



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Te Komiti Tohutohu Matatika Kararehe ā-Motu

General Meeting / Tikanga hui

Date / Rā: Thursday 8 August 2024

Time/ Tāima: 09:00 am – 12:00pm

Venue / Whaitua o rēhia: Microsoft Teams

Minutes / Meneti

Committee / Komiti: Natalie Waran (Chairperson/Kairuruku), Jessica Walker, Laura Bennet, Janine Duckworth, Jacquie Harper, Nita Harding, Rachel Heeney, Dianne Wepa

Attendees / Nuinga: 9(2)(a)

Guests / Manuhiri: None

Public attendees / Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu: 9(2)(a)

Apologies / Matangaro: Joanne Holter, Mike King

PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

GENERAL

01. Welcomes and farewells

The meeting was opened with a karakia at 09:07am. M King and J Holter were noted as apologies.

02. Confirmation of previous minutes

The documents [35.24, 36.24] were taken as read and minor edits were noted.

MOTION

Moved: (N Waran / J Harper)

That the minutes dated 22 March 2024 are a true and accurate record.

The motion was put: carried.

MOTION

Moved: (J Harper / L Bennet)

That the minutes dated 14 May 2024 are a true and accurate record.

The motion was put: carried.

03. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The document [37.24] was taken as read. N Waran talked through the actions noting those completed and called for any pending actions to be moved up the list.

04. NAEAC correspondence

The document [38.24] was taken as read. No comments or questions were raised.

05. MPI update

The document [39.24] was taken as read.

9(2)(a) spoke to the Animal Welfare team update. It was noted that the team is largely the same, with a sub-team led by 9(2)(a) and that there may be further re-shuffling of staff.

The committee raised whether records of non-compliance regarding Part 6 of the Act could be shared in the MPI update. 9(2)(a) noted she could explore this.

9(2)(a) joined meeting at 09:33

No further comments or questions were raised.

Actions:

- 9(2)(a) to explore capturing of Part 6 – related non-compliance in the MPI Update

06. MPI summary of CEC approvals, notifications, and revocations

The document [40.24] was taken as read. No comments or questions were raised.

07. Subcommittee updates

Publications SC:

9(2)(a) spoke to the SC update. She noted the SC's recommendation that no further Occasional Papers be commissioned at this time, and that they will be housed on the NAEAC website along a purpose statement. The committee requested the SC circulate the statement with the full committee for awareness once finalised. She also noted that the SC will begin their annual review process for the Good Practice Guide in August and may add additional items to the GPG change register based on the presentation from 9(2)(a). The cut-off for additional items for the current revision is end of November.

Mātauranga Māori SC:

D Wepa spoke to memo [43.24], noting the SC is putting forward two recommendations for the full committee to note and agree on.

Motion

Moved: (N Waran / J Duckworth)

That the committee note and agree to the recommended updated wording for the Good Practice Guide section 2.3 as listed in the memo 43.24.

The motion was put: carried.

Motion

Moved: (D Wepa / N Waran)

That the committee note and agree that the CEC Application Pack as amended with Te Reo translations can replace the current version currently available on the MPI and NAEAC websites.

The motion was put: carried.

3Rs SC:

It was noted the SC has not met and there have been no queries or submissions as of yet for the 3Rs award.

Operation of Part 6 SC:

N Harding noted the article on non-compliance included in the recent issue of the NAEAC newsletter. Feedback has been received on the definitions of non-compliance categories. N Harding noted she is working on these and will feedback to the committee once further refined.

Website and Engagement SC:

It was noted that the SC will be meeting shortly to review the updated mock-up for the NAEAC website developed by the Secretariat.

AEC Training & Workshop SC:

It was noted that the SC would speak to an agenda item later on. NAEAC members had all completed their allocated review of ComPass modules. The SCs next action is to review and package the feedback for ANZCCART. They will meet to discuss this shortly. 9(2)(a) noted this may be a good topic to discuss at the joint meeting with ANZCCART in September. 9(2)(a) noted she would formalise this with ANZCCART.

