



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Te Komiti Tohutohu Hauora Kararehe ā-Motu

MINUTES / MENETI

General Meeting / Tikanga hui

Date / Rā: Tuesday 14 May 2024

Time / Tāima: 09:30 – 4:30

Venue / Whaitua o rēhia: Room 1.06, 1 The Terrace, Wellington

Committee / Komiti: Matthew Stone (Kairuruku/Chair), Arnja Dale, Peter Mason, Mhairi Sutherland, Ruth Palmer, Natalie Waran (virtual), Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson, Carolyn Eyre

Attendees / Nuinga: s9(2)(a)

[Redacted list of attendees]

Guests / Manuhiri: s9(2)(a)

[Redacted list of guests]

Public attendees / Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu: s9(2)(a)

[Redacted list of public attendees]

Apologies / Matangaro: Tracy Brown



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PART 1: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

GENERAL

O1. Welcomes and Farewells

The meeting was opened at 09:30am with a karakia. T Brown was noted as an apology. M Stone welcomed members of the public.

O2. Conflict of interest updates

M Stone called for any updates to the register of interests.

C Eyre noted she was invited to visit to a Halter farm and did so last week. It was agreed this did not need to be added to the register.

O3. Confirmation of previous minutes

The document [20.24] was taken as read.

M Stone called for feedback or required edits. The committee discussed minutes on page 5 and whether they included sufficient detail. M Stone confirmed it was a high-level summary, noting that there was a related item on the agenda where it could be discussed.

No other changes were noted.

MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the minutes dated 7 March 2024 are a true and accurate record

The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

O4. NAWAC correspondence

The document [21.24] was taken as read.

M Stone drew attention to the NAWAC submission on the Royal Commission call for submissions on the expanded Terms of Reference of the Covid-19 response enquiry. M Stone noted that NAWAC commented on the expanded Terms of Reference as this invited broader conversation on the impacts on animal welfare that stakeholders in New Zealand experienced.

M Stone next drew attention to correspondence from Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand. EPFNZ have indicated that due to HPAI activity, they would not be in a good position to participate in a review of the poultry Codes if initiated this year.

P Mason noted the complaint on rodeo and clarified channels it was forwarded into.



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S Faulkner noted the correspondence regarding the farmers weekly article, querying whether NAWAC was directly quoted and who provided the quote. It was clarified that NAWAC was not directly quoted.

O5. MPI Update

s9(2)(a) talked to the science team update, noting that MPI are going through the restructure process and expecting a final decision any day. She noted there may be some changes to the team which will be communicated in due course.

s9(2)(a) spoke to the Policy update. He noted the team are expecting progress on tethered dogs regulations as well as work on the review of the care and procedures regulations – these streams were paused during the restructure process to ensure staff capacity could be focused on delivering priorities.

s9(2)(a) talked to the Sector Liaison update, noting that she and s9(2)(a) attended the Deer Industry New Zealand conference in Napier. She shared that the industry are looking forward to the updated deer Code and engaged positively on the topic. She noted that the Sector Liaison team are currently preparing information for the dairy sheep sector in relation to social media advertising for lambs and providing guidance material. She shared that following a spike in recumbency in cull cattle, the team have an operational research proposal underway to understand causes and behaviours undertaken in preparation for transporting cattle. This is being supported by Verification Services who are doing an on-plant data collection trial.

A Dale reported back to the committee on the recent Farm to Processor Animal Welfare Forum meeting. M Stone noted that the forum is an exercise in sector leadership in the animal welfare system and has representation from each of the key bodies for the livestock sector all the way through the supply chain. It was noted that the forum has an active work programme of exercising sector leadership on horizontal issues, e.g., preparing an update on sector-based activities resulting from NAWAC's previous opinion piece on selective breeding. s9(2)(a) confirmed she will seek permission for the forum minutes to be shared with NAWAC.

M Stone noted the Verification Services report could be taken as read. s9(2)(a) noted MPI will be increasing surveillance in some areas moving forward due to an increase in bobby calf dead on arrival stats last year.

