



# National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

**Te Komiti Tohutohu Matatika Kararehe ā-Motu  
Tikanga hui: General Meeting**

**Rā: 18 May 2022  
Tāima: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Meneti | Minutes**

**Komiti / Committee:** Natalie Waran (Chairperson), Arnja Dale, Laura Bennet, Janine Duckworth, Rob Hazelwood, Jacquie Harper, Mike King, Nita Harding, Rachel Heeney and Dianne Wepa.

**Nuinga / Attendees:** s9(2)(a)

## **Nau mai / Welcome**

N Waran opened the meeting with a karakia at 9:03am.

## **Matangaro / Apologies**

## **Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public)**

## **Any Other Business Part Two (Public Excluded Agenda)**

## PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

### O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes of the general meeting held on 16 February 2022 were reviewed. s9(2)(a) noted several formatting errors and will provide these to s9(2)(a) to offline for amendment.

*Moved: (J Harper / A Dale):*

*That the draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 be adopted as a true and accurate record pending the mentioned amendments.*

*The motion was put: carried*

**Action: s9(2)(a) to amend the minutes with s9(2)(a) suggestions.**

The committee acknowledged this will be s9(2)(a) last NAEAC meeting and thanked her for the support and knowledge she has provided the committee with over the years.

### O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the status of the action list and updated accordingly.

At 9.26am s9(2)(a) from s9(2)(ba)(i) joined the meeting as an observer.

### O 4. MPI update

The paper was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

s9(2)(a) noted s9(2)(a)'s retirement and that s9(2)(a) has been permanently appointed as Senior Adviser for the Science Team.

NAEAC were informed that the codes of welfare for Pigs and Dairy Cattle are currently out for public consultation.

The Animal Welfare Act amendment to ban the export of livestock by sea had its second reading last week and a committee of the whole house will take place once Minister O Connor returns.

### O 5. MPI summary of CEC approvals, notifications, and revocations

The paper was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

NAEAC had no questions.

### O 6. Update from NAEAC subcommittees

NAEAC requested an updated list of the subcommittees and their members to be circulated.

**Action: s9(2)(a) to circulate a list of subcommittees and their members.**

Mātauranga Māori: This subcommittee will consult with externals to review the current code of ethical conduct application template and start considering what training and support NAEAC can provide AECs. J Harper has been in discussion with s9(2)(a), who provided positive feedback on NAEACs use of karakia and te reo māori.

NAEAC noted the following as good starting points for this workstream:

- Taonga animals
- Research projects using natural products.

NAEAC noted the Te Pukenga code of ethical conduct will be incorporating tikanga māori.

Code of Ethical Conduct Review Process (A Dale – Chair): The subcommittee have discussed the Animal Manipulation Statistics letter and how AECs can be encouraged to provide more information on the ways they adhere to the 3Rs.

Other topics this subcommittee have discussed recently include:

- ANZCCART and NAEACs 3Rs award
- AgResearch Internal 3Rs award, which may be rolled out to parented organisations too.
- Parenting and the potential development of an SOP for parenting organisations.
- The Good Practice Guide is the single source of information and this needs to be communicated.
- Issues experienced when parenting and monitoring.
- The checklist for independent reviewers to be reviewed.
- Discussed a quality management system for documents.
- The training up of inspectorate in P6 of the act and when this is appropriate.

This subcommittee is comprised of s9(2)(a), s9(2)(a), N Harding, s9(2)(a), A Dale and s9(2)(a) and has a workplan which will be circulated to NAEAC.

**Action: Code of ethical conduct review process subcommittee workplan to be circulated to NAEAC.**

Rehoming Guidelines (N Harding – Chair): Resources are currently being gathered and N Harding is identifying people in RTT who may be of assistance. NAEAC are aware of several AECs keen to improve in this space.

Guidance (R Hazelwood – Chair): R Hazelwood has continued to update the Good Practice Guide.

The following committee members formed a subcommittee to review the GPG in intervals:

- J Duckworth
- M King
- R Hazelwood

The GPG will be brought to the November 2022 NAEAC meeting for approval.

