



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## Te Komiti Tohutohu Hauora Kararehe ā-Motu The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

### Tikanga hu: General Meeting

**Whaitua o rēhia:** Wellington

**Rā:** 11 and 12 March 2025

**Tāima:** 09:30 – 16:00

### MENETI | MINUTES

**Komiti / Committee:** Matthew Stone (Kairuruku/Chair), Katherine Littlewood, Kathryn Bicknell, Stuart Taylor, Tim Scotland, Mhairi Sutherland, Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson, Carolyn Eyre, Natalie Waran

**Nuinga / Attendees:** s9(2)(a)

[Redacted Attendee Names]

**Manuhiri / Guests:** s9(2)(a)

[Redacted Guest Names]

**Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu / Public Attendees:** s9(2)(a)

[Redacted Public Attendee Names]

**Matangaro / Apologies:** Peter Mason

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

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



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## PART 1: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (DAY ONE)

### GENERAL

#### O 1. Welcomes and farewells

M Stone opened the meeting at 0935 am and welcomed all attendees.

Introductions from each new member

- K Littlewood: Veterinarian. Independent member of GRNZ Welfare Committee. different perspectives of stakeholders (social science).
- K Bicknall: competition equestrian sports, interested in the interface between regulations and people.
- S Taylor: Dairy farmer. SAFER farms. Passion: farm systems, communities & people on farms.
- T Scotland: Sheep & Beef, Veterinarian. Rangitikei Veterinary Services. Standards/policy committee of New Zealand Veterinary Association.

M Stone farewelled R Palmer and A Dale.

- Two terms, multiple sub-committees.

*R Palmer and A Dale left the meeting.*

#### O 2. Updates to register of interests

- K Littlewood: Co-director of Ako Vet Ltd, independent member of GRNZ Welfare Committee, LIFT COST Action member, NZVA Policy Advisory Committee
- K Bicknall: Background in animals in entertainment/equestrian support (carriage driving)
- S Taylor: Working and owning dairy, Director of drystock business (non-paid),
- T Scotland: Shareholder and Director of Southern Rangitikei Vet Services, Director of Excel vets, NZVet Association, Livestock Exports NZ, Member of Dairy NZ Body Condition Scoring Evaluation Scheme

#### O 3. Election of Deputy Chair

C Eyre nominated S Faulkner

Moved: M Stone.

That S Faulkner be elected Deputy Chair of NAWAC for 2025.



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The motion was put: Carried.

M Stone talked to the role of the Deputy chair.

## O 4. Confirmation of previous minutes

The document **02.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Moved: M Stone

That the minutes dated 30 October 2024 are a true and accurate record

The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

The motion was put: Carried.

s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 10:00am

## O 5. NAWAC correspondence

The document **03.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

C Eyre requested change to presentation of minutes, to reduce use of acronyms [interest groups] in documents or provide a reference key.

C Eyre – Referencing the rodeo campaign (p1) –The correspondence log should provide evidence to allow NAWAC to make informed decisions and evaluate risks, the inclusion of a live link in this item highlights a risk that members may inadvertently endorse petitions when investigating emerging issues. However, members are encouraged to exercise caution when reviewing correspondence or engaging / putting names to causes that could bring into question the independence of NAWAC.

M Stone – NAWAC's role is to advise the Minister. It advises its members to be cautious in signing anything that suggest predetermination prior to NAWAC's own processes of analysis and decision making.

C Johnson – Farmed fish (p2). Becoming a more important farmed species, production species, need to keep an eye on it.

*The committee adjourned for morning tea at 10.40am*

*The committee reconvened at 11.00am*

s9(2)(a) joined the meeting at 11:00am.

## O 6. Status of actions arising from previous meetings



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The document **04.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

## **Action list updates**

- #5 MPIs developed a list of stakeholders that we can directly inform when we have completed our work programme and annual report. Circulate the stakeholder list to committee members.
- #6 for discussion in closed meeting
- #7 Later agenda item
- #9 Sub-committee update
- # Sheep and beef updates to come this afternoon
- #14 Organisation gram for MPI AIS to be provided
- #23 Painful husbandry procedures to be discussed in Sheep & Beef Code Review and consider as a horizontally implemented part of production codes of welfare.
- Poultry Industries Association of NZ meeting to discuss review of poultry codes.

Previously NAWAC had discussed a traffic light system to track progress reporting system for the action points.

### **Actions**

- Business sub-committee to think about how they can ensure that the action register is providing fulsome information.

