

Winter Grazing Taskforce Friday 27 September 2019

MEETING SUMMARY

Date:	Friday 27 September 2019
Time:	9:15am – 5:00pm
Location:	Wellington

Agenda

1.	Karakia and apologies
2.	Review and agree meeting summaries from <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 September• 12 September
3.	Invited speaker
4.	Discuss section 8.6 <i>Controlling intensive winter grazing</i> from the Action for Healthy Waterways consultation document
5.	Communication approach for the 2020 winter grazing season
6.	Discuss and develop recommendations
7.	Actions review
8.	Close

Attendees

John Hellström
Arnja Dale
Helen Beattie
Stephen Hopkinson
Angus Robson
Ross Monaghan
Elaine Cook
Dave Harrison
Pania King

Apologies

Ewen Mathieson

Meeting summary

- The Winter Grazing Taskforce's fourth meeting was held on 27 September 2019 in Wellington. The primary aim of the meeting was to discuss the content and recommendations of the final report of the Taskforce's findings to be released in October.
- The summaries from the 5 and 12 September meetings were reviewed and agreed as a true and accurate reflection.
- The Taskforce discussed responses to correspondence it had received from parties who had presented to the taskforce at previous meetings and agreed for the Chair to follow up.
- The Taskforce agreed at its previous meeting that farmers should be made immediately aware of the possibility of stricter enforcement next year as they plan for their winter 2020 feeding systems, but had not agreed on an approach to do so. The Taskforce agreed to ask the Minister's office to issue communications around this, when the 12 September meeting summary is made publically available.
- An invited speaker presented on the environmental and animal welfare challenges facing their farm staff, and the alternative management systems they are trialling and tools they have developed to support improved practice & better welfare outcomes.
- The Taskforce discussed the proposals for Action for Healthy Waterways, and noted that action taken would need to ensure it is not in conflict with animal welfare management. For instance, pugging may be an issue for lying regardless of how deep it is.
- The Taskforce spent the remainder of the meeting discussing the structure and recommendations for the final report, and how the recommendations should be implemented. It confirmed that the content and recommendations of the final report need to recognise and potentially leverage off current work that is already happening around winter grazing within government and industry. Discussion also covered:
 - That there is an important relationship between environmental and animal welfare winter grazing issues. However, it cannot be assumed that the solutions for both issues will be the same, or that 'good management practice' is sufficient to meet expectations for both of these.
 - Detection of poor performers and recognition of responsibilities along the supply chain of winter grazing will be key components of mitigating winter grazing issues.
 - Further research is needed to understand the scope of the problem and present viable solutions for future winter seasons.
 - Animal welfare planning must be integrated into wider farm planning i.e Farm Environment Plans, with good animal welfare at the forefront of decision making.

Action items

	Action	Person
1	Draft a reply to the veterinarians who wrote to the Taskforce; to be circulated to members for review	Chair
2	For awareness, circulate expressions of interest from people who were unable to speak to the Taskforce due to time constraints	MPI
3	Request the Minister's office issue communications around the expectations for winter 2020 when the 12 Sep meeting summary is made publically available	MPI
4	Enquire if the letter from a farm management company sent to the Minister's office can be shared with the Taskforce	MPI
5	Invite DairyNZ to the 2 October meeting to speak about the Early Response Service	MPI

Invited speakers

Name	Organisation
Alison Dewes Bronwyn Rodgers	Pāmu