Going forward, subcommittee chairs are to provide a written update to be circulated to the wider committee for each quarterly meeting.

## **FOR APPROVAL**

### **O 7. NAEAC annual report 2021**

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

The following amendments were requested:

- J Duckworth to be listed as employed by a crown research company and receiving fees.
- L Bennet's name to be corrected.

N Harding will provide feedback offline regarding several minor amendments.

Moved: (N Waran / J Harper)

That the draft NAEAC annual report 2021 is approved for publication pending the requested amendments.

The motion was put: carried

### **O 8. The Aotearoa John Schofield Three Rs Award**

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

NAEAC reviewed the Terms of Reference and noted the phrasing needs to reflect that it is awarded in partnership with ANZCCART.

s9(2)(a) confirmed NAEAC have budget and can match ANZCCART's contribution to the cash reward.

NAEAC noted they may need to launch at a later date than the date outlined in the memorandum (30<sup>th</sup> May) and want to raise the standard for this award, including promoting "replace" as the principle R. The committee agree that the welfare impact should be considered by the judging panel and note this can be best achieved through seeking a replacement. This criterion will be developed further and incorporated.

A below subcommittee was formed to continue work on this:

- M King
- A Dale
- J Harper

J Harper noted it would be beneficial to have an ANZCCART representative with no link to NAEAC on the judging panel and R Heeney volunteered to be a NAEAC representative on the judging panel.

**Action: A Dale and M King to provide feedback to ANZCCART regarding the judging panel.**

**Action: Subcommittee to contact NAEAC members to be on the judging panel.**

NAEAC did not approve the Terms of Reference for the John Schofield Three R's Award, the subcommittee will review and update this document and propose a timeframe for the award.

NAEAC discussed channels which could be utilised to promote the award and agreed the award could be presented at NAEAC's November 2022 meeting, which will take place in person.

**Action: Terms of Reference to be circulated to the subcommittee for review and development.**

Moved: (N Waran / R Hazelwood)

That the Terms of Reference for the Aotearoa John Schofield Three Rs Award are to be revised by the subcommittee before the award is publicised and applications received.

The motion was put: carried.

### **O 9. NAEAC operating approach**

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read. The purpose of the memorandum is to increase collaboration and communication across the committee.

s9(2)(a) noted the need to utilise our quarterly meetings and going forward papers will be taken as read and not recapped in the meeting. If agenda items require discussion, NAEAC will communicate this to the secretariat, and it will be moved up in the agenda.

The NAEAC newsletter will added as a standing agenda item for committee members to discuss ideas and develop a sense of what is appropriate newsletter content. The committee discussed the development of a process for the newsletter. This will assist in increase engagement with AECs and the development of a partnership.

NAEAC would like to encourage AECs to attend general meetings as observers.

**Action:** s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(a) to develop a process for the AEC Newsletter.

#### **O 10. AEC training workshop**

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

Following feedback, NAEAC agreed to reschedule this workshop to October 2022.

The proposed programme for the workshop was discussed by the committee, who agreed that a guest speaker should attend to discuss mātauranga Māori and how AECs can incorporate te au Māori values into their work.

The session on “consistency” was noted as a key part of the programme, as it will focus on how AECs can ensure consistency in decision making and NAEAC suggested that independent reviewers may have valuable insights into this.

NAEAC discussed the appropriateness of NZAVS attending, as they have previously attended ethics meetings. The committee agreed that the workshop focus is on AEC training and upskilling and a different forum may be more appropriate for NZAVS to attend.

A Dale noted she has seen proposal document from NZAVS and recommended a separate meeting is held with both NAEAC and NZAVS to discuss the proposal.

**Action:** N Waran to circulate the recommendations document from s9(2)(a) to NAEAC.

NAEAC suggested that s9(2)(a) is invited as a guest speaker to a later NAEAC general meeting and in due course, a way for her to communicate with AECs can be developed.

N Harding suggested that “openness” replaces carbon dioxide on the proposed programme as a discussion on what the openness agreement is about and include examples from AECs of how they incorporate this.