## **O 7. Issues register**

The document **05.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

- Aquacultural finfish register – encouraging implementation and monitoring of industry standard (salmon farming practices) until new code of welfare can be developed.
- Cage age EU Commission (EU Citizen’s initiative) – EU Parliament has released a document that records the intention to progress the ending of cages across practice.
- Emerging agri-technology (opinion piece): NAWAC has previously completed work on an opinion piece related to selective breeding and the animal welfare issues that may arise. M Stone notes that NAWAC had gone some way down the development of a piece on implications for animal welfare of various animal-based agri-technologies (e.g. virtual fences, wearable technologies, sheep washing) and the issues arising from consideration of available technologies



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during codes reviews. Paused last year when the letter of expectation from Minister (to prioritise the production codes of welfare) was received. The Animal Welfare Network of Aotearoa (AWNA) is holding their regular meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. The theme is agri-technology. M Stone will facilitate a panel discussion in the afternoon based on some of this work.

- Covid19 enquiry is progressing. Complicated process in two phases. First phase is completed.
- Live animal export by sea (LAE) – NAWAC was invited into early stakeholder feedback process. NAWAC advice is not on the website. When MPI launches public consultation, it is anticipated that NAWAC will publish their advice with the permission of the Minister. Previous advice has not been rescinded as it was valid at the time of publication.
- Orana Park have appointed a new Chief Executive
- NAWAC need to be aware of the timelines for legislative review relating to gene technology bill and ready to engage when the opportunity arises.
  - There is an opportunity to signal to the Minister the expertise within NAWAC (especially given new members) to be part of the conversation relating to gene technology.
- With global warming, there is concern regarding water availability, security, affordability for lifestyle block owners. Risk for animal welfare. This is a compliance issue.
- Cat management – link to the third iteration of the National Cat Management Strategy & the private members bill that was launched just before Christmas.
- Watching brief New Zealand Equine Health Association and Companion Animals are working together to create an equine animals register for biosecurity reasons.
- Bees: Apiculture has developed an industry code. NAWAC would monitor implementation process. In interim will remain on register.
- Larvae stage of zebrafish are considered to be sentient and should be considered as Animals under the Animal Welfare Act. NAEAC are working to try and bring us in line with international guidelines. Resolving the issue requires a change to the Act. Requested that when LAE changes are made that the definition of animal was changed to include zebrafish larvae.
  - What is NAWAC's role? In support of NAEAC or as a lead of the process?
  - NAWAC will have an interest in fish welfare. Noting at this stage, so that future work is aligned.
  - NAEAC to continue to document the case so that ready to take advantage



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- Watching brief on emissions mitigation, particularly more regenerative farming models. Aligns with a piece of work M Stone is working on to develop agreements under the Paris Accord to better incorporate animal health & welfare strategies.

## **Actions:**

- White paper on equid welfare (positive reaction. Published and well received). Sent to various governments including Australia. Add weblink to Issues register.
- Forward NAWAC agri-tech opinion paper (draft) to K Littlewood
- Remove Covid-19 from the register – NAWAC put in a submission, nothing further required.

## **O 9. Annual Report** *[numbering error in agenda, left to match]*

First draft was circulated. Members will not have seen the chair update previously. There are some gaps in subcommittee updates. When subcommittee Chairs end their terms, the subcommittee members will need to work to get the information into the report.

- M Stone talked to points in the opening remarks, namely interactions with minister, Letter of Expectation, changes to NAWAC's work programme and regulatory stewardship. C Eyre commended the note.
- Suggestion that reference should also be made to specific codes (e.g. Rodeo Code), highlighting that this is the 2024 report.
- Should we mention the new members or not?
- Ordering: Para 4 to Para 2. Mention new Minister at top.
- Action C Johnson to draft paragraph on wildlife SC update. N Waran to draft paragraph on companion animal SC update.

A secretariat reminder for fees & honoraria – get your claims in promptly on a monthly basis. Minimum payment is ½ day.

## **O 10. Member updates**

- S Faulkner: BAU for farming industry. A lot of the country is struggling with drought and the animal welfare implications relating to water availability and affordability.
- N Waran: Companion Animals NZ (CANZ) are keen to see the Companion Animal Code progress and the committee move forward. CANZ is investing in research, focused on positive welfare and emotional expression. The 2024 Companion



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Animals survey is now available on the website – data survey populations of dogs, cats, horses.

- S Faulkner: Where do working dogs and farm dogs fit?
  - N Waran: When animals retire from their 'job' and they have a second chapter of their lives we start talking about them as a companion animal.
- M Sutherland: Beef & Lamb are working on lamb survival, considering early disease detection (specifically facial eczema). M Sutherland is also involved in the development of a new animal welfare science network – predominantly networking.
- C Eyre: noted issues with drought and declaration issues. Some farmers offloading stock to mitigate impacts. Arson attacks (side of the road), leading to the need for animal welfare emergency response. Increase in the number of unregistered dogs with dangerous classification and increasing dog attacks.

