

MINUTES NCCAW 37

Thursday 4th and Friday 5th May 2006

**Menzies Conference Room
The Chifley on Northbourne**

Purpose:

1. Conduct NCCAW 37 Meeting on 4/5 May 2006.
 2. Conduct NCCAW's Production Working Group & Non-Production Working Group Meetings on 3 May 2006.
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PARTICIPANTS:

Ivan Caple (CHAIR)

Peter Thornber - DAFF
Deborah Kelly – SA
Elizabeth Grant – NHMRC
Glenys Oogjes – AA
Hugh Wirth – RSPCA
Jeni Hood – WA
Kevin de Witte – NT
Kevin Doyle – AVA
Ross Burton - NSW
Mick Middleton – TAS
Simon Bennison - Aquaculture
Ralph Hood – AHA
Rick Symons – QLD
Robin Vandegraff – AWWWS
John McCaffrey – Racing VIC
Robert Lee – NFF
Warren Starick - NFF
Stephen Tate – VIC
Cindy Steensby - DEH
David Adams – DAFF
Naomi Hilborn - DAFF
Joannah Burley – DAFF

APOLOGIES:

Sally Standen – DAFF
Mauricio Perez-Ruiz - NT
Lee-Anne Wahren –
Environment ACT

PRESENTERS:

Jonathan Taylor – APVMA
Erna Walraven – ARAZPA
Chris Buller – IACRC
James Kellaway – AECL
Danielle Marotti – MLA
Anand Deo – AQIS
Narelle Clegg – AQIS
Scott Turner – DAFF
Michelle Connelly - DAFF

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PROPOSED AGENDA

THURSDAY 4TH MAY 2006 NCCAW37

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION CHAIR

- Confirmation of Draft Agenda
- Endorsement of Summary of Proceedings of NCCAW 36

The Chairman welcomed:

- Simmon Bennison – AQUACULTURE
- John McCaffrey – Racing VICTORIA
- Joannah Burley – DAFF

The Chairman expressed apologies from:

- Sally Standen – DAFF
- Mauricio Perez-Ruiz - NT
- Lee-Anne Wahren, ACT (Environment ACT, Dept of Urban Services)

NCCAW36 Minutes:

Ivan Caple moved that the record of NCCAW 36 be accepted. This motion was seconded by Hugh Wirth and carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING CHAIR

- Minister's response to NCCAW 36 recommendations
- Action List
- Other Business

Minister's response to NCCAW36 recommendations

A copy of the letter from the Chairman to the Minister to NCCAW 36 and the Minister's response were tabled. It was noted that the Minister had accepted and acted on all the recommendations arising from NCCAW36.

Action List

The action list drawn up at NCCAW36 was reviewed. All actions have been completed or progressed.

3. NCCAW ADMINISTRATION PETER THORNER

- NCCAW Review update

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The Department intends to proceed with this review. However, it has been recommended that commencement of the review be delayed until September/October 2006 with a report in December. This will mean that, as part of the review, a more comprehensive consideration of NCCAW's role in relation to the peak bodies and in relation to the AAWS, will be possible.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The NCCAW review to be finalised by December 2006.

4. / 5. CURRENT ISSUES

ALL

- Reports from member organisations

ANIMALS AUSTRALIA REPORT

WA cruelty complaint update: There has now been a full WA Police/WA State Solicitor's Office investigation of AA's 2003 complaint that a shipment of sheep that travelled from Fremantle to the Middle East in November 2003 breached Section 19 (3) (1) of the Western Australian *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, and that further live sheep shipments are similarly breaching the Act (animals being transported in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering).

As a result of this investigation, cruelty charges were laid by WA Police in November 2005 against Emanuel Exports Pty Ltd and its two directors. The charges allege that between November 10 and 14, 2003, the exporter breached Section 19 (1) of the Animal Welfare Act - a person must not be cruel to an animal; S. 19 (3) (a) transporting an animal in a way that is likely to cause it harm; (3) (b) confining an animal in a way that is likely to cause it unnecessary harm and (3) (d) not providing proper food.

Middle East investigation Dec 2005/Jan 2006: Lyn White (AA Communications Director) and an independent UK-based investigator conducted an extensive investigation during 16 days in the Middle East. They visited Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, and documented the handling of imported Australian animals (and local animals) during transport, and in feedlots, markets and numerous slaughterhouses (both legal and illegal).

The practices documented at Bassatin abattoir (near Cairo, Egypt) in January 2006 were first reported to NCCAW by AA in October 2001. The response to Animals Australia after the first of the countries (Egypt) was highlighted on '60 Minutes' in February 2006 was the strongest community response so far – and the Minister immediately suspended the trade to that country.

Intensive Pig Farming: Animals Australia and its member societies have continued to alert the community and consumers to the manner of confinement of particularly pregnant and nursing sows to allow them to make informed choices based on the production methods of the products they are purchasing. Regrettably the 'labelling' of pig meat products to indicate the housing methods used is not supported by the pig industry leaders, though they support full consumer information regarding 'country of origin' labelling.

