

MEETING NOTES OF THE NATIONAL STOCK EFFLUENT WORKING GROUP
at
MIA premises, Wellington

8.30am Friday 19 March 2009

Present:

Fiona Knight Frank Brenmuhl Oliver Suri Ian Cox Kevin Cresswell Tony Friedlander Lew Metcalfe Isy Kennedy Rochelle Comber Roger Fisher Murray Riley Rob Morgan Rachael Millar	Convenor, Federated Farmers Ministry of Transport NZ Transport Agency - highways Meat Industry Association Road Transport Forum (until 11.20am) Fonterra Environment Waikato AA South Waikato DC (until 12 noon) NZ Transport Agency – funding NZ Police Environment Southland (telephone from 10.45am)
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Apologies:

William McGimpsey Mike Noon Trish Burborough Geoff SwainsonLGNZ	Federated Farmers AA MAF
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ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Introductions and apologies	WELCOME TO Rob Morgan of NZ Police, who had previously been involved with NSEWG. Rob will arrange for NZ Police representation to be renewed. Noted that Fiona is still sorting out a representative for NZ Stock and Station Agents	Rob Morgan to arrange Police representation
2. Meeting Notes of 8 December 2008	Notes were confirmed with amendments from Lew noted. Tony reported that Tom Cloke and Will McGimpsey had been discussing design of a low-cost gravity feed for farmers to receive effluent from trucks with the stock, but this is currently unsuccessful. Outlets on truck holding tanks are not standard and this can cause blockages.	Tom Cloke to work on development of standard fittings for effluent holding tanks
3. Completed actions	Completed actions noted. Further actions arising are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research on the technical issues surrounding receiving effluent on farms 	Fed Farmers and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further liaison with Meat and Wool NZ and Dairy NZ on the current information on the benefits of standing stock, and the perception that meat-works will pay for stock on live-weight. This is not the same as hotkill. • Need to get stock and station agents on board with this as they are often working on behalf of the meat companies • Getting more sites available at destination points 	RTA Frank/Kevin/Fiona Fiona to discuss with Pres of NZSSA/ Kevin to discuss NATE colleague
4. Updated Survey of current effluent disposal sites	Updated data noted. Possible problems with Wellington site - Ian to check whether road level at Wellington site has been lowered and to advise Tony so he can advise his members to use the site. Noted three-pond system works well in the North Island but gets too cold in the south of the South Island. Ian to check progress at Northland sites – Whangarei and Wellsford. Noted that NZTA funding can be available to develop sites on private land, providing the facilities are available to all and there is a clear public benefit.	Ian – actions re Wellington and Wellsford
5. Survey of farmers on practices around standing stock	Noted small response to survey of farmers by Will. Noted that anecdotally, most farmers are aware of the push to stand stock but remain to be convinced of the need, or do not get enough notice to actually stand the stock. Noted that it is mostly the transport operator who gives the notice of pick-up to farmers when stock are going to the works, but stock and station agents are responsible in relation to sales. Changing the diet can help or even 2 hours off green feed is beneficial. Noted that weather can affect standing stock so need more solutions than standing on one yard say overnight. Still lack of data about whether effluent is a factor in road crashes – Oliver to check out crash database. Thanks to Will for undertaking the survey.	Oliver to check crash data
6. Trade Waste ByLaw	Isy advised that local meat companies had told her they could not accept effluent with stock trucks because of the costs incurred through the Trade Waste ByLaw. Quantities of such effluent can be measured. Isy is currently surveying all the meat works in Waikato as there appeared to be some discrepancies between what they say and what occurs. Kevin to assist on sorting this. General discussion on making income from effluent, noting that effluent is already been spread on forests and farms. Concerns about new Taupo bypass expressway and NZTA not taking the opportunity to install disposal facilities in this greenfields highway. Ian to follow up.	Isy/Kevin to report back next meeting Ian to follow up
7. Education campaign	Agreed to develop a factsheet with the arguments why farmers should stand stock, maybe in the form of frequently asked questions. Isy to develop first draft for circulation around the group. Agreed that all sectors would send the same message and act collaboratively. Important that each sector is seen to endorse the message, and use whatever openings they may have to pass the message on – with accounting material, sector newsletters and magazines, etc. Agreed a	Isy and every-one Fiona

