



# 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 6 August 2024

**Time / Tāima:** 09:30 – 4:00

**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, Tracy Brown, Natalie Waran, Sandra Faulkner, Craig Johnson, Carolyn Eyre

**Attendees / Nuinga:** s9(2)(a)  
[Redacted names]

**Guests / Manuhiri:** None

**Public attendees / Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu:** s9(2)(a)  
[Redacted names]

**Apologies / Matangaro:** None

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## PART 1: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### GENERAL

#### 01. Welcomes and Farewells

The meeting was opened at 09:30am with a karakia. M Stone welcomed all public attendees and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

T Brown informed the Committee that she has been appointed as Chair of the DairyNZ Board and will be stepping down from NAWAC. M Stone thanked T Brown for her contributions to NAWAC.

#### 02. Conflict of interest updates

M Stone advised of a change in contracting arrangements and noted that he is no longer involved with Global Burden of Animal Disease and is now contracting for World Organisation for Animal Health.

T Brown advised that an existing conflict of interest of hers is missing from the register (Dairy Industry Trustee) and requested that it is updated.

#### 03. Confirmation of previous minutes

The document [32.24] was taken as read. M Stone called for feedback or required edits.

s9(2)(a) clarified to the committee that s9(2)(a) is a Principal Advisor in the MPI Animal Welfare Policy Team.

Edits requested: Pg3. Amended *morality* to *mortality*.

#### MOTION:

M Stone moved:

That the minutes dated 14 May 2024 are a true and accurate record.

The committee approved the minutes by consensus.

The motion was put: carried.

#### 04. NAWAC correspondence

The document [32.24] was taken as read. M Stone called for any questions or comments. C Eyre queried if there was a declaration process for members signing petitions. M Stone



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confirmed that when the committee are discussing agenda items related to content of petitions, (e.g., live animal exports), he will call for declarations of interest and members can use this opportunity to declare any potential conflicts associated with predetermination.

S Faulkner noted the correspondence on livestock transport. M Stone noted that there is a specific forum established to consider animal welfare issues in this area. The concerns noted within the correspondence are well known and is part of an ongoing conversation.

### 05. MPI Update

M Stone called for MPI to talk to the update. s9(2)(a) updated NAWAC that s9(2)(a) has moved to On-Farm Support but will still feed into the work programme. s9(2)(a) was introduced as the new Principal Adviser in the Animal Welfare Team, having a background in risk management and strategy. The Sector Liaison Team has moved to the Operations Directorate and AWEM has moved to the Response and Compliance Directorate.

s9(2)(a) provided a verbal Policy update. He noted his team are working on the livestock export public consultation, NAWAC reform, providing advice on the dairy Code, and dog tethering regulations. It was confirmed that the Minister is still committed to August for live animal export consultation, and that the consultation documents will contain proposed options as well as technical standards. s9(2)(a) noted he will confirm whether NAWAC advice will be sought pre-consultation, but that NAWAC is considered a key stakeholder.

s9(2)(a) provided a verbal Sector Liaison update. She advised that the Deer Industry stakeholders are looking forward to the deer Code being issued. s9(2)(a) informed NAWAC of several animal welfare compliance cases recently which have highlighted the need for translating existing educational tools for farms that employ seasonal workers and that they are leading this work. A Dale suggested this work in translating documentation is expanded to poultry-specific guidance. s9(2)(a) noted that the farmer toolkit is being printed for distribution. T Brown queried any insights into the level of public engagement with MPI staff at public events. s9(2)(a) shared that the team do not record interactions specifically but that by looking at the level of secondary engagement resulting from these events they are confident that the level of engagement is high.

s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 9:59am.

M Stone noted the reports from Verification Services and Compliance. The committee discussed the issue of cattle that are too large to be processed. It was noted that animals have been sent to plants that cannot process that size of animal. There is messaging going out at events targeting width and height rather than live weight to try combat this. The importance of education was noted. s9(2)(a) noted she can look into comms with MIA. It was noted that



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NZVA have information on their website on cattle processing plants and what weights they can and cannot take.

The committee briefly discussed how compliance data and trends could feed into NAWAC's work. s9(2)(a) noted that Sector Liaison use this data to target education and awareness guidance. M Stone noted other feedback loops during Code review processes. M Stone confirmed it would be useful for members of Compliance or Verification Services to join NAWAC meetings for the MPI Update section to answer any further questions. s9(2)(a) confirmed she would explore this.

The committee discussed why some non-government agencies that are operational during emergencies were not invited to the emergency workshops. s9(2)(a) noted she would take this feedback to AWEM.

