



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 14 February meeting were:

- **Regulations** - The Animal Welfare Act has been amended to provide for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The first two sets of regulations, live export and young calves, commenced on 1 August. NAWAC received an update on the progress of the regulations due to be released in October 2018 and how they will be implemented.
- **Dairy housing** – NAWAC agreed to recommend an amendment to the dairy cattle code of welfare to set standards for indoor housing.
- **Prioritisation** – NAWAC reviewed their work programme, which will be updated and published online as soon as possible.
- **Codes review** – The amendments to the structure of codes of welfare and some of NAWAC's processes were discussed. The subcommittee for codes review will meet to finalise some of these decisions.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received a presentation by MPI Compliance on a new database and visualisation tool for animal welfare complaints.
- **Deputy chair** – Iain Torrance was reappointed as deputy chair.
- **Next meeting** – Next meetings are 9 May, 15 August, and 13 November.