



ANIMAL WELFARE

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Annual Report 1 January to 31 December 2021

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
C/- Ministry for Primary Industries
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New Zealand

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June 2022

NAEAC

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

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Chairperson's Comment

This is my final annual report as Chair of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC).

During 2021, being in the grips of a global pandemic impinged on the way the committee and its secretariat were able to operate. Meetings and travel were again disrupted, and electronic meeting formats were used several times. However, NAEAC continued to operate efficiently and was able to meet face-to face.



Reflection

The past six years have been very fulfilling. During my working life NAEAC provided me with information and guidance that considerably helped me in my role as animal ethics coordinator for a large CRI. Therefore, it has been a privilege to serve on that same committee as its Chair and to be part of the continuation of NAEAC's advisory obligations.

For me, perhaps one of the most significant highlights was the establishment of a more comfortable relationship with the New Zealand Antivivisection Society (NZAVS). NAEAC and NZAVS are an unlikely pairing. Tara Jackson (Executive Director) showed a willingness to engage during the time I was Chair of NAEAC. There are, and always will be, some areas where we agree to disagree. Notwithstanding that, I believe that the relationship that we were able to cultivate was beneficial to both of us; albeit in different ways.

I have maintained during my whole association with NAEAC, that AECs and animal rights groups are equally advocates for the animals used in research, testing, and teaching (RTT). They come from different sides of a significant divide perhaps but have surprisingly similar goals. Whatever the differences, there is a shared desire to see a continued decline in the use of animals in RTT. The views of reduction, refinement, and replacement (the 3Rs) are different, but it is definite that we all continue to press the concept of Replacement.

Long may that relationship remain both cordial and tolerant.

Appreciation and thanks

NAEAC receives its secretariat support from the Animal Welfare team of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), which is led by Dr Kate Littin. During 2021, the secretariat operated under a variety of extraordinary pressures that, thankfully, do not normally impinge on its activities. The support and advice received by NAEAC were always provided cheerfully and efficiently. As well as support from a long list of other MPI staff NAEAC received excellent targeted advice from Linda Carsons and Jamieson Milnes throughout the year.

As the retiring Chair, I wish to specifically acknowledge the support that Paula Lemow has provided to me personally, and to the committee as its secretary, over the past six years. Paula's secretarial and organisational skills have been pivotal to the committee's ability to function effectively.

I also acknowledge the support of the individual NAEAC committee members I served alongside during my six years as Chair.

The members of NAEAC are drawn from a variety of backgrounds. Some have extensive experience in the use of animals for purposes that require animal ethics committee approval under New Zealand's animal welfare legislation, while others have no previous experience of the use of animals in these disciplines at all.

Without exception the committee members, who play a vital role in New Zealand's Animal Welfare strategy, undertake their work on the committee with integrity and dedication.

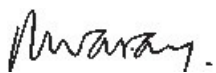
I wish newly appointed members; Natalie Waran (Chairperson), Laura Bennet, and Janine Duckworth all the best for their time on NAEAC.

It has been a privilege to work with an outstanding group of people during my tenure as Chair of Te Komiti Tohutohu Matatika Kararehe ā-Motu.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shackell'.

Grant Shackell (Retired 31.10.21)

I am extremely honoured to be invited to become the new Chair for Te Komiti Tohutohu Matatika Kararehe ā-Motu. I am also grateful for the opportunity to continue the excellent work that Grant and the other NAEAC committee members do to ensure that the care and welfare of animals involved in research, testing and teaching is of the highest standard. Meanwhile I wish Grant well with the many projects I know that he has already been asked to take on in his 'retirement'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Waran'.

