



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 15 May meeting were:

- **Amendments 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 this meeting it was agreed that, having considered the report and the discussion of previous meetings, NAWAC will revisit the transition schedule in a public discussion document. It was further agreed that the basis of the public consultation document will be a change to the transition timeline that shifts the 2016, 2018 and 2020 transitions each back by two years (while still retaining the final deadline of 2022).

The discussion document has since been released, and submissions are open until 2 August 2013. Click [here](#) for more information on how to have your say.

- **Animals in Entertainment** – The potential scope of a broad new 'Animals in Entertainment' Code (working title) was discussed, and it was agreed that the a public discussion document would be released later in the year, with the main purpose being to get an opinion from stakeholders and the public on how they regard animals in entertainment. To this end, a public workshop may also be held.
- **Rodeos Code of Welfare** – The issues identified by the subcommittee following public consultation of a revised Code were discussed. A final code for recommendation to the Minister will be considered at the August meeting.
- **Visit from Hon Nathan Guy** – The Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy, attended part of the meeting. He stated that he anticipates that animal welfare issues will only heighten over time, and that he considers the Committee very important to him and MPI in maintaining New Zealand's reputation. The Committee appreciated the opportunity to brief him on the current issues in person.
- **NZ Strategy and Amendment Bill:** The Committee received an update on the [animal welfare strategy](#) and the [Animal Welfare Amendment Bill](#) and decided to establish an implementation subcommittee to help steer any changes to the way NAWAC may work in the future.
- The next meeting will occur in Wellington on 14 August.