



## AEC and Researchers

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## The AEC of UNE

- AEC for University researchers incl marine centre
- AEC for Veterinary Health Research (private company – testing products for registration)
- Others eg Council, Tamworth Vet Practice
- Applications submitted up to 9 days prior to meeting
- Meets last Friday each month – can ring researchers
- Result of meeting reported following Tuesday
- Typical agenda – approx 300 pages, 15-20 applications
- Approved/subject to preconditions/rejected
- Responses to preconditions assessed by Executive –Chair and 3 members

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## The AEC of UNE

- Animals in facilities on and off campus
- Sheep, cattle, pigs, horses, chickens, wildlife, marine animals, laboratory rodents, dogs, marmosets, finches, lungfish
- Some local/ distant within NSW/interstate
- Site inspections – campus and local region
- Distant site inspections have been arranged occasionally
- UNE has no Animal Welfare officer

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NSW DPI	<i>Good Application</i>	<i>Bad Application</i>
	Clear	Too wordy
	Concise	Questions not answered correctly – ignorance, sloppiness, cut & paste Obviously not read by all that have signed Wastes committee’s time
	On time	Overuse of animals
	Well planned – no excess use of animals, SOPs followed	Background reviews not done eg toxicity
	Clear tables of procedures	Photocopied signatures and date stamp

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## Good experiences

- A well functioning AEC
- Well presented applications
- Inspection of animals and facilities majority very good
- Good daily record keeping
- Well thought out and executed experiments
- Many non-invasive experiments
- Well reported

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**NSW DPI** **Bad experiences**

- Animal welfare problems – not keeping day sheets/ filling them in after the event
- Poor investigation of disease and death
- Poor public relations – poor quarantine/ infecting neighbours sheep with lice
- Researchers viewing committee as a “Rubber stamp”
- In past VHR paid extra to have submissions tabled on day of meeting and demanded out-of-session meetings

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**NSW DPI** **Bad experiences**

- Bullying/Intimidating behaviour towards secretary and AEC
- Approaching ProVC to put pressure on AEC
- Dishonesty – eg Playing AEC against National Parks and WIRES
- Researcher refusing site inspection
- Researchers not “doing homework” resulting in unnecessary deaths from toxicity
- Not following protocol that was approved
- Not using approved restraint/ not following SOP
- Researchers listed not correct – others actually doing work

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**NSW DPI** **Bad experiences**



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## Improvements

- Code strictly adhered to
- Application form improved
- Pre-conditions can be approved by Executive between meetings
- SOPs updated

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## My recommendations

- Interstate and distant projects to be approved and overseen by a local AEC committee
- UNE really requires an Animal Welfare officer to oversee projects
- Each researcher listed must sign and date a declaration that they have read the application –photocopied signatures and date stamps to be rejected
- Research projects need to have funding for proper disease/death investigations

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