Professor Natalie Waran (Appointed 1.11.21)

Membership

Members	Expiry of Appointment
Mr Grant H Shackell Dip Ag, Dip Field Technology, Dip Grad, MSc, Retired scientist (Independent Chairperson)	31.10.21
Professor Bronwen J Connor BSc, PhD Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, the University of Auckland (nominated by the Ministry for Women)	31.10.21
Dr Arnja R Dale BSc PhD, Chief Scientific Officer, Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (nominated by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)	31.10.22
Dr Craig A Gillies BSc PhD, Scientific Officer (nominated by the Department of Conservation)	31.10.21
Mr Robert P Hazelwood* BSc, Animal Services Manager, MSD Animal Health (nominated by Agcarm Inc)	31.10.22
Dr Angenita B Harding BVSc, MBA (Dist) Technical Policy Adviser (Veterinary), DairyNZ	31.10.22 (Eligible for reappointment)
Dr Jacquie L Harper BSc (Hons), PhD Chief Scientist, Overseer Ltd	31.10.22 (Eligible for reappointment)
Ms Rachel A Heeney BSc, Dip Tchg Head of Biology, Epsom Girls Grammar School (nominated by the Ministry of Education)	31.10.21 (Eligible for reappointment)
Dr Michael R King B Appl Sc (Hons), PhD Senior Lecturer, Bioethics Centre, University of Otago (nominated by the Health Research Council of New Zealand)	31.10.22 (Eligible for reappointment)
Dr Dianne Wepa RSW, PhD Senior Lecturer, Adjunct, Auckland University of Technology	31.10.21 (Eligible for reappointment)
Professor Natalie K Waran BSc (Hons), PhD Executive Dean, Faculty of Education, Humanities and Health Science, Eastern Institute of Technology (Independent Chairperson)	31.10.24
Professor Laura Bennet MA, PhD Professor of Physiology, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, The University of Auckland	31.10.24
Dr Janine A Duckworth BAg Sc (Hons), PhD Scientist, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd	31.10.24

* Mr Rob Hazelwood was elected Deputy Chair for 2021.

Fees

Government policy requires disclosure of fees paid to members of statutory boards and committees. The daily fee paid to committee members during 2021 was \$400 for members and \$550 for the chairperson.

Members are paid the fee for attending meetings, with an allowance for preparation time. Members are also reimbursed for travelling expenses. In addition, the chairperson and, on occasion, other members may be paid additional fees for representing the committee at other meetings or for carrying out significant extra work on the committee's behalf.

The table below lists the fees paid during 2021.

Member	Fees paid during 2021 (gross)
L Bennett	\$800
B Connor	\$2,200
A Dale	\$4,000
J Duckworth	\$
C Gillies*	\$
R Hazelwood	\$4,400
N Harding	\$4,800
J Harper	\$2,600
R Heeney	\$3,600
M King	\$3,200
G Shackell	\$10,175
N Waran	\$1,375
D Wepa	\$3,000

*As a public servant, Dr Craig Gillies does not receive meeting fees.

Strategic Plan

NAEAC's current strategic plan is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Progress on the associated workplan is discussed and reviewed at each meeting.

Statutory Activities

Section 63 of the Animal Welfare Act details the statutory functions of NAEAC. This annual report addresses each of the functions listed in the Act below.

Advice to the Minister on ethical and animal welfare issues arising from research, testing and teaching

NAEAC did not make any recommendations to the Minister in relation to animal welfare issues arising from research, testing, and teaching during 2021.

Hon Meka Whaitiri, Associate Minister of Agriculture, joined the November meeting, via electronic link, to briefly address the committee and to farewell retiring members.

Recommendations to the Minister under section 3(3) (relating to manipulation)

No recommendations were made to the Minister under section 3(3) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 during 2021.

Recommendations to the Director-General under section 85 (relating to use of non-human hominids)

No recommendations were made to the Minister under section 85 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 during 2021.

NAEAC received a report that a proposed study centred around observations of behaviours of non-human hominids associated with changes in the environment that the animals were being kept in, which the committee had provided comment on during 2020, did not proceed.

Provision of advice and information on the development and review of codes of ethical conduct

NAEAC reviewed one code of ethical conduct during 2021: Alleva Animal Health Ltd.

Recommendations to the Director-General concerning the approval, amendment, suspension, or revocation of any code of ethical conduct

In relation to the code of ethical conduct reviewed in 2021:

- The committee's advice to the Director-General of the Ministry for Primary Industries was that the code be approved under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, subject to some minor changes recommended by NAEAC.

