



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 05 November 2014 meeting were:

- **Draft work plan for 2015** – NAWAC discussed a draft workplan, with the final to be endorsed at its first meeting in 2015 and then posted on the [website](#) early next year.
- **Work programme update** –
 - **Regulations and the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill** – The Bill, if passed, will allow NAWAC to recommend directly enforceable animal welfare regulations. The regulations subcommittee has held two introductory meetings with MPI. One was on care & conduct regulations, the other on regulations around painful husbandry and surgical procedures.
 - **Dairy cattle housing** – the dairy cattle subcommittee has continued work to progress an amendment to the dairy cattle code that will provide minimum standards applicable to off-paddock housing systems.
 - **Horses & Donkeys** – MPI updated the Committee on the progress of the horses & donkeys code of welfare. Issue is anticipated in the first quarter of 2015.
- **Pigs: Farrowing Crates** – The Minister for Primary Industries has requested NAWAC's advice on the possibility of transitioning away from farrowing crates.

The subcommittee reported back on a proposed plan to have advice to the Minister by August 2015. The next steps are an economic assessment and drafting of an issues paper.
- **Presentations** – MPI compliance and the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme gave updates on their team's work. MPI's compliance branch was invited to update the Committee at each quarterly meeting in the future.
- **Next meeting** – March 10th and 11th in Gisborne, venue to be confirmed.

The other agreed meeting dates for 2015 are Wednesday May 20th, Wednesday August 19th, and Thursday November 19th.