M Stone noted the summary of statistics in the Compliance report, reminding the committee that a comprehensive report was circulated in the weekly updates.

The committee reviewed the AWEM report. s9(2)(a) noted reports released from the Hawkes Bay and National enquiry around the total emergency management system and that the response team will be looking to incorporate lessons into the future work and operations.



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The committee reviewed the operational research projects. s9(2)(a) noted that the livestock crate design report is still undergoing review, and the young calf bruising during transport and heat stress and sheep welfare reports are sitting for sign out currently. S Faulkner noted interest in the heat stress and sheep welfare report for the sheep and beef Code review. s9(2)(a) noted there was no timeframe at this stage but would follow up and get back to the team. M Stone noted it would be useful for the subcommittee to receive a copy of the report and would like approval to release the report to the SC with whatever caveat necessary.

Actions:

- s9(2)(a) to inquire into sharing the Farm to Processor forum minutes/industry updates with NAWAC
- s9(2)(a) to feedback to the sheep and beef SC on sharing the heat stress and sheep welfare report when available

O6. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The document [23.24] was taken as read.

M Stone asked for confirmation with s9(2)(a) on action 1. s9(2)(a) noted no update yet as resourcing needs to be looked at across work programmes, which is a work in progress given the restructure. The committee confirmed that NAWAC is interested in the wider response rather than just the animal welfare subfunction. s9(2)(a) queried whether it would be helpful for the response team to come to a future meeting to explain their work. M Stone declined as it would be outside of NAWAC's remit, but asked for any reports available from the animal welfare subfunction that MPI has led to be shared.

P Mason noted guideline 4 is currently sitting with him to review and will be ready for the next meeting.

The committee queried when the NAWAC guidelines will be up on website. s9(2)(a) noted that guideline 1 is being progressed currently with regard to making sure that the Secretariat SOP aligns with the guideline. She noted she would follow up the trap testing guideline. M Stone summarised NAWAC's expectation when reviewing NAWAC guidelines and the appropriate stage in the process during which MPI should engage in the review. He noted that there should not be subsequent need after NAWAC's approval of guidelines for internal peer review.

The committee discussed the sheep washing action. M Stone noted that a promise of reply was made but that there has been no further activity from MIA. The committee noted there are two ways to go about affecting change, either via infringement or sector leadership to support shifting practice. NAWAC asked MPI to help in the latter process. Verification Services is updating technical briefs to help empower inspectors, but this doesn't address sector



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leadership driving this and it needs to be addressed from both directions. M Stone called the conversation to close, noting no resolution as of yet. He noted his interpretation of MIA's lack of action as indicating that practices will not change until a stronger compliance approach is mandated, which can be considered during review of the slaughter Code.

The committee agreed that they are still interested in hearing from MPI on halal poultry stunning recovery. s9(2)(a) confirmed she could explore arranging this for the next general meeting.

The committee discussed the action regarding exploring guiding principles for the NAWAC/MPI working relationship. M Stone noted the report that s9(2)(a) developed and shared previously. It was also noted that guideline 1 is clear and specific about roles and responsibilities at each step of the review. R Palmer suggested to return to the action post MPI restructure.

M Stone noted to s9(2)(a) to action the formal catchup with S Faulkner regarding the sheep & beef Code in October prior to November meeting.

M Stone noted that the NAWAC fees review is in progress. s9(2)(a) shared that it is highly likely it will get looped in to NAWAC reform commentary, but confirmed it is underway.

s9(2)(a) talked to the action regarding snares prohibition. He noted the Policy team is working at capacity currently to deliver priorities. A Dale noted it would be good to progress this noting international movement. M Stone asked the wildlife SC to connect with MPI policy to get a formal status update. s9(2)(a) agreed to this communication channel.

The committee noted that the ToR for poultry Code review is on hold until work progressed.

Actions:

- Secretary to explore scheduling a presentation on poultry halal stunning for the August meeting.
- MPI Policy to provide wildlife SC with an update on the status of the snares prohibition

07. Issues register

M Stone noted that following discussion at the last meeting, the business subcommittee introduced a preamble outlining the purpose and process of the register.

s9(2)(a) *left the meeting at 10:43am*

C Eyre noted that the preamble is useful and clarifies the purpose of the register.

