

Meeting minutes

6 March 2025

Firearms Community Advisory Forum

9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Meeting details	Thursday 6 March 2025 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
In attendance	<p>FCAF members</p> <p>Adam Smith – Mountain Safety Council Antonia Kohler – Youth Representative Chris Clearwater – Target Shooting NZ Daryl May – National Rifle Association Gary Elmes – Pistol NZ Gwyn Thurlow – New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Joe Green – Firearms Safety Council Lindsay Keats – National Service Rifle Association Phil Holland – Federated Farmers Roger Duxfield – Hunting Guides / Game Animal Council Steve Goodman – Council of Licensed Firearms Owners Vicki Mackay – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Zhala Sharifi – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke</p> <p>Catherine Petrey – Strategic Advisor Firearms Charlotte Etheridge – Management Assistant & Coordinator Douglas Brett – Senior Partnerships Advisor Ewan Kelsall – Manager Partnerships John Herbert – Senior Partnerships Advisor Kendra Hill (Chair) – Senior Partnerships Advisor Mike McIlraith – Director Partnerships Mike Tarttelin – Clubs & Ranges Manager Nopera Hauwaho – Senior Partnerships Advisor – Iwi</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Jenna Marsh (NZ Police) Katie Gunatunga (Ministry of Justice) Nicole Doriguzzi (Minute Taker) Rose Stainer (Ministry of Justice)</p>

Apologies	Andrew Bakker – NZ Handloaders Association Andrew Edgecombe – NZ Antique and Historical Arms Association Arthur Cozens – NZ Clay Target Association Corina Jordan – Fish & Game Dave Benfell – Health and Wellbeing Representative Kirsty Marshall – NZ Customs Hunting & Fishing Pete Thomas – Department of Conservation Piripi Curtis – Whakatupato Representative Peter Furley – Importer Representative Piper Benbow – Youth Representative Sharron-Davie Martin – Rural Women New Zealand
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MEETING MINUTES	
Item 1	Karakia, welcome, apologies, introduction of new members, processes, and meeting rules
Discussion	The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a karakia.
Actions	No action items.
Item 2	Confirm previous action points
Discussion	<p>The Forum noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 5 September 2024 had been confirmed by email as a true and accurate record and are published on the website.</p> <p>https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/about-us/firearms-community-advisory-forum-fcaf</p> <p>The Forum discussed the Actions from previous meetings (see Table at end).</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 3	Partnerships and Communities Updates
Discussion	<p>Roar and duck safety campaigns:</p> <p>Following last year's successful campaign, we are continuing the foundational messaging – our key safety messages remain the same:</p>

	<p>Plan Safe > Act Safe > Stay Safe. This year there is also a key focus on target identification.</p> <p>There will be a media release on Monday (10 March) with mainstream media coverage. This year we are increasing our presence on social media with digital, targeted advertising on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and TradeMe. We also have paid advertising in spaces including rural publications, radio and social media.</p> <p>Planning for the Game Bird season is underway. Our main message will be about having a plan for the maimai and being organised – <i>Don't Wing It</i>. The idea behind this is about someone in the maimai looking after safety and having responsibility, calling people out on unsafe behaviour. The duck safety campaign will have media coverage in the week before the season begins.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>The Forum discussed how to keep the messages fresh. Most shooting accidents involve a hunter shooting their friend and it is viewed that experience increases mental shortcuts – if you are looking for a deer, you will see a deer. Hunters should always identify their target beyond all doubt. The forum noted there are some studies about this.</p> <p>Thermal imaging:</p> <p>Thermal imaging devices are used by recreational hunters to locate animals. There are hand-held and rifle-mounted devices.</p> <p>There have been some accidents recently involving thermal imaging devices so we have been working with the Recreational Firearms Users Working Group to understand what communication and education we can do.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>A large trial of thermal images has been completed in the South Island through 'SARS'. They are looking to commission the best product and integrate thermal technology into their search and rescue work. Deer Stalkers will circulate a link.</p> <p>Rural lifestyle properties information on our website:</p>
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	<p>There is a changing rural landscape as large properties are being broken down into smaller blocks, changing demographics in people living in these areas.</p> <p>We have added information on our website that covers information for landowners, firearms users, and neighbours. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/shooting-rural-lifestyle-properties-or-small-holdings</p> <p>Health and well-being: <u><i>Mental Hunts Q&A video series has been released</i></u> Last year Mental Hunts released a longform YouTube video with the Firearms Safety Authority, providing information for firearms licence holders.</p> <p>They have released a follow up Q&A series with the Firearms Safety Authority. This breaks down some of the key concepts, related to health and firearms, to 2-minute videos. You can find the video series here: https://www.youtube.com/@MentalHunts/videos</p> <p><u><i>Re:News regions series released – South Canterbury highlighting a young hunter who had struggled with his mental health</i></u> In mid-2024, our Pou Kōtui – Senior Partnerships Advisor, Kendra Hill, was filmed as part of a Re: News docuseries project about the lives of regional rangatahi and what it can be like growing up in small-town New Zealand.</p> <p>This video focuses on a young hunter who avoided seeking mental health support out of fear of losing their firearms licence. For Te Tari Pūreke a really important point is that mental health conditions are not uncommon.</p> <p>Our key message is for people to always seek help from a health professional. If firearms licence holders are struggling, there are some proactive things they – and those around them – can do before ending up down the path of revocation.</p> <p>Re:News The Regions: https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/the-regions 1 News Hunters fear losing guns for seeking mental health help but needn't: https://www.1news.co.nz/2025/02/20/hunters-fear-losing-guns-for-seeking-mental-health-help-but-neednt/</p>
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Speaker series with Department of Corrections

