

# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## Work Programme 2023-2024

### Preamble

The role of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is defined in the Animal Welfare Act Part 4. Administrative provisions relating to NAWAC are found in the Animal Welfare Act Schedule 1. As a Ministerial Advisory Committee, NAWAC is subject to strategic direction from government and the Minister and Associate Minister for Agriculture.

NAWAC relies on a technical secretariat hosted in the MPI Animal Welfare Science team. The Codes of Welfare development and review process requires input from MPI Animal Welfare Policy, who are responsible for developing any regulations associated with Codes. Therefore, the NAWAC work programme is subject to constraints associated with NAWAC's own capacity and that of the MPI teams.

NAWAC has created a strategic plan as a framework for its responsibilities (Appendix 1), which is used for planning purposes. This Work Programme covers a two-year period but is annually updated. In that way it provides a comprehensive view, while recognising an operating environment which requires a degree of flexibility and regular prioritisation, including resourcing constraints, unexpected events, and new requests.

### Pillar I. Strengthening Codes

#### **Priorities arising from Government direction through the Primary Sector roadmap *Fit for a better world: Accelerating our economic potential*.**

##### *Ongoing:*

- a) Dairy: undertake further targeted consultations; recommend to Minister (mid-2023).
- b) Pigs: undertake further targeted consultations; economic analysis (with MPI); recommend to Minister (mid-2023).
- c) Sheep and Beef: request Minister approval to consult; undertake public consultation; review submissions; recommend to Minister (end-2023).
- d) Deer: review submissions; recommend to Minister (by mid-2023).

##### *Possible new development or review activity:*

- e) Poultry – Layers, Broilers, Breeders: planning and prioritisation
- f) Fish farming: planning and prioritisation
- g) Slaughter of animals: planning and prioritisation
- h) Transport of animals: planning and prioritisation

#### **Priorities arising from Ministerial direction.**

##### *Ongoing:*

- i) Rodeos: complete drafting process; undertake targeted stakeholder engagement; request Minister approval to consult; undertake public consultation; review submissions; recommend to Minister (early 2024).
- j) Greyhound Racing (N.B. non-Code activity): receive the Racing Integrity Board report; scope and plan the response in conjunction with MPI and stakeholders.

*Possible new development or review activity:*

- k) Bees (N.B. non-Code activity): continuing liaison with ApiNZ regarding implementation of voluntary industry code of practice; publish to website the opinion representing criteria for sentience and current state regarding evidence for sentience of bees.

**Priorities arising from external drafting (Animal Welfare Act s70(2)) or NAWAC guideline to review after 10 years**

*Ongoing:*

- l) Rabbits : request Ministerial approval to consult (early or mid 2023); undertake public consultation; review submissions; recommend to Minister (by end-2023).

*Possible new development or review activity*

- m) Cats: receive draft from SPCA-led working group; planning and prioritisation
  - n) Dogs: receive draft from SPCA-led working group; planning and prioritisation
- Refer to Appendix 3. for planning and prioritisation associated with Codes of Welfare that have not been substantively reviewed in >= 10 years.*

## Pillar II. Credible and Trusted Adviser

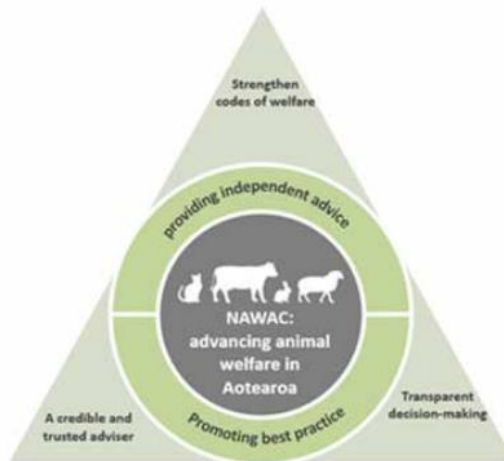
- a) Development and review of the NAWAC guidelines
  - i. The following represents a proposed 3-year programme, prioritising guidelines based on age, relevancy, and urgency.
  - ii. Five will receive priority since they directly relate to the core NAWAC role of developing and reviewing Codes of Welfare:
    - 1. Guideline 1: Approach to consideration of draft codes of welfare.
    - 2. Guideline 2: Dealing with practices that might be inconsistent with the spirit of the Animal Welfare Act.
    - 3. Guideline 4: Process for the development of codes of welfare.
    - 4. Guideline 6: Wider issues relevant to setting minimum standards.
    - 5. Guideline 10: Phasing out one animal management system in favour of another.
  - iii. Guidelines and advisory work relating to pest control activities prioritised as a result of the Predator Free 2050 Strategy include:
    - 6. Guideline 9: Assessing the welfare performance of restraining and kill traps (reviewed guideline to be published to website)
    - 7. New public guidance on humane pest control best practices
    - 8. Snare trap prohibition proposal
- b) Develop the NAWAC Operating Manual:
  - i. Continue developing NAWACs key planning documents (strategic plan and business plan)
  - ii. Develop operating procedures, including Terms of Reference for working groups and subcommittees
    - 1. Outline the processes for workflow, specifically NAWAC decision making levels (e.g., when decisions are brought to the wider committee)
  - iii. Compile into one succinct document.
- c) Develop and publish opinion papers and additional guidance