M Stone shared that the consequent action for the committee is to agree that this is the purpose and process for the register and agree to remove items from the register after work



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is initiated as progress reviews and updates then falls to the respective SC that has picked it up. The committee agreed that in line with this reasoning, items to be removed included the rodeo code, greyhound review, and life chaining of dogs. He noted other items are still in progress and the committee are interested in updates, so they can be left on the register. M Stone shared that the register assumes collective responsibility for all members to send any relevant materials or updates to the Secretariat for the weekly update.

N Waran joined the meeting at 10:47am.

A Dale suggested to add the review challenge around codes of welfare and regulations. It was noted that a report is due back to the regulations review committee, which may have implications on NAWACs work. s9(2)(a) noted updates on this would come through via the MPI update. M Stone confirmed he is happy with this approach.

No further items were added to the register.

Actions:

- Secretary to update issues register as discussed.

The committee adjourned for morning tea at 10:52am

The meeting reconvened at 11:08am

O8. NAEAC Update

N Waran provided a brief verbal update on NAEAC's work programme. Key points included:

- The next general meeting is scheduled for next week in Christchurch.
- The committee have been busy finalising the new NAEAC strategic plan and updating the NAEAC GPG.
- The Annual Report for 2023 was completed early in the year.
- NAEAC are planning a webinar series with a new approach this year to reach people on topics including the 3Rs, the GPG and non-compliance reporting.
- The committee are undertaking its annual site visits in Christchurch next week.
- N Waran noted she had a positive meeting with the Minister as Chair of NAEAC and feel that NAEAC are well supported by MPI and the excellent Secretariat.
- N Waran spoke to appointments for 2024, noting there are no gaps at the moment however there are a few members whose terms will expire at the end of the year.

O9. Draft NAWAC Guideline 5

M Stone introduced the agenda item, referring to discussion at the March meeting. He noted the business SC have responded to the feedback in tracked changes on the document. He



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drew attention to the comment on page 2 regarding experiential knowledge. The SC proposed not to change anything in this guideline as the SC's view is that good practice and other experience of stakeholders should be picked up on during typical Code review processes as explained in guideline 1, under requirement to consider good practices. S Faulkner noted she is comfortable with this, however suggested a proposed change in wording for the last sentence to link back to good practice. The committee agreed.

MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the committee approve draft guideline 5 for publishing, with the discussed minor amendments.

The committee approved the motion by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

P Mason provided an update on guideline 4, noting feedback from the last meeting has been discussed within the business SC. The SC looked at the principles in the guideline and agreed they may need further revision to ensure the principles are not using regulatory language and are less restrictive. Aiming to have the guideline back with NAWAC for approval at the next meeting.

Actions:

- Amend guideline 5 as per discussion in the general meeting and progress for publishing



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PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

RESOLUTION:

M Stone moved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- C1. Verbal update on meeting with Minister
- C2. Verbal update on export of livestock by sea
- C3. Deer Code of Welfare
- C4. Verbal update on Draft NAWAC Opinion Piece: Animal welfare and emerging agritech
- C5. NAWAC subcommittee updates

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
C1, C2	That the public conduct of the whole or 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(1)(a)(ii).	The withholding of information is necessary under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, and that the public interest is not found to outweigh the need to withhold the information.
C3 – C5	The exclusion of the public from the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary 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 LGOIMA.

M Stone also moved that: s9(2)(a)

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.

Motion put: approved by consensus.

Carried.



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PART 2: PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA

C1. Verbal update on meeting with Minister

M Stone noted that since setting this item on the agenda, NAWAC has received a Letter of Expectations alongside comment on the Annual Report and work programme. M stone confirmed he met with the Minister in March.

s9(2)(g)(i)





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s9(2)(g)(i)

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s9(2)(g)(i)





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s9(2)(g)(i)

Actions:

- M Stone to amend the Annual Report and Work Programme and progress sending to the Minister.