During the year, NAEAC noted that AgResearch, which had previously operated with Animal Ethics Committees on each of its three main campuses had consolidated to a single committee considering applications company-wide.

The sub-committee, established in 2019, to evaluate the process for independent review of code of ethical conduct holders, continued its work during 2021. The sub-committee expects to complete this work stream in 2022.

Recommendations to the Minister concerning the setting of standards and policies for codes of ethical conduct

No recommendations were made to the Minister relating to setting standards or policies for the development of codes of ethical conduct.

Provision of information and advice to animal ethics committees

NAEAC continued to provide information to AECs in a variety of ways.

Online

- Routine advice is provided on an ad hoc basis to individual enquiries to the secretariat, the Chair, and members of the committee.

NAEAC has several documents lodged on its webpage and these are continually updated:

During the year the following documents were uploaded to the NAEAC webpage:

- The revised Good Practice Guide for the use of animals in research, testing and teaching (GPG), which now includes several documents consolidated into one was revised and uploaded.
- NAEAC's Operational and Workplans.
- A revised and updated Need for Ethical Approval Flowchart, which was developed in consultation with AECs.

AEC newsletters

Three newsletters to AECs were published in 2021. The newsletters contain a Chair's update, a profile of a member of NAEAC, excerpts from meeting minutes along with articles and information of interest to AECs.

AEC Workshop

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the ability to run the biennial AEC workshop was again untenable. It is hoped that these workshops can be reinstated as soon as is practicable.

AEC Chairs' meeting

A brief meeting of AEC Chairs attending the Queenstown Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) Conference was convened.

During that meeting, there was general agreement that AECs would not approve the Porsolt Forced Swim Test as a model of human depression. There was also agreement that any proposed use of the Porsolt Forced Swim test must have an appropriate context.

Code holder and AEC visits

Once a year, NAEAC visits code holders (and other organisations with an agreement to use their code), meets their AECs and views research facilities in a regional location.

In 2021 NAEAC met in Auckland. Very informative visits were hosted by Auckland Zoo and Auckland University.

AEC attendance

Where and when possible, NAEAC members attend AEC meetings in their area in an observer's role. During 2021 many AEC meeting schedules were disrupted. NAEAC members visited:

- University of Otago
- Auckland Zoo

Recommendations for approval by the Director-General of persons suitable for appointment as accredited reviewers

No recommendations were made in 2021.

As part of the on-going sub-committee review, NAEAC was advised that MPI is preparing an induction pack for reviewers that will include an invitation to attend a NAEAC codes of ethical conduct meeting.

In addition, the accredited reviewers Performance and Technical Standards are being reviewed, and a Quality Management System for processes relating to the code of ethical conduct review process is being prepared.

Consideration of the reports of independent reviews of code holders and animal ethics committees

The independent reviewer reports on performance against the expiring code were provided alongside the draft code of ethical conduct that was reviewed by NAEAC. Reports are referred to when NAEAC makes its recommendation to the Director-General on whether a draft code is suitable for approval.

Recommendations to the Minister under section 118(3) (relating to the power of the Minister to approve research or testing)

Under section 118 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Minister may authorise any person or organisation to carry out research or testing without the approval of an animal ethics committee where the Minister is satisfied that such research or testing is necessary in the national interest.

Under subsection 3 the Minister is required to consult with NAEAC before exercising these powers.

No requests for such advice were made to NAEAC in 2021.

Other Activities

Openness

NAEAC (and its sister committee the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) stand-alone web address is now live.

At its 2021 Conference in Queenstown, the Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in New Zealand was announced by ANZCCART.

NAEAC is fully supportive of this initiative and has actively encouraged code of ethical conduct holders to participate fully.

NAEAC awards

Service

From time to time, NAEAC makes awards to AEC members on the nomination of their organisation or AEC, to recognise an outstanding contribution.