National Summit to End Pet Overpopulation: This 'Summit' is to be held on the Gold Coast from 15-17 June, 2006, and is being organised by the Animal Welfare League of Queensland and the National Desexing Network (NDM) with support from AA. The terrible statistic and tragedy of hundreds of thousands of unwanted dogs and cat in pounds and shelters is the reason for the Summit, and its focus will be on the ethical solutions to the current overbreeding of companion animals. The program has just been finalised – and includes key international and national speakers. The full program and registration forms are now available on the NDN website - <http://www.ndn.org.au>

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ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

New AUSVETPLAN manual: A new AUSVETPLAN operational manual, *Livestock welfare and management*, has been approved by peak industry bodies and is now awaiting AHC endorsement. It is proposed that a draft (interim) version will be utilised during the forthcoming annual exercise for the Rapid Response Team, Exercise Wild West in Western Australia.

Welfare during an EAD response: AHA convened a workshop on 6 April 2006, to consider the management of livestock welfare during an EAD response. The workshop addressed the issues related to the destruction of non-infected stock on welfare grounds, and possible financial assistance that might be offered to owners. These issues created particular problems during the recent EAD outbreaks in the UK and the Netherlands.

Workshop participants expressed a clear preference that the existing Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) be used as a mechanism by which financial assistance might be provided to affected owners in an EAD response. It was agreed that such assistance would only be provided for stock that were ordered to be destroyed on welfare grounds, after all other options had been considered.

Various outstanding issues were identified, and AHA was requested to convene a working group to progress these, and make appropriate recommendations to the relevant stakeholders.

AUSTRALIAN RACING BOARD

AAWS: The Australian Racing Board is currently participating in the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) process and is represented by Dr Patricia Ellis in that forum. Dr Ellis is preparing a welfare inventory and consequential gap analysis for the thoroughbred racing industry. The next meeting is in early May in Melbourne where further work will take place in developing an action plan for the sector (ie sector 5). The current Welfare Guidelines for the Australian Thoroughbred Racing Industry were produced some years ago by the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians on behalf of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). The IFHA subsequently endorsed the document for the use of its member racing jurisdictions. The AAWS process provides for a timely re-evaluation of those guidelines and hopefully will establish a sound basis on which the thoroughbred racing industry can move forward in relation to relevant welfare issues where identified.

Jumps Racing: The Independent Jumping Racing Review Panel convened by RVL delivered its Report last December to the Board of RVL. Of the 27 recommendations contained in the review many have already or are currently being implemented.

National Injury Database: The introduction of dedicated national injury databases for both horses and humans will provide valuable information on possible problem areas and, establish industry priorities for ongoing and future research. The Epidemiological Review of Jumping Racing being conducted by Flinders University on behalf of RVL is another initiative designed to measure the effectiveness of the introduction of safety improvements in jumping racing as a consequence of the last two reviews. It aims also to identify any real or potential problem areas which might need to be addressed in future.

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AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

AAWS: The AVA strongly supports the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and has members on the AAWS Advisory Committee and the six sectoral groups that are working on the implementation plan. This reflects AVA having animal welfare as the central feature of its activities and of veterinary practice.

AVA AWAC: AVA Animal Welfare Committee advises the AVA Board and Policy Advisory Council on welfare matters. AWAC is comprised principally of AVA representatives on State and Territory government AWACs and veterinarians with specific skills. AVA AWAC provides comment on policies being considered by the AVA Policy Advisory Council and on input into inquiries or investigations.

AVA Annual Conference, Hobart, May 2006: The Conference program is developed mainly by Special Interest Groups (SIGs), with coordination by AVA conference staff. Animal welfare is included in all programs sometimes in combined sessions of SIGs. Animal welfare expertise is assisted by two SIGs, Australian Veterinarians in Animal Welfare and Ethics (AVAWE) and the Animal Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG), having combined sessions with other SIGs.

International Veterinary Officers Council: Members of IVOC include the veterinary associations of USA, Canada, UK, New Zealand and Australia and the World Veterinary Association. Member associations share information and policies on animal welfare.

Current IVOC interests include defining animal welfare, live transport, the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, progress with welfare issues like tail docking and veterinarians at the frontline in animal welfare.

IVOC is to meet on 2-5 June 2006 in South Africa

AVA PetPEP: AVA PetPEP is conducted in primary schools by local veterinary practitioners and their staff. The program focuses on socialisation with animals and training of school children on their relationships with animals and the responsible care of animals.

ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Mulesing appendix of the sheep model code: PIMC endorsed the mulesing appendix to the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Sheep at its meeting in October 2005 in support of the industry commitment to phase out mulesing by 2010.

Primary responsibility for audit of competencies and compliance activity for mulesing standards lies with industry through Quality Assurance programs but agriculture Ministers agreed that government has a regulatory overview function. Ministers also endorsed the implementation date of 1 January 2006 for the mulesing standard and deadlines of 31 December 2006 (for professional contractors) and 31 December 2008 (for individual producers) be applied for the requirement for operators to demonstrate competencies to carry out the operation.