M Stone raised Orana Park, noting that MPI are heavily involved and that NAWAC do not have an active review on the Zoos Code. NAWAC are starting to see repeat issues in this sector that come from a challenging business environment. M Stone called for Orana Park and Wildlife Sector to be added to the issues register. It was noted there was work previously for an updated zoos code from ZAA that NAWAC could seek a status update on. It was noted that these industry codes are generally used as basis for accreditation and contain quite high standards so may not be suitable as a Code of Welfare. N Waran advised NAEAC is interested in this, and it could be added to their watching brief as well.

The committee queried the timeline for the heat stress report that was an output from the operational research funding. s9(2)(a) noted that the report is still going through sign-out. M Stone advised that the position on thermal stress reached by NAWAC is unlikely to be impacted by the report.

### **Actions:**

- Secretariat to provide NAWAC with an updated operational overview diagram of the Agriculture and Investment Services (MPI) business unit.

### **06. Status of actions arising from previous meetings**

The document [35.24] was taken as read.

T Brown called to update action 1 noting it is in progress and awaiting sign-off.

s9(2)(a) noted action 9 and shared that AWEM have moved to Compliance and Response. MPI have completed a lessons learned review and key recommendations have been implemented to enable working more effectively. NAWAC recommended communications be sent on this from MPI to regional leaders.



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M Stone noted action 11 and updated that he is working with the Secretariat on a stakeholder contact list and sending out comms to draw attention to NAWAC's revised work programme, Letter of Expectations and Annual Report. He wants to keep the stakeholder list targeted but can use this process to kickstart refining the stakeholder engagement strategy further.

A Dale noted action 19. It was advised that Verification Services do not have the resources to come and present at this time and that there have been no significant changes in this space. The Secretariat will look to re-invite and re-engage a presentation or written report when the poultry or slaughter Codes are initiated.

T Brown noted that providing more clear dates in 'by when' column might hold NAWAC to more account on progressing some actions. M Stone noted that if there is a deadline to respect, then yes, however he doesn't want to arbitrarily put timelines down that are not realistic.

M Stone noted that there are no further updates on sheep washing and called to mark the action as completed and put back onto the issues register until the slaughter Code review is initiated.

Action 27 was confirmed as being closed.

### 07. Issues register

M Stone noted the preamble added and that the function of this register is being clarified through an ongoing processes.

M Stone called for any additional information or intelligence regarding matters already on the register firstly. No updates provided.

M Stone called for any new issues to be added, noting previous suggestions of Orana Park and Wildlife Sector as well as sheep washing.

It was noted to add the report on secondary legislation review by the regulations review committee. Currently waiting on government response to report.

It was raised to include workforce training in sectors that are reliant on immigrant labour and ensuring that training practices are appropriate.

N Waran noted the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare's white paper on equids - 'good welfare for equids'. She noted it may be a useful resource for when NAWAC look to review the equine Code in the future.

No further issues to add to the register.

s9(2)(a) [redacted] rejoined the meeting at 10:50am



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## **Actions:**

- Additions to the issues register:
  - Orana Park and Wildlife Sector
  - Sheep washing
  - Workforce training in sectors reliant on immigrant labour
  - Eurogroup for Animal Welfare's White Paper - Good Welfare for Equids

## **08. NAEAC Update**

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

- Last general meeting was 21 May
- Next general meeting on 8 August
- From the May meeting:
  - Completed site visits in Christchurch:
  - Completed draft operational work programme and sent to the Minister.
  - Particular interest in on-school farms.

N Waran confirmed that animal ethics committees are a major stakeholder for NAEAC and noted that in general AECs do not attend general meetings, but are engaged with via email, newsletters, online webinars/meetings, and the Good Practice Guide.

*The committee adjourned for morning tea at 11:00am*

*The meeting reconvened at 11:19am*

## **09. NAWAC Guidelines work programme and recommendations**

The committee noted points 1, 2 and 3 of the memorandum that pertain to minor editorial changes to guidelines 1 and 3, since approval by business SC. The committee also noted the guidelines they replace and that these will be removed from website. No concerns were raised.