The committee adjourned for lunch at 12:30pm.

N Waran left the meeting at 12:30pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:01pm

C2. Verbal update on export of Livestock by Sea

s9(2)(g)(i)

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s9(2)(g)(i)

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s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 1:30pm

s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 1:30pm

C3. Deer Code of Welfare

M Stone called for declarations of interest, noting the matter in question is the deer industry. S Faulkner shared that she grew up deer farming but has no current pecuniary interests. M Stone noted no need to recuse S Faulkner for that reason. No pecuniary interests were declared.

M Sutherland thanked s9(2)(a) , the wider Secretariat, and the SC for work on the draft Code.

M Sutherland talked through a PowerPoint providing an overview of the Code review process. Key points of the PowerPoint included:

- Planning for the review was completed in March 2022, consultation was completed in October 2022, and the Code was finalised in Q2 2024.
- The scope of review included several new Minimum Standards as well as strengthening of existing Minimum Standards.
- Additional RBPs for welfare assurance, but no regulatory proposals.
- The drafting process included feedback from the working group and public consultation responses (32 submissions).

s9(2)(g)(i)



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s9(2)(g)(i)

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M Stone noted that concluded discussion and review of the draft updated deer Code. M Stone called for any comments on the Code report noting any minor editorial corrections should be sent to M Sutherland and s9(2)(a).

MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That NAWAC accept the draft deer Code of Welfare and Code report subject to minor amendments that will be considered via email to recommend to the Minister along with the accompanying Summary of Submissions for issue.

The committee approved the draft code by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

M Stone confirmed with the committee that there are no matters within SC or committee where members dissent from the agreed NAWAC positions. The committee confirmed.

M Stone thanked the SC and Secretariat for their work on the Code. s9(2)(a) acknowledged s9(2) input into the process.

Actions:

- s9(2)(a) to amend MS 22(b) for clarity.
- Secretariat and M Stone to finalise and package the deer Code of Welfare documents to progress recommending to Minister for issue.

The committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2:53pm.

The meeting reconvened at 3:30pm

C4. Verbal update on draft NAWAC opinion piece: Animal welfare and emerging agritech

s9(2)(g)(i)



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s9(2)(g)(i)



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such pieces is drafted and agreed on that respects Ministerial direction for approval. The committee agreed and noted for the business subcommittee to pick this up.