*K Littlewood left the meeting at 11.19am*

- T Scotland: working with Vet Council New Zealand (VCNZ) on an update to emergency care guidelines and the Veterinarians Act. The latter currently puts the duties and obligations on individual veterinarians to provide emergency care service to clientele. The aim is to shift responsibility from individual veterinarians to clinics/emergency hubs and to clarify responsibilities, providing some protection for veterinarian welfare and mental health state. Could be some implications for animal welfare. There is an identified need for a change to animal owners understanding of an emergency and the impact on veterinarians and their families. Key issues are:
  - What are the benchmarks and how will this be monitored/reviewed?
  - Challenge will be to find venues and staffing to run the centres.
- S Taylor: discussed technology use on Craigmore farms, including internal monitoring system (bolus); the halter system, Herd-i system (in-shed cameras to identify lame cows), FLOW, automatic backing gates to help cows in yards, body condition score cameras, managing and helping people on farm to use and adapt new technology.
  - M Stone asked about the arrangements of this tech being trialled on his farms and reiterated that NAWAC is interested in this work.
- C Johnson: PhD student completed thesis on mechanisms of boredom in people and animals (farmed and companion). Started to think about how to measure. Looking at nausea as a measure of negative animal welfare. C Johnson published in The Conversation (30,000 downloads).
- K Littlewood: Developing business model for decision-support material for veterinarians. Noted that funding bodies are seeking economic benefits in funding applications.



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- K Bicknell: commented that a lot of the issues discussed so far have a lot of economic implications. Interested in contributing to the economic considerations of NAWACs decision making.
- M Stone: HPAI has resulted in changes to policy that NZ has adopted, leading to discussion regarding animal welfare implications of mass cull. Dealt with under animal welfare standards, WOAHA, etc. Industry and MPI continue to deal with the outbreak. Technical advisory groups continue to work on issues relating to return to trade.
  - Internationally, Europe has suffered its first FMD outbreaks in some time (Buffalo farm in Germany, early January. Hungary case on Friday).
  - Health for Animals & Action for Animal Health & Animal Welfare – to try and bring more closely together networks and processes to deal with Animal Health and climate change. Encouragement from the Paris Accord to drive investment in animal health has been strong but difficult to achieve. All countries, including NZ will be making new NDCs commitments in 2025.
  - Emergency management discussions, ongoing exchanges with MPI, follow-up to adverse events. Focus from WOAHA to develop an emergency management programme. M Stone is working with WOAHA on IMS, all hazards approach (disease, natural hazards, conflict, technology, geopolitics, etc.).

## **Actions:**

- Secretariat to circulate paper published in *The Conversation* to the Committee.

## **C 1. MPI update**

The document **07.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

### *Animal Welfare*

The Committee requested that information regarding operational research continues to be available to NAWAC.

### *Animal Welfare Regulations and Policy*

MPI is engaging with Ministers next month on the Live Animal Exports by Sea. The PCO have drafted early legislation.

Minister has announced regulations that will allow veterinary nurses to perform sub-gingival procedures from 10 April 2025.





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New complaint received regarding equine dentistry.

Greyhounds – phased transition to end racing in 2026. A Ministerial Advisory Committee has been established, includes Heather Simpson (Chair), Murray Johnson, and Lindsay Burton. NAWAC Chair has had a conversation with the Department of Internal Affairs Secretariat to the Advisory Committee, ensuring they understand NAWAC's role and willingness to continue to engage with them when they are ready to discuss ideas or a draft plan for the industry shutdown.

*Public section of the meeting closed at 12.19pm*



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## RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

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

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

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

- C 1. MPI update
- C 2. SC reports
- C 3. Work programme review/refresh and SC assignments
- C 4. Code of Welfare structure and format
- C 4. Sheep and Beef Code of Welfare – Approve to recommend for public consultation
- C 5. Prolonged Dog Tethering Regulations
- C 6. Pig COW consultation discussion
- C 7. Greyhound Racing – sharing information on implementation processes
- C 8. RIB Presentation
- C 9. New member first meeting de-brief

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:



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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
C1, C2, C3, C6, C7, C8 and C9	That the public conduct of the whole or 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)(a)(ii) of the LGOIMA.	The withholding of information is necessary under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, and that the public interest is not found to outweigh the need to withhold the information.
C4, C5	The exclusion of the public from the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.	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) of the LGOIMA.

I also move that: s9(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.

Moved: M Stone – committee consensus

Motion: carried

## PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA (DAY ONE)

### C 1. MPI update

The document **07.25** was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

The Code of Welfare: Deer is expected to go to Minister later this week or early next week.

*The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:45pm*





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synthesised evidence and engage in free and frank conversation about how the outcomes required in the Act should be applied to the classes of animals covered by the Code. It is currently a highly collaborative process.

S9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted text block]

*The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:44pm.*

*The committee reconvened at 1:33pm.*

## C 2. SC reports

M Stone referenced the paper **08.25** that outlined recent work across NAWAC subcommittees.

S9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Deer: M Sutherland noted the code of welfare is currently with the Minister and confirmed MPI Animal Welfare Policy has provided their advice.