Camel Model Code and NHMRC Science Code: PIMC in October 2005 endorsed the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – The Camel and noted the Model Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

Land transport of sheep and Husbandry of Emus: AWWG approved the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Land transport of poultry and the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Husbandry of captive bred emus*. These model codes of practice have been approved by Primary Industries Standing Committee and is expected to be endorsed

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by PIMC at its meeting on 20 April 2006.

Model codes of practice under development: AWWG is currently reviewing the current model codes of practice for pigs and for deer, and developing new model codes of practice for horses and land transport of sheep.

AAWS: AWWG continued to support the implementation of the AAWS. AWWG's particular interest is to ensure that the States and Territories are aware of the priorities as they are identified by the AAWS sectoral working groups and are in a position to facilitate implementation of sectoral plans.

Cross-jurisdictional issues for transport of livestock: AWWG is examining the issues with regulating the transport of livestock across jurisdictions. A paper is being prepared for consideration by Primary Industries Standing Committee.

COMMONWEALTH

Version 2 Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (Standards): Version 2 standards were modified in part to ensure that the Standards are 'verifiable' and enforceable." Consequently, some version 1 standards became 'required outcomes' or 'guidelines' or export chain 'overview' statements in the introduction page to the Standards table. Much of the duplication was reduced by consolidating standards or deleting repeated standards.

Version 2 Standards were developed from comments received from stakeholders and welfare organisations on version 1 standards that became enacted on 1/7/05.

These comments were considered by the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee (LESAC) and its Technical Working Group.

Long Distance Land Transport Campaign: There will be a global campaign by World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) commencing in late 2006 against long haul transport of animals to slaughter and this will run for a 2 year period.

WSPA's aim is "to have all long distance transportation of animals for slaughter replaced by carcass only trade."

Animal Activists: The Australian Government is concerned about recent actions by some animal rights activists who choose to harm particular animal industries by illegal activities despite legal means of expression being available to express their views.

The use of tactics such as farm invasions, property damage, theft of animals, and breaches of disease control procedures in such cases are of particular concern. These tactics do nothing to improve animal welfare standards, and in some cases actually cause animals to die or put animals at risk of serious disease.

The Australian Government sees no place for criminal activities in the development of improved animal welfare standards and is taking steps to help provide effective protection for farmers and the community from illegal activities of these extremists.

Animal Welfare Minister's Meeting – Key Meeting Outcomes

1. **REQUESTED** Standing Committee develop, in consultation with Animal Health Australia, proposals for a nationally consistent approach to the development, implementation and enforcement of Australian animal welfare standards;

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2. **REQUESTED** Standing Committee, through its Animal Health Committee, to develop for its consideration, options for a nationally consistent approach to dealing with illegal activity aimed at disrupting animal production;
3. **NOTED** that in developing these proposed approaches, individual jurisdictions may need to consult with their respective Attorneys General or legal departments;
4. **REQUESTED** Standing Committee to provide advice on the proposed United Nations Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals;
5. **REQUESTED** Standing Committee to report on these matters to the next meeting of Council scheduled for November 2006; and
6. **AGREED** that the primary focus of the Council's work in animal welfare should continue to be on issues associated with production agriculture.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Codes of Practice for the Humane Treatment of Feral Animals: In 2003-04, DEH, under the National Threat Abatement Component of the Natural Heritage Trust, contracted NSW DPI (formerly NSW Agriculture) to develop an agreed code of practice and standard operating procedures for the humane care and use of pest animals in Australia for the purposes of scientific research ('Research COPs and SOPs project').

The Research COPs and SOPs project relates to activities that do not necessarily result in the destruction of the animal (eg radio tracking, trapping etc) but still require the animal to be treated in a humane manner. Work on the Research COPS and SOPs project continues to progress well, with draft documents to be sent out to key stakeholders for comment in the near future. The due date for the final report has been extended until approximately 30 June 2006.

The Code of Practice for the Humane Treatment of Wild and Farmed Crocodiles: A draft Code of Practice on the Humane Treatment of Wild and Farmed Australian Crocodiles will be submitted to the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. The Code recommends minimum standards for the humane treatment of crocodiles and is limited to the taking of crocodiles from the wild and the farming of crocodiles. It does not cover the public display of crocodiles in zoos and animal parks, which have different requirements.

NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION

The NFF Quarantine Sub-Committee met via teleconference on the 31st March 2006.

Issues that were discussed included:

- Live Export Trade – the recent 60 Minutes Program relating to animal welfare issues in Egyptian abattoirs.
- PETA campaign against mulesing.
- NFF meeting with WSPA and RSPCA - for Australia, the long-haul transport campaign will focus on live exports to the Middle East.
- AHA is to fund an Animal Welfare, Health and Quarantine position in NFF for two years.
- A consultant's paper on an Animal Law Course proposed for the University of NSW.