Animals in Teaching SC:

No updates.

Actions:

- Publications SC to circulate occasional papers' purpose statement with full committee once finalised.
- Publish updated CEC Application Pack.
- Set meeting to review and discuss the collated ComPass feedback.

O8. NAEAC Newsletter

N Waran noted this as a new standing agenda item. Its purpose is for the committee to identify contents for the next issue of the newsletter, such as topics or publications of interest, and advances in the 3Rs. N Waran discussed that the Secretariat largely progress this item and identify topics.

N Waran suggested that the committee collate a bank of topics to include in the newsletter. Example topics were noted, including:

- A spotlight on 9(2)(a)

- The importance of providing captive wildlife used for RTT in a natural environment by Janine.
- The social license of RTT.
- Lay person perspective – what it's like being a lay person on a committee.

N Waran called the members to collect topics, articles, and ideas to send to 9(2)(a), noting that any contributions to the newsletter are brief captures.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10:05am.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20am

09. NAWAC update

N Waran gave a brief verbal update on NAWAC's work programme, including progress on Codes of Welfare and the updated NAWAC guidelines.

010. Commercial samples

N Waran provided the context for this agenda item, noting a question was raised during the Site Visits on whether samples collected during routine practice and therefore not requiring AEC approval can at a later date be used as a resource for RTT.

The committee discussed situations in which this may occur, such as when samples collected for health surveillance testing may at a later date be used to answer a research question. It was noted that surplus samples tend to be kept, especially from wild species as they can be hard to come by. The committee discussed whether persons collecting samples should forecast future potential uses and have a process in place to capture this.

It was noted that if persons are collecting samples for commercial purpose, it likely would not need an AEC to approve. The future use of surplus samples collected for alternative reasons would no longer involve the use of a live animal and was compared to animal tissue bio-banking or scavenging. The committee discussed ownership of samples and how storage and reuse of the sample should be clarified.

It was noted that re-use of surplus samples may fit within the 3Rs, as it is a mechanism relating to removing the need to collect further samples.

N Waran called members to think further on this topic that might inform a committee position.

011. CEC Review Process

The document [44.24] was taken as read.

9(2)(a) spoke to the memo, noting the process that was trialled last year. The process last year was very efficient and extremely robust. It was noted that there are six CECs to review this

year. The approach proposed in memo is in line with last year with a full two day in-person meeting scheduled for September.

It was noted that as per last year, the SCs and full meeting would not be utilising a line-by-line approach but will rather discuss specific points of feedback.

It was noted that the SC meetings will be scheduled for early September.

No conflicts of interest were flagged with the suggested SC lists. R Heeney noted she was happy to take further on if required.

O12. AEC Webinar Series

The committee discussed the upcoming AEC Webinar series and confirmed the titles for each session.

- 21 August – AECs and the 3Rs
- 23 October – Responsibilities of AECs in relation to non-compliance
- 13 November – The Good Practice Guide: the what, the how, and the why.

It was noted that a template is being created for the presentations.

N Waran asked each presenter to include a slide on the importance of the topics and why they should be considered by AEC members. It was also noted the committee would like to record who attends.

9(2)(a) raised an unrelated topic. She flagged with NAEAC that MBIE are currently leading cross-agency work on a proposal to regulate new gene technologies. An official announcement is anticipated soon, and public submissions will be possible, if NAEAC are interested. N Waran noted that NAEAC may want to put together a working group to pull together a submission. Members of the group were confirmed as J Walker, N Harding, L Bennet, and J Duckworth. It was noted that NAEAC will await further information.

Actions:

- Circulate comms to AEC stakeholders on the AEC webinar series.
- Working group to form to discuss development of a NAEAC submission on the MBIE led cross-agency work on a new regime to regulate new gene technologies.