R Palmer noted guideline 4 for review in appendix 1. This is the second time the guideline is in front of NAWAC. P Mason explained edits made since the previous meeting. He reviewed and edited the principles and stakeholder groups. It was suggested to change 'audience watching same event on television' to 'broadcast audience'. N Waran commented that animal-assisted therapy may be a clearer reference under well-being. P Mason confirmed he would update this. N Waran also raised that using animals as an educational tool may also require consideration of part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. P Mason to work with N Waran to



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update this. The committee discussed the original guideline and the operational tool that it included. P Mason noted that the SC considered the tool as not usable. The SC recommended the guideline for formal approval, noting it has been reviewed by MPI. The committee approved the guideline in principle for the business SC to approve once amendments are made, and for guideline 15 to be revoked and removed from the website.

The committee discussed the draft guideline for the creation of NAWAC advice. M Stone noted that NAWAC produced an opinion paper on selective breeding which stimulated conversation within industry. NAWAC started drafting the agritech opinion piece and late into that process, with the change of government and conversations on the direction, the piece has been paused until the Minister gives indication he is happy to receive this advice. NAWAC also agreed on work in this area to confirm a standardised process. M Stone has drafted a guideline to capture this and provide a framework for development. He noted he would like any feedback on the guideline from NAWAC or MPI to be sent to him by 30 August. The feedback will be reviewed by the business SC and inform any edits, before the guideline comes back to NAWAC at the next general meeting. The committee noted that in the first instance, any produced advice would go to the Minister and a conversation would be had at this stage regarding dissemination of the advice.

R Palmer noted the additional guidelines that the SC have reviewed and deemed not fit-for-purpose. She noted that anything of relevance contained within has been absorbed into other new guidelines and recommended they be revoked and removed from the website. The committee approved this recommendation. No dissent was recorded.

It was also noted that there are three guidelines on the website that are currently superseded or revoked, and recommended removing. The committee approved this recommendation. No dissent was recorded.

The final guideline discussed was the updated trap testing guideline. It was noted that this guideline does not fit within the scope of the other NAWAC guidelines. The business SC recommend moving to a separate tab on the website along with good practice guidelines and away from NAWAC operational guidelines. The committee approved this recommendation. No dissent was recorded.

### **Actions:**

- BSC to work with Secretariat to update website accordingly.
- NAWAC and MPI to provide any feedback on the draft guideline 'Fulfilling NAWAC's advisory mandate beyond Codes of Welfare' by 30 August.



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## **O10. Joint meeting pre-discussion**

M Stone provided an overview for the joint meeting. He recommended NAWAC members to be ready with specific questions if there are points they would like to hear on.

It was noted that the committees could work together on areas of shared interest and that they will need to draw on knowledge of both committees and ensure there is a bridge for these conversations to occur.

The committee discussed the upcoming possible Act amendment and noted that a discussion with the Minister regarding any advice on the Act will be timely. M Stone noted his priority is Schedule 1. The committee discussed whether it would be valuable having an economist on the committee.

M Stone noted he would like the discussion on stakeholder engagement to begin with an overview of current state from both Chairs. He noted that he intends to call on the committee to feedback thoughts on this, noting that the revised guideline 1 clearly lays out processes to manage expectations from stakeholders regarding participation in review processes.

M Stone noted the discussion on practicalities and economics and that NAWAC need to be open and upfront that NAWAC's work is about finding a balance that recognises the circumstances. What will keep NAWAC safe in judicial review process is that what NAWAC is proposing is reasonable given the evidence-base and that NAWAC have worked alongside required processes that are documented.

The committee discussed the Act with regards to positive animal welfare. It was noted that market demands often dictate a social license beyond minimum standards. s9(2)(a) noted documents submitted to the Primary Production Committee when the Act was first developed, and when the Act amendments went through which cover inclusion of practicalities and economics. He noted he will share these with NAWAC for their information.

*Committee broke for lunch at 12:35pm.*

*s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) left the meeting at 12:35pm.*

*The meeting reconvened at 13:17pm.*

## **O11. Subcommittee expectations**

s9(2)(a) provided the committee with feedback from the Secretariat on how the SC meetings could be streamlined. This is to ensure that the meetings are effective, and





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that the Secretariat can make the most of the members' valuable time. She also noted that the Secretariat would like to support the Wildlife SC to re-think their scope.

Key feedback included:

- Ensure required pre-reading is completed.
- Keep discussions to targeted feedback on the relevant sections or issues.
- The Secretariat can make simple word changes offline.
- Ensure each SC has a firm scope.

C Eyre suggested that new members coming on to workstreams are provided an opportunity to get up to speed before attending the meetings. Suggestions made by the committee included a synopsis of the Code to date and a meeting with the Code lead and SC Chair to discuss any key issues. M Stone agreed that an induction session with the Code Lead and SC Chair should take place for any new SC members. NAWAC discussed each SC having a workplan that details what will be covered in each meeting, as currently exists for S&B.