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NATIONAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Code Liaison Group (CLG): The CLG is meeting on 19 May 2006 to discuss issues arising from the publication of the 7th edition of the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (the Code)*. Some of these issues are the independent triennial review of AECs and their institutions, non-compliance with the Code, the production of biological products and the use of SOPs.

AWWS: The *Animals in research and teaching working group*, chaired by Elizabeth Grant, met in December 2005 and February 2006 to discuss the implementation of the strategy.

Statements of compliance: From NHMRC administering institutions are now being received for 2005. All NHMRC funded administering institutions are required by the Deed of Agreement to comply with the Code and policy documents of the AWC. All statements are reviewed by the AWC then analysed for benchmarking.

National non-human primate facility: The new facility at Churchill has been completed. It has been purpose built to house the colony of macaques currently at the University of Melbourne. Transfer of the animals is expected in the near future.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Companion Animals Act: Changes to the *Companion Animals Act* have been made which further restrict certain breeds. The onus is now on owners to prove dogs are not one of these breeds or crosses of these breeds. NSW Canine Council is cooperating in an identification scheme. A further temperament assessment scheme is also being devised. Increased dog registration fees will go towards supporting public education.

Importing Elephants: Following the ruling by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal to allow the import of elephants for Taronga and Melbourne Zoos, the conditions for keeping of the elephants at Taronga are now under consideration. These conditions fall under the EAPA in NSW.

Animal Research Act: TAFE NSW is challenging the applicability of the *Animal Research Act* to its teaching activities, arguing "normal husbandry". This has significant implications for the operation of the Act, and the legal position must be clarified.

Guidelines for the care and housing of laboratory animals: The Animal Welfare Branch, in association with the Animal Research Review Panel, has been developing a series of evidence-based guidelines for the care and housing of laboratory animals. To date we have completed guidelines for dogs, rats and rabbits, with mice, guinea pigs, sheep and pigs in preparation. The Animal Welfare Branch has now been approached by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) seeking permission to incorporate the rat guidelines into the revised second edition of the CCAC guide (with acknowledgement), and to work collaboratively in the development of further guidelines in the future.

QUEENSLAND

Cyclone Larry: DPI&F and the RSPCA Queensland are working together to deal with homeless and surrendered companion animals as a result of Cyclone Larry. The RSPCA system (Shelter Buddy) is being used to track the animals. This approach is providing a single point for people to reclaim animals, reducing duplication and potential anxiety for owners. The RSPCA is logging and photographing each animal handed in. The animals are also being tagged, vaccinated and wormed. As an important concession to owners, no healthy animals are being euthanased.

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This will give people an opportunity to claim their animals at a later time. The RSPCA have received 13 cats, 23 dogs and 12 fowl to date.

More and more dairy farmers are getting power supply to their farms, sixty-five are now on line. Ninety farmers are able to cool their milk and the others are getting picked up each day. There are few breakdowns with the generators which are being fixed. Cows are being treated with a broad spectrum treatment for mastitis.

Tablelands piggeries had emerged from the cyclone in fairly good condition. One piggery lost its roof which posed a sunburn risk to stock. But the roof had since been put back on. Another potential problem was feed and watering for pigs because the loss of power meant a local commercial feeding company was unable to supply feed.

Feed was also an issue for a deer farm at Babinda where flooding prevented the transportation of supplies. Deer had jumped the fences looking for food, but had since returned to the farm when feed supplies finally arrived.

Expected animal welfare problems on poultry farms did not occur because generators arrived in time.

Use of animals for scientific purposes: The Animal Welfare Unit implemented a new monitoring program for compliance with the Scientific Use Code in June 2005 and to date we have carried out approximately 61 audits of registered users. The audits are carried out by DPI&F Authorised Officers assisted by Community Audit Team (CAT) members who are either current or ex AEC community members. DPI&F is aiming to audit all registrants at least once in their three year registration period and ideally before the registration date falls due.

A program to audit schools using animals in teaching commenced in March 2006.

The intent of the audits is to assist registrants to achieve a high level of compliance and to date have revealed high care standards and compliance with the Scientific Use Code. There are a large number of registrants who have a very good ethics system and demonstrate a strong commitment to animal welfare.

The Animal Welfare Unit has received very positive and valuable feedback on the monitoring program and the audit process.

The 2004 report of Animal Use Statistics for Queensland has been published. Statistics for 2005 are now being collected.

RSPCA

Asian Elephants Import Proposal: The RSPCA, together with IFAW and HSI, lodged an appeal with the Australian Administrative Tribunal regarding the Minister for Environment and Heritage's decision to approve the importation by Taronga and Melbourne Zoos of eight Asian elephants from Thailand. Whilst the import was ultimately allowed by the AAT, the case put forward by the three groups resulted in conditions being imposed on the import which, if adhered to, will greatly improve the welfare of the animals involved.

AWWS: RSPCA President Dr Hugh Wirth is a member of the AAWS Implementation Advisory Committee and the RSPCA is also represented on five of the six Working Groups.

