



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

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

AGENDA / RĀRANGI TAKE

General Meeting / Tikanga hui

Date / Rā: Thursday 7 March 2024

Time / Tāima: 09:00 – 16:30

Venue / Whaitua o rēhia: Room 1.04,
Charles Ferguson Building, Wellington

Committee / Komiti: Matthew Stone (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Tracy Brown, Mhairi Sutherland, Ruth Palmer, Natalie Waran (virtual), Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson (virtual), Carolyn Eyre

Attendees / Nuinga: s9(2)(a) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Guests / Manuhiri: s9(2)(a) [Redacted]

Public attendees / Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu: s9(2)(a) [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Apologies / Matangaro: Craig Johnson joined virtually after lunch.

Any Other Business (Open to the Public):

Any Other Business (Public Excluded):



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PART 1: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GENERAL

O1. Welcomes and Farewells

M Stone opened the meeting at 09:03am with a karakia. He welcomed NAWAC members, members of the MPI Secretariat, and members of the public to the first NAWAC general meeting for 2024.

O2. Conflict of interest declaration

M Stone called for updates to the committee's register of interests.

- M Stone updated that since the last NAWAC meeting, he has started a piece of work with the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) in his capacity as a consultant.
- T Brown shared that she has been appointed as Director of the NZ Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC).
- N Waran shared that she has been appointed to a committee focused on equine welfare.

No other updates were provided.

O3. Confirmation of previous minutes

The document [02.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] *joined the meeting at 09:09am.*

M Stone called for any comments or corrections on the minutes. The following corrections were noted:

- C Eyre was not included as an attendee on the minutes.
- Page 4, 3rd paragraph from top should read 'in the process', not progress.
- Page 12 should read 'principles of natural justice' in all instances.
- Page 20, remove the reference to horses in regard to the Companion Animal Sub-Committee. The committee discussed horses are a crossover between companion and entertainment, and if and when a code review was initiated NAWAC would establish a separate subcommittee (SC).

No other comments on the minutes were provided.



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MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the minutes dated 7 November 2023 are a true and accurate record

The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

O4. NAWAC correspondence

The document [03.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

The committee asked that the correspondence log read that SAFE campaign emails are 'noted and filed'.

The committee discussed inviting the Associate Minister responsible for animal welfare to a general meeting. M stone confirmed that he has a meeting set up in late March.

The Secretariat confirmed the normal process for when email correspondence comes to NAWAC that relates to a SCs workstream.

O5. MPI Update

The document [04.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read. M Stone thanked MPI for the comprehensive update.

s9(2)(a) provided an update on the science team, in that they are preparing information on request from the Minister's office. She noted that s9(2)(a) had resigned from MPI and finished in February. s9(2)(a) noted discussions on current work streams and work allocations, and that the Secretariat will continue to prioritise as needed and support committee functions. It was noted that s9(2)(a) has taken on the role of Acting Manager Animal Welfare Science Waitā.

s9(2)(a) spoke to the MPI Policy update and flagged that there are currently a number of active petitions, including regarding livestock export by sea, virtual fencing, and cat management.

A Dale queried the intended timeline for noted regulations. s9(2)(a) clarified that Policy are considering how to approach current regulations being progressed, with regard to which to progress first and how many at a time. He noted they are currently working on regulations regarding backrub and late pregnancy in the livestock transport chain.

A Dale queried whether NAWAC will be involved in or will see the report on the animal welfare system health check workstream. s9(2)(a) noted this is focused on MPI internal systems, noting that animal welfare is a multi-department approach at MPI and ensuring all teams are aligned and identifying where the system needs further refining. He confirmed that he had no concerns about sharing with NAWAC the report. M Stone confirmed they would have interest.