The Three Rs

In 2018 NAEAC rebranded its Three Rs Award to the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Implementation Award, for which funding is generously underwritten by the New Zealand branch of ANZCCART.

2021 Award cycle

Service

No Awards were made in 2021. Following the discovery of a potential flaw in the nomination process, a new nomination form was drafted and posted on the committee's website.

The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Award

This biennial award was not offered in 2021.

Following a joint meeting, NAEAC and ANZCCART agreed that the award certificate would be redesigned to include the logos of both committees. If any other funder participates in the future the same will apply.

NAEAC continued to promote MPI's Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures (SFF) fund that is available to support research relating specifically to the Three Rs.

At the 2021 ANZCCART Conference in Queenstown, Dr Damian Scarf, recipient of NAEAC's Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Research Grant, provided a very well received presentation on his work entitled "Free as a bird: developing a free-range learning apparatus for pigeons (FLAP)".

Mini-tutorials

NAEAC keeps up committee members' professional development by using both formal and informal 'mini-tutorials'.

During 2021 NAEAC hosted one mini-tutorial.

Dr Ben Albert and his colleagues from the Liggins Institute were the recipients of the 2020 Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Implementation Award.

Dr Albert, and his colleague V Satokar spoke to committee members about Emulsified gels – An important refinement of oral administration of treatments in animal studies.

Oil emulsified gels are highly acceptable to rats and enable a complete dose to be administered quickly. Gels with a standard concentration of raspberry flavouring had minimal impact on nutrition. The volume, size and quantity of raspberry flavour can be modified according to the requirements of the study. This is an important refinement over oral gavage, replacing a stressful and risky experience with an enriching one.

Requests for advice

During 2021, NAEAC was asked for advice on several occasions. The requests covered a wide range of subjects, including:

- questions from AECs wanting to clarify operational matters;
- queries relating to the need for ethical approval;
- queries relating to procedural requirements for dealing with minor code of ethical conduct breaches;
- questions relating to finding candidates for statutory roles on an AEC
- questions regarding amendments to an approved code of ethical conduct.

New work streams

Preparation of euthanasia guidelines

NAEAC has prepared updated euthanasia guidelines for production animals and wildlife/feral species and fish. Recommendations relating to invertebrates will be added in the future.

Animal use for practising surgical technique

While the use of alternatives to animal surgical models is encouraged, NAEAC considers that, where live animals are used to train in surgical techniques there should be more emphasis placed on the contribution these animals made to the surgeons' development.

The committee considered it useful to ask AECs how they deal with non-recovery surgery training, including preliminary work with surgeons. It was agreed to add surgical models to the sub-committee programme with the objective of providing some guidelines on the subject.

Differences between veterinary research and clinical investigation

NAEAC is often asked whether a study in veterinary medicine requires ethical approval or can be considered to be a clinical investigation.

The committee considers that there needs to be both better guidance and better understanding of the differences between research and clinical treatment.

A sub-committee is working towards providing that information.

Joint Meetings

NAEAC participated in two joint meetings during 2021.

The first was with the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and the second was with its sister statutory committee the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

During the meeting with ANZCCART several topics the two committees shared an interest in were discussed.

The topic for the joint NAEAC/NAWAC meeting was fish welfare.

Several excellent speakers covered topics including; a general overview of fish welfare, current knowledge of the sentience of fish; and the use of fish in research testing and teaching.

Committee members' activity at conferences/meetings

During their day to day working lives, NAEAC members frequently attend conferences and meetings outside of their direct committee responsibilities.

Among conferences attended by committee members in 2021 were:

- Webinar on the relationship between humans and animals. (G Shackell, N Harding and M King)
- International Society for Equitation Science: Advancing Equestrian Practice to Improve Equine Quality of Life virtual conference. (N Waran – keynote address)
- Companion Animals NZ conference 'Towards a Good Life'. This included overseas attendees and international speakers as it was held virtually. (N Waran and A Dale – invited presenters)

Retiring Members

Apart from the Chair, Prof Bronwen Connor and Dr Craig Gillies also retired from NAEAC after six years.

