



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

## **Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Committee Meeting**

Canberra

5 July 2005

### **Participants**

<b>John Drinan (CHAIR)</b>
Ivan Caple, Chair, NCCAW
Maxine Cooper, Primary Industries Standing Committee
Hugh Wirth, RSPCA
Robin Vandegraaff, Chair, PISC Animal Welfare Working Group
Keith Adams, former Chair NFF Quarantine Committee
Warren Starick, National Farmers Federation representative, NCCAW
Kevin Doyle, Australian Veterinary Association
Heather Yeatman, University of Wollongong
Dean Merrilees, Alternate for Gardner Murray
<b>Secretariat:</b>
Peter Thornber, Project Manager, DAFF
Kristy McPhillips, Project Officer, DAFF
Scott Turner, DAFF
Allan Sheridan, DAFF

### **Apologies**

Gardner Murray, Australian Chief Veterinary Officer/Special Adviser, DAFF

### **Background Information**

- The Australian Government is committed to the AAWS and has provided a contribution of \$6 million over 4 years to fund additional resources to develop an implementation plan and action plans for each of the 6 sectoral animal groups.
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) reflects government, broader industry and stakeholder's commitment to animal welfare.

- The task of implementing the AAWS was given to the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) Animal Welfare Working Group, by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC).
- Participants of the AAWS National Workshop held on 23 July 2004 in Canberra agreed that an Implementation Plan should include the development of specific Action Plans for the six identified animal sectors and that an Advisory Committee to coordinate and report on the AAWS implementation be established.
- The Advisory Committee has been established by the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) to report and provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, through DAFF.
- Committee members were identified and chosen for their expertise and dedication to the implementation of the AAWS and not on a representational basis. Their experience, standing and influence in the animal welfare sector will greatly assist in the promotion of the AAWS and the subsequent enhancement in animal welfare outcomes in the future.

### **Key Outcomes of the Meeting**

- Implementation of the strategy will require commitment, shared understanding of what the strategy is to deliver, what needs to change to achieve agreed sustainable outcomes, and priority setting.
- Each of the Advisory Committee members outlined their and their organisation's or sector's perspectives on the AAWS implementation. It was concluded that their perspectives were in alignment with the objectives of the AAWS.
- The Advisory Committee noted the strong support of the RSPCA and that it has been involved with the development of the AAWS from the beginning and will continue to be closely involved.
- The Bureau of Rural Science (BRS) in the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry have been contracted to complete a stakeholder analysis which is an integral part in the AAWS implementation. The main objectives of the project are outlined as follows:
  - To identify relevant stakeholders, their interests, conflicts and commonalities and capabilities;
  - To apply information to planning processes;
  - To ensure efficient equitable, long term success;
  - To define "stakeholders" as an individual or as a group;
  - To identify different methods for eliciting views;

The main priorities for the implementation of the AAWS are as follows:

- Effective communication and information systems;
- The development of an outcomes-focused animal welfare system following implementation of the strategy; and

- Identification and documentation of previous and current research related to animal welfare to avoid duplication.

The Advisory Committee agreed to the following next steps in the development of the implementation plan and the implementation of the AAWS:

- DAFF will develop a draft Implementation plan as discussed by the AAWS Advisory Committee and circulate to the Advisory Committee for comment;
- The draft implementation plan will be finalised in time for the National Workshop on the AAWS draft implementation plan in September 2005;
- The AAWS Advisory Committee will hold an AAWS National Strategic Planning Workshop in September 2005. DAFF will facilitate the planning and organisation of the Workshop which will seek key stakeholder endorsement of the draft implementation plan and develop action plans for each of the six animal sectors based on the draft implementation plan.
- Invitations to attend the National Workshop will be sent to the AAWS Advisory Committee, key stakeholders from each of the six animal sectors and participants of the previous AAWS National Workshop held on July 2004;
- The AAWS Advisory Committee agreed to the engagement of an external expert consultant to develop a communication strategy and a professional Public Relations company to promote the AAWS following completion of the Bureau of Rural Sciences stakeholder survey.
- DAFF will update the AAWS website ([www.daff.gov.au/aaws](http://www.daff.gov.au/aaws)) on a regular basis; and
- The final AAWS Implementation Plan will be progressed to Primary Industries Standing Committee and Primary Industries Ministerial Council for their endorsement in early 2006.