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Regarding the update on greyhound racing and a satisfactory compliance with KPIs by the industry, A Dale noted that Greyhound Racing NZ set the industry KPIs, not the racing integrity board (RIB).

s9(2)(a) spoke to Sector Liaison update. She noted that s9(2)(a) was attending the meeting to present on the Codes implementation workstream. s9(2)(a) shared that the Sector Liaison team are in the middle of their events programme and attending various public events around New Zealand. She noted that most conversations with farmers at these events are about regulations and ensuring that they are aware of them. She noted greater acceptance of issues covered by regulations, weather impacts creating stress in the farming industry, and that in general farmers are worried about the timelines of when Codes will come to issue. She spoke to the farmer toolkit, which provides a resource of information for farmers when facing animal welfare issues. C Eyre noted that in her work streams, she sees confusion on who is responsible for animal welfare issues within the industry, and so supports the educational approach of the Sector Liaison team.

M Stone noted the remaining sections of the MPI update, noting interesting updates for the committee.

s9(2)(a) noted that Sector Liaison are looking to submit proposals for operational research into recumbent cattle, preparation of animals for transport, and understanding behaviour and motivation of people in charge of animals.

M Stone noted the update from Compliance and AWEM. N Waran queried the community champions within the AWEM update, that as a rural community member, she is unaware of where to find this information and who the champions are. The Secretariat added an action to engage with AWEM to clarify this will provide an update. S Faulkner spoke to discussions with s9(2)(a) at previous general meeting and involving NAWAC members in conversation on animal welfare debriefs post-cyclone. M Stone asked s9(2)(a) if there were any updates on how after-action progress is playing out, noting that NAWAC shared interest in being involved in this discussion. s9(2)(a) shared that the AWEM team are currently operating in a reactionary state, moving from one response to the next. She noted an overarching response function is being set up currently that the debrief will sit under. M Stone confirmed that NAWAC's interest has been registered by MPI, flagging that the review process is vital for good function.

A Dale queried the outcome of livestock transport crate operational research which has now concluded, specifically when a report will be available. s9(2)(a) clarified that the report is currently under review and will go back to the researcher in the first instance for some further clarifications ahead of release.

M Sutherland queried the dairy sheep project and when that will be tendered. s9(2)(a) noted the contract is in the process of being drawn up, with scoping still being reviewed. A Dale noted that timing will be important with this workstream, noting a topical issue regarding a recent urgent sheep dry-off in response to falling demand. The committee agreed to add this to the NAWAC issues register, noting that NAWAC are interested in MPI's coordinated action in



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ensuring that any drying off is done appropriately and that any animal welfare risks are avoided. M Stone noted that there is ongoing discussions within the Farm to Processor forum.

S Faulkner expressed her thanks to the Sector Liaison team and work they are conducting. She noted the importance of the on the ground approach they are utilising.

Actions:

- s9(2) to update NAWAC on the after-action review process for Cyclone Gabrielle.
- Add sheep dry-off to NAWAC issues register

O6 . Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The document [05.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone thanked the Secretary for keeping the record of actions comprehensively updated. M Stone asked the committee to note completed actions and called attention to those in progress.

T Brown asked for her name to be removed from the sheep washing item due to updates to this workstream.

A Dale queried the status of action 4, which s9(2)(a) noted is still under early-stage discussion with the new government. The committee discussed NAWAC's continued interest in live exports, referring to conversations with s9(2) at MPI on the appropriate format for NAWAC to express their views. M Stone reaffirmed he would reinforce NAWAC's interest in this matter during his meeting with the Minister. It was noted that NAWAC has a long history of submitting on public matters, such as brodifacoum.

It was noted that C Eyre was previously appointed to the companion animals SC, but this was not yet actioned. The secretariat confirmed this would be completed.

A Dale queried action 23 on snare prohibition and called for update from s9(2)(a) if possible. s9(2)(a) noted the heavy workload of Policy and resourcing constraints, and that this workstream is not currently prioritised.

O7. Issues register

The document [06.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone noted the discussion earlier on sheep milking and urgent dry off in 2024, which is to be added to the registrar.