Scientific Seminar: The topic for the 2006 RSPCA Australia Scientific Seminar was "The Five Freedoms and beyond: improving welfare of production animals". The seminar was attended by more than 140 participants from research groups, government departments, non-government

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organisations and industry peak bodies. Papers were presented by a wide range of speakers from across Australia and New Zealand and the seminar was chaired by Professor David Mellor, Director of the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre at Massey University, NZ. Proceedings of the seminar will be developed and made available on the RSPCA Australia website.

Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock – Version 2: RSPCA Australia is concerned that draft Version 2 of the Standards – in particular that the welfare outcomes are not entirely measurable or enforceable, and that there are major jurisdictional problems with enforcement. These concerns have been expressed to both state and federal ministers.

Pest Animal CRC: RSPCA Australia met with representatives from the Pest Animal CRC with a view to exploring opportunities for future co-operation.

Million Paws Walk: The RSPCA's major national fundraising event is this year being held on Sunday 21 May at over 60 locations around Australia.

WSPA: The Director-General of WSPA, Major-General Peter Davies, visited Australia in late March and, accompanied by the RSPCA Australia President and CEO, met with government representatives and the National Farmers Federation to discuss international animal welfare issues.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Election: South Australia had an election on 18 March and the Labor Government was re-elected. Our former Minister, John Hill, is now responsible for the Health portfolio and environment has a new Minister, Gail Gago.

Legislation: Submissions received regarding the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Review have been collated and will be presented to the new Minister shortly. She will determine whether the review proceeds and, if so, the process from here.

A review of departmental boards and committees is underway, including the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Animal Ethics Committees (as these are appointed by the Minister in South Australia). Again, the outcome of this review is subject to Ministerial endorsement.

Animals in Research and Teaching: Two external audits of an animal ethics committee have been undertaken since NCCAW last met. A panel of four conducted the audits. These four people reflect the composition of an animal ethics committee, namely:

- Category A (veterinarian)
- Category B (person who has used animals)
- Category C (welfare perspective)
- Category D (lay person)
- Category E (day to day care)

By the end of July, two more committees will have been audited, meeting our objective of one per quarter. It is anticipated that, over time, the members of the panel will change with Ms Walter being the constant and providing administrative support to all audits. We will endeavour to retain one interstate member of the panel.

The six monthly meetings of the Chairs and Exec officers of all SA AEC's is continuing and feedback indicates that they are very useful to all involved.

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A template for annual reports of committees has been developed and well received. This will simplify the reporting process for the committees and provide the Minister with a brief synopsis on the work of the committee.

The statistics database has been upgraded so that committees can submit their figures by e-mail directly into the state database. This is quicker and easier than the old system and will reduce the likelihood of data entry errors.

AWWS: The Unit is currently developing a website based on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy sectors. With luck, this will go live by the end of June.

Dog and Cat Management: The Dog and Cat Management Board revamped website is complete and live. It will be continuously upgraded to ensure relevance.

South Australia has purchased the Declared Dogs Register from CAR (Victoria). It is live on the council only section of the website. As council officers are trained in its use, they will be given authorization to enter data.

TASMANIA

New Minister: Following the recent State Election, a Cabinet reshuffle saw David Llewellyn appointed Minister for Primary Industries and Water. He will be familiar with the portfolio, having held it twice before.

VICTORIA

A Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits has been made and will be regulated on 1 Aug 2006

The **7th Edition of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use for Animals for Scientific Purposes** has replaced the 6th edition and will be regulated on 1 Aug 2006.

Rodeo permits can now only be obtained by the stock contractors who are to supply the stock and manage the events they are used in.

The **competency standards** (under ANTA guidelines) for the training and authorisation of **POCTAA inspectors** are completed and are accredited by the Victorian Qualification Authority. The course is approved as an approved training scheme. Learner Guides for the competencies are completed for the assistance of registered training authorities.

A Committee of Chairs of Animal Ethics Committees has been formed to advise the Department on the standards of application of the 3R's and other policy issues raised by AEC's.

A Department AEC has been formed to handle approvals for scientific procedures on wildlife by volunteer organisations and for small project consultancies.

A project has been completed to develop a practical method for licensing use of animals in schools for teaching i.e. primary and secondary schools in particular. This will be implemented over the next 6 months.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Update on live export prosecution: In July 2005, at the request of the State Solicitor's Office (SSO), Perth City Detectives, on behalf of the Commissioner of Police and the Director General

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of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development (DLGRD), commenced an investigation into voyage 153 of MV Al Kuwait, a livestock (sheep) carrier, which departed Fremantle for the Middle East on 11 November 2003.

As a result of this investigation, charges were laid in November 2005 under the Animal Welfare Act 2002 against a livestock export company and two of its directors. A first court appearance on 12 January 2006 was listed.

A solicitor from the SSO attended the Fremantle Magistrate's Court for the first mention date. The Accused or their solicitors did not appear but each of the Accused had entered pleas of not guilty.

The Court adjourned the matter for a further mention to be held on 2 March 2006 at 10am at the Perth Magistrate's Court. The outcome of this mention was that a further adjournment of the mention hearing of eight weeks, which was requested by the solicitor for the three accused, was granted by Cullen SM, the presiding magistrate. A further mention hearing on 27 April 2006 in the same court was set.