Companion animals: M Stone noted the SC Chair is vacant as A Dale has concluded her service with NAWAC. The rabbit code of welfare remains paused but may resume in future following progress with the production codes of welfare. M Stone noted that the cat and dog codes of welfare are also waiting.

Rodeo: M Stone agreed to update the timeline for recommending this code of welfare to the Minister ahead of public consultation (from Q3 to Q4). C Johnson asked that the industry be consulted around the timing of the public consultation process. M



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Henderson noted that the industry is keen to have public consultation run during their season.

S9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

Sheep and beef cattle: S Faulkner noted that the draft code of welfare and evaluation report would be discussed in a subsequent agenda item.

Business: The SC is finalising the annual report and work programme. Work remains to be completed on a conflicts of interest guideline, but this is paused after earlier development of a framework awaiting any change to the Act Schedule 1 arising from NAWAC reform. The SC continues to work with MPI Secretariat to update/maintain the website.

Wildlife: C Johnson noted he's learned a great deal serving on this SC even though wildlife hasn't been his focus (aside from euthanasia). The SC is planning to continue its work building on principal stakeholder engagement undertaken last year. N Waran queried if the SC was working on anything substantial and if not she would rather see resource allocated to the companion animal SC to finish rabbits. C Johnson noted that the stakeholder engagement showed that stakeholders want reliable information (from NAWAC) on how to manage tangible situations (e.g., where animals are trapped (but not killed) and how to manage this). The SC has also been working on best practice around humane killing as well as snare trap prohibition. Priorities for the work programme moving forward need to be clarified and agreed.

Greyhounds: M Stone noted that P Mason and S9(2)(a) participate on the Greyhound Racing New Zealand Animal Health and Welfare Committee and that K Littlewood is an independent member of that committee. Regarding the industry shut down process, NAWAC should plan to provide advice to the Minister at some stage during this year as



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the Ministerial Advisory Committee develops its plan and seeks approval from the Minister of Racing, since it seems probable the Minister of Racing will ask relevant ministerial colleagues for input into the approval of the plan. K Littlewood noted that NAWAC could ask and see how this could be managed. M Stone noted K Littlewood would be declaring conflict of interest at the next Greyhound Racing New Zealand meeting.

Poultry: M Stone noted that he is the nominal Chair (ahead of a formal SC). He noted that he would be meeting with the poultry industry this week to discuss the review of the poultry codes of welfare, particularly what industry would be willing to contribute during the initial stages of the review. He also noted that commitment of MPI resource would likely be minimal in the immediate. M Stone noted he would update the rest of the committee after the meeting.

Regarding the Farm to Processor Animal Welfare Forum, C Eyre noted that M Stone attends as the Chair of NAWAC and A Dale attends as an SPCA representative. M Stone agreed to keep the committee updated.

## C 3. Work programme review/refresh and SC assignments

Dairy cattle: The SC is M Stone (Chair), P Mason and T Brown (*ex officio*). M Stone noted that he would favour continuing to have T Brown on the SC subject to Minister, NAWAC and MPI approval/agreement. The Minister has yet to advise on his agreement. C Eyre queried if the current SC could pick up the work that she would've done, and M Stone confirmed that NAWAC can provide sufficient cover (for both dairy cattle and sheep and beef cattle). C Johnson noted that when T Brown joined NAWAC there had been a lack of experience regarding dairy cattle, but this is no longer the case. G Romaine noted, from a policy perspective, that T Brown could reasonably serve on the SC as NAWAC is free to seek advice from externals (noting T Brown would not participate in decision making). C Eyre queried if T Brown would participate as a past NAWAC member or an industry expert. M Stone confirmed that it would be as a past NAWAC member but acknowledged that she is also an industry representative. S Taylor noted he was keen to join the SC. NAWAC agreed this would ensure the requisite dairy industry experience on the SC, and therefore to thank T. Brown for her contributions and conclude the working arrangement subsequent to her NAWAC resignation.

M Stone extended an invitation to T Scotland to also join Dairy but noted he would also be needed for sheep and beef cattle and possibly rodeo and so would need to consider his availability. G Romaine noted Schedule 1 Section 4 for reference regarding composition of SCs. M Stone also noted the NAWAC Guideline 1 uses the terminology "working group" to describe a broader group of stakeholders (where decision rights are retained by the SC). NAWAC agreed to maintain the SC with NAWAC members only.



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Deer: The SC is M Sutherland (Chair), P Mason and S Faulkner. NAWAC agreed to retain the current membership as is.

Companion animals: The SC is N Waran, P Mason and C Eyre. M Stone noted the SC Chair is currently vacant. M Stone noted K Littlewood may be interested to join in future when the work restarts (and she indicated she was happy to do this).

Rodeo: The SC is P Mason (Chair), C Johnson and N Waran (M Stone asked that his name be removed from the list). C Johnson noted he and P Mason are both in their final year and suggested they bring in other NAWAC members to ensure coverage moving forward. M Stone asked if anyone was interested to join. S Faulkner noted her interest but acknowledged she may not have capacity. T Scotland expressed interest in joining over the course of the year.

