

**Winter Grazing Taskforce**  
**Wednesday 2 October & Thursday 3 October 2019**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 2 October & Thursday 3 October
<b>Time:</b>	Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Wellington

## Agenda

	<b>Wednesday 2 October</b>
<b>1.</b>	Karakia & apologies
<b>2.</b>	Review and agree 27 September 2019 meeting summary
<b>3.</b>	Discuss people who approached the Minister/MPI to be involved with the Taskforce
<b>4</b>	Discuss winter grazing research currently underway
<b>5</b>	Discuss and develop final report to the Minister
<b>6</b>	Invited speakers
	<b>Thursday 3 October</b>
<b>7</b>	Karakia
<b>8</b>	Discuss and develop final report to the Minister
<b>9</b>	Review of actions arising
<b>10.</b>	Close

## Attendees

John Hellström  
Arnja Dale  
Helen Beattie  
Stephen Hopkinson  
Angus Robson  
Ross Monaghan  
Elaine Cook (9:00am – 2:30pm, 2 October)  
Dave Harrison  
Pania King  
Ewen Mathieson

## Meeting Summary

- The Winter Grazing Taskforce's final meeting to develop their report & recommendations was held over two days in Wellington on 2 & 3 October 2019.
- At the beginning of the meeting, minutes from the 27 September 2019 meeting were reviewed. These were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of what had occurred.
- The primary aim of the meeting was to finalise the Taskforce's report, and agree on recommendations to improve the welfare of livestock grazed intensively over winter.
- Before this, the Taskforce discussed the further types of research required for animal welfare and winter grazing. Current research into wintering systems focuses primarily on the environmental impacts, but no system will be acceptable in the long-term without ensuring good animal welfare outcomes also.
- The Taskforce also heard from two speakers who presented on:
  - farm system changes to reduce nutrient outputs while maintaining profitability
  - support for dairy farmers who are above minimum standards in the codes of welfare, but not meeting industry good practice, and the resources available
- The rest of the first meeting and the entirety of the second meeting were dedicated to finalising the content for the final report. The majority of the discussion is therefore captured in the report rather than in the meeting summary.
- Key themes discussed during the latter half of the meeting regarding the content of the final report included;
  - Animal Welfare and sentience needs to be at the forefront of decision making.
  - Animal Welfare Compliance services will need a variety of tools to be able to respond to issues relating to mud.
  - This issue is a systemic one. There a number of barriers to adoption that are out of the farmer's control that need to be considered, and everyone along the supply chain will have a role to play in solving this issue.
  - Societal expectations on this issue will continue to evolve as what becomes acceptable practice in animal welfare and the environment develop over time.
  - The Taskforce does not want to rule out moving animals onto off-paddock systems as a solution - however these facilities present their own welfare risks, and is only one of a suite of options to be explored.

## Action Items

	Action	Person
1	Tidy and finish referencing the final report, and circulate to the Taskforce for sign-off	MPI and Chair

## Invited speakers

Name	Organisation
Helen Thoday	DairyNZ
Ron Pellow	AgResearch <i>Speaking in his previous role as Executive of the South Island Dairying Development Centre</i>