The SSO has reiterated to the DLGRD that as this case is currently before the Court, it must not be a matter for public discussion. In particular, this means that the merits or otherwise of the case must not be discussed publicly. Third parties are entitled to attend court and listen to proceedings.

Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee (LESAC): The previous Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, the Hon John Bowler MLA, argued successfully for the Commonwealth Government to provide membership for the DLGRD's Manager Animal Welfare on LESAC. Dr Richard Norris from the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) continues to have membership on LESAC's Technical Working Group.

Enforcement of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (the Standards): *The WA Government and the DLGRD are involved in negotiations with the Commonwealth over "jurisdictional" matters that affect the enforcement of the Standards on a practical level in WA. This issue has been highlighted at recent LESAC meetings. The WA Government maintains that the Standards are part of Commonwealth legislation and, as such, are the responsibility of the Commonwealth. However, WA remains open to considering all workable options that ensure compliance with the Standards.*

The DLGRD is also seeking advice from the SSO regarding enforcement of the Standards, as well as jurisdictional issues relating to the State Act and Commonwealth legislation. This is critical to a proper understanding of this complex issue.

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James Point Relocation: The DLGRD, DAFWA, industry and welfare groups strongly support the relocation of live export from the main Port of Fremantle to James Point Kwinana. The DLGRD has made a submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission in favour of the proposed James Point Kwinana Port facility.

The relocation of the point of export to this new location would benefit animal health and welfare – mainly because the route from the feedlots that supply the sheep for export is much closer to James Point and does not involve transport of sheep along major arterial roads and through built up areas. This means that transport time is cut and drivers are more able to stop trucks to check the load if necessary. Because there is little traffic on the proposed route, as opposed to the current one, it means that the transport journey is “smoother” for the livestock

As this would be a new facility, infrastructure could also be designed to incorporate good animal welfare practices, such as emergency humane slaughter etc.

Working collaboratively with DAFWA: The DLGRD and DAFWA are working collaboratively to improve livestock welfare in WA. Discussions have included:

- The process of adoption of national animal welfare codes of practice under the Animal Welfare Act 2002;
- Ensuring the Standards are suitable for Western Australian livestock and conditions; and
- The need to identify specific areas where the Standards might differ from the Codes in their content and to consider the ramifications of these differences on livestock handling and transport in WA.

AAWS: A recent decision has been made by DAFWA to distribute AWWG papers to DLGRD routinely, based on the SA model.

6. DRAFT NCCAW POSITION STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE LIBERATION & ANIMAL RIGHTS

ALL

Draft NCCAW Position Statement on Animal Welfare, Animal Liberation and Animal Rights:

Animal welfare, in the context of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, is a human responsibility towards animals in Australia and encompasses all aspects of animal health and well being, including proper housing, management, population control and habitat management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane killing.

Animal welfare, animal liberation and animal rights are not synonymous terms. Animal liberation and animal rights represent a wide diversity of philosophical views and personal values. NCCAW has considered the philosophical views and personal values of all stakeholders, including advocates of animal liberation and animal rights, in developing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and has omitted value statements that are incompatible with the responsible use of animals for human purposes, such as companionship, food, fibre, research and teaching conducted for the benefit of humans and animals in Australian society.

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

A motion was put forward by Hugh Wirth, seconded by Kevin Doyle that NCCAW adopts this position statement. The position statement was endorsed.

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7. BIOTECHNOLOGY-DERIVED (BD) ANIMALS DAVID ADAMS

- Paper tabled for further consideration at NCCAW37.

8. NATIONAL REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE CODES OF PRACTICE RALPH HOOD/ROBIN VANDEGRAAFF

- Paper tabled for further consideration at NCCAW37.

9. GUIDELINES FOR THE WELFARE OF PET BIRDS RICK SYMONS

- A motion was put forward by Rick Symons, seconded by Deb Kelly that NCCAW adopts these guidelines. The guidelines were endorsed.

10. RODEO GUIDELINES - AMENDMENTS TO RODEO GUIDELINES DEB KELLY

- See NCCAW Standards for the Care and Treatment of Rodeo Livestock, which were endorsed at NCCAW37.

11. UPDATE PETER THORNBUR

Version 2 Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock

- DAFF updated the NCCAW Committee on the Version 2 Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, a paper was circulated.

12. AAWS SCOTT TURNER/ MICHELLE CONNELLY

Mr Scott Turner and Ms Michelle Connelly of DAFF's Animal Welfare Unit presented an informative summary on progress in implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, including communication initiatives. They provided information kits to members.

13. LIVE EXPORT UPDATE NARELLE CLEGG

Dr Narelle Clegg of AQIS presented an update on the livestock export trade including mortality statistics. Animal welfare in the live export trade is still a concern. NCCAW still strongly supports the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between AQIS and the state and territory governments to assist enforcement, compliance and penalties for non-compliance with the agreed Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock.

