



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 18 February 2020 meeting were:

- **Livestock export review** – In June 2019, the Minister of Agriculture raised concerns regarding livestock export and New Zealand's brand. MPI received instructions from Cabinet to undertake a review. NAWAC heard an update regarding the process of developing the livestock export review, and discussed their submission with MPI.
- **Chicken breeder code of welfare** – A draft code is anticipated for the committee's consideration in 2020.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – A framework for considering animal welfare considerations alongside societal value of animal activities has been drafted, and feedback needs to be gathered. The committee discussed the potential methods of consultation for this work.
- **Deputy chairperson** – Julie Wagner was appointed as deputy chairperson of NAWAC.
- **Prioritisation** – NAWAC agreed on priority work for 2020 and this will be published online.
- **Snares** – NAWAC agreed to make a recommendation to the Minister of Agriculture on restrictions around the use of snares.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations on a Cattle tail-breaking prevention project, and the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme.
- **2020 meetings** – Remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:
 - Tuesday 19th May
 - Thursday 20th August
 - Wednesday 18th November