NAEAC suggested the proposed programme item “non-compliance” is combined with adverse events, how welfare is affected and how this should be approached.

The committee agree that the workshop programme is to be revised and the below subcommittee was formed to continued developing this:

- M King
- A Dale

- N Waran

N Waran confirmed that NAEAC members will be expected to lead some of the sessions and assist with the management and running of the workshop.

**Action:** s9(2)(a) *to circulate a list of key dates for NAEAC for 2022.*

#### **O 11. AEC Site Visits**

In October 2022 NAEAC will be conducting site visits to several AECs in the Waikato region. M King suggested Cognoso and provided s9(2)(a) as the contact. Other suggestions included AgResearch, a parented organisation and Waikato University. NAEAC members are encouraged to contact s9(2)(a) with any areas of interest.

**Action:** s9(2)(a) *to begin organising the AEC site visits for October 2022.*

#### **O 12. Tissue usage in RTT**

A Dale informed NAEAC of several cases of AEC approval being sought for the use of tissue when the animal was killed for another reason under AEC protocol. As a result, several applications have been received to kill animals solely for tissue use. There is concern this issue is not fully understood and could result in the unnecessary euthanasia of animals.

As part of the 3Rs, the tissue from an animal killed for another purpose can be used for unrelated RTT purposes and A Dale requested that clarity and advice is provided on this in the GPG and on NAEACs website.

NAEAC confirmed that it is acceptable to share tissue without seeking AEC approval, when the animal has been killed for another reason under an AEC protocol and NAEAC support tissue sharing.

The committee noted that mātauranga Māori considers deceased animals to contain a life force which must still be respected.

s9(2)(a) suggested this information is disseminated in the AEC newsletter.

**Action:** s9(2)(a) *will provide wording on tissue sharing to be included on NAEACs website, the GPG and AEC Newsletter.*

#### Adverse Phenotypes:

A Dale asked NAEAC to consider if reduced fertility is an adverse phenotype, due to the impact that it has on the individual animal and colony animal welfare due to the increased colony size to counter the reduced fertility.

NAEAC noted there currently is not a definition for “adverse phenotype” and agreed it is better to not define the term too clearly due to the potential wider welfare and ethical impacts. By having less detail, it can be interpreted in a way which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act.

s9(2)(a) suggested that consideration is given to this topic and that advice goes in the GPG. NAEAC agreed that this will require legal interpretation.

## PART TWO (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

### DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

*Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

*There being no further introductory items of business to discuss, it was moved (N Waran / R Heeney):*

**A:** *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- C 1. Effective Communication Presentation*
- C 2. AEC service award nomination*
- C 3. Accredited Reviewer Application*
- C 4. Code Review and Mechanisms*

*The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:*

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>		<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
C 1.	<i>Effective Communication Presentation</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>
C 2.	<i>AEC service award nomination</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.</i>
C 3.	<i>Accredited Reviewer Application</i>	<i>To protect the privacy of natural persons.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.</i>
C 4.	<i>Code Review and Mechanisms</i>	<i>To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions of organisations, officers and employees.</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.</i>

**B:** *I also move that s9(2)(a)*

s9(2)(a)

remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of meeting procedure and the subject matter under consideration. This knowledge is relevant background information to assist the committee in its deliberations.

The motion was put: carried.

### C 1. Effective communication – Presentation

NAEAC resumed the meeting at 12.46pm and s9(2)(a) joined to present to the committee on the subject s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

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NAEAC discussed language use and how it can shape s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(a) confirmed that recruitment is currently underway for a communications advisor.

N Waran suggested an opinion piece is written following the insect sentence workshop in August 2022.

NAEAC noted the committee name needs updating in Te Reo on the website. Several committee members are unable to access the website due to security issues.