- i. These will particularly relate to cross-code issues, with the following identified as priorities:
  - 1. Treaty of Waitangi and animal welfare
  - 2. Climate change and animal welfare
  - 3. Pain relief
  - 4. New agriculture technologies and animal welfare
  - 5. Sentience
- iv. The review of the Opinion Paper on Selective Breeding

### Pillar III: Transparent Decision-Making

- a) Continued development of the NAWAC website as a communication tool:
  - i. Develop a communications plan.
- b) Liaison with various stakeholders:
  - i. Farm to Processor Animal Welfare Forum
  - ii. Animal production and care industry groups
  - iii. Animal Advocacy Groups
  - iv. Undertake public engagement on Codes in accordance with statutory obligations and our own evolving Good Regulatory Practices, on our other activities, and on the wider role of NAWAC in the Animal Welfare system.
- c) Develop and publish the NAWAC Annual Report

## Appendix 1. NAWAC Strategic Plan



NAWAC STRATEGY 2021-2024							
<b>Purpose</b>	NAWAC advances animal welfare in Aotearoa by providing independent advice to Ministers and promoting best practice in animal welfare						
<b>In 3 years time</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Strengthening Codes</th> <th>Credible and trusted adviser</th> <th>Transparent</th> </tr> <tr> <td>NAWAC provides independent advice to strengthen codes of welfare</td> <td>NAWAC enhances its reputation as a credible and trusted adviser</td> <td>NAWAC is open about how decisions are made and takes an inclusive approach to the development of welfare standards</td> </tr> </table>	Strengthening Codes	Credible and trusted adviser	Transparent	NAWAC provides independent advice to strengthen codes of welfare	NAWAC enhances its reputation as a credible and trusted adviser	NAWAC is open about how decisions are made and takes an inclusive approach to the development of welfare standards
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<b>What we will do</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>                     Our advice promotes positive welfare and is based on evidence and good practice                       The Codes of Welfare work programme is regularly reviewed and priorities agreed                       Advice is provided on emergent and cross-cutting issues that may impact across the Codes                 </td> <td>                     Ministers are provided with an independent view of animal welfare concerns and priorities                       We engage in constructive dialogue with our Minister                       We communicate effectively with our stakeholders and other interested parties                       Stakeholders are encouraged to recognise that animals are sentient                 </td> <td>                     We engage appropriately with relevant stakeholders and interested parties across the work programme                       An independent publically accessible NAWAC website is implemented and maintained                       NAWAC committee meetings are inclusive and open to the public as appropriate                 </td> </tr> </table>	Our advice promotes positive welfare and is based on evidence and good practice  The Codes of Welfare work programme is regularly reviewed and priorities agreed  Advice is provided on emergent and cross-cutting issues that may impact across the Codes	Ministers are provided with an independent view of animal welfare concerns and priorities  We engage in constructive dialogue with our Minister  We communicate effectively with our stakeholders and other interested parties  Stakeholders are encouraged to recognise that animals are sentient	We engage appropriately with relevant stakeholders and interested parties across the work programme  An independent publically accessible NAWAC website is implemented and maintained  NAWAC committee meetings are inclusive and open to the public as appropriate			
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Approved

## **Appendix 2. Codes of Welfare: summarised steps in development and review**

Within the Pillar 1 work plan, the following steps are used to summarise the development process of Codes of Welfare described in the Animal Welfare Act and NAWAC Guidelines.

1. Planning and prioritisation
2. Scoping and analysis
3. Initial drafting
4. Targeted stakeholder engagement
5. Finalise consultation drafts
6. Request Minister approval to consult
7. Public consultation
8. Review submissions
9. Undertake further targeted consultation [Optional]
10. Undertake further public consultation [Optional]
11. Economic analysis [Optional]
12. Finalise recommended drafts
13. Recommend to Minister

**Appendix 3. Codes of Welfare: Dates of latest amendment and substantive review**

Code of Welfare	Last Substantive Review	Date associated with accompanying report	Amendments
Circuses  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2005	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2004	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Companion Cats  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2007	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2006	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Dairy Cattle  <i>Current code dated: 31 October 2019</i>	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	Reported dated: 2010  Reported signed: 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021</li> <li>• 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 (<i>addition of 2 MS relating to outdoor access for dairy cattle held in off-paddock facilities</i>)</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018</li> <li>• 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016</li> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 (<i>to address the use of manually-applied blunt force trauma.</i>)</li> </ul>
Deer  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	2007	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Dogs  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Goats  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2012	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2011	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Horses and Donkeys  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021  19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018

Layer Hens  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2012	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2007
Llamas and Alpacas  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Report Dated: 2013	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Meat Chickens  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2011	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Ostriches and Emus:  <i>(Code of recommendations and minimum standards for the welfare)</i>	June 1998		
Painful Husbandry Procedures  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2005	11 October 2005	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Pigs  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2010	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Rodeos  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Sheep and Beef Cattle  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016

Commercial Slaughter  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2010	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2009	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 ( <i>incorporate changes made by the AW (calves) Regulation 2016 and the naming and reformatting of the Code of Welfare</i> ) 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 ( <i>inclusion of a further MS</i> )
Temporary Housing of Companion Animals  <i>Current code dated: 1 October 2018</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Reported Dated: 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2018  Report Signed: 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Transport of Animals	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2011	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2016
Zoos	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2004	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2004	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Rabbits	-	-	-