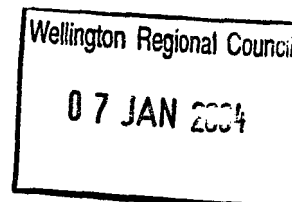




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



File: LSS-03 HOS-2

6 January 2004

Chief Executive
Greater Wellington - The Regional Council
P.O. Box 11 646
WELLINGTON

FILE REF:	
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Doc No. 18904	
Referred to	Date/In
D. Harris	20/1

**Nomination for Membership of the Department of Conservation's
Animal Ethics Committee**

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the leading central government agency responsible for the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. One of the Department's key priorities is to improve the state of protected areas with a special emphasis on eliminating or controlling weeds and animal pests. Where this does not ensy&the survival of native species, the Department develops threatened species programmes. Thus for animals, the Department seeks to improve the status of indigenous species and control or eliminate pests. As a consequence, staff of the Department conduct animal "research, testing and teaching" (as deftned in the Animal Welfare Act 1999) to improve the status of threatened species, to seek efficient and humane methods of controlling or eliminating pests, and to provide training for its staff on animal handling techniques.

Such work, as required under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, is conducted with regard to an approved Code of Ethical Conduct which involves the establishment and maintenance of an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). While appointments **to the Committee are** made by the Department, the Act specifies that the Committee must have a minimum membership of four people, one of whom must be:

- o A person nominated by a territorial authority or regional council. This person must not be employed by, or associated with, the Department nor associated with the scientific community or an animal welfare agency. The intent is that this person should bring the perspective of a member of the public.

The Department's long-standing, AEC public representative recently stood down (pressure of other work) and the Department is seeking a replacement.

The Department would welcome nominations of people the Council considers suitable to act as a member of our AEC - a member who would represent the perspective of the public.

Science and Technical Centre

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The functions of the Department's AEC are:

- o To consider and make decisions on project applications (projects that involve the manipulation of live animals for "research, testing and teaching" purposes).
- o To set, vary and revoke conditions of project approvals.
- o To monitor compliance with conditions of project approvals.
- o To monitor animal management practices and facilities to ensure compliance with the terms of the Department's Code of Ethical Conduct
- o To consider and determine applications for the renewal of project approvals.
- o To recommend to the Department amendments to its Code of Ethical Conduct

The Committee meets in Wellington two or three times annually, dependent upon the amount of business before it Members' travel and other expenses are reimbursed and a daily fee paid for meeting and preparatory work. Further details relating to membership are available from the AEC Chair.

The Department would greatly appreciate receiving any nomination, or nominations the Council may have by Friday 20 February 2004.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on any matters requiring clarification.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Newman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Newman
Science Manager Species
Chair DOC Animal Ethics Committee