It was noted that the discussions that take place at SC are important but could be conducted in a more focused manner and include more informed opinions, based on the available pre-reading. The committee noted that it is appropriate for them to challenge decisions or suggestions made by the secretariat. s9(2)(a) advised that MPI staff are scientific experts, with experience and understanding of the legal requirements and boundaries and encouraged the committee to take their advice on board, acknowledging that NAWAC has the ability to form their own opinions, as does MPI. However, s9(2)(a) should be informed if the Secretariat is not supporting the SC in a way that is appropriate.

It was noted that a few members are working across numerous SCs. It was suggested that if too few SC members are sufficiently prepared, topics can be bumped until a later date.

M Stone clarified that the SC need to be operating as efficiently as possible. This responsibility is primarily on the SC Chairs and going forward an induction process will occur for new SC members. He noted his expectation is SC Chairs are clear on their workplan as agreed by NAWAC and operate processes with efficiency.

M Stone thanked public attendees for their interest and engagement and read the resolution to exclude the public at 1:40pm.



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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 Ministerial correspondence
- C2. Wildlife SC – work plan update
- C3. PHP Code
- C4. 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	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.
C2 – C4	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)

s9(2)(a) and 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 Ministerial correspondence

M Stone recalled the decision that he would take responsibility for Ministerial correspondence, and confirmed channels are open. The draft Dairy Code and Report have been sent to the Minister and a formal meeting has taken place. M Stone advised that the Dairy Code may be returned from the Minister and that NAWAC will wait on further direction.

s9(2)(g)(i)

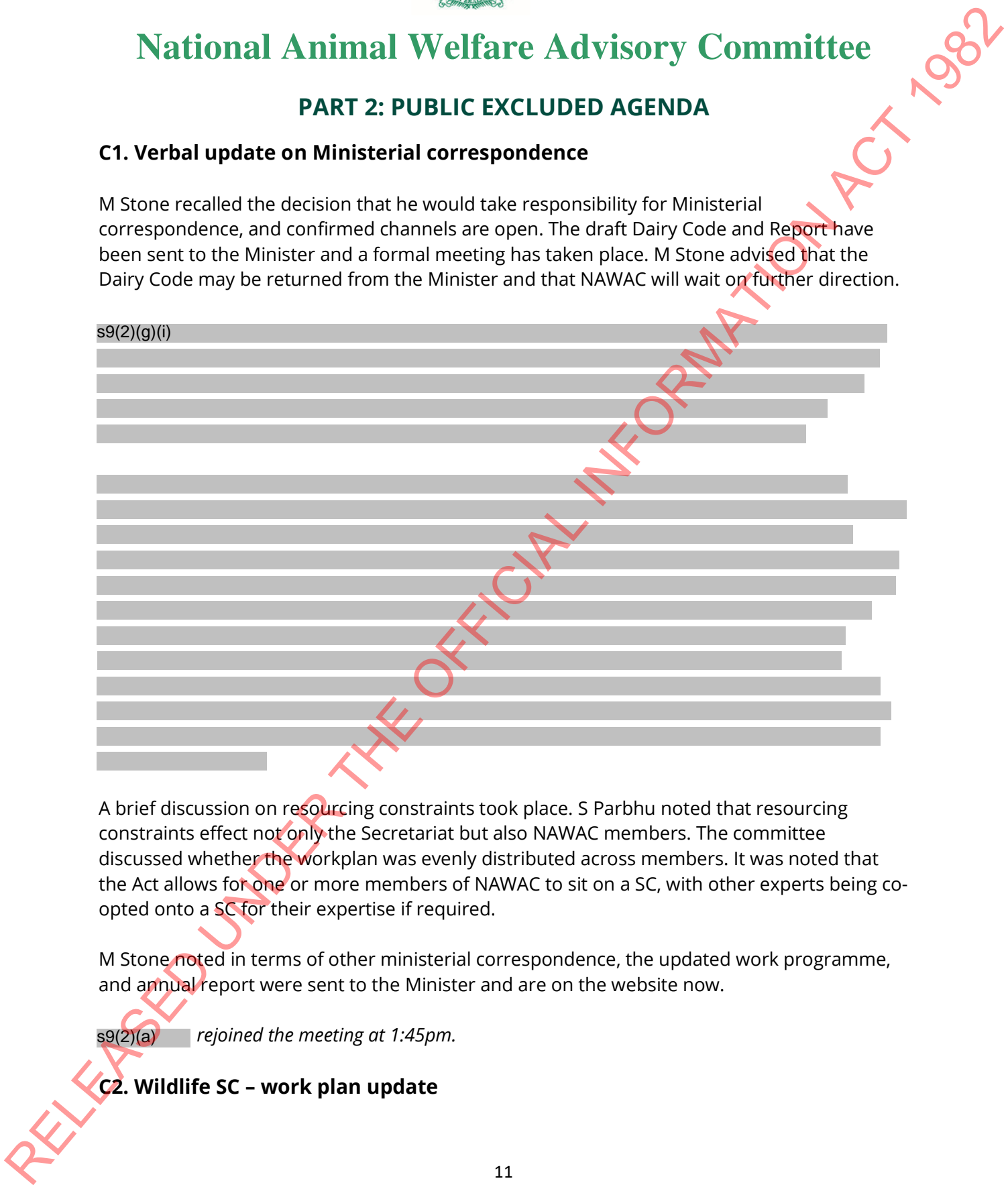
[Redacted text block consisting of multiple lines of grey bars]

