



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 04 November 2015 meeting were:

- **Animal Welfare Amendment Act: Progress on regulations** – The Animal Welfare Act was amended in May and now provides for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The working group that is drafting regulations reported back to the wider Committee on targeted workshops held and the draft matters for regulation. Public consultation on these matters is expected in early 2016.
- **Dairy housing amendment** – an amendment to the dairy cattle code of welfare to address indoor housing and off-paddock facilities was discussed. The final recommendation is scheduled to be agreed out-of-session before the end of 2015.
- **Farrowing crates** – NAWAC's advice to the Minister on the welfare impacts and viability of the continued use of farrowing crates was discussed. The associated economic analysis is still in progress. The final recommendation is scheduled to be agreed out-of-session before the end of 2015.
- **Animal welfare in selective breeding** – The final draft of a NAWAC opinion on animal welfare and selective breeding was brought to the meeting. The draft will be shared for comment with contributing stakeholders in early 2016.
- **Animals in the wild** – NAWAC received a presentation on remote monitoring of traps from the group Zero Invasive Predators.
- **Positive welfare** – NAWAC received a presentation on using the five domains model to assess positive welfare from Massey University.
- **Systems review** – NAWAC discussed the format of future codes of welfare and how regulations will be published within them. NAWAC guidelines and documents such as 'guideline to writing codes of welfare' will be updated in due course.
- **Deputy chair** – Julie Wagner was appointed deputy chair for 2016.
- **Next meeting** – Meeting dates in 2016 are scheduled as: 17 February, 18 May, 17 August, and 16 November.