M Stone clarified the difference in the items of interest and watching brief sections within the issues register. S Faulkner called to include genetic editing in the emerging technologies item. M Stone noted that the opinion piece excludes biotechnologies, but that it can be included in the watching brief related to the fact that as the processes around updates to regulatory



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frameworks proceed, NAWAC will have keen interest in the animal welfare elements of that. S Faulkner also noted methane capture technology as something to include, as a watching brief or interest. M Stone confirmed that monitoring for animal welfare risk assessment within emerging technologies is important and proposed:

- Emerging agritech is moved without bullet point examples up to items of interest, noting the opinion piece in process.
- Two new items to be included as a watching brief - biotechnologies and emissions mitigations for livestock.

C Eyre queried the watching brief on the covid-19 enquiry. The committee noted this is in progress and there is a current call for public submissions on the scope of the enquiry. The committee discussed a possible NAWAC submission with regard to the inability to move stock during lockdowns and the implications of this. M Stone called for a volunteer to take this forward and firstly investigate the public document and review whether it sufficiently captures what has been expressed as a concern, and to work with the Secretariat to prepare a submission. C Eyre noted herself for this workstream. s9(2)(a) noted she was not aware of MPI work in this space but noted MPI's role of issuing permits for pastoral stock movement from a context of people health and movement. She noted that for many this border exemption service wasn't known. M Stone confirmed the action that himself and C Eyre will review the enquiry terms of reference, consider whether it sufficiently captures matters discussed and consider preparation of a NAWAC submission.

A Dale raised whether NAWAC should add live export and cat management to the watching brief. The committee agreed. A Dale queried the general purpose and value of the issues register, and how this feeds back to NAWAC's workstreams. M Stone noted this question. Secretariat confirmed that the watching brief can inform the Secretary on matters of interest to update the committee on. M Stone called for the Business SC to consider the place that the issues register plays in NAWAC processes. T Brown suggested adding another column for updates on work related to that item.

Actions:

- Update the Issues Register:
 - Add to watching brief: dairy sheep industry; drying off sheep
 - Move emerging agritech to items of interest
 - Include 2 new items in watching brief: biotechnologies and emissions mitigations for livestock
 - Add a column for status/updates related to each item.
- Covid-19 review: review the enquiry Terms of Reference, consider whether it sufficiently captures matters of concern for NAWAC (i.e., inability to move stock during lockdowns), and consider preparation of a NAWAC submission.
- Business SC to consider the purpose of the Issues Register in NAWAC processes
- Carolyn Eyre to be added to companion animals SC



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O8. Deputy Chair 2024

M Stone noted that A Dale served in the role in 2023 and has indicated willingness to be re-elected in 2024. M Stone called for other nominations for the role and confirmed requirements of role. N Waran noted that in her role as Chair on NAEAC, the Deputy Chair joins the fortnightly catch-up meetings with MPI and notes the value of having the Deputy Chair present and asks M Stone if that is a consideration for NAWAC. M Stone noted that he is conscious of time and cost pressures of NAWAC's budget, and a desire to keep NAWAC business as efficient and streamlined as necessary. M Stone noted that anything the Deputy Chair needs to be made of aware of will be passed on but doesn't feel necessary for Deputy Chair to sit in on meetings at this stage.

It was requested to defer election of the Deputy Chair to the open section of the meeting after lunch.

The committee adjourned for morning tea at 10:42am

The committee reconvened at 10:49am

O9. 2023 Annual Report

The document [07.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone noted the draft is coming together earlier than previous years. He noted the SC chair reports, membership reports, fees report, and chairs comment. He shared that he framed the Chairs comment on keeping it factual and focused on the work programme and opened the floor for discussion or required amendments.

The committee agreed to remove any affiliations in the membership report, for consistency.

A Dale queried the use of the word rehearse on page 2 of the chairs comment, as well as the introduction of regulations amendment in 2015. M Stone noted to change the word rehearse to repeat, and the year 2016 to 2015. A Dale raised that NAWAC had technically served four Minister's, not three as stated in the comment. The committee agreed to update this.

The committee discussed adding an indication of length of appointment to the membership table, and expiry of appointments. The Secretary confirmed it would be possible to add information on the date of appointment, and the committee agreed to include this.

