



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

General Meeting

Whaitua o rēhia: Microsoft Teams

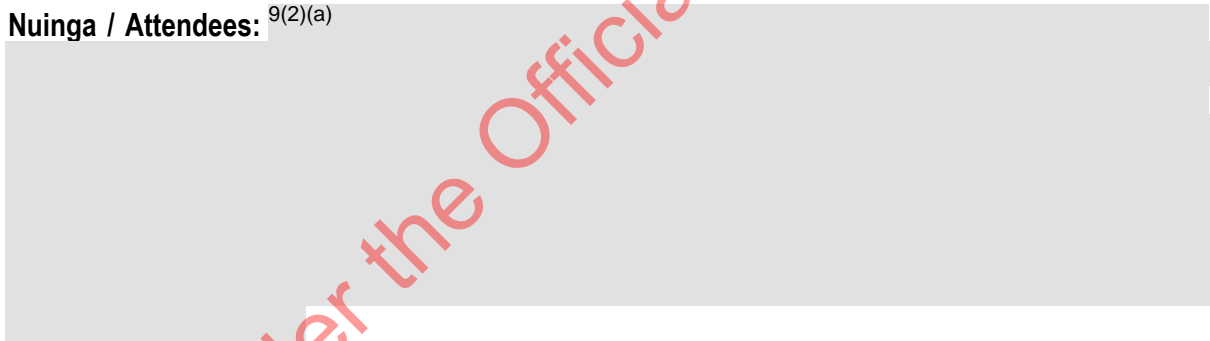
Rā: 16th August 2022

Tāima: 09:00 – 16:00

MENETI | MINUTES

Komiti / Committee: Gwyneth Verkerk (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Grant McCullough, Nick Poutu, Mhairi Sutherland, Ingrid Visser, Ruth Palmer, Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson, Natalie Waran

Nuinga / Attendees: ^{9(2)(a)}



Matangaro / Apologies:

^{9(2)(a)}

Any Other Business (Open to the Public):

^{9(2)(a)} to provide an update on Salmon mortalities and water temperature issues

Feedlot definitions to be presented to NAWAC by the secretariat

Update from Wildlife subcommittee

KPIs reference in agenda to be updated to Wider Work Programme -

Moved: (G Verkerk / P Mason).

That the above items are added to the agenda.

The motion was put: carried.

Any Other Business (Public Excluded):

PART ONE – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GENERAL

A Dale estimated arrival time is 0930.

G Verkerk opened with Karakia.

O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes from the 17 May 2022 meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read.

P Mason asked for an update on the NAWAC website improvements and how the infographic, discussed at the previous general meeting, is progressing.

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} to follow up on website and infographic.

N Waran noted an action assigned to her regarding Zebra Fish. G Verkerk clarified that this was for NAEAC and should be moved to the NAEAC actions list.

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} to move Zebra Fish to NAEAC actions list.

Moved: (R Palmer / S Faulkner).

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 17 May 2022 are adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed and updated the Action List. For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

^{9(2)(a)} gave an update on the close out report for Napier Aquarium.

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} will update G Verkerk in writing, to finalise this action.

O 3. NAWAC correspondence

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

G Verkerk has had further communication from DOC about mouse traps. They will not be testing mouse traps moving forward.

NAWAC members have been having trouble accessing the correspondence document through Piritahi - affected members can receive help from the secretary.

R Palmer asked for further information on the letter concerning bird welfare. G Verkerk explained that the local council had been dealing ducks with botulism at the time of writing, and it was likely the cause of the reported problem. The writer was referred to the council who provide a programme on how to manage this. The writer was also concerned around the lack of a welfare code for companion birds.

O 4. Strengthening codes programme update

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

M Peters explained that the memo is for a general update. The memo highlighted areas that need to be considered moving forward. It was noted that any specific discussion can be had within relevant subcommittees and brought back to the November general meeting.

N Waran questioned whether the Rabbit Code of Welfare should be added as a change request, as it is a Code that was developed outside of the original NAWAC workplan. ^{9(2)(a)} explained that this was discussed at the last general meeting and NAWAC decided to take this on themselves. MPI are open to supporting NAWAC if and when the Rabbit Code becomes a formal priority.