Pigs: The SC is C Johnson (Chair), M Sutherland and M Stone. K Bicknell agreed to join the SC.

Sheep and beef cattle: The SC is S Faulkner (Chair), P Mason and M Sutherland. T Scotland noted he was keen to join noting he would also be part of the dairy cattle SC.

Business: The SC is M Stone, P Mason and C Eyre. C Eyre agreed to take the Chair role. S Faulkner noted she would be keen to observe the SC.

Wildlife: The SC is C Johnson and Nick Poutu (*ex officio*). The Chair role is currently vacant. M Sutherland and K Littlewood agreed to join the SC.

Greyhounds: The SC is P Mason (Chair) and S Faulkner. K Littlewood and N Waran agreed to join the SC.

*The committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2:28pm*

*The committee reconvened at 2:46pm*

### **Actions:**

- Remove M Stone from Rodeo SC

### **C 5. Sheep and Beef Code of Welfare – Approve to recommend for public consultation**

S Faulkner acknowledged the vast amount of work that has gone into reviewing and developing the sheep and beef cattle code of welfare. Many people have been involved in this process over many years including the MPI team s9(2)(a)

and many others). The work





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has continued despite numerous disruptions including COVID-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle with credit to A Dale, P Mason and M Sutherland for keeping things going.

S Faulkner introduced the draft code of welfare as robust and defensible. The SC would like to undertake public consultation between May and July.

S Faulkner declared a direct pecuniary interest and noted that she would depart for voting and pass the Chair responsibility to M Sutherland. M Stone reiterated that when the committee moved from discussion to decision making, he would call for conflicts of interest to be declared for clarity of record keeping.

Discussion relating to specific sections of the code of welfare are captured under the headings below. NAWAC had the opportunity to discuss every section but choose to forgo discussing some sections. In these instances, the section heading is retained with no information below it.

## ***Part 1: General Requirements***

### ***1.1 Application***

### ***1.2 Interpretation and Definitions***

## ***Part 2: Stockpersonship and Animal Handling***

### ***2.1 Stockpersonship***

### ***2.2 Animal Handling***

#### Minimum Standard 2 – Animal Handling

S Taylor noted that clause c) regarding moving animals using a vehicle could be revised to ensure the intent is clear (that animals must not be impacted or struck by the vehicle). NAWAC agreed to revise the wording to reflect this.

### ***2.3 Mustering and Droving***

### ***2.4 Restraint***

#### Electroimmobilisation

M Stone provided some context regarding electroimmobilisation for the benefit of the new members. They noted they had not used these types of devices. M Stone noted that for dairy cattle, sheep and beef cattle and deer, NAWAC is moving towards a position where electroimmobilisation is not used. M Stone also noted that some stakeholders would like to see a training programme where the safe/appropriate use of these devices is permitted. NAWAC agreed to retain their position that electroimmobilisation devices should not be used. S Lamar noted that this position was outlined in the evaluation report and that this is the only recommendation for regulation related to this code of welfare.



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## **Part 3: Water and Feed**

### Introduction

N Waran noted the Introduction included mention of “adequate quantities” of food and water and queried how people would know what constitutes “adequate”.

### **3.1 Water**

### **3.2 Feed**

#### Minimum Standard 6 – Feed

Regarding e) relating to body condition score for beef animals, S Faulkner confirmed they used Beef+Lamb New Zealand standards and sought to align the wording with the dairy cattle code of welfare. M Stone noted that the dairy cattle standard was for a specific use case. M Sutherland agreed to review the justification. s9(2)(a) noted that the SC decided to go ahead with the draft wording for public consultation and see what feedback they receive from stakeholders. S Faulkner noted the intention was to bring the lower end of body condition score up. S Faulkner asked if the rest of the committee was happy to proceed to public consultation with this wording. C Eyre agreed but noted that the justification should be referenced in the evaluation report. C Johnson and M Stone signalled their agreement. M Stone noted that the word “urgent” (in relation to remedial action) had been removed to clarify that changing body condition score isn’t a rapid process. NAWAC agreed to retain the proposed wording going into public consultation.

#### Recommended Best Practice

NAWAC discussed the following Recommended Best Practices for Feed.

c) regarding professional advice from a veterinarian, specifically the expected frequency (e.g., annually with plans then updated). s9(2)(a) explained that this recommended best practice specifically included the wording “when designing” to ensure that this expertise is sought from the start.

e) regarding the recommendation that fodder beet should not be fed, the wording could be amended to reflect wording related to winter grazing (like “access to an adequately balanced diet including appropriate supplementary feeding for animals on fodder beet and other crops”). s9(2)(a) explained that the mention of fodder beet specifically came from the winter grazing task force outcomes (to build on Minimum Standard 6a that discusses provision of “sufficient quantities of feed and nutrients”).