The committee reviewed the meeting summaries, workplan and SC reports. M Stone noted nice consistency across SC reports and acknowledged the Chairs and Secretary's role in this.

The committee discussed the length of report as an introduction, as well as the overall tone.

M Stone noted he will reflect on comments made regarding the Chairs comment, noting the key messages in the comment and NAWAC's progress with regards to Codes review timelines and that M Stone would like to see greater efficiency with code reviews.



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MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the committee approve the draft annual report for publishing, with the discussed minor amendments.

The committee approved the motion by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

M Stone noted that the Secretariat will progress the Annual Report in line with his meeting with Assoc. Minister Hoggard. The committee discussed dissemination of Annual Report, which is currently sent to the Minister and uploaded to the NAWAC website. M Stone proposed a proactive mail out to a stakeholder list. The Secretariat confirmed they will look into this once the Annual Report is ready and published on the website and with the Minister. The committee discussed whether dissemination of the report should include main points NAWAC would like to draw attention. M Stone noted key messages for this would be NAWAC's statutory role, challenges, and progress in the work. M Stone noted he and the Secretariat will work on a draft short message to capture this.

Actions:

- Secretariat to progress the 2023 annual report for publication.
- Secretariat and M Stone to draft key messages to accompany annual report when distributed to key stakeholders.

O10. Draft NAWAC Guidelines 4 & 5

The documents [08.24, 09.24] were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

R Palmer introduced this agenda item, noting that guidelines 1, 2 and 3 were approved by the committee, and 4 and 5 were under review. The draft guideline 4 was a re-write of the original 3Es guideline, completed by P Mason. The draft guideline 5 dealt with the role of science in decision processes, reviewed by M Stone. R Palmer reminded the committee that the Business SC called for feedback on the two draft guidelines from NAWAC in December. It was noted no direct feedback was received from the membership. R Palmer opened the floor for questions.

T Brown raised whether the topic of education should be included in guideline 4. A Dale noted that education is covered under the scope of 'Encounter' of the guideline.

C Eyre queried page 2, section 3, with regards to how to bring in cultural values separate from those noted under the cultural values bullet point. Examples related to the benefits and influences on wellbeing were provided. A Dale queried the phrase 'purse share' under the bullet point 'financial opportunity'. It was confirmed that purse sharing relates to the sharing



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of the total amount of winnings available to the group of animals that wins, and that it is a commonly used term. The committee discussed whether to change the term betting to gambling, to which the committee agreed.

The committee discussed the examples provided under section 4 "interested parties". It was raised that the examples for active versus passive participants may need reviewing, in line with a definition of what it means to be a participant. P Mason noted that passive participant was conceptualised as those with a spectator role. The committee agreed to remove animal welfare inspector from list, as the guideline does not include other regulators. The committee agreed that the Business SC will review the examples provided, but that they are happy to approve the guideline in principle. It was agreed that if there are substantial changes, the SC can bring it back to the full committee for further review if necessary.

M Stone spoke to guideline 5, noting a lot of material was carried over from the previous version of the guideline currently available on the website. In reviewing the guideline, M Stone noted he aimed to clearly lay out the role that science plays in NAWAC's evidence base and that there is a process of critical evaluation before forming judgements. It was also important to note that NAWAC exercises professional judgement, as science doesn't always provide black and white answers and this needs to be interpreted by collective judgment of the committee.

A Dale noted a sentence to be removed on page 2, at the end of the first paragraph, to which the committee agreed. The committee also agreed to change the term knowledge keepers to knowledge holders, as this implies a gate keeping approach.

S Faulkner queried whether to carry the idea of indigenous knowledge into key points included on the first page of the guideline, rather than summarised in only one paragraph and not acknowledging the wider implications of indigenous and experiential knowledge. C Eyre supported this approach, and the importance of viewing information through a cultural lens.

N Waran left meeting at 11:33am.