	<p>regular series of articles before gypsy day should have strong impact.</p> <p>Agreed that whenever meat-works / sales agents and transport operators ring farmers to advise stock pick-ups, that they include a reminder to farmers to stand their stock. Fiona to write formally to RTF requesting this. Kevin to advise all MIA members also.</p>	Kevin
8. Waikato survey of stock carriers	<p>Isy reported on her telephone survey to find out what companies had what sort of facilities. She will be following up the methods of disposal of the effluent and water discharges. Noted that Waikato has the highest number of dairy cattle and stock come in from all over the country.</p>	Isy
9. Risk assessment on receiving effluent on farms from stock trucks	<p>Low presented the first draft of the report by Lindsay Burton, the Risk Management Programme Specialist at Fonterra. As it had just been received, he summarised the key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumping effluent on farms has the potential to increase the risk of transmitting disease, so some form of mitigation procedure is required eg receiving effluent from other animals such as deer • There is no legislation / regulation precluding dumping effluent of farms • There are increasing expectations of biosecurity from markets • Farmers will therefore have to task some risk mitigation measures <p>Mitigation options included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confining where effluent is spread • not spreading it but carting it away somewhere else • having treatments systems • enclosed tanks for effluent <p>Agreed we needed to consider the problem from the opposite perspective: the additional risk. Stock are already received on farms from other areas right across the country, complete with whatever biosecurity matters they already have. We need therefore to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what are the increased risks of accepting the effluent • what is the likelihood of that occurring, and • what would be the result. <p>Noted that deer are a risk because of Johnes disease, and that all trucks which are not dedicated solely to carrying deer, need to be fully washed out before any cattle are carried. Stock carriers need to be advised of this. Some of the diseases identified in the report are outside scope of stock cartage/effluent (eg salmonella is more from ducks and geese than cattle,) while others are already addressed in normal farm practices such as drenching, vaccination etc.</p> <p>Other practical mitigating measures include reducing the liquid content of the effluent by ensuring cattle are stood off green feed, feeding them dry feed/silage, spreading effluent thinly out in the sunlight to dry. Noted Southland may develop some more ideas which NSEWG will</p>	Low to report back to Lindsay and then back to NSEWG with updated report

	<p>also endorse.</p> <p>Established a small working group to address the technical issues (Frank/ Lew/ Tony or Kevin as appropriate and Fiona.</p> <p>Add to the education campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the message that <i>if you cannot stand stock, you must feed them dry feed</i>. Such messages could go on tanker dockets, newssheets such as FarmLink, and the factsheet detailed in item x above. • It's the consistency of the effluent, not the volume that causes the problem <p>Thanks to Lindsay for a useful start to addressing the issues. Lew to take back to Lindsay the request to quantify the risk, identify what diseases are not already under action/control, what mitigating actions Lindsay suggests, and what Fonterra proposes to advise farmers.</p>	<p>Frank, Lew, Tony. Kevin, Fiona</p>
<p>10. Report from Environment Southland on action plan for 2009 winter grazing</p>	<p>Rachael Millar, Principal Planner with Environment Southland, joined the meeting by telephone. The Southland Stock Effluent Working group is meeting 23 March to discuss the action plan for 2009. Rachael acknowledged slow progress in the past but positive action in recent times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NZTA/ ES and the transport industry has jointly worked out a new strategy for disposal sites, now comprising 6 sites across the region. Funding is allocated in the LTO and the strategy is also included in the LTCCP. • Three temporary sites are being used this year, 2 owned by transport companies and one at Alliance Matura • ES is keen to know the results of the risk assessment as they acknowledge there will be some spillage and they'd like to be able to have on-farm disposal of effluent. • Following interviews with farmers last year, the information gathered is being used for publicity, also with Fonterra and Dairy NZ • Enforcement issues – the CVIU is looking at whether they can use the road User Rule, s 7.16but this may be outweighed by the exemption of effluent when stock is being carried from the definition of load • Prosecution would be on a case by case basis only, and take into account the availability of disposal sites/ facilities on farms. <p>Rachael agreed to circulate the results of the meeting to the NSEWG.</p> <p>The meeting took the opportunity to discuss the letter from Chairman of ES to the Minister of Transport. The intent was to ensure that the responsibility for avoiding effluent spillages where possible lay with every-one. Noted that effluent disposal on farms is a permitted activity in Southland albeit with some conditions.</p>	<p>Rachael</p>

	<p>Noted that some transitional period was required before prosecutions took place.</p> <p>MoT advised that there was currently insufficient evidence to support a change to the definition of load at present. It would be a simplistic change to a complex issue. There was also the issue of natural justice.</p>	
11. Submission to the RMA review	Tony had requested a submission regarding making “non-compliance with the Code by other parties” a defence if effluent is spilt onto roads”. It was agreed that while it would be good for the Code to have legislative support, there needed to be more technical support in place, and a rewrite of the Code first.	
12. Activities in local/ regional government	In view of Geoff swainson’s absence, it was agreed that Fiona and Geoff continue to work towards greater activity by regional councils and stronger encouragement for in-transit disposal sites, as detailed in the notes of 8 December. Fiona and Geoff to report back at the next meeting.	Fiona/Geoff to continue actions
13. Legislation relating to stock effluent on roads	Isy tabled her first draft summary, which would ultimately also be available to NSEWG to use.. Agreed every-one to provide comment on the draft, in the next 2 weeks.	EVERY-ONE
14. General business	<p>Items raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What ways are there or determining the extent of the effluent problem? Complaints? Crash data? Road inspections? Photographic evidence? AA offered to include in a survey and would liaise with NSWEWG first. Item for future action • Jean Paul Thull has updated presentations and data to share. Isy/Fiona to action • Recent Northland survey results – Fiona to action • The updated maps show progress in achieving the network of sites, although this is still predominantly in the north island • Rob noted considerable progress in the five years since he was last involved in the NSEWG • A diagram of a stock effluent holding tank was urgently required – Fiona to arrange and copy to Frank and Kevin 	Isy/Fiona
15. Date of next meeting	By end April 2009. Fiona to email dates	Fiona to email