



## 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 22 May meeting were:

- **Regulations** – MPI is working on regulations addressing surgical and painful procedures for 2020. NAWAC will be involved in the public consultation process.
- **Codes of welfare** – NAWAC heard an update regarding changes required to the Painful Husbandry Procedures code of welfare due to the new regulations.
- **Transparency** – NAWAC agreed to progress its own website, publish its agendas, and proactively release minutes.
- **Rodeos** – NAWAC received an update on the Rodeo Welfare Committee and discussed a clarification on the use of spurs.
- **Vertebrate Toxic Agents review** – NAWAC discussed its involvement in work being done by the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Advisory Council (AVMAC) on the use of inhibitors and a review of Vertebrate Toxic Agents.
- **1080 and deer repellent** - NAWAC agreed to develop a best practice recommendation in its pest management guidelines for the inclusion of deer repellent to reduce non-target poisoning of deer with 1080 in circumstances where its use is warranted.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations on dog breeding; MPI's science strategy; compliance statistics; and the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme, with a focus on infringements to date and the issue of livestock backrub in particular.
- **Next meeting** – The meeting dates for the remainder of 2019 are Monday 19 August, Tuesday 20 August (joint NAWAC/NAEAC meeting), and Wednesday 13 November.