



Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand

◆ P O Box 60-208, Titirangi, Waitakere City ◆ New Zealand
Phone: +64 9 811 8020 ◆ Fax: +64 9 811 8010
◆ Email: awinz@amcom.co.nz

20 June 2000

Hon Jim Sutton
Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister *Jim*

Thank you for spending the time on Thursday to meet with Tom Didovich (Manager of Waitakere Animal Welfare Services), Anthony Higgins (Waitakere City legal) and myself.

I appreciate your personal support for the AWINZ proposal and for that of Pete Hodgson.

I would like to summarise my understanding of what we agreed to be the next steps.

We agreed that the AWINZ proposal meets the criteria of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 in all respects but one and that is the rates funding question.

There is some difference of opinion between Crown Law and Kensington Swan as to whether the involvement of territorial authority officers is ultra vires.

There is a possibility that section 37T of the Local Government Act may be applicable but further consideration of the implications of this section will need to be worked through. If a Crown Law office opinion is found necessary on the application of section 37T I will work with Mark Neeson to draft a question to go to Crown Law.

As there is no caucus position on the use of territorial authority officers in animal welfare, you agreed you can take a draft paper to your caucus and to Alliance within the next few weeks.

If the only way ahead is an amendment to the Local Government Act and/or the Animal Welfare Act that will need to be considered further. Although you are not averse to that, it would be preferable if an alternative can be found. Even with the

possibility of an amendment to the Local Government Act that can be used to piggy back an amendment that process will not happen quickly.

We are now already 6 months into the Animal Welfare Act and this matter has had inordinately long gestation period. I propose therefore the following timeline:

I will prepare a short paper, in collaboration with Mark Neeson, for caucus consideration within 2 weeks (say 30 June).

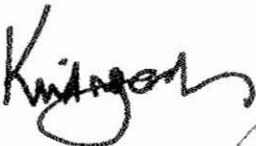
I will provide a preliminary paper on the implications of section 37T within 2 weeks (say 30 June).

If the caucus support is confirmed and there is a way through section 37T can we aim for 28 July for approval of AWINZ?

If section 37T does not provide a mechanism to comply with the Local Government Act, AWINZ will submit a revised proposal in line with the penultimate paragraph of your letter of 12 June by say 28 July.

This would be an interim measure pending changes to Local Government Act.

I trust that this way ahead is in line with your understanding.



Sincerely



Neil Wells

Cc Pete Hodgson