S9(2)(g)(i)

## **Part 4: Behaviour**

### **4.1 Behavioural Needs for Sheep and Beef Cattle**



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## Minimum Standard 7 – Providing for Behavioural Needs

S9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

### Recommended Best Practice

S9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

## **4.2 Mixing Sheep or Mixing Beef Cattle**

### Minimum Standard 8 – Mixing Sheep or Mixing Beef Cattle

b) regarding provision of a non-slip surface, C Eyre queried the inclusion of this detail. S Faulkner confirmed that this was included as this standard applies to beef cattle in off-paddock facilities.

c) regarding alternative management, N Waran queried what this looks like in practice. S Faulkner noted that this could include moving an animal or animals to another herd, or removal from the herd by culling.

### Recommended Best Practice

S9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

## **Part 5: The Physical Environment**

M Stone provided some background for the benefit of the new members. M Stone noted that in 2022/2023 NAWAC developed a response to a campaign regarding the provision of shelter that included information around practical challenges. The discussion reverted



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to discussing provision of shelter in terms of thermal stress as this covers both heat and cold and aligns with the dairy cattle code of welfare.

## **5.1 Shade and Shelter**

## **5.2 Farm Facilities, Equipment and Technologies**

### Introduction

K Bicknell noted three systems (virtual fencing, collars and drones) are specified which could be interpreted as an exhaustive list (instead of providing examples). NAWAC agreed to revise for clarity, "Emerging systems and tools include but are not limited to".

T Scotland noted that there is a potential risk with increased use of technologies and that these need to be used appropriately. S Faulkner noted that this had been addressed with specific wording related to limited time around inspecting animals directly as well as implications for stockperson decision-making.

### Minimum Standard 10 – Farm Facilities, Equipment and Technologies

b) regarding alternative management, N Waran queried if this includes culling. S Faulkner confirmed it does.

### Recommended Best Practice

c) regarding use of aversive training techniques, T Scotland noted that these are used (e.g., collars). M Stone noted that the corresponding dairy cattle recommended best practice could be used to clarify this. NAWAC agreed to revise and align with the dairy cattle code of welfare.

## **5.3 Off-paddock Facilities – Managing Sheep and Beef Cattle in Off-Paddock Facilities**

S Faulkner noted that the term "off-paddock facilities" covers a variety of facilities (e.g., feedlots, feed pads) with an aim to cover everything in one section.

### Minimum Standard 11 – Managing Sheep and Beef Cattle in off-Paddock Facilities

S9(2)(g)(i)

a) viii) M Stone noted an inconsistency where stones were referred to as both "large" and "small". NAWAC agreed to remove the word "large" to clarify.

K Littlewood noted that the specified 30mm size for stones doesn't align with the information in the evaluation report (which states no stones should be used). NAWAC discussed that some stones may be appropriate and agreed to remove "be small (less than or equal to 30mm) so they do".



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b) regarding horned cattle, T Scotland queried if these animals should be in off-paddock facilities. S Faulkner noted that managing these animals in off-paddock facilities is a balance between avoiding injuries and unnecessary isolation.

### Example Indicators

Regarding the example indicator relating to size of calf pens, NAWAC agreed to add “at least” before “1.8” and remove the upper limit (2.5 m<sup>2</sup>).

### Recommended Best Practice

S9(2)(g)(i)

i) regarding group housing calf pens, T Scotland queried the provision of 3 m<sup>2</sup> per animal. S Faulkner noted this is a best practice recommendation.

### General Information

NAWAC noted that this section includes guidance information relating to the concentration of noxious gases and lighting levels and agreed to retain these for general information.

### ***5.3 Off-paddock Facilities – Feedlots and Intensive Grazing Systems***

NAWAC discussed and agreed to remove “intensive grazing” throughout this section.

### Minimum Standard 12 – Feedlot Systems

S9(2)(g)(i)

m) regarding ewes and cows giving birth into unsuitable conditions, S Taylor noted that this may be impossible. NAWAC revisited the definition of feedlot: A stockholding area where cattle are confined for at least 80 days in any 6-month period and are fed entirely by hand or machine. S Faulkner confirmed this requirement pertained to heavily pregnant animals where the expectation would be to move them off the feedlot before giving birth. C Johnson noted that minimum standards can be used as a defence against a charge (to demonstrate that the minimum has been achieved).

### Example Indicators

S9(2)(g)(i)



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## Recommended Best Practice

S9(2)(g)(i)

S Faulkner departed at 4:30pm and handed over chairing to M Sutherland.

### **Part 6: Husbandry Practices**

#### **6.1 Identification**

N Waran queried recommended the best practice regarding freeze branding. M Sutherland noted this was included as freezing branding is more aversive or is perceived to be more aversive for animals compared to other forms of identification.

