will be important to get stakeholder groups together to mitigate the risks here. More regulations (on top of the ones being drafted) remain as an option in case this fails, but regulations are not the primary recommendation.

#### **C 6. Codes review update**

G Verkerk and s 9(2)(a) summarised the memo that had been circulated (36/18).

*Moved (G Verkerk / I Torrance)*

*NAWAC accepts the recommendations in 36/18.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

#### **C 7. Compliance update**

s 9(2)(a), central compliance manager, attended in place of s 9(2)(a).

Talking points were circulated and discussed. Intelligence report (37/18) was taken as read.

Compliance is in the traditionally quiet period (summer/autumn). The team is just under capacity – 22 inspectors out of 24 roles.

There is a bit of extra work this year checking NAIT compliance, which is not a core AW area, but is a Ministry priority and animal welfare has agreed to take on some of this (i.e. when an inspector responds to a call, check NAIT tags while there).

A big focus is preparing inspectors for the regulations being introduced in October.

Saleyards work noted.

*Action – compliance to give update on saleyards work next time.*

#### **C 8. Sector liaison update**

s 9(2) introduced herself and s 9(2)(a).

Summarised the team's work on regulations implementation.

Sector liaison is attending a series of events including AgFest and Dairy Women's Network.

Raised with NAWAC whether members would like to join regulations implementation stakeholder groups, or view the messaging after workshops have been held. Agreed that NAWAC would view messaging afterwards.

There was discussion on the role of recommended best practice and whether the sector liaison team would be happy to promote these; yes, team enjoys promoting codes and will continue to do so and can focus on RBPs on release.

NAWAC asked about animal welfare apps. The fit for transport app has been updated several times.

In regards to regulations, one risk around the practicality of not tail docking cattle was raised.

#### **C 9. Issues register**

Discussion was welcomed on any point raised in the issues register (38/18).

The Committee noted memo by s 9(2)(a) on virtual fencing, agreed to keep on watching brief.

Agreed to add to watching brief the issue of euthanasia and keeping companion animals alive too long. Landmark case recently of Christchurch.

Noted story recently about a German Shepherd 'puppy farm' with footage shown on 7 Sharp, and a story on fish farming closures overseas.

Dairy broken shoulders issue was discussed. Are vets encouraged to report? At the moment there is no ongoing work into epidemiological reporting. G Verkerk to talk further with veterinary association.

Rabbit calicivirus was raised. s 9(2)(a) trying to get numbers on how effective it has been, will send around when they come in.

Action: s 9(2)(a) to send update on RHDV.

## **PART TWO (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

### **OTHER REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **O 4. Welfare Pulse article ideas**

No article ideas were suggested.

#### **O 5. NAWAC correspondence**

Several letters were noted, on the topics of rodeos, animal transport and temporary housing.

G Verkerk reported correspondence with Massey, expressing support on a new animal science degree that would have more animal welfare content.

G Shackell reported on correspondence that NAEAC has had with animal research institutions on funding for the 3R's award.

#### **O 6. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences**

I Torrance – Working on animal welfare education in the Chatham Islands. Beef & Lamb visited recently. Trying to get Federated Farmers engaged, and looking at whether MPI compliance could come and do some education, on-farm visits etc. Due to attend and speak at the Zoos and Aquarium conference in Wellington soon.

K Schutz – summarised projects with AgResearch. Finishing cold & heat stress review for DairyNZ. Also noted recent discussions with someone involved in culling as part of the M. bovis response who raised animal welfare concerns. Suggestion from MPI was that the person should escalate to MPI, raise the animal welfare issue through the response channels available. If, after that, the answer and outcome is not satisfactory then bring the issue back to NAWAC, NAWAC could potentially look at recommendations for future responses for example.

G Doole – has been focusing on rodeo work. Giving guest lecture on role of NAWAC/animal welfare policy in NZ soon.

N Poutu – DOC has been looking at systems for approving use of traps, risk assessment process.

J Wagner – reported on new Ravensdown water filtering solution.

G Verkerk – met with DairyNZ recently. Attended Primary Industry Chief Executives Animal Welfare Forum - Associate Minister came to meet everyone, there was discussion about mud. J Wagner and G Verkerk visited Henergy.

G Shackell – Attended Waikouiti rodeo, met with vet and rodeo attendee. Did some sheep AI work recently. Due to do NAEAC site visits, including a visit to Zero Invasive Predators.

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