



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations (Significant Surgical Procedures): Release of Discussion Paper

Portfolio Agriculture

On 29 May 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that new criteria in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 for determining whether a procedure is a significant surgical procedure will come into force on May 2020;
- 2 **noted** that following an analysis of the implication of these new criteria, the Minister of Agriculture (the Minister) proposes to introduce regulations that will:
 - 2.1 clarify that existing prohibitions on some procedures provided for within the Animal Welfare Act 1999 will be retained;
 - 2.2 prohibit specified procedures from being performed by persons other than veterinarians or supervised veterinary students, and requiring that pain relief be used;
 - 2.3 allow competent non-veterinarians to carry out specific significant surgical procedures if certain conditions are met;
 - 2.4 clarify how regulations apply to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching, and conservation/fisheries management activities carried out under section 5(3) of the Act;
 - 2.5 consider amending the weight limit for the use of electric prodders on pigs when they are loaded into restrained stunning pens, and the definition of electric prodders to clarify that devices such as Tasers are excluded;
- 3 **agreed** to the release of the discussion paper *Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations: Significant Surgical Procedures*, attached to the submission under DEV-19-SUB-0138;
- 4 **noted** that it is intended that public consultation will be carried out for six weeks during June and July 2019;
- 5 **agreed** that the Minister may approve any minor or technical amendments to the public discussion paper before consultation starts;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister will issue a media statement inviting submissions when the public discussion paper is released;

7 **noted** that the Minister anticipates seeking approval for final policy proposals by November 2019.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Agriculture

Proactively Released