



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee Te Komiti Tohutohu Matatika Kararehe ā-Motu

General Meeting / Tikanga hui

Date / Rā: 12 August 2025

Time/ Tāima: 9.30 am to 4.15 pm

Venue / Whaitua o rēhia: Wellington, New Zealand

MINUTES | MINETI

Committee/Komiti: Natalie Waran (Chairperson/Kairuruku), Jessica Walker, Janine Duckworth, Jacquie Harper, Mike King, Nita Harding, Timothy Kelly, James Webster and Joanne Holter.

Attendees/Nuinga: s9(2)(a)

Guests/Manuhiri: None.

Public attendees/Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu: s9(2)(a)

Welcome/Nau mai: Natalie Waran.

Apologies/Matangaro: s9(2)(a)

Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public): No additional items of business were identified for discussion under Part One of the agenda.

Any Other Business Part Two (Public Excluded Agenda): No additional items of business were identified under Part Two of the agenda.

Any Other Business Part Three (Open to the Public): No additional items of business were identified under Part Three of the agenda.

PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

O1 Welcome

N Waran opened the meeting at 1.04pm. T Kelly shared the karakia.

O2 Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes from the general meeting held on 27 May 2025 were reviewed. The committee reviewed the minutes page by page. One matter was identified for amendment as follows:

Page 4 – MPI Update, a typo was noted in the first bullet point (“manger” should read “manager”).

Moved (J Harper/J Holter): That subject to the above change being made, the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2025 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

L Bennet joined the meeting at 1:07pm.

PART TWO (PUBLIC EXCLUDED AGENDA)

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(N Waran): I move

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

C 1. Major CEC amendment

C 2. Post AEC Site Visits 2025 Debrief

C 3. NZASE amendments to CEC

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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C 1. Major CEC amendment C2. Post AEC Site Visits 2025 debrief C3. NZASE amendments to CEC	<i>To enable the local authority to deliberate in private on decisions or recommendations where it is required to make a recommendation by any enactment.</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 48(1)(d) of the LGOIMA.</i>

B That s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 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.

C1 Major CEC amendment

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] introduced this item and explained that s9(2)(a) [REDACTED] had contacted MPI regarding three proposed amendments to their CEC. She also noted that minor and major amendments differ, where major amendments change the meaning of the CEC and require consultation with NAEAC. In reviewing the amendments, MPI determined that two of them constitute major amendments. The third amendment was considered minor.

NAEAC discussed the proposed amendment relating to the appointment of animal ethics committee members for additional terms.

S9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NAEAC noted that some CECs have provisions for inclusion of subject matter experts to provide specific advice regarding project approvals (they may formally serve on the AEC or be included in an advisory capacity). S9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Regarding parenting arrangements, N Harding noted that information regarding project applications would be managed as per the CEC. S9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] M
King suggested that NAEAC consider how they provide guidance around confidentiality and that there may be an opportunity to provide more nuanced information (instead of a stance where all information is kept confidential) in the GPG. NAEAC also noted that this could be useful topic for a future AEC workshop and may be an opportunity to cross link with ANZCCART.

J Harper queried if this change was necessary considering they already have a provision for working with subject matter experts and any animal welfare concerns/complaints would be managed through non-compliance processes. L Bennet noted that applicants may be opposed to the AEC discussing their application with third parties.

N Waran stated that the intent of this amendment is to ensure a robust process that protects the information and people involved.

Decision: Simplify the proposed text for clarity and brevity to read: *Notwithstanding this requirement, the AEC may make enquiries for the purposes of assessing any application or to protect animal welfare. Disclosure of such information would be subject to confidence, and the chief applicant would be informed of the nature of the communication.*

NAEAC recommends amendment 2 and 3 for approval (after amendment 3 has been revised and confirmed by MPI – it was noted that the applicant wasn't strictly required to adhere to the suggested text noted above but should revise the content to align with NAEAC's advice).

Moved (N Waran/J Webster):

That NAEAC recommend that the Director-General of the Ministry for Primary Industries approve the major amendments under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, subject to the changes noted by NAEAC.

The motion was put: carried.

C2 Post AEC Site Visits 2025 debrief

N Waran noted that the committee visited the s9(2)(a) and the s9(2)(a). Half the committee toured one facility while the other half toured the other facility.

s9(2)(a) reminded NAEAC that they may ask s9(2)(a) follow up questions regarding their research, testing and teaching operation after the visit.

Action: MPI to send thank you letters to the facilities.