In February 2025 we ran a speaker series with the Department of Corrections health professionals.

This included 3 sessions where we spoke about: Firearms licensing, firearms use and access, health practitioner requirements and notifications followed with a question & answer session.

Advice on reporting concerns with firearms use is here:

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/contact-us>

Deceased estate information:

Changes were made to the Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992 to set out the obligations for executors, administrators, and enduring power of attorney. This advises what to do with firearms belonging to a deceased person.

DIA now has information for licences holders, executors, and powers of attorney on information websites it manages:

- What to organise before you die
<https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/death-and-bereavement/what-to-organise-before-you-die/>
- End of life services – create my plan
<https://endoflife.services.govt.nz/create-my-plan#phase-428>
- Probate and wills <https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/death-and-bereavement/probate-and-wills/>
- What you need to do when someone dies
<https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/death-and-bereavement/what-you-need-to-do-when-someone-dies/>
- Enduring power of attorney (EPA) for property
<https://www.govt.nz/browse/family-and-whanau/enduring-power-of-attorney-epa-for-property/>

Public Trust and Perpetual Guardian have or are close to completing revisions of their instructions for making and administering wills and EPOA. Citizens Advice Bureau have information on their website. Law Society and FDANZ have provided information to their members. This now gives people clear steps and lets them know they have obligations.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

This has been discussed previously with the forum, so it is great to see.

The storage requirements and safety basics are also included in the information provided to anyone that has acquired a deceased person's firearms. However, a more concise document on storage would be beneficial.

Te Tari Pūreke noted that

1. there is a team within the compliance function that specifically handles deceased firearms enquiries.
2. there are newly created stickers with the basic storage and transport safety rules; these will be handed out to the public with the idea they will be put on the gun safe.

Visitors' process update:

Work has taken place to identify how the process can be improved.

The visitor licence inbox (firearms@police.govt.nz) has updated their auto reply to include timeframes for turnarounds and the information provided online in being looked at currently.

It was acknowledged that the website could be improved, and information be more user friendly. The actual licensing process for visitors will still need improving.

It was noted there is a large international shooting event in NZ in 2026 and this will require significant planning.

Information about exiting NZ with firearms:

Information for licence holders leaving NZ with arms items and ammunition is currently being reviewed. It includes information about permits that are required and the actions the arms holder needs to do. This is targeted at international visitors and people within New Zealand existing and returning. Once finalised this information will be available on the website.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

Some forum members requested to be a part of the review process for this information.

