



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 November 2025

Time/ Tāima: 9.30 am to 11.00 am

Venue / Whaitua o rēhia: Virtual (via Teams)

MINUTES | MINETI

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

Attendees/Nuinga: s9(2)(a)

Guests/Manuhiri: None.

Public attendees/Tūmatanui tangata I tae atu: None

Welcome/Nau mai: N Waran.

Apologies/Matangaro: s9(2)

Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public): An additional item of business (O8) was identified for discussion, and a resolution was passed to add it to the agenda.

PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

O1 Welcome

N Waran opened the meeting at 9.33am with a karakia.

Moved (N Waran/J Harper): *that the circulated paper 40.25 - 2026 Meeting Dates be added to the agenda in the open session for discussion with NAEAC members*

The motion was put: carried.

O2 Confirmation of previous minutes

The draft minutes from the general meeting held on 12 August 2025 were reviewed.

Moved (N Waran/J Duckworth): *That the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 August 2025 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

The motion was put: carried.

The draft minutes from the CEC meeting held on 1 October 2025 were reviewed.

J Walker noted that the minutes under item C2 were not an accurate capture of the discussion on the day. She noted that it was discussed that the code holder confirmed their CEC does allow for multiple AECs and in line with this, RNZSPCA put forward a nominee. An action was discussed during the meeting to follow up on this with the code holder. The Secretariat noted that the minutes will be amended.

Action: MPI to follow up and report on this at the next meeting.

Moved (N Waran/J Walker): *That subject to the above change being made, the draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2025 be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.*

The motion was put: carried.

J Duckworth noted that the AEC list on page 4 of the meeting agenda required updating. The Secretariat noted it would update it for the next meeting.

O3 Status of actions arising from previous meetings

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

It was noted that item 1 is now complete.

There were a few actions noted as pending that the Secretariat can follow-up on.

M King questioned the NAEAC Newsletter being paused. It was discussed that this decision was made due to limited resources. N Waran noted that it is her intention that the load for the Newsletter be shared around the committee moving forward.

04 MPI summary of CEC approvals, notifications, and revocations

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

J Duckworth noted that on page 1 and 2, '*New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited – Manaaki Whenua – AgResearch Group (formerly AgResearch Ltd)*' should be split into two separate CECs, under the names '*New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited – Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research Group (formerly Manaaki Whenua-Landcare Research)*' and '*New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited – AgResearch Group (formerly AgResearch Ltd)*'. This was noted as an error on the paper with no further actions required.

It was discussed that there seems to be an increase in parenting arrangements. The Secretariat noted that when enquiring with MPI, smaller institutes are encouraged to be parented rather than set up their own CEC due to the administrative burden.

05 NAEAC correspondence

The correspondence log circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

s9(2)(a) added that she circulated correspondence from Beyond Animal Research. The committee discussed the possibility of inviting T Jackson to attend a meeting next year in her role with BAR.

N Waran provided a verbal overview of the correspondence received regarding Kaimanawa Heritage Horses. She expressed that it was not an area that NAEAC can advise on and suggested that the correspondent contact the Department of Conservation.

s9(2)(a) explained that any NAEAC correspondence of particular interest is circulated as a paper or circulated via email. Generally, the decision is left to N Waran to determine what needs to be shared with the full committee.

J Walker queried the level of advice that NAEAC can provide email correspondents regarding queries of ethics approval and whether NAEAC can provide opinion. s9(2)(a) expressed that sometimes it is possible to confirm something does not require ethics approval if the legislation is clear, or that it *likely* will, based on the information at hand. The issue is that there is nuance that we don't have access to with a simple email, and therefore, rather than giving incorrect information it is better to direct the correspondent to an AEC to advise. MPI often provides recommendations for which organisation the correspondents can approach. It was noted that if required, a query can be brought to the next NAEAC general meeting for the committee to discuss and provide more fulsome advice.

Action: Secretariat to forward correspondence from s9(2) and s9(2)(a) to the full committee for awareness.

N Waran reminded the committee to be mindful of protecting correspondents' privacy when discussing in the open section of the meeting.

06 NAEAC Subcommittee updates

s9(2)(a) updated NAEAC that members with terms expiring in 2025 will continue to serve until a resolution regarding appointments is made. She noted that the committee may wish to consider reorganisation of subcommittees at the beginning of 2026 when new members may be welcomed on to

NAEAC.

N Waran called the subcommittees (SC) to consider what they might work on in 2026 and asked for any reports.

The NAEAC Strategy SC noted that NAEAC may wish to put an agenda item on the first 2026 general meeting to review the NAEAC strategy and inform their work plan for the year.

The committee discussed that the last cycle of the biennial 3Rs award was 2024, and that the SC will become active again in 2026. It was noted that the members on the agenda list were out of date. J Walker and T Kelly volunteered to sit on the SC for 2026.

It was noted that the 3Rs funding research SC had no reports for 2025. The committee discussed the \$50,000 grant recently advertised by the Anti-Vivisection Society.