#### **6.2 Selection and Breeding**

#### **6.3 Mating, Semen Collection, and Reproductive Technologies**

#### **6.4 Painful Husbandry Procedures**

M Sutherland explained that the information in this section had been brought over from the Painful Husbandry Procedures Code of Welfare (to have information pertaining to sheep and beef cattle in one place). C Eyre confirmed this is beneficial for ease of reading/user experience.

M Stone queried if there is any detail missing from Sheep and Cattle Code that should have been brought across from the Painful Husbandry Procedures Code of Welfare. s9(2)(a) explained that the SC first looked at the Painful Husbandry Procedures minimum standards that were now regulations (confirming these would not be carried over into the Sheep and Beef Cattle Code of Welfare). Requirements around shortening the scrotum were removed with specific information covered in related regulations regarding castration. d) was added to ensure requirements around equipment used for painful husbandry procedures were clear. s9(2)(a) also noted that as the Painful Husbandry Procedures Code of Welfare is amended it will no longer include information pertaining to sheep and beef cattle.

C Johnson queried if minimum standard 1 (regarding justification for painful husbandry procedures) from the Painful Husbandry Procedures Code of Welfare had been carried over. s9(2)(a) noted that the SC didn't feel as though this need to be explained as most painful husbandry procedures are considered significant surgical procedures that are covered under the Act. M Sutherland agreed and noted that alternative non-painful procedures should always be considered. M Stone suggested this could be captured in



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the guidance information around painful husbandry procedures. After discussion NAWAC agreed this was captured sufficiently as it is described in the introduction section.

## **6.5 End-of-life Management**

M Stone noted that information contained in minimum standard a) and b) is combined in the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare.

## **6.6 Pre-transport Selection and Preparation**

### Minimum Standard 18 – Pre-transport Selection and Preparation

b) regarding transport of ewes/cows after giving birth, M Stone noted that this is a blanket restriction and there may be situations where animals need to be transported. s9(2)(a) explained that the SC had included ‘unless there is a risk to their welfare’ to cover situations where transport may be necessary. NAWAC agreed to add “to saleyards or slaughter” to strengthen this minimum standard.

M Stone noted that the discussion would be paused and continued in the morning. NAWAC would plan finish this review and provide a recommendation regarding this draft code of welfare ahead of public consultation. NAWAC would also discuss structure and format of codes of welfare, NAWAC advisory guidelines and prolonged tethering.

*The meeting concluded at 5:00pm (but was not officially closed as would resume the following day).*

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*The meeting resumed at 9am, 12 March 2025. The committee agreed to continue with the agenda item C 5. Sheep and Beef Code of Welfare – Approve to recommend for public consultation.*

MS 18(b): Finished.

N Waran praised the sub-committee on behalf of the full committee for the work taken to get the Code to this stage.

### Example Indicators

S9(2)(g)(i)

S Faulkner advised the committee that any wordsmithing changes that occur post-meeting will be collated and circulated to the full committee in a singular email.

K Littlewood joined the meeting at 9.05am.



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The EI relating to milking out as close to transport as possible was discussed and T Scotland advised this can result in down cows during transport but is unsure how this may impact dairy sheep.

**Action: T Scotland will circulate information to the SC on the risks of milking out prior to transport.**

The EI relating to the provision of magnesium and calcium to lactating sheep prior to transport was discussed. s9(2)(a) advised that MS 18(c) sufficiently covers the EI relating to milking out close to transport and thus the EI can be removed.

M Stone queried if dairy sheep are as susceptible to the same metabolic disorders as dairy cattle are. M Sutherland advised that they likely are, but in smaller numbers.

M Stone proposed this EI is instead moved to an RBP.

**Action: NAWAC agreed to include a definition for "transporting".**

## Recommended Best Practice:

T Scotland expressed concern regarding the contradictions in the RBPs.

NAWAC noted that there is not a corresponding RBP in the Dairy Code.

NAWAC discussed RBP (h) regarding the age of calves and lambs for transporting and acknowledged there is an existing regulation allowing transport at 4 days of age.

## 6.7 Dairy Sheep – Milking

NAWAC approved with no amendments proposed.

## 6.8 Dairy Sheep – Drying Off

NAWAC approved with no amendments proposed.

## 6.9 Lambing and Calving

MS 21(d): During discussion, the Committee acknowledged that this MS may receive negative feedback during public consultation and that it may need to be more specific.

**Action: NAWAC agreed to amend to M Stones proposed wording.**

MS 21(e): **NAWAC agreed to amend "stockpersons" to "persons".**

MS 21(h): N Waran proposed the wording from the EI (on suturing) be adopted for the MS, in place of the current wording. NAWAC agreed to retain the current wording, noting the ability to apply an appropriate method is effectively covered by MS 21(g).

## Example Indicators:

**Action: The EI containing "compressible and well-drained" to be amended and aligned with the Dairy Code.**

## Recommended Best Practice:

RBP(g): T Scotland advised it is not common practice.

