

Winter Grazing Action Group

Tuesday 16 June 2020

MINUTES

Date:	Tuesday 16 June 2020	
Time:	1:00pm – 3:00pm	
Location:	Skype	
Attendees		
Winter Grazing Action Group		
Lindsay Burton	Independent Chair	
Ash Keown	NZ Veterinary Association	
Caroline Murray	Dairy Companies Association NZ	
Helen Thoday (joined at 1.30pm)	DairyNZ	
Julie Geange	Federated Farmers	
Milton Munro	PGG Wrightson	
Miranda Hunter	Farm consultant	
Peter Young	Farm consultant	
Tim Driscoll	Dairy farmer	
Tony Pearse	Deer Industry NZ	
Will Halliday	Beef + Lamb NZ	
Leonie Ward	Manager, Animal Welfare Sector Liaison	
Penny Timmer-Arends	Animal Welfare Sector Liaison	
Gray Harrison	Manager Animal Welfare & NAIT Compliance	
Ministry for Primary Industries staff		
Tinta Tan (agenda items 5 & 6)	Senior Service Designer	

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members, and asked for any other agenda items. The high level of dry matter in Fodderbeet this season was added to the agenda.

The Chair noted that Pania King has resigned from the Group due to competing commitments. MPI will work with Pania and the MPI Maori Agribusiness Directorate to find a replacement with practical farm experience.

2. Minutes from 19 May and 2 June 2020

The minutes from 19 May, which were amended to reflect the conversation on back fencing, were agreed as a true and accurate record. The minutes from 2 June were also agreed as correct. These will be placed on the MPI website for transparency.

The Group went through the actions from the previous meeting and noted them as complete or in progress.

Ospri are able to send communications to graziers identified on their Tb Free database on behalf of the Action Group. A modified version of the recent press release, with emphasis for graziers and farmers to talk to keep in regular contact, has been sent out. Further information from the short-term expectation document will be provided in due course.

Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Primary Industries staff are preparing the draft environmental regulations to give effect to the Cabinet-agreed policies, announced under the *Action for Healthy Waterways* package. Agencies will then test the draft regulations with a range of stakeholders, including representatives of primary sector bodies. The re-sow requirement under the Intensive Winter Grazing regulation will be tested as part of this process.

Penny to seek clarification on the timing of the Intensive Winter Grazing Regulation under the National Environmental Standards, and when it will come into force.

3. Discussion document – short-term expectations

Ash had revised and circulated the document titled *Winter Grazing Action Group short-term expectations* prior to the meeting.

The group worked through the document, discussing the points where feedback had been received out-of-session and coming to a consensus. A recommendation to provide animals with a suitable lying surface (e.g. by shifting them, or providing bedding) after 48 hours without access to a lying area was reached.

Ash will circulate the document with feedback from today's meeting out-of-session, with the aim of finalising the text and images at the next meeting.

4. Communications

There had been several articles about wintering in the media since the last fortnightly meeting. Links to these were circulated with the papers and included an article about Pāmu's wintering apps, and a farm visit for environmental campaigners hosted by Southland Federated Farmers.

Gray provided a brief update on Compliance. The first few mud complaints for this winter have been received in Southland. The Animal Welfare Inspectors were able to use the recently developed assessment tool to assist with their inspection.

The Communications plan was circulated with the meeting papers. It has been edited to reflect the feedback from previous meetings, as well as communications around the *short-term expectations* document once this is finalised. This would include a recorded interview with Lindsay, and potentially animated videos.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:00pm.

Next meeting

Tuesday 30 June at 1:00pm

New actions		Responsible	Timeframe / status
1.	Seek further clarification on the timing of the Intensive Winter Grazing Regulation, under the National Environmental Standards, and when it will come into force	Penny	Next meeting
2.	Check wording in the Short-term expectations document with farmers. Use feedback to inform comms plan	Tim Julie Ash	In progress
3.	Circulate assessment tool to the Action Group in-confidence	MPI	Complete
4.	Invite Pamu to speak to the Group about the wintering apps they have developed	MPI	In progress
5.	Share feedback from the Environment southland flyover	MPI	Complete
Previous actions		Responsible	Timeframe / status
6.	Helen to set up 2 nd behaviour change session for people who couldn't attend the first one	Helen	TBC
7.	Discuss animal welfare requirements that could be included in the Federated Farmers grazing contract	Julie MPI Milton	In progress. Julie to report back at July meeting
8.	Contact RMPP to see whether wintering information can be shared with those Action Groups with a grazing focus	Will	Will has provided info to MPI to action
9.	Share PGG winter grazing contract when finalised	Milton	When available