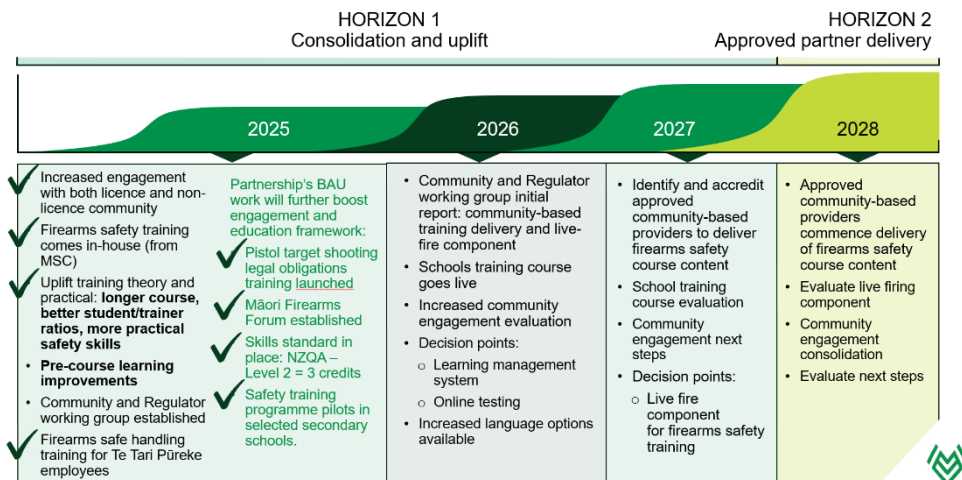
	<p>Museum display and storage guidance:</p> <p>Latest draft of the <i>Guide for the Display and Storage of arms items in Museums</i> was circulated to stakeholders in early December 2024.</p> <p>The stakeholder group had until 14 February 2025 to provide feedback. We received 9 responses (several from groups of stakeholders) and in all 200 comments and suggestions. All suggestions were made in a positive manner.</p> <p>We are evaluating the feedback and look to eliminate duplications, explain terminology clearly and make greater use of flow charts and case studies to enhance readability.</p> <p>Guidance on the display and storage of military artillery and firearms for the RNZRSA:</p> <p>We currently have a draft of the <i>Guidance on the display and storage of military artillery and firearms</i>. The document will shortly be submitted for approval to publish. It will then made available to all RSAs.</p> <p>Dealer Pānui:</p> <p>A dealer specific Pānui has been established. There were two editions in 2024 and the next one will be published shortly. The first two editions have been well received with the first and second edition having 87% and 84% open rates respectively. There are 228 total email subscribers (at 6 March 2025).</p> <p>You can find the Dealer Pānui here: https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/news-and-publications/dealer-panui</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>No further comments for this agenda item from the forum.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer Stalkers to share link on SARS thermal imaging study. • Exiting NZ information to be shared with forum members who want to review it.
Item 4	Firearms safety, engagement, and education pathway
Discussion	Firearms safety training delivery will change

Engagement took place last year with stakeholder groups and after the feedback was considered changes were announced at the end of 2024. The goal is to evolve firearms safety engagement and education in partnership with the firearms community.

We've made strong progress in safety education and engagement since our announcement in December:

- Over many months, we canvassed feedback from all our stakeholder groups: firearms and non-firearms community.
- We involved you, AEG, as well as the Firearms Community Advisory Forum, Police Muslim Reference Group, Māori Firearms Forum, Ministers Arms Advisory Group, and subscribers to our Firearms Pānui, our digital communications channel.
- We reached out to 160 recent firearms licence applicants to capture feedback on their recent experience entering the firearms community.
- We announced changes at the end of 2024.

We're making progress on our plans:



Secondary Schools' firearms safety training pilot

- We have been working with schools to create a fit for purpose schools-based course.
- When participants complete the schools' course, they will gain 3 credits at Level 2 of NCEA.
- Once the course is completed, participants will have 24 months to apply for their licences.
- Pilots planned / completed:
 - 8 March: at Kaitiaki Guides Ltd, Ohakune.
 - 27 March: Fielding High School