**Action: NAWAC agreed to remove "offspring" from RBP(g).**

## 6.10 Artificial Rearing





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The Committee discussed the proposed MS(i) and (j), and what is considered a “successful rearing outcome”. The Committee agreed to retain these minimum standards for public consultation, noting a final landing point has not yet been determined for dairy cattle.

## 6.10.2 Fostering

MS 23(c): The Committee discussed how many weeks 24-hourly inspections need to be carried out for and it was proposed that some text from the general information is included in the MS *“until a strong bond and regular unimpeded feeding is observed”*. However, NAWAC agreed this would make the minimum standard too long.

**Action: The secretariat to wordsmith this MS to include a timeframe and have the outcome of a strong bond.**

## 6.11 Shearing, Dagging and Crutching

N Waran noted that this section does not refer to the Handling and Restraint section.

**Action: Include a reference to the Handling and Restraint section in the Introduction.**

## 6.12 Managing Fly Strike

NAWAC approved with no amendments proposed.

## Part 7: Disease and Injury Control

MS 26(e): It was acknowledged that this MS was previously worded as *“establish a working relationship...”*. The updated wording in the Code was established with a working group of veterinarians and aligns with their professional code of conduct.

### Example Indicators:

M Stone proposed the definition for *“working relationship”* is removed and s9(2)(a) advised it has been retained as it is included in an example indicator. S Faulkner requested that the example indicator is retained, along with the definition to ensure that the end user can understand the document.

K Littlewood advised that VCNZ will be using *“under the care of”* and recommended this language is used in the Code.

**Action: NAWAC agreed to retain the example indicator with “working relationship” but remove the definition of working relationship.**

### Recommended Best Practice:

RBP(c): NAWAC queried if this RBP refers to soil or livestock supplementation. S Faulkner advised that the intent of the RBP is for either or, and the currently wording was intentional.

**Action: The SC agreed to wordsmith this RBP to ensure clarity.**

### General Information:

T Scotland queried what was intended to be meant by *“alternative effective treatments”*.



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***Action: The SC agreed to wordsmith this sentence to ensure it is understood to mean effective alternatives to antibiotics.***

*Part 8: On-Farm Humane Killing*

MS 27(c): ***NAWAC agreed to amend “where possible” to “any planned killing”.***

Recommended Best Practice:

RBP(d): ***NAWAC agreed to amend to M Stone’s proposed wording.***

General Information:

***NAWAC agreed to re-order the second paragraph to improve readability.***

*Part 9: Contingency Planning*

NAWAC provided positive feedback on this section.

*Part 10: Welfare Assurance System*

NAWAC provided positive feedback on this section.

## **Evaluation Report:**

The Evaluation Report was taken as read and M Stone requested that any additional evidence for inclusion is sent to the SC for consideration.

Declarations of Interest: C Eyre and S Faulkner declared their interests, and these were acknowledged as direct pecuniary interests and so both were recused from the resolution. S Taylor and T Scotland declared their interests, as dairy farmer and veterinarian respectively, and the committee agreed that these conflicts were not pecuniary in relation to sheep and beef cattle welfare standards and so could be managed by transparency rather than recusing.

*Resolution: NAWAC approves in principle while delegating the agreed amendments to the SC. The final tidy up of all related documents (including consultation) to be submitted to the Minister through M Stone as Chair.*

*The motion was put: Carried*

The committee agreed to an 8-week public consultation period for the sheep and beef code of welfare.





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S9(2)(f)(iv)

## NAWAC Advisory Guidelines

15.25 paper circulated after the meeting pack.

M Stone provided history in the circulated email and noted the Committee is a situation currently where advice to the Minister is being updated, but previous advice is not rescinded, and this is reflected in the final paragraph of the guideline.

*Moved (M Stone): That this guideline is accepted and will become guideline 6 and the Business SC will do final formatting and get it published to the website.*

*The motion was put: Carried.*

## C 4. Code of Welfare structure and format

M Stone noted that NAWAC began discussing the Code of Welfare structure and format based on feedback that was received from stakeholders during consultation of the Dairy Code. The Minister also requested NAWAC to consider the accessibility (form and format) of the Code.

S9(2)(f)(iv)

M Stone advised the Committee that they need to ensure that what is proposed in the Codes adds to or goes above the Act to ensure the document is accessible and concise.

*The committee adjourned for morning tea at 10.56am*

*The committee reconvened at 11.20am.*

## C 8. RIB Presentation

S9(2)(ba)(i)





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S9(2)(ba)(i)

- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

NAWAC thanked RIB for the informative presentation.

## **Actions:**

- s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] *to circulate the RIB presentation slides to the committee.*

## **C 9. New member first meeting debriefs**

S9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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S9(2)(g)(i)

M Stone thanked the Committee, the MPI AW team and [members of public] for attending.

s9(2)(a) will be in touch with meeting dates before April 4<sup>th</sup>.

*The committee closed the meeting at 12.39pm.*