14. INVASIVE ANIMALS IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE CHRIS BULLER

Dr Chris Buller of the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC) presented on the research work being undertaken, and in dealing with "the dirty dozen", including genetic solutions.

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FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2006 NCCAW

15. RITUAL SLAUGHTER ANAND DEO

Dr Anand Deo of the AQIS Meat Program presented a report on current ritual slaughter arrangements in Australian export abattoirs. This topic was timely, given the recent events in Egypt shown on the 60 minutes program.

16. ARAZPA ZOO PRESENTATION ERNA WALRAVEN

Ms Erna Walraven from the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA) gave a presentation on ARAZPA's accreditation program for Zoos and aquaria.

17. APVMA PRESENTATION JONATHAN TAYLOR

Johnathan Taylor of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), who provided an update on the work currently being undertaken, including the Parliamentary Report Taking Control: a national approach to pest animal. The APVMA have a good working relationship with the Animal Welfare Unit in DAFF, who have assisted APVMA in developing an animal welfare position statement.

18. LAYER HEN HOUSING JAMES KELLAWAY

Mr James Kellaway from Australian Egg Corporation Limited (AECL) presented on the implementation process of the ARMCANZ and PIMC Agreements in relation to Layer Hen Housing. The presentation included detailed information on the industry background. He highlighted that the delay in states and territories regulating new cage sizes and other aspects of the agreements had caused a great deal of uncertainty in the industry and that a shortfall of 18-20% in egg supply was likely in 2007/2008..

19. ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS DANIELLE MAROTTI

Dr Danielle Marotti from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) presented the MLA "On-Farm" Animal Welfare Program. NCCAW appreciates the work being undertaken by MLA with their stakeholders in regards to the on-farm welfare of livestock.

20. REPORT FROM NCCAW NPAWG HUGH WIRTH

21. REPORT FROM NCCAW PAWG ROBIN VANDEGRAAF

DRAFT MINUTES NPAWG37

Wednesday 3rd May 2006

**The Chifley on Northbourne
102 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601**

Tel: 02 6249 1411

Purpose:

3. Conduct NCCAW 37 Meeting on 4th -5th May 2006.
4. Conduct NCCAW's Production Working Group & Non-Production Working Group Meetings on 3rd May 2006.

PARTICIPANTS:

HUGH WIRTH CHAIR
ROSS BURTON
IVAN CAPLE
KEVIN DOYLE
JENI HOOD
DEB KELLY
BOB LEE
JOHN MCCCAFREY
MICK MIDDLETON
GLENYS OOGJES
RICK SYMONS
STEVE TATE
ROBIN VANDEGRAAF

NCCAW 37 MINUTES

PROPOSED AGENDA

WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY 2006

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION
CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT AGENDA CHAIR**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The draft agenda was circulated and adopted

2. NPAWG36 MINUTES CHAIR

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The draft minutes of NPAWG36 were confirmed

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM SEPTEMBER 2005 CHAIR

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The second draft of amended Code for the humane killing of kangaroos should be released for public comment in June or July 2006

**4. UPDATE – DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF DOGS AND CATS
– BASIS FOR NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CAT AND DOG MANAGEMENT
STEVE TATE**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The drafts of these proposed Victorian Codes were tabled.
- Steve Tate offered to “Nationalise” the contents of the Codes and to edit them to assist in consolidation, this was accepted by the Committee.
- The new drafts would be forwarded to members for comment. It would be necessary for members to identify local references used in their states.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Steve Tate will circulate the comments and the amended drafts will be considered at NPAWG38.

**5. DRAFT NCCAW POSITION STATEMENT ON HANDLING COMPANION ANIMALS IN
EMERGENCIES (BEST PRACTICE) ROSS BURTON**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Ross Burton tabled the first draft of the proposed position statement. The committee agreed to comment on the draft document over the next six weeks.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The amended draft will be considered at NPAWG38.

**6. APVMA – ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES – INCLUDING A RESPONSE TO SENATE –
TAKING CONTROL: A NATIONAL APPROACH TO PEST ANIMALS
JONATHAN TAYLOR**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

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- Jonathan Taylor of APVMA was scheduled to make a presentation direct to NCCAW on this matter.

7. JUMPS RACING

JOHN MCCAFFREY /
GLENYS OOGJES

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Hugh Wirth declared a conflict of interest in this matter as he had been a member of the Review Panel.
- The Executive Summary of the Racing Victoria Limited Review of Jumps Racing was tabled and spoken to by John McCaffrey.
- It was noted that research into all facets of Jumps Racing was a continuing issue and that epidemiological studies would be ongoing and the results published in peer reviewed journals.
- The committee congratulated RVL on the work of the Review Panel and the quality of the Report.
- Animals Australia requested that its opposition to Jumps Racing be noted.
- The committee agreed to review the Jumps Racing Statistics from the current season at NPAWG38.

ACTION ITEMS:

- It was agreed to forward to interested members appendix 2 of the report which contained the statistics and analysis used as a basis for some recommendations in the report.