It was noted that this guideline is focused on the role of science in decision-making. NAWAC can acknowledge the importance of viewing information through a cultural lens, however NAWAC's mandate is on providing animal welfare advice and it may sit more appropriately with other groups to provide advice on cultural considerations. M Stone noted that when considering any Code of Welfare, NAWAC need to consider science, good practice, and available technologies, with good practice encompassing discussions about experiences built over years which shape practices - this is the good practice element. He noted that this guideline on science refers to published literature, whilst acknowledging the importance of cultural knowledge in New Zealand. S Faulkner noted that she wants to ensure that experiential knowledge and the importance of this is not lost, and raised whether the paragraph may need further refining.



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R Palmer noted she reviewed original guidelines 2, 6, and 7, and suggested little value in retaining the guidelines and proposed retiring, with exception of a definition of good practice which was included in the updated guideline 1 as a footnote.

The committee agreed for the Business SC to pick up this consideration and further review the draft guideline. M Stone asked that committee members exercised discipline in submitting written feedback at the time when feedback is formally called for, to streamline future review processes.

Actions:

- Guideline 4: Business SC to review interested party examples prior to publishing.
- Guideline 5: Business SC to review draft guideline for the inclusion of importance of experiential knowledge.

O11. NAWAC Focus Topic Discussion Series: Animal Welfare Sector Liaison Codes implementation plan

M Stone welcomed s9(2)(a) to present on the Animal Welfare Sector Liaison Codes implementation plan. s9(2)(a) introduced herself to the committee and spoke to the role of Sector Liaison. Key points of presentation included:

- An overview of the Codes implementation plan workstreams. The focus for 2024-2025 is pigs, dairy cattle, deer.
- Planning for implementation starts before a Code is ready for issue.
- Implementation involves actions from MPI, stakeholders, and those affected by the Code.
- Implementation involves raising awareness of legal animal welfare and compliance requirements in relation to Codes, engaging with industry, ensuring compliance and verification policies and procedures are in place, and ensuring MPI and SPCA understand approaches.
- Sector Liaison leads implementation across MPI, including stakeholder awareness and engagement work stream.
- A team member from Sector Liaison sits on each Code review to better understand the process and policy rationale.
- Sector Liaison pick up lead for a Code once the development stage finished.
- Success factors for an implementation plan include:
 - New Zealanders know about the Code, why it was reviewed, and whether they need to make any changes.
 - PIC understand their responsibilities and consequences of not meeting them.
 - Affected stakeholder groups receive information in a clear, concise, timely manner to support implementation.



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- MPI and SPCA staff are fully across the Code content and understand their role in implementation.
- Robust policies and procedures are in place for Compliance, Verification Services, and SPCA.
- The implementation approach is coordinated, collaborative, audience-centric, and involves progress reports to key stakeholders.

s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 11:48am.

- Stakeholder engagement and awareness includes the formation of working groups with Sector Liaison and internal and external members to develop key messages for communication channels, guidance materials, resources, FAQs, and educational tools.
- Key messages are targeted at the audience (communicator and channels used) and communicated across various channels using different media types.
 - Noted that resources have more flexibility in wording than legal instruments such as the Codes themselves.
- Sector Liaison will collaborate with NAWAC to develop key messaging to embed into resources, including key messages specific to the Codes themselves.

s9(2)(a) opened the floor for questions.

T Brown thanked s9(2)(a) and queried barriers for getting change and information out for new Codes. s9(2)(a) spoke to this and noted that funding is a big barrier. The most useful way for people to learn is through direct engagement during the implementation stage which is why such a comprehensive plan is developed. Sector Liaison aim to keep messaging focused on education rather than compliance, positioning the key resources as useful tools. s9(2)(a) noted that ensuring information contained in Codes is digestible in small bites, and utilising various channels is a useful approach, and shared that the challenges with reading and writing in younger generations can be a barrier to disseminating information.