Action: SC to investigate and compile a list of funding information to include on the NAEAC website in early 2026

The committee discussed the NAEAC “do I need AEC approval?” flowchart resource, and the timeline for having this reviewed and updated for the website. s9(2)(a) reminded NAEAC that the action was currently sitting with the Publications SC, who need to contact MPI with an agenda to set up a meeting. She also noted that MPI will need to investigate the archives to find an editable version of the document, otherwise a fresh one may need to be created which may be a higher workload than the Secretariat is able to deliver under time pressure. The committee discussed the changes needing to be made to the document, noting a fulsome review was required. It was noted that a disclaimer could be attached to the document on the NAEAC website in the meantime, to allow time for full review.

Action: J Walker, J Webster, and J Duckworth to establish a working group to lead this process, review the flowchart, and report back to the full committee.

Action: Secretariat to investigate the archives for a master copy of the “Do I need AEC approval” flowchart.

The following changes to SC membership were agreed:

- L Bennett to Chair the Operation of Part 6 SC.
- J Duckworth to Chair the GPG publication SC and J Webster to join the SC.
- J Duckworth to leave the AEC Training and Workshop SC, with Nat to step in to Chair.
- T Kelly to Chair to Animals in Teaching SC.

It was noted that the Mātauranga Māori SC was inactive in 2025 and that the full committee would check in at the next general meeting to determine if there is any need to be active in 2026 and whether there is any resourcing available. M King raised whether an occasional paper could be commissioned, if there is resourcing available. s9(2)(a) noted that it can be challenging to find external experts with capacity and the resourcing to pay them appropriately. She suggested that if there is a specific proposal, the SC could raise the idea with the Secretariat at the time. N Waran noted that NAEAC have limited resources and suggested instead that NAEAC provide examples in the GPG to help guide organisations when writing their CECs on how to consider and incorporate Mātauranga Māori. The committee agreed to consider the SC and its membership early next year.

s9(2) left the meeting at 10:33am.

The committee discussed possible pieces of work for SCs in 2026, including emerging technologies such as gene editing and the use of artificial intelligence, for example, in animal ethics applications. The actions conducted regarding the gene technology bill by MBIE were noted, including the letter sent to the Minister. The pathways for NAEAC to advise the Minister were discussed, noting that advisory committees don't typically submit during public consultations considering they have an existing open pathway for advice to the Minister. The committee agreed that a SC could be formed next year to review and firm up an official opinion on the matter for the website and GPG. It was noted that NAEAC have not received any updates from the MBIE officials that attended and presented at the 25 November 2024 general meeting, and that NAEAC could contact them for updates. The Secretariat noted that as this topic was not a listed agenda item on the current general meeting agenda, any further discussions should be postponed until the next meeting when it could be an indicated agenda item.

Action: N Waran to reach out to the MBIE contacts to ask for an update.

07 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 Duckworth updated on a meeting she attended with AgResearch, regarding the setting up of a new process. The AEC has developed a form for application of exemption from AEC approval.
- M King noted that the Department of Bioethics is hosting the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law Conference, in Christchurch in December, which will have an animal ethics session. M King is presenting during this session and J Duckworth is hosting.
- N Harding updated that she attended a University of Waikato AEC meeting in August and shared that it was highly organised.
- J Walker attended the AEC meeting of the New Zealand Institute for Earth Sciences Ltd and found it very educational.
- T Kelly attended the Auckland University AEC meeting.
- N Waran updated that she gave presentations to the racehorse industry in Hong Kong and will be back in December presenting again.

s9(2)(a) shared that the NAEAC webinars had a good turnout of attendees and reminded the committee that the next webinar is next week (19 November). It was noted that the slides will be uploaded to the website, but they haven't been recorded this year. The Secretariat confirmed they have taken note of the workshop ideas generated at the last webinar.

It was requested that members email the Secretariat when they have attended an AEC meeting for record keeping purposes.

08 Meeting dates for 2026

s9(2)(a) discussed the paper that was circulated, noting that NAWAC successfully operated with only three general meetings in 2025. It was therefore suggested that NAEAC trial this in 2026, which would free up to the Secretariat to progress other parts of the workplan. It was noted that NAEAC may need one out-of-session CEC meeting.

N Waran pointed out that the dates for the AEC webinars are not yet confirmed but will be spread throughout the year instead and should be discussed in the February meeting. It was also noted that s9(2)(a) and the NAEAC Secretariat will liaise once ANZCCART and NAEAC both have their dates firmed up, to confirm a date for a joint NAEAC/ANZCCART meeting for 2026.

Action: Include the AEC webinar/workshops as an agenda item to discuss in the February 2026 general meeting

The Secretariat reminded NAEAC that the location of general meetings is at the discretion of the Chair but suggested that the committee may wish to position their in-person meeting for the second general meeting of 2026 after new members are on likely to be on board.

J Walker requested that the committee be notified if a general meeting agenda is likely to have space so that members could suggest items.

N Waran raised the topic of a joint meeting with NAWAC and proposed the topic of fish welfare. N Waran noted she could share NAWAC's actions in this space at the next NAEAC general meeting.

Action: N Waran called for NAEAC members to review the proposed meeting dates and email the Secretariat with any concerns, after which the Secretariat will propose final dates.

There being no other business to discuss N Waran thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.06am.