

From: Office of the Secretary
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 9:36 AM
To: Minister Pearce; Wood, Jane (DPaC)
Cc: Smith, Lauryn (DPaC)
Subject: URGENT - PIW (BT) - Request for Meeting Brief - Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) - 27 February 2026 - MIN26/9798
Attachments: PIW (BT) - Request for Meeting Brief - Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) - 27 February 2026 - MIN26 9798.DOCX; AWAC DRAFT Agenda February 2026.DOCX; AWAC Agenda Item current issues February 2026.DOCX; Meeting Brief - Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) - 27 February 2026 - MIN26 9798.DOCX

Hi team,

Please find the attached Meeting Brief for tomorrows meeting.

Kind regards,



Tahlia Cantwell | Senior Liaison Officer
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Delivering a sustainable Tasmania

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, I acknowledge and pay my respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present custodians of the land.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



Critical Date:
Ministerial No:
NRE File No:

Meeting Briefing Note for the Minister for Primary Industries and Water

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ANIMAL WELFARE

MEETING DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2026

ATTENDEES: ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DETAILS BELOW)

VENUE: 'MAWSON' MEETING ROOM, LEVEL 2, LANDS BUILDING

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE: Deborah McSweyn (Acting Chief Veterinary Officer). Rae Burrows (General Manager, Biosecurity Tasmania) is a member of the Committee and will also be in attendance.

BACKGROUND:

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) is established under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*. Its function is to advise the Minister on animal welfare matters, particularly those relating to legislation.

The AWAC meets 3-4 times per year. This is a regular meeting of the Committee, with the Minister in attendance for the first half hour to meet the Committee. The standing agenda item for the AWAC meeting outlining current and future issues for consideration is attached for the Minister's information.

The members of AWAC are as follows. Many of the members are relatively new, having commenced in March 2025:

Member	Organisation represented	Notes
Rod Gobbey	Chair	Rod has been the Chair for 5 and a half years. He previously worked in Executive roles in the Northern Territory state service and Tasmanian state service.
Rae Burrows	NRE – <i>Animal Welfare Act 1993</i>	General Manager of Biosecurity Tasmania.

Alison Jarman	Local Government Association	Mayor of Devonport City Council.
Cynthia Awruch	University of Tasmania	Manager, Research Ethics, Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies
Jayden Stirrup	RSPCA Tasmania	Chief Inspector
Martin Lenz	Tasracing	Chief Veterinary and Animal Welfare Officer
Jayson Semmens	Tasmania Police	Manager, Legislation Review and Development Services
Glenys Oogjes	Animals Australia	CEO of Animals Australia. Glenys has been on the Tasmanian AWAC for many years and is also on the Victorian AWAC.
Jonathon Jones	Tas Farmers	Policy Officer. Background in marine science and conservation.
Andrew Nicholson	Australian Veterinary Association	Retired veterinary surgeon.

There are also currently three vacant positions on the AWAC that are in the process of being filled. These represent:

- NRE in relation to the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*;
- intensive animal industries such as pigs and poultry; and
- sporting and recreational users of animals.

The Executive Officer for the AWAC is Fiona De Jersey, Policy Officer (Animal Welfare).

There are no specific issues to be discussed while the Minister is in attendance but members might raise the following:

ISSUES:

Issue 1

Dog welfare legislation update

Response

- Thank you to the Committee for your hard work over the past few years on this issue. A Position Paper outlining the proposed changes to the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations and *Dog Control Act 2000* has been posted on the NRE website. Those legislative changes are now underway.

Issue 2

National animal welfare standards for poultry (phase out of battery cages)

Response

- Tasmania is working with other jurisdictions to ensure national consistency of implementation of these welfare standards. **S 27**

Tasmania has committed to the final date of 2036.

Issue 3

S 35

S 27

KEY STAKEHOLDER CONTACT DETAILS:

- Name: Rod Gobbey
- Organisation: Chair, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- Phone: Personal Info
- Email: Personal Info

Cleared by: Rae Burrows
**GENERAL MANAGER
BIOSECURITY TASMANIA**

Contact Officer: Fiona De Jersey
POLICY OFFICER, ANIMAL WELFARE

Date: DD February 2026

RTI - DL - RELEASE - NRE

Department of Primary Industries and Water

Animal Health & Welfare Branch
 13 St John's Avenue
 New Town TAS 7008
 6233 6875



**ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 AGENDA PAPER**

MEETING DATE 27 February 2026
AGENDA ITEM NO 5
SUBJECT: Current, recent and ongoing issues
SUBMITTED BY: Fiona De Jersey, Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)
PURPOSE To update the committee

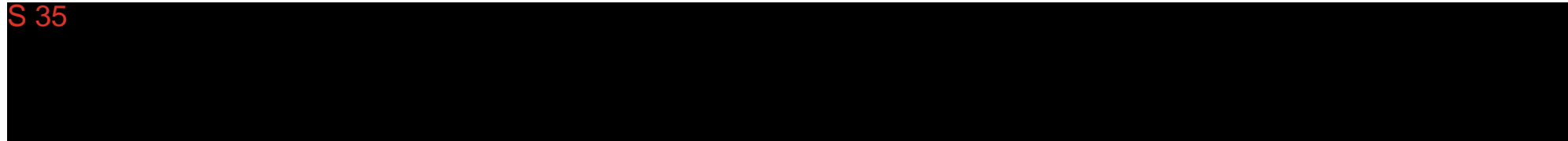
BACKGROUND

Standing agenda item. Significant issues for the Committee are included, not those that were only mentioned or discussed briefly.

CURRENT, RECENT AND ONGOING ISSUES CONSIDERED BY AWAC

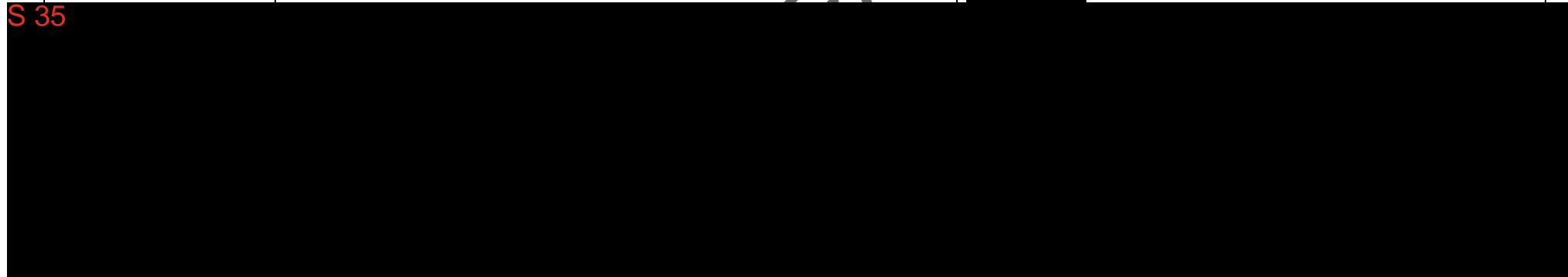
Issue	Action	Current Status
Dog welfare legislation	AWAC recommended changes to the <i>Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016</i> .	A Position Paper has been approved by Minister Pearce and publicly released. Work has begun on drafting new Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations. S 35 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

S 35



National animal welfare standards and guidelines for poultry	AWAC provided advice to the Minister on adoption of the standards under Tasmanian legislation.	Tasmania is liaising with other jurisdictions to ensure national harmonisation of implementation. S S 35 [Redacted]
Animal welfare regulations for abattoirs	Livestock processing standards were developed for Tasmania. It is now proposed that these be made into Regulations.	The Minister has approved conversion of standards into regulations for animal welfare in abattoirs in Tasmania. S 35 [Redacted]

S 35



Animal welfare standards for virtual fencing	Welfare standards for virtual fencing are being discussed at the national level.	This issue will be brought to AWAC once it has progressed in national discussions.
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RTI - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NO. 2 (10th Statutory Committee)

AGENDA

**10:30am to 1.30pm, 27 February 2026
Hobart (venue TBC) & via Microsoft Teams**

Item No.	Subject	Details	Comments
	WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS		
1.	Attendees		
	Apologies		
	Welcome, overview by the Chair and introductions		
2.	Minutes of previous meeting		
3.	Actions arising from previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRE will provide another update on HPAI at the next meeting The Committee will be provided with the final version of the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations when they are available. <p>S 35</p>	Verbal report Ongoing On agenda
4.	List of current AWAC issues and workplan	Paper by Fiona De Jersey	Standing item
5.	Meet with Minister Pearce	The Minister will be attending the meeting.	
S 3	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
S 3	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
8.	National update	Verbal update by Rae Burrows	
9.	Next meeting		For discussion