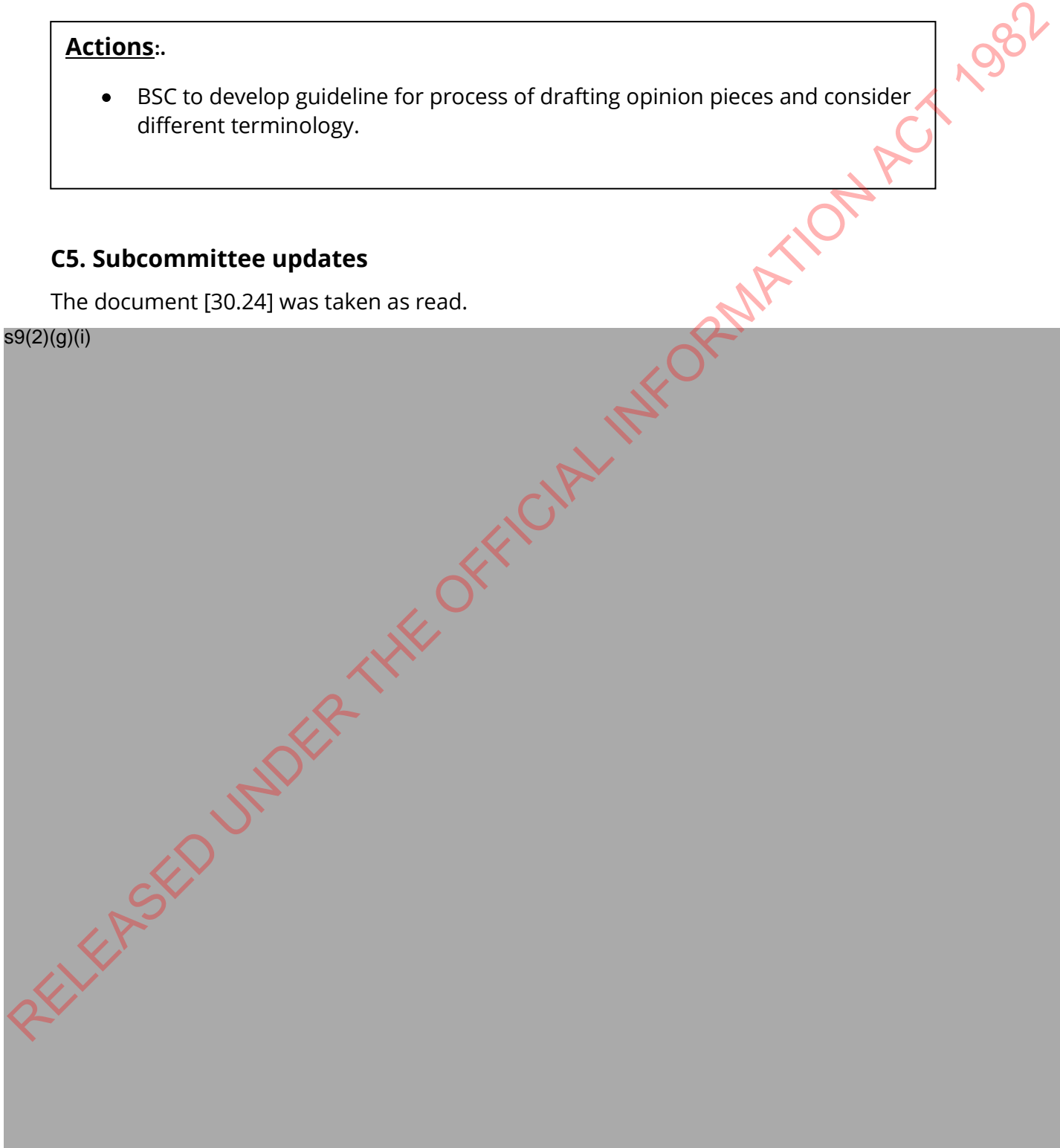
Actions:

- BSC to develop guideline for process of drafting opinion pieces and consider different terminology.

C5. Subcommittee updates

The document [30.24] was taken as read.

s9(2)(g)(i)





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s9(2)(g)(i)

PART 3: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

O10. Work programme update

The committee discussed the 2024/25 work programme. M Stone quickly recapped previous discussions.

- Poultry - indicate only planning and prioritisation and leave other steps until continuing further. M Stone confirmed he will respond to EPFNZ sharing that no progress will be initiated this year.
- Accept deletion under possible new development of review activity as directed by the Minister and move advice on livestock exports to the pillar 2 programme.
- Rabbits – proposal is to shift to 2025 dates and explain to the Minister that livestock Codes are priority, but NAWAC are hopeful given the amount of work already undertaken and engagement with the SPCA and stakeholders to present for recommendation to consult in early 2025.
- Cats and dogs – work programme paused on ministerial direction.
- Pillar 2 (c) – in relation to opinion pieces, position this in the Act language of advice to the Minister and ensure this removes reference to publishing and clearly frames the work as developing advice to the Minister on cross-code issues with Ministerial approval to move to consultation with stakeholders.

M Stone confirmed he will make those changes as well as those discussed to the Annual Report, will send both updated documents to the Minister and will circulate that correspondence with NAWAC and keep informed of any responses.

M Stone called for any other business. The committee discussed the possible joint meeting with NAEAC. M Stone and N Waran agreed to follow up with MPI on a possible agenda for the joint meeting, currently scheduled for 7 August.



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Actions:

- N Waran and M Stone to discuss possible joint meeting for 2024.

M Stone noted thanks to NAWAC and MPI for engagement and ongoing support and closed the meeting at 16:27pm.

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