S9(2)(g)(i)

S9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

C3 s9(2) amendments to CEC

s9(2)(a) provided an overview regarding amendments the s9(2)(a) made to their CEC after its approval last year. MPI has been working with s9(2)(a) to step through this process noting that while amendments were incorporated they don't materially change the CEC. In short, they have expanded some of the sections but retained the original intent.

S9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

S9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted text block consisting of three lines]

NAEAC noted that they are keen to provide feedback if the Act is opened (even for small changes). This may be captured in the work of the Operation of Part 6 SC.

PART THREE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

O3 AEC training webinar meeting dates notification

N Waran, in discussion with J Harper and s9(2)(a), confirmed that the 2025 AEC webinars will cover:

- 1) 15 October - Non-compliance, now what? (N Harding, J Webster)
- 2) 5 November - Impact grading (J Duckworth, J Walker, J Webster)
- 3) 19 November - Good decision making for AECs (M King, L Bennet)

A date and committee member allocation for each webinar was confirmed and is noted above. NAEAC will develop and deliver each presentation (~20 minutes with time for questions/discussion) with MPI to support. Sessions will be held at lunchtime (12-1pm). MPI confirmed that the invite will be circulated to the full research, testing and teaching stakeholder contact list.

O4 Upcoming CEC review schedule

s9(2)(a) provided a reminder that there is one CEC for review at the end of the year. NAEAC will have a virtual meeting on 1 October. MPI will confirm a timeframe for NAEAC to provide feedback for collation ahead of the meeting.

O5 NAEAC Subcommittee updates

GPG SC: The SC provided a draft with proposed changes to MPI. MPI provided advice which the SC has reviewed. The SC is doing additional work before returning to MPI to progress.

AEC training and workshop SC: As noted above regarding the upcoming 2025 webinars.

O6 Status of actions arising from previous meetings

N Waran ran through the outstanding actions and took those marked "completed" as read.

The group discussed Action 4 – *On-farm examples could be added to flowchart. Noting the grey area between on-the-job training and on-farm teaching as a point for clarification.* NAEAC may need to adapt the flowchart they already have for on-farm RTT (i.e., add information for farm animals in the examples). s9(2)(a) noted an error to correct in the existing flowchart regarding using tissues from wild animals (this doesn't need AEC approval). T Kelly, J Webster, J Walker and J Holter will review and identify changes.

Action: T Kelly, J Webster, J Walker and J Holter will review the existing RTT approval flowchart and identify changes regarding on-farm RTT.

O7 NAEAC correspondence

The correspondence log circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Ahead of the meeting, J Walker noted two errors in the Register of Interests. These changes were carried through in the following agenda.

- "Waikato" should say "Wintec"
- "SPCA representative" should say "SPCA nominated"

O8 MPI update

The MPI update was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted:

- The Deer Code of Welfare was recently Gazetted and will come into force 28 days after the Gazetted date (8 September 2025).

M King queried the code of welfare for fish. s9(2)(a) confirmed that at their last meeting NAWAC discussed potential areas of focus and have submitted these to the Minister. The agreed workplan will be published on their website.

O9 MPI summary of CEC approvals, notifications, and revocations

The summary of CEC approvals, notifications and revocations circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

O10 Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

N Waran invited committee members to comment on recent presentations and attendance at conferences since the last general meeting. The following updates were provided:

- J Walker attended the 2025 ANZCCART conference as a Wintec AEC member. She noted they had streamlined conversations around Australian Code. There was a wide range of presentations, including new technologies, wildlife film making, impacts of funding changes in the United States, and post-approval monitoring. She also had the opportunity to visit to a wildlife centre.
- s9(2)(a) also attended the 2025 ANZCCART conference as part of ANZCCART board. She noted there was an interesting talk regarding animal rights in Australia followed by discussion around how actions by advocacy organisations may limit openness if organisations perceive a negative reflection of any advice or information tendered to advocacy organisations.
- N Waran attended the launch of the New Zealand Cat Management Strategy hosted at the Beehive. There is a website in development for the national cat management group.
- N Waran attended a workshop in Santa Fe that was delivered by a group that only uses positive reinforcement training for horses. They emphasise the use of "cooperative care" (where animals offer to give blood samples, etc.).
- J Duckworth attended a Department of Conservation AEC meeting and noted it was well-coordinated with good discussions.

N Waran noted that NAEAC members have organised to visit AEC meetings.

Regarding the NAEAC general meeting in November, timing (one versus two days) would be confirmed by MPI.

There being no other business to discuss N Waran thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.05pm. J Duckworth shared the closing karakia.