

Refer: T.Didovich  
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Private Bag 93109  
Henderson  
Waitakere City

21 March 2000

Neil Wells  
N.E. Wells & Associates  
P.O.Box 60-208  
Titirangi  
WAITAKERE CITY

Dear Neil,

### **Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand (AWINZ) Application**

Following on from letters received from the Minister of Agriculture dated February 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (attachment 1 and 1(a)) and in response to the meeting held on 14 February with the senior policy advisor from MAF Policy I forward the following information as discussed.

#### **Sections 141 and 142 Animal Welfare Act**

On behalf of Waitakere City Council and as the contractor for North Shore City Council (North Shore Animal Care and Control) I am able to provide an assurance that access to Waitakere City Council animal accommodation facilities under section 142 of the Act and the maintenance of records of animal transactions under section 142 of the Act will be provided by Waitakere City Council on behalf of AWINZ once "approved organisation" status is granted under section 121 of the Act.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Waitakere City Council possesses a strong intent to hold a "memorandum of understanding" with AWINZ once it has gained status as an "approved organisation" and likewise to enter into a contract in relation to Animal Welfare Act enforcement and all associated activities and requirements.

#### **Staff Involvement**

On behalf of Waitakere City Council and as the contractor for North Shore City Council (North Shore Animal Care and Control) I am able to provide an assurance that Council is satisfied for staff to enter into an arrangement with AWINZ and that no problems are foreseen and that benefits are expected. Waitakere City Council is aware of any liabilities involved and accepts that responsibility. The intention is that each individual Officer will enter into a "memorandum of understanding" with AWINZ. All fourteen potential Officers have already signed a letter of assurance of which the

Minister of Agriculture has received the originals. A copy of the standard letter is attached (attachment 2).

Legal Power of Territorial Authority to Spend General Revenue on Animal Welfare Activities

An independent legal opinion in relation to the above heading has been obtained from the highly prestigious law firm "Kensington Swan". Clauses 15 and 16 of the legal opinion (attachment 3) assert that Councils are legally entitled to fund animal activities from general revenue.

Mr Tom Didovich  
Animal Welfare Services Manager  
Warrington City Council

I trust that this information satisfies the requirements of MAF Policy and that we can move forward from here.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Didovich  
Animal Welfare Services Manager

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jim Suttie  
Minister of Agriculture