



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 19 August meeting were:

- **Regulations and codes** – NAWAC heard an update regarding minor and technical changes required to the codes of welfare due to Surgical and Painful Procedures regulations being released in 2020.
- **Dairy cattle code of welfare** – NAWAC received an update regarding its amendment to the dairy cattle code to address dairy cattle housing. The release of the amendment has been delayed. NAWAC expressed concern and requested that the amendment is released as soon as possible, particularly due to increased interest in winter cropping and off-paddock solutions.
- **Transparency** – Committee meeting minutes from August 2018 – February 2019 are now online, with agendas to follow. NAWAC received an update regarding the implementation of its own website.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – A new subcommittee chair was appointed. The subcommittee will work to finalise a framework for an opinion piece, with consultation anticipated late 2019.
- **Sentience** – Changes have been made to several NAWAC guidelines to acknowledge animal sentience. NAWAC discussed how to upskill various sectors and the public on the concept and how to apply it, and tasked MPI with promoting sentience where possible.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations on the review being done by the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines team; shade and shelter for livestock; live animal exports; animals in emergencies; and the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme.
- **Next meeting** – The final meeting for 2019 is Wednesday 13 November.