Both Prof. Connor and Dr Gillies were active researchers. As well as bringing diverse perspectives, they both also brought experience from serving on an AEC to the committee's deliberations.

Prof. Connor was able to provide comment guided by extensive experience from an academic science perspective and the contribution laboratory animals made to science, while Dr Gillies provided insights from working with vertebrate pests and conducting field research.

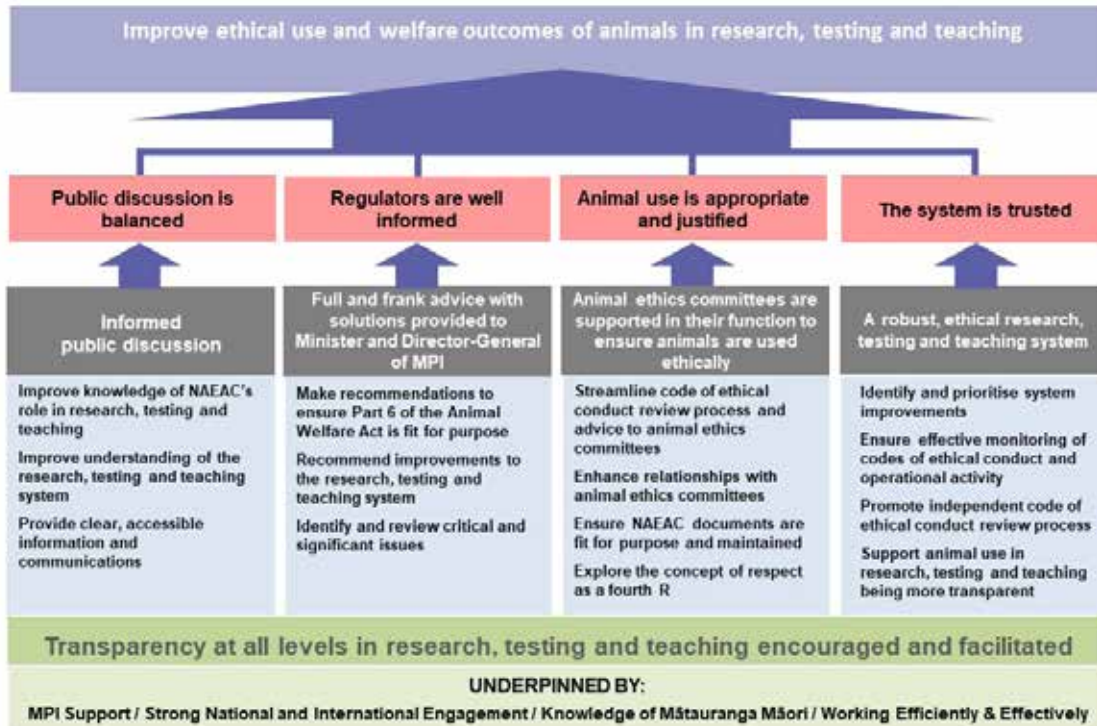
Prof. Connor's background brought an examiner's eye to document review, enabling her to detect what was good, but more importantly what was missing. She wrote NAEAC Occasional Publication 13 "Animal Models and Drug Discovery: How can we improve the outcome".

Dr Gillies' field work experience helped him to see the detail within the big picture and his keen observational skills gave him an uncanny ability to see things that were so obvious others may have missed them.

Both were invaluable members of NAEAC.

Appendix 1: NAEAC Strategic Plan 2019-2023

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) STRATEGY 2019-2023



Appendix 2: Organisations permitted to undertake research, testing or teaching using animals under an approved code of ethical conduct

On 31 December 2021, the following organisations either held their own approved code of ethical conduct or had an arrangement to use another organisation's code.