R Palmer questioned whether NAWAC has a stated process for responding to Codes that are presented to them by stakeholders? She noted that if NAWAC encourage people to develop a Code, but can't prioritise it for (e.g., 6 years), this isn't a good process. NAWAC needs to develop a process for responding to these situations.

Moved: (G Verkerk / P Mason).

That the memo is noted by the committee.

The motion was put: carried.

O 5. NAWAC Work Programme Update

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

Greyhound Racing

G Verkerk provided an update on greyhound racing. 3E's subcommittee have been keeping note of reports from Greyhound Racing New Zealand and the Racing Integrity Board. G Verkerk has been attending greyhound Animal Health and Welfare committee meetings as a NAWAC observer and is transitioning this work to ^{9(2)(a)}

G Verkerk notes that greyhound racing has been going well with their policy development and have asked if NAWAC could review these. NAWAC expressed that this is not their responsibility as it could be seen that NAWAC endorse the industry.

NAWAC discussed their role as an advisory committee and whether they can provide support in some capacity. It was noted that greyhound racing has independent advisors and veterinarians, but greyhound racing won't allow someone from the SPCA on the panel. G Verkerk stated that from her observations, greyhound racing is putting together a team of knowledgeable people. C Johnson agreed that they have their own experts.

NAWAC agreed not to review greyhound racing policies.

Feedlot definition

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

G Verkerk updated NAWAC on discussion within the Sheep and Beef subcommittee around this definition, and the background on how this was formed.

S Faulkner highlighted that a key point for animals on feedlots is that the animals are fully dependent on humans to provide basic needs of feed and water.

P Mason asked for clarification on the number of days being talked about in the definition.

G Verkerk noted that the definition was being presented to inform, and not for any final resolution at this stage.

Wildlife Subcommittee

N Poutu informed NAWAC that Guideline 9 has been worked through and updated. Subcommittee suggestions have been incorporated into a draft and they have been working closely with Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research). Once their feedback has been received, the document will be finalised - targeting November NAWAC meeting.

O 6. MPI update and discussion

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

^{9(2)(a)} provided NAWAC with an update on the Animal Welfare teams. A new principal advisor is starting in September.

The secretariat is asking for further budgetary support in both RTT functions and the wider work programme. There is also a heavy workload supporting NAEAC, with administering Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act.

The Animal Welfare Sector Liaison team are carrying on with events programmes and coordinating operational research to support their work on pastoral welfare, specifically around heat stress and the outcomes of the winter grazing taskforce. The team has been supporting farmers with implementing changes on farm to meet new regulations.

The Animal Welfare Emergency Management team have started attending pet expos to reach more owners to educate and support in emergencies.

^{9(2)(a)} reported no staff changes. His team have been working on the livestock export ban, Pig Code of Welfare review, Rodeo Code legal proceedings, cat and dog teeth scaling and dog tethering. He informed NAWAC that the cat and dog issues have proven complex, but Policy they aim to have a proposal to the Minister in the next month for public consultation. ^{9(2)(a)} also noted that his team have been under pressure responding to campaigns (e.g., colony cages, cat management) and OIA requests. These have a set timeline for a response which is having consequences with the team having to reprioritise other important work.

^{9(2)(a)} provided an update on salmon mortalities and suggested that NAWAC develop a work item for consideration for the 2023 work plan to liaise more closely with NZ King Salmon or the industry in general. Regarding salmon mortality, ^{9(2)(a)} informed NAWAC that NZ King Salmon experienced a large number of mortalities over summer. When this occurred previously it was attributed to disease. Following recent mortalities, NZ King Salmon have changed some processes to mitigate the issue (e.g., putting farms into fallow and considering alternate sites). MPI have been supporting work on open ocean aquaculture. The Animal Welfare team hasn't been actively involved on building animal welfare standards but will be following up on this. Industry development is part of the 'Fit for a better World' programme and they have been encouraged to use the SPCA farmed fish assurance standard. A Dale informed NAWAC and the secretariat that the SPCA is working with two companies (one fresh and one salt water) and are ready to progress with other companies as they come on board.

