



# Animal welfare regulations

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*Growing and Protecting New Zealand*



[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)

# The (very quick) aim of today

- Overview of the animal welfare regulatory system
  - Animal Welfare Act 1999
  - Amendments 2015
- 2018 Animal Welfare Care and Procedures Regulations
- We need you!



# Strengthening codes through regulation

## Codes of Welfare

Support voluntary compliance  
Provide legal defence  
Not directly enforceable

## Regulations

Set specific standards  
Set specific penalties  
Directly enforceable

## Animal Welfare Act

High level obligations for 'duty of care'  
Sets cruelty offences

### New responses

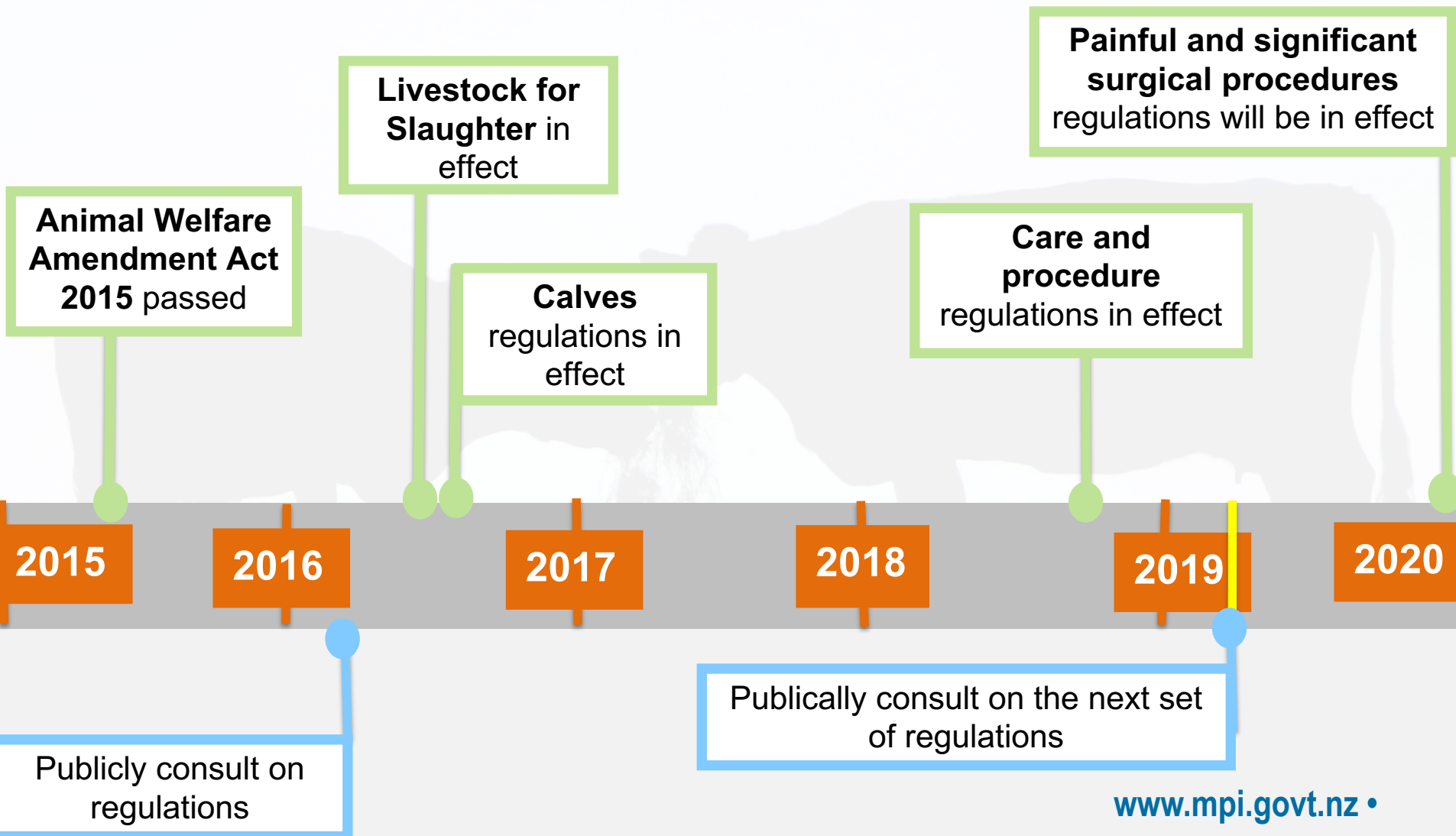
Infringement  
\$300

Infringement  
\$500

Regulation  
prosecution

Compliance notice

# Regulation timeframe



# Regulations relating to sheep already in force

- Sheep with ingrown horns
  - Infringement offence, \$500 infringement fine
- Prohibition on the use of traction in lambing
  - Regulatory prosecution, possible criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3,000 for an individual
- Restrictions on sheep castration over 6 months of age
  - Regulatory prosecution, possible criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3,000 for an individual
- Prohibition on mulesing sheep
  - Regulatory prosecution, possible criminal conviction and fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual

# Stock transport regulations

- Injuries from transport
- Injuries from horned animals during transport
- Prevention of back rub
- Restrictions on transporting animals:\*
  - with ingrown horns
  - with injured or bleeding horns
  - that are lame
  - in late pregnancy
  - with injured or diseased udders
  - with eye cancer
- Infringement offences attracting a \$500 fine

# Significant Surgical Procedures

## **Section 16 of the Act – Criteria to determine whether a procedure is a significant surgical procedure (will come into force on 9 May 2020)**

If any person has to determine whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure under this Act, the person must determine the question by considering the following criteria:

- (a) whether the procedure has the potential to—
  - (i) cause significant pain or distress; or
  - (ii) cause serious or lasting harm, or loss of function, if not carried out by a veterinarian in accordance with recognised professional standards; and
- (b) the nature of the procedure, including whether this involves—
  - (i) a surgical or operative procedure below the surface of the skin, mucous membranes, or teeth or below the gingival margin; or
  - (ii) physical interference with sensitive soft tissue or bone structure; or
  - (iii) significant loss of tissue or loss of significant tissue.



Look familiar?

# Regulations to *allow* the status quo to continue

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



## Proposed Animal Welfare Regulations (Care & Conduct and Surgical & Painful Procedures)

MPI Discussion Paper No: 2016/12

Prepared for public release by the Ministry for Primary Industries

ISBN No: 978-1-77665-218-1 (online)  
ISSN No: 2253-3923 (online)  
ISBN No: 978-1-77665-219-8 (print)  
ISSN No: 2253-3915 (print)

April 2016

- Discussion document to be released in (roughly) May 2019
- Allowing a competent person to perform certain procedures
- New pain relief requirements

# We want to hear from you!

## Current sheep proposals include:

- Teat removal (including supernumerary teats)
- Treating vaginal prolapses (bearings)
- Rules around surgical reproductive procedures
- Restrictions on lamb tail docking (including a proposed minimum length)
- Restrictions on disbudding and dehorning sheep (including a pain relief requirement)

# We want to hear from you!

- Public consultation May 2019
- Targeted stakeholder consultation
- Ask me a question, I'm here all day! (and tomorrow)

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A photograph of a white sheep standing in a green grassy field. The sheep is facing the camera and has a small white tag on its ear with the number 117. In the background, there are tall, thin trees and a clear blue sky. A dark blue rounded rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word "Thanks!" in white text.

**Thanks!**