Note: Organisations with an asterisk are code holders

Abacus Biotech Ltd	Eastern Institute of Technology Ltd *
Advanced Genetics 2015 Ltd	Elanco Animal Health
Ag Challenge Ltd	Engender Technologies Ltd
Agilis Vets Ltd	EquiBreed NZ Ltd
AgResearch Ltd *	Estendart Holdings Ltd
AgriHealth NZ Ltd	Eurofins Animal Health NZ
AgVet NZ Ltd	FIL (New Zealand) Ltd
Alleva Animal Health Ltd *	Franklin Vets
Alltech (NZ) Ltd	Gallagher Group Ltd
Animal Breeding Services (2007) Ltd	Halter Ltd
Ara Institute of Canterbury Ltd	Haywood, Ursula
Argenta Manufacturing Ltd	Intuit Regulatory & Marketing Ltd
Aroa Biosurgery Ltd	Invetus NZ Ltd *
Arotec Diagnostics Ltd	K9 Medical Detection New Zealand Charitable Trust
AsureQuality Ltd	Karori Sanctuary Trust
Auckland University of Technology	Kiwicare Corporation Ltd
Auckland Zoological Park *	Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd - Manaaki Whenua *
Barenbrug Agriseeds	Landcorp Farming Ltd
BASE Enterprises	Lawrence, Dr David W
Bayer New Zealand Ltd	Lincoln University *
BCF Ultrasound	Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Malaghan Institute of Medical Research
BioCell Corporation Ltd	ManukaMed Limited Partnership
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health New Zealand Ltd	Massey University *
Boffa Miskell Ltd	Matamata Veterinary Services Ltd
BW & MB McLeod Partnership	Matthews, Lindsay
Carne Technologies Ltd	McLeod, Graeme & Janelle
Cave and Harvey Research	MPI Diagnostic and Surveillance Services
Cawthron Institute	MPI Mycoplasma bovis Programme
Cognosco, Anexa Animal Health	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd *
Cropmark Seeds Ltd	National Trade Academy
CRV Limited	Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology Ltd *
CuroNZ Ltd	New Zealand Association of Science Educators *
Dairy Goat Co-operative (NZ) Ltd	New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd
DairyNZ Ltd	New Zealand Leather and Shoe Research Association
Dairy Production Systems Ltd	neXtgen Agri Ltd
Dairy Trust Taranaki	North Canterbury Veterinary Clinics
Damar Industries Ltd	Northern New Zealand Seabird Charitable Trust
Datic Ltd	
Department of Conservation *	
Dermcare Vet	
Donaghys Ltd	
Duopharm Animal Health Ltd	

Nutrinza	Synthase Biotech Ltd
NZ AutoTraps Ltd	Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi
Nzeno Ltd *	Techion Group Ltd
On-Farm Research Ltd	The New Zealand King Salmon Co Ltd
Optimum Bio Innovations Ltd	The New Zealand Merino Company Ltd
Orillion	ThermoFisher
Otago Polytechnic Ltd	Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology Ltd *
Otakaro Pathways Ltd	Trinity Bioactives Ltd
PGG Wrightson Seeds Ltd	Unitec Institute of Technology Ltd
PharmVet Solutions *	Universal College of Learning Ltd
Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand	University of Auckland *
Practical CPD Ltd	University of Canterbury *
Quantec Ltd	University of Otago *
Ruakura Technologies Ltd	University of Waikato *
Ruminant Biotech Corp Ltd	Vence NZ Ltd
Schering-Plough Animal Health Limited *	Vet Nurse Plus
SciLactis Ltd	Vet Resource Ltd
Seacrest Farms Ltd	Veterinary Centre Oamaru
Sirona Animal Health Ltd	Veterinary Enterprises Group
Skretting Australia	Vetlife Ltd
Smart Farm Data Ltd	Vet Partners Ltd
SNPshot Technologies Ltd	VetSouth Ltd
SoleTech Ltd	Victoria University of Wellington *
South Pacific Sera Limited *	Waikato Institute of Technology Ltd *
Southern Institute of Technology	Waikato Regional Council
Southern Star Farms Ltd	Wellington Institute of Technology Ltd
SPCA	Wellington Zoo Trust
StemVet New Zealand Ltd	Zoetis New Zealand Ltd
Synlait Milk Ltd	

NAEAC

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