### O 15. Insect sentence seminar update

NAEAC reviewed and discussed the proposed programme for the insect sentence seminar and the following suggestions were made:

- A presentation on the topic of killing insects. s9(2)(a) suggested s9(2)(a) as an option to discuss this topic.
- A presentation on the topic of New Zealand Pest Control as a meaningful interaction with insects
- s9(2)(a) was noted to have discussed pest management at a previous ANZCCART presentation.
- NAEAC confirmed this will be held virtually, which will allow for overseas speakers.

NAEAC were informed of the s9(2)(b)(ii), who focus on biosecurity, pest management and how to kill insects. The committee queried if an ethical perspective is considered. NAEAC agreed the purpose of the seminar is to develop their knowledge on this topic.



### O 16. ANZCAART joint meeting update

M King provided a verbal update and confirmed that the joint meeting with ANZCCART on the topic of mātauranga māori is proposed to be held in 2023, when ANZCCART are further along in their project to develop material on mātauranga māori and the use of animals for research, which is being developed for kura.

NAEAC are invited to attend the later part of an ANZCCART meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### O 14. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

Nil reported.

A Dale confirmed that she will be presenting at the ANZCCART conference in July.

### O 3. NAEAC correspondence

NAEAC reviewed the correspondence log.

- 1) Mātauranga Māori: NAEAC received a query for guidance on the use of animals in research as it pertains to tikanga and mātauranga Māori. A Dale will send s9(2)(a) papers relating to this to assist in the development of an appropriate response.
- 2) Kiwi Avoidance Training: NAEAC received a query to verify a kiwi avoidance programme that does not use e-collars. Following discussion NAEAC agreed this query is to be referred to a different organisation.
- 3) s9(2)(b)(ii) : NAEAC received a request for clarification on the s9(2)(b)(ii) current definition of "animal" for *Xenopus laevis* frogs. NAEAC noted that organisations can define "non-animals" as they wish, if it is to a higher standard than the Animal Welfare Act. However, organisations need to be mindful that they do not include these as part of their animal manipulation statistics. s9(2)(a) queried if this is a question of legal wording and suggested that MPI take over the response to this to provide advice on the legal interpretation. s9(2)(a) will inform s9(2)(b)(ii) that MPI will respond as it involves defining an animal, and NAEAC were reminded they are able to recommend animals to be cover by the definition of Animal in the Animal Welfare Act.

**Action: MPI to formulate a response to the s9(2)(b)(ii) query on the definition of "animal" regarding *Xenopus laevis* frogs.**

### C 2. AEC service award nomination

The document was circulated prior to the meeting and is taken as read.

NAEAC discussed other achievements of s9(2)(a) 's that they are aware of, including being an s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Moved: (N Waran / A Dale)

That the AEC service award nomination for s9(2)(a) from s9(2)(b)(ii) 's AEC is approved.

The motion was put: carried.

### C 3. Accredited Reviewer Application

NAEAC were informed that s9(2)(a) applied to be recredited as an independent reviewer.

Moved: (N Waran / J Harper)

That NAEAC agree that they support MPI progressing with the reappointment and will raise any issues relating to this by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The motion was put: carried

#### **C4 Code Review and Mechanisms:**

s9(2)(a) confirmed s9(2)(g)(i)

NAEAC discussed how they wish to approach this and agreed that each code will be assigned to 2 people (with a mix of experience) to conduct a thorough review of the code and raise any concerns, before it is reviewed by the wider committee prior to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The reviewers report will be circulated with the revised code, as it may highlight things missing from the previous code which are beneficial to capture in the revised code.

The codes for review were assigned as follows:

- s9(2)(g)(i) – A Dale, R Hazelwood.
- s9(2)(g)(i) – A Dale, J Duckworth
- s9(2)(g)(i) – J Harper, R Heeney
- s9(2)(g)(i) – N Harding, D Wepa
- s9(2)(g)(i) – L Bennet, R Hazelwood
- s9(2)(g)(i) – N Harding, M King

The codes will be circulated to everyone and can be expected by the end of August 2022.

s9(2)(a) reminded NAEAC that the decision document needs to be produced at the end of the process, any thoughts had whilst reviewing or discussing needs capturing in this document.

N Waran closed the meeting with a karakia at 2.23pm