M Stone queried how Sector Liaison interacts with on-farm support within MPI. s9(2)(a) noted that on-farm support is not focused on animal welfare matters and that part of Sector Liaison's coordination role is to ensure that such groups have knowledge of, and access to, the resources and key messaging when needed. s9(2)(a) noted that AIS has moved towards working across the branch, and having regional staff attending events so that communities are engaging with local staff.

P Mason queried how success is measured during the implementation process. s9(2)(a) noted this is a consideration for the team and that behavioural change can be observed over time via feedback received, the number of complaints, uptake on social media posts, and gauging the level of acceptance when engaging with people directly. s9(2)(a) noted that when looking at trends in compliance data it can take time for these trends to be visible and to see noticeable increases in awareness. T Brown spoke to activity versus outcome monitoring, and that outcomes come on a longer timeframe and can be difficult to measure.



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s9(2)(a) noted that Sector Liaison would welcome feedback on the implementation plan from NAWAC.

The committee adjourned for lunch at 12.09pm

The committee reconvened at 1.01pm.

O12. Towards a NAWAC Guideline: COI

The document [10.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone spoke to the background of the agenda item and the procedural oversight that occurred in the November meeting which misaligned with the stipulations set out in Schedule 1(5)(9) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. He noted that this is being addressed in the closed part of the meeting this afternoon to ensure that NAWAC are operating in a manner that is in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999. M Stone shared that the Business SC had a discussion framing the paper circulated for the current agenda item, in recognition of the deliberate strategic approach of NAWAC to gain active experience in farming on the membership, and that schedule 1 of the Act stipulates no member is entitled to be present and vote during a general meeting if they have a pecuniary interest in the matter being considered. He noted that this may cut across strategic intent of broadening membership. M Stone shared that he had a preliminary discussion with T Brown, S Faulkner, and C Eyre, as key members that would be affected. He noted that this agenda item is to open the discussion on interests, and that the paper is not intended as a first draft of a guideline but is intended as a framing document which picks up key sources of information and guidance on the topic.

M Stone referenced a comment on the meeting paper regarding the term 'entitled', noting that language within Schedule 1 may be interpretable. M Stone noted the paper includes some scenarios that are specific to current membership of NAWAC.

s9(2)(a) joined meeting at 1:07pm.

M Stone acknowledged that the purpose of the paper and agenda item is to an open discussion for members to provide feedback, and to seek committee agreement for the Business SC to use the framing paper to draft a guideline to bring back to the committee for further discussion.

C Eyre raised whether it would be prudent to raise this matter with the Minister, in light of the planned review of NAWAC membership. M Stone confirmed he will raise the coalition agreement and statement about reviewing NAWAC's membership, function, and mandate during his meeting with the Minister.

R Palmer identified that in the Auditor General's advice there was an entitlement for committee members to participate up until point of decision-making, and that the key threshold for participation is decision-making. With any conflict, there should be an assessment on the type and level of the conflict to inform a decision about whether it is



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manageable or not. The paper notes that interest in common with the public are manageable, but pecuniary interests are different.

T Brown expressed that she interpreted the wording in Schedule 1 as such members not being able to be present or participate at all, rather than only at the decision point. M Stone acknowledged that the strictest interpretation of the words puts NAWAC in a challenging position with regards to members that have been brought on for their particular expertise, which calls in a need to develop a guideline that is workable and meets the intent of the Act.

The committee discussed what constitutes a decision and noted that formally it is the Minister that makes any final decisions.

M Stone confirmed that NAWAC have not yet sought independent legal advice on the matter.

The committee discussed conflict management with regard to differentiating between actual, perceived, and potential interests.

C Johnson shared that when he was appointed for his first term on NAWAC, he received a letter of appointment from the Minister which noted exclusions from C Johnson's appointment, and queried whether the Minister should decide the extent of members conflicts and exclusions. It was noted that Ministerial decisions would not override wording in the Act, as this sets out statutory requirements. The committee discussed the specific wording of the Act, noting that it is written as precluding participation. M Stone identified that further discussions that involve specifics of member interests will likely occur in a closed sessions, to protect personal privacy but that the intention today was to ensure openness and transparency.