O13. ANZCCART conference and joint meeting

N Waran noted that she has been asked to give multiple talks at the ANZCCART conference. One talk will be with her NAEAC Chair hat and will focus on the work of NAEAC in relation to use of animals in teaching. She will note what NAEAC's remit is in this space and will touch on the 3Rs. It was noted that R Heeney is giving a talk on the school experience in New Zealand. N

Waran called for the committee to raise any additional points the committee would like touched on and to email this through.

N Waran also noted that ANZCCART has invited NAEAC for a joint meeting on Wednesday 11 Sept, online and in person. It would be scheduled for 1 hour, at 4:45pm.

The proposed agenda is as below:

- Minutes of joint meeting on 8 Feb 23.
- Update on NAEAC 2024 work programme.
- Update on ANZCCART 2024 work programme.
- ANZCCART/NAEAC point of difference/ opportunity for collaboration.
- New South Wales Grant for rehoming of research animals.
- AOB.

The committee confirmed they would like to add an additional item to discuss NAEAC's feedback on ComPass. The Secretariat confirmed she would send a placeholder for the member's calendars until the formal invite comes through.

Actions:

- Confirm joint meeting with ANZCCART.

O14. NAWAC joint meeting de-brief

The committee discussed the topics covered during the joint meeting.

Engagement – the committee noted they would like to draft a stakeholder engagement statement. This would contain what NAEAC sees as the purpose of engagement, when they engage, the approach taken, and how the committee invite and use feedback. They discussed the topic of creating an infographic, noting that would require resource from the Secretariat and would likely require budgeting. The committee agreed that the information is the most important so this should first be formalised as a statement. N Waran noted she will progress this action and draft a statement and will engage with M Stone to ensure consistency across the committees.

Practicalities and economics – N Waran noted this topic was more NAWAC-focused, however NAEAC need to be cognisant of keeping practicalities and feasibility when reviewing CECs and providing feedback.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 – it was noted that NAEAC's function is to advise the Minister. The committee acknowledges that this may not be a priority for the Minister at this time. The committee discussed the topic of zebrafish, noting there are historical records on the previous advice developed by the committee. It was noted that NAEAC would need to consider and develop further information on possible unintended consequences of any proposals, e.g., fish farming industry. The committee discussed other avenues for progression action in this space,

such as recommending that organisations make a statement in their CEC on the use of zebrafish. N Waran noted that NAEAC may also consider an Occasional Paper on the historic work in this space.

Actions:

- Draft a stakeholder engagement strategy.
- Connect with 9(2)(a) to discuss useful guidance to include in the GPG regarding parenting arrangements.

O15. NAEAC SC Terms of Reference

The document [45.24] was taken as read.

It was noted that the committee are looking to establish one generic Terms of Reference rather than one separate one for each SC. It was noted that the two-year period for sitting on a SC would commence once the terms were approved by NAEAC.

The committee discussed how to capture that SCs are responsible when first established or when there are any changes in scope, to identify their purpose, objective, and work programme and update the terms of reference. It was agreed a sentence to this nature should be included in the terms. It was noted that the NAEAC website could list a purpose statement of each SC with one link provided to the general terms of reference.

Motion

Moved: (N Waran / J Harper)

That the committee approve the NAEAC Subcommittee Terms of Reference and agree that it will apply to all NAEAC subcommittees henceforth.

The motion was put: carried.

Actions:

- Amend the SC TOR as discussed in the August meeting and finalise.

O16. Zebrafish advice

N Waran noted the Minister was receptive to receiving advice on this topic. If NAEAC want to progress this, they will need to do some more thinking about this on what the desired outcome is, the desired approach, and how to pull information together. The committee discussed forming a working group of members to work on this and suggested co-opting previously

involved ex-NAEAC members. The committee proposed to ask 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(a). NAEAC members to join would include N Waran and J Walker.

N Waran called for any other business. No business was raised.

The meeting was closed at 11:55am.

Actions:

- Working group to meet to discuss zebrafish and workshop on approach and pulling together of historical information. Co-opt 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(a). Previous actions regarding zebrafish to be closed.