A brief discussion on resourcing constraints took place. S Parbhu noted that resourcing constraints effect not only the Secretariat but also NAWAC members. The committee discussed whether the workplan was evenly distributed across members. It was noted that the Act allows for one or more members of NAWAC to sit on a SC, with other experts being co-opted onto a SC for their expertise if required.

M Stone noted in terms of other ministerial correspondence, the updated work programme, and annual report were sent to the Minister and are on the website now.

s9(2)(a) [redacted] rejoined the meeting at 1:45pm.

### C2. Wildlife SC - work plan update





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The meeting paper [38.24] was taken as read and A Dale opened the floor for discussion. Key points covered included:

- NAWAC has a statutory role regarding pest management.
- There is a lot of information available on the matter in the public domain, but it does not cover welfare or ethical aspects.
- To ascertain how relevant this information is for stakeholders, engagement must be increased.

It was noted that there has been multiple iterations of the good practice guide document, and it could be made more user friendly by being split into sections and include infographics and forms. M Stone sought clarity on the scope of the document and advised that it should be a guide of considerations for when users are in the planning stage of pest management. ■

s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

The committee discussed the resource requirements of this work, noting that NAEAC's Good Practice Guide (GPG) requires annual review, and this document would also require a review cycle to be built into the workplan.

The committee approved the two recommendations in the memorandum. s9(2)(a) confirmed that currently the Secretariat would be able to resource the initial meetings.

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## Actions:

- Stakeholder engagement on the pest management good practice guide to be undertaken via a virtual meeting across 6-8 organisations.
- Development of a 1-2-page document plan for the GPG (to include the scope, purpose, content outline and target audience).

### C3. PHP Code

s9(2)(a) [redacted] joined meeting at 2:23pm and provided NAWAC with an overview of the PHP Code and the possible review options.

s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

s9(2)(a) [redacted] re-joined the meeting at 2:25pm.

s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

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2) s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

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s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

*The committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:25pm.  
The meeting reconvened at 3:38pm*

## **C4. NAWAC subcommittee updates**

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Rodeos: M Stone will join a SC meeting next week to set expectations and revise the review timeline. s9(2)(g)(i)

Deer: M Stone is liaising with the Secretariat on the letter to the Minister and what documents will go with it. Once the recommendation is formalised to the Minister, this will be circulated to the committee.

S&B: The timeline was updated during this meeting s9(2)(g)(i)

Companion Animals: Currently paused.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Wildlife: As discussed earlier.

### PART 3: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

#### 012. Work programme update

The meeting re-opened to the public at 3:45pm.

The committee noted that there are no changes to the work programme, as the wildlife GPG is already included the 2024 work programme. The agreement to engage with stakeholders fits within the existing work programme. It was also noted that the agreement to review PHP in the S&B Code review does not change the work programme.

M Stone clarified that any members whose terms end in October will remain a member until their replacements are appointed. T Brown confirmed that she would not be available to continue in her SCs or on the Committee past October 2024. s9(2)(a) advised that T Brown will have to submit her resignation to the Minister. S Faulkner confirmed that the S&B SC will be able to continue in the absence of T Brown and A Dale. s9(2)(a) advised that NAWAC recruitment will shortly be underway, as it was impacted by the change in Government and encouraged members to inform their networks. P Mason advised that the Rodeo SC will be impacted by A Dale and R Palmer terms ending.





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M Stone closed the meeting at 3:56pm.

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