The committee discussed that any potential guideline would reflect a modern way of doing business and communication. M Stone noted that there have been updates to governance processes since the Act was established, such as principles of inclusiveness, decision-making processes of NAWAC in relation to issuing of a Code, and the establishment of working groups. He expressed that an ideal landing place would be to be clear when in the process members with direct and indirect pecuniary interests are invited to participate, and when they should step out to satisfy requirements as set out in Schedule 1.

The committee agreed that the Business SC will take on development of a NAWAC COI Guideline. M Stone called for members to continue to feedback thoughts as the development progresses. M Stone noted that NAWAC will get more out of seeking legal opinion if NAWAC can approach them with specific questions, which can be delivered on by the Business SC. S Faulkner raised whether a standard of operations could be informed by the guideline.

Actions:

- Business SC to begin development of a NAWAC Guideline on COI.



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

- C1. Dairy Code of Welfare
- C2. Draft NAWAC Opinion Piece: Animal Welfare Issues with emerging agritech
- C3. PHP Code of Welfare
- C4. NAWAC subcommittee updates

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:

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 - C4	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(2)(a)(ii) 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.

Motion put: carried



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PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA

C1. Dairy Code of Welfare

The documents [11.24 – 13.24] were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone introduced the context for the agenda item, in that NAWAC will be finishing today's discussion with a vote on the dairy code and recommendation to the Minister.

M Stone called for any declarations of interest.

- C Eyre declared an indirect pecuniary interest, as a beneficiary of dairy support land.
- T Brown declared a direct pecuniary interest as a dairy farmer and non-pecuniary interest as Director of Dairy NZ.
- S Faulkner declared an indirect non-pecuniary interest as a national board member for Federated Farmers.

M Stone acknowledged that S Faulkner declared a non-pecuniary interest as an advocate for Federated Farmers, which falls outside the requirements of Schedule 1(5)(9) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. He noted the pecuniary interests of C Eyre and T Brown, and in line with stipulations set out in Schedule 1 of the Act requiring that C Eyre and T Brown not participate or be present in discussion or voting requested both to leave the meeting.

C Eyre and T Brown left the meeting at 1:35pm

M Stone reopened the discussion, in light of the absence of members with indirect/direct pecuniary interests, to discuss anything that they feel may have been constrained in light of their presence at the November meeting and welcomed raising of anything for consideration.

M Stone drew members attention to the updated draft papers circulated for the meeting, noting additional matters that have been raised by the Secretariat and M Stone regarding parallel matters that have been raised within other Codes review processes and ensuring the clearest wording is utilised within Codes across the board.

s9(2)(g)(i)



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s9(2)(g)(i)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



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s9(2)(g)(i)



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



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s9(2)(g)(i)

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982



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s9(2)(g)(i)

M Stone noted that they have now been through all proposed amendments to the draft Code.

MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the draft code be accepted with discussed amendments and recommended to the Minister for issue.

The committee approved the draft code by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

s9(2)(a) *left the meeting at 2:51pm.*

C Eyre and T Brown rejoined the meeting at 2:52pm.

The meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 2:52pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:05pm

C2. Draft NAWAC Opinion Piece: Animal welfare issues with emerging agritech

The documents [14.24, 15.24] were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone spoke to this item, noting that the draft opinion piece was distributed for feedback after NAWAC requested it prior to recommending publication. M Stone commented that he made edits since then, namely, with the inclusion of annex 2 to balance annex 1. He clarified that annex 1 was pulled from existing literature and presents an overview of the risks of agritech, whereas annex 2 was developed by himself and provides balance by presenting potential benefits added by agritech.

M Sutherland suggested the inclusion of an executive summary or 5 key points. M Stone confirmed he will do this with the final version post-consultation.

