



## 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 14 August meeting were:

- **Amendment to the Layer Hens Code of Welfare** - Following concerns about the practicality and feasibility of achieving the timetable for phasing out cages, NAWAC had requested and considered an [independent assessment](#) of the timetable for phasing out battery cages. At the last meeting it was agreed that NAWAC would revisit the transition schedule in a public discussion document. The basis of the public consultation document was a change to the transition timeline that shifted the 2016, 2018 and 2020 transitions each back by two years (while still retaining the final deadline of 2022).

Submissions on the document closed 2 August 2013. The Committee considered the submissions and agreed to recommend that the proposed changes to the layer hens code would go ahead as put forward in the discussion document. The one exception was that the minimum standard regarding claw-shortening devices would remain, with changes.

- **Animals in Entertainment** – Considering the work programme currently underway by NAWAC on a broad new 'Animals in Entertainment' Code of Welfare, the meeting was held at Wellington Zoo, giving the Committee the chance to go behind-the-scenes as they viewed some of the animals that are involved in contact visits with the public. Zoo staff member Simon Eyre, chair of the Accreditation and Animal Welfare Committee of the Zoos and Aquarium Association (ZAA), also talked to NAWAC about how animal welfare will be assessed amongst its member zoos and aquariums.
- **Rodeos Code of Welfare** – A final draft of the updated Animal Welfare (Rodeos) Code of Welfare was considered. Subject to minor changes, it will be recommended to the Minister within the next few weeks.
- **Dairy Housing** – NAWAC considered a draft discussion document on long-term confinement housing for dairy cattle. New minimum standards for off-pasture systems will soon be consulted on as part of an amendment to the Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010, after the subcommittee meets with representatives of the groups likely to be affected by the amendment.
- **Greyhounds** – The welfare of racing greyhounds has been in the spotlight recently, with the release of an independent [welfare review](#) by the New Zealand Greyhound Racing Association. NAWAC discussed the review and its recommendations. Racing animals will be a central consideration for NAWAC when it considers the new standards for Animals in Entertainment.
- **NZ Strategy and Amendment Bill** - The Committee received an update on the [animal welfare strategy](#) and the [Animal Welfare Amendment Bill](#). An implementation subcommittee was formed, charged with leading the changes to the way NAWAC addresses its work priorities in the future.
- The next meeting will occur in Wellington on 13 November.