R Palmer raised the likely role of marine warming in the deaths and noted that the public's reaction would likely have been greater if the animals were terrestrial, given the scale of the incidents. The inter-related issues of disease and water temperature will need to be considered when a code is developed.

I Visser raised concerns around open ocean sites where farms are being placed, in terms of welfare for whales and entanglement zones.

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} to provide a written update to the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08.

Meeting recommenced at 10:25

O 7. Issues register

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

G Verkerk notes this needs some tidying.

Committee has no additions.

FOR APPROVAL

O 8. NAWAC Annual Report 2021

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

Some further editing (wordsmithing and members' corrections) is required R Palmer suggested providing a report on the NAWAC/NAEAC Joint Meeting about fish.

The Committee agreed to finalise out of session.

Action: Committee members to send any amendments to G Verkerk.

Action: G Verkerk and R Palmer to write a section on the fish seminar

Action: Secretary to amend and re-circulate for final approval.

FOR DISCUSSION

O 9. Regulations Sub-Committee

Given that MPI Policy are working on some regulations aside from codes that NAWAC will need to be consulted about, the Regulations Subcommittee needs to be reconvened as a point of contact for discussions. It was requested that 2-3 NAWAC members think about being part of this.

C Johnson suggested that members are seconded to be a point of contact for regulations as required based on personal interest and expertise.

A Dale volunteered to be involved with regulations review in general, but not in the current dog and cat ones due to a conflict of interest.

N Waran raised that the expectations of members need to be clearly outlined before they can commit to something - so this will require Terms of Reference for a Regulations Subcommittee. Any subcommittee should be able to call on members outside of the subcommittee as needed, as was done previously. NAWAC agreed to this approach. Once the ToR are circulated, committee members will identify their availability to assist with this work.

Action: ToR to be developed and circulated to the committee

Action: NAWAC committee to consider their availability

O 10. Confirm the chairs of sub-committees

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

G Verkerk formally confirmed chairs with NAWAC, prior to her upcoming departure, to ensure continuity for the incoming chair.

Committee discussed the inclusion of Mātauranga māori as a subcommittee function. This needs to be included in wider work plan discussions.

O 11. Website Content

^{9(2)(a)} updated NAWAC on the new MPI communications and engagement advisor for the Animal Welfare team, ^{9(2)(a)}. She will provide support to the MPI secretariat and committee as needed.

G Verkerk expressed her hope that this will ensure the NAWAC website development can be progressed.

Action: Strategic plan to be posted on the website.

OTHER BUSINESS

G Verkerk proposed to suspend the open agenda until after the closed session to ensure there is time for members reports. NAWAC agreed.

G Verkerk noted that this is also N Poutu's final general meeting and thanked him for his work over the years, especially for his contributions to the Wildlife subcommittee and the positive impact this will have.

O 12. Members Reports

Continued after closed agenda session. Item addressed at 15:40pm

M Sutherland is carrying out an animal welfare prioritisation exercise and has received good feedback so far. This will be followed up with workshops.

C Johnson is busy teaching students both face to face and online. He recently spoke virtually at a conference hosted in Pakistan.

N Poutu has provided advice and support to Predator Free 2050 communities and predator free trust organisations.

S Faulkner has joined Federated Farmers board. Noted she received strong feedback on the Dairy Code from grassroot farmers up North which highlighted the importance of communication.

I Visser has presented at four conferences in Florida and is preparing a manuscript of welfare issues for captive cetaceans. She is also involved with a court case in France regarding captive Orca.

A Dale attended ANZCAR conference in Melbourne.

P Mason has been busy with multiple NAWAC subcommittees.

R Palmer has been involved in glue board trap applications. Notes that mouse by-catch has decreased.

G Verkerk virtually presented to a Waikato farming group about sentience, and to the Waikato branch of NZ Institute of Primary Management about NAWAC code reviews and decision-making processes.

Agenda item closed at 15:51pm.

PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

There being no further introductory items of business to discuss, it was moved (G Verkerk / S Faulkner):

A: That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

C 1. Sheep and Beef Code – Pain Relief Regulation Proposals

C 2. Rabbit Code

C 3. NAWAC Wider Work Programme (KPIs)

C 4. Deer Code

C 5. Rodeo Code

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
C 1.	Sheep and Beef Code – Pain Relief Regulation Proposals	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 OIA.
C 2.	Rabbit Code	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 OIA.
C 3.	NAWAC Wider Work Programme (KPIs)	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 OIA.

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
C 4.	Deer Code	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 OIA.
C 5.	Rodeo Code	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 OIA.

B: Also moved that ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] 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.

The motion was put: carried.

C 1. Sheep and Beef Code (Pain relief regulation proposals)

The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] provided a general update to NAWAC on the Sheep and Beef Code subcommittee progression. The completed code is aiming to be presented to NAWAC for approval in November.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] spoke through the memo shared on screen. A Dale asked for follow up on ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] and their effects on mothering up, lamb lack of appetite and overall performance.

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] to follow up

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

Action: Sheep and Beef Subcommittee to look at amending relevant wording.

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

NAWAC discussed possible wording changes and raised points for future discussion within the Sheep and Beef subcommittee. Agreed changes were amended by ^{9(2)(a)}

NAWAC also discussed the importance of asking clear, targeted questions during consultation.

A Dale questioned the use of the term ^{9(2)(a)}

9(2)(a)

Action: Committee members to send any other suggestions of amendment to Sheep and Beef subcommittee for discussion to finalise the draft.

NAWAC agreed that messaging published on the NAWAC website needs to be broad to ensure consultation is open minded. G Verkerk suggests providing scientific evidence and general background information.

Moved: (G Verkerk / C Johnson).

Points as discussed and amended are taken as agreed.

The motion was put: carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Meeting recommenced at 12:37pm.

C 2. Rabbit Code

The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

A Dale presented an updated version of the Rabbit Code to NAWAC. This was circulated on Friday 12th August and included tracked changes on the original version.

A Dale noted that 12 submissions were received during the final pre-consultation period, and overall feedback was very positive.

NAWAC noted that there are some general minor edits to be made. A Dale went through each minimum standard on screen. NAWAC discussion raised ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

Action: A Dale to look at ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] and if suitable add to Code.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted] asked for an update on the engagement process, especially RTT groups. A Dale and G Verkerk provided an update.

Action: A Dale to circulate updated documents to MPI and the committee.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

Action: A Dale ^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

C 3. NAWAC Wider Work Programme

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

R Palmer and G Verkerk spoke through the memo shared on screen and elaborated on key points and there was discussion on possible next steps.

Strengthening Codes Of Welfare

A Dale highlighted that COW for Cats and COW for Dogs hasn't been updated since 2017 & 2007 respectively.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

[redacted] MPI secretariat can facilitate this. NAWAC would like this to be arranged.

^{9(2)(a)} [redacted]

Credible and Trusted Advisor

Action: MPI Secretariat to support S Faulkner, A Dale, R Palmer, P Mason in reviewing NAWAC guidelines and development of a work programme and timeline.

Website

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} /MPI Secretariat to put together a comms and engagement plan with website subcommittee, M Sutherland and R Palmer.

C 4. Deer Code

The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

N Waran left meeting at 14:13pm.

L Barrett explained background for the memo.

R Palmer suggested that ^{9(2)(a)}

[Redacted]

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

Action: ^{9(2)(a)} to complete statements as per committees' requests.

^{9(2)(a)}
[Redacted]

Moved: (G Verkerk / I Visser).

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

9(2)(a)

The motion was put: carried.

Meeting adjourned at 15:05pm.

Meeting recommenced at 15:15pm.

C 5. Rodeo Code

The documents were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

9(2)(a) spoke through the memo and shared on screen.

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

Action: 9(2)(a) **and P Mason to develop and present new timeframe to committee.**

The meeting then completed the items on the open agenda.

G Verkerk closed the meeting with a Karakia at 15:55pm.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982