T Brown noted that the consultation plan references connecting with stakeholders but doesn't refer specifically to the science community or industry bodies. M Stone noted industry bodies is captured by consultation with the Farm to Processor forum. s9(2)(a) shared that NAEAC also very interested to review the piece, which could capture the science community.

s9(2)(g)(i)



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

s9(2)(g)(i)



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s9(2)(g)(i)

Actions:

- C Eyre, S Faulkner, T Brown: review draft opinion piece and consultation document, to present to NAWAC at the next meeting.

C3. PHP Code of Welfare

The documents [16.24, 47,23] were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(g)(i)

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s9(2)(g)(i)

C4. NAWAC subcommittee updates

The document [17.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

s9(2)(g)(i)

S Faulkner spoke to the sheep and beef Code review, noting the SC have finished working through working group feedback and integrating amendments into the draft Code. She shared that they engaged with the dairy sheep industry with questions arising from working group feedback. The SC will soon begin a final read through of the Code and evaluation report.

M Sutherland noted that the deer Code is tracking well, and that the SC have gone through the internal review, are working through comments and hope to have the draft ready for May.

A Dale spoke to the companion animals work stream, noting that the rabbits Code is going well but slow. The SC are currently working through the Code and evaluation report side by side. She also noted that the wildlife SC is making way through the pest control guidelines which is progressing well.

s9(2)(g)(i)

S Faulkner flagged that the sheep and beef SC are working to an August date, but that it will be a lot of work for the Secretariat to get everything through in that time. M Stone acknowledged that once NAWAC approve a Code for recommendation, it may still be a long process to get this to the Minister. M Stone expressed that he doesn't see a need to stagger or slow down NAWAC's approval process but acknowledged that staggering when Codes are presented to the Minister is up to Secretariat. The committee shared comfort with approving more than one Code per meeting, knowing they will go into a queue thereafter.



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s9(2)(g)(i)

PART 3: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

M Stone returned to the Deputy Chair election for 2024 and moved that the committee approve A Dale for appointment as the Deputy Chair for 2024.

The committee approved the proposal by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

O13. Work Programme 2024-2025

The document [18.24] was circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

M Stone noted that the draft updated programme reflects where he feels NAWAC is currently sitting and what NAWAC will reasonably achieve over the course of the next two years. M Stone identified two changes after discussions earlier today: 1) mid-2024 for deer and 2) mid-2024 for rabbits. M Stone next discussed the upcoming poultry Codes reviews, noting that he had prepared a high-level plan but is hesitant to launch new reviews whilst in midst of a complex work plan. He is hopeful in keeping it on the programme but recognise that NAWAC may not progress it in 2024. It is currently positioned that initial planning will begin in 2024-2025, with public consultation unlikely to start before 2025. He called for the committee to share whether they are comfortable with this or would rather not indicate starting the process on the work programme at this stage.

A Dale expressed that due to the age of the Codes and updates in scientific knowledge and best practice since their issue, they should be prioritised.

M Stone recommended to remove reference for public consultation in 2025, and just state initial planning to start and perhaps beginning targeted consultation with key stakeholders proposed by s9(2)(a). The committee agreed. M Stone noted that the high-level plan is still under consideration and hasn't been wrapped up and could perhaps be address in upcoming



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meetings, with intention to launch later this year. s9(2)(a) confirmed that with regard to Secretariat resourcing, poultry is next on the list when there is resourcing available.

S Faulkner called to update the timeline for sheep and beef to late-2024. s9(2)(a) noted that timing with public consultation is important and queried what would be a good time to consult with sheep and beef farmers. S Faulkner shared that late autumn to mid-winter would align well with industry.

M Stone called for comments on pillar 2 and pillar 3. No further comments were raised.

MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That committee approve 2024-2025 work programme with discussed amendments.

The committee approved the motion by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

M Stone noted that he and the Secretariat will amend the work programme as discussed and progress it for publishing and to present to the Minister.

Actions:

- Secretariat to amend and progress the NAWAC 2024-2025 work programme for publishing as discussed in the general meeting.

The Secretariat clarified that meeting placeholders are confirmed dates, and T Brown noted her apology for the May meeting.

The meeting was closed at 16:27pm