8. NATINAL CODES AND STANDARDS INIMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE OUTCOMES - PRIMATES FOR PRIMATES LETTER/PAPER ALL

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Robin Vandegraff made a presentation on the latest response to the Neumann Report and the proposal to rewrite most Model Codes of Practice on an agreed priority to produce "Australian Welfare Standards".
- There was a lively discussion about the proposed new process for the production of "Australian Welfare Standards". It was noted that the new process would see a valuable partnership develop between industry and government.
- A letter from "Primates to Primates" regarding the management standards observed at the Hunter Valley Zoo in New South Wales. After discussion the committee agreed to raise the issue at NCCAW under item 17.

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9. TELECONFERENCE WITH RICHARD HOCKEY RE PRESA CANARIA CHAIR

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The Committee conducted a teleconference with Richard Hockey who gave reasons why he objected to the NCCAW advising the government to continue the restricted dogs breed import regulation with the addition of the Presa Canaria.

10. BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE CHAIR

NIL

11. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO NCCAW CHAIR

A letter from “Primates to Primates” regarding the management standards observed at the Hunter Valley Zoo in New South Wales. After discussion the committee agreed to raise the issue at NCCAW under item 17.

The meeting closed at 3:10pm.

DRAFT MINUTES PAWG 37

Wednesday, 3 May 2006
The Chifley on Northbourne

Attendance

Robin Vandegraaff (AHC-Chair)
Ivan Caple (NCCAW)
Deb Kelly (SA)
John McCaffrey (ARB)
Ross Burton (NSW)
Hugh Wirth (RSPCA)
Jeni Hood (WA)

Rick Symonds (QLD)
Kevin Doyle (AVA)
Steve Tate (Vic)
Warren Starick (NFF)
Bob Lee (NFF)
Mick Middleton (Tas)
Glenys Oogjes (AA)

Apologies: Simon Bennison

2. PAWG 36 MINUTES

Chair

The Minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

4. ANIMAL WELFARE IN EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE Chair

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Information item
- noted that jurisdictional Central Agencies will need to sign off
- Noted that principles/criteria for making decisions about slaughter on welfare grounds may need to be expanded - NCCAW might make a valuable contribution to decision making
- Recognised that welfare implications may force controllers to change strategy
- Assumed that slaughter must be in accord with AUSVETPLAN welfare requirements
- States may need to review powers of Primary Industries staff to order slaughter on welfare grounds

ACTION ITEMS:

- Refer to AHA through NCCAW

NCCAW 37 MINUTES

5. INTENSIVELY FARMED RABBITS

Dr Middleton

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- NSW to clarify stunning standard – should align with national standard
- Stunning methods should be referred to Meat Standards Committee and to AWWG for review of the welfare standard

ACTION ITEMS:

- Referred to NCCAW

6. ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH WELFARE AND RYEGRASS STAGGERS Prof Caple

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- For information

7. ENDEMIC DISEASES DETRIMENTAL TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Prof Caple

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Likely that AHC will refer surveillance of endemic disease to industry QA
- MLA, AWI and D A may agree to investigate the extent of the problem
- NCCAW should refer the matter specifically to the Minister

ACTION ITEMS:

- Referred to NCCAW

8. MANDATORY REPORTING OF ANIMAL WELFARE OFFENCES

Dr Hood

Item withdrawn

9. BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

10. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO NCCAW

- Animal Welfare in an EAD response (for referral of key points to AHA)
- Intensively farmed rabbits (for referral to MSC and AWWG)
- Endemic diseases detrimental to animal welfare (for referral to the Minister and industry bodies)

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22. CORRESPONDENCE

CHAIR

- Correspondence
- Other Business
- NCCAW believes that the Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the humane capture, handling or destruction of feral animals in Australia developed by NSW provides a sound basis for necessary improvements in feral animal control programs. NCCAW is concerned that these Standard Operating Procedures have not yet been incorporated into national feral animal control programs across Australia, as they have not been finalised and progressed for endorsement at the Ministerial level. NCCAW recommended that this issue should be taken up by the AAWS “Animals in the Wild Sectorial Group”.
- NCCAW noted that the OIE Animal Welfare Guidelines are not mandatory but urged that OIE strongly encourages all member countries to implement them. NCCAW recommended that bilateral trade negotiations between Australia and other countries, e.g. MOUs with Middle East trading partners, should seek formal commitment to implementing the OIE Animal Welfare Guidelines.
- The member from Victoria reported that Primary Skills Victoria has developed competencies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) inspectors that are consistent with the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) guidelines and accredited through the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF). The 13 units of competency course is known as the Certificate IV in Animal Welfare (Regulation). Learners Guides have been developed to support each unit of competency when implementing this course. NCCAW recommends that other jurisdictions should make use of these appropriate training programs are essential for persons implementing animal welfare regulations and standards.

20. NEXT MEETING

CHAIR

It was decided that due to the NCCAW review there will not be another NCCAW meeting for 2006. NCCAW members will be invited to the AAWS National Workshop which will be held in October 2006.