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 31 March: Wairarapa College (Minister McKee attending) ○ 2 April: Palmerston North Boys High School ○ 5 April: Hawkes Bay Clay Target Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll soon pilot firearms safety testing in some secondary schools and we look forward to sharing the results of our pilots as we progress. <p>Strong progress reaching rural and isolated communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past, we've delivered 10 Whakatūpato courses each year. We are now delivering 1-2 courses a month and are on track to deliver double the number of courses in 2025. • The inaugural Whakatūpato course in the South Island has just taken place (8-9 March). • Recent and upcoming Whakatūpato courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15/16 February, Tokomaru Bay ○ 22 February, Wairarapa ○ 8/9 March, Tapawera, Nelson ○ 5/6 April, Kaikohe, Northland ○ May, Te Araroa, Gisborne • We said we were going to increase our education and engagement in rural and isolated communities: we're making good progress but there is still more to do. <p>Pistol shooting endorsement training materials launched</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training workbook, Obligations of a Pistol Target Shooting Endorsement Holder, is designed to help new pistol club members learn about and understand their legal obligations as an endorsement holder. • New (and existing) club members can download a copy of the workbook free from our website, to use during training, or refer to through their shooting career. • This piece of work was developed in conjunction with Pistol NZ and the independent clubs and went live on 1 March. • Five legislative obligations-related questions have been added to the Pistol NZ and the independent pistol clubs initial training examinations. • AEG members who wish to review the material can access it on our website https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-
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	<p><u>apply/endorsements/pistol-target-shooting-endorsement/pistol-target-shooting-obligations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work is a great example of what we can achieve when we work together with our stakeholders to enhance safety and compliance outcomes for New Zealanders. <p>Firearms safety training delivery will change</p> <p>We are developing inhouse capability for engagement and education purposes. Safety outcomes are front of mind for the safe use and access for the right people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Safety Council (MSC) have been instrumental in bringing structure, consistency, and professionalism to our safety courses across the country. We couldn't have evolved firearms training for new Zealanders without them working alongside us as a trusted partner. • Te Tari Pūreke will set up online booking system using the same platform as existing system used by MSC and firearms safety course attendees for the past seven years. • We are working through the implementation plan to deliver a seamless transition. • Safety training will be adjusted to longer courses (six hour duration, up from three hours) with smaller instructor-student ratios (1:10, down from 1:15). Courses will be more aligned to the Whakatūpato training. • Instructors delivering the new courses will be supported to deliver the longer courses with inductions and updated training material. • MSC will support their direct-contracted instructors through the transition period. <p><i>What this means for Mountain Safety Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSC's contract with NZ Police, which expires at the end of June 2025, will end. • The Te Tari Pureke inhouse model will need people with the right skillsets to run the training. • Te Tari Pūreke continues to work with and promote MSC into the future, as their outdoor safety expertise is something everyone could benefit from. <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p>
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	<p>Forum members raised their concerns about some of the changes to training delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility and cost: What justification is there to increase safety training from 3 hours to 6 hours and what is the additional cost? If the course is made too hard to access, then people will not do it but will still use their firearm. <i>Te Tari Pūreke noted the increase in hours of the firearms safety course for first time applicants (this includes people who have let their licence lapse) is in response to attendee and trainer feedback that the course was too short and rushed, the cost is not available today. The courses will run on both weekdays and weekends to increase accessibility.</i> Live fire exercises and gun handling: It is not the job of Te Tari Pūreke to teach people how to handle firearms safety, this should be the role of the clubs. Te Tari Pūreke should focus on regulations and safety, or they are overstepping their role. <i>Te Tari Pūreke noted it is not of the view that live fire exercises would be delivered by them. As part of the education pathway, it is something that could be considered in future to be delivered by approved providers in the community. The education pathway has indicated steps that will be taken over a number of years, this has indicated potential options available in future but they are not set and final.</i> <p><i>This conversation was closed at this point due to time constraints but will be continued under general business.</i></p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 5	Clubs & Ranges
Discussion	<p>The Clubs & Ranges team was established in August 2022. Throughout this time, we have gone from little visibility of range locations, and we now have a clearer picture of where ranges are across the country. The spread of these generally reflects where licence holders are located across the country.</p> <p>Data from 05/03/2025:</p>

	Total active ranges	1222
	Total Shooting Range Operators	341
	Shooting Range Operator applications received (awaiting certification)	21 (for 70 ranges)
	Total pistol ranges certified	404
	Total non-pistol ranges certified	727
	Certified ranges that are awaiting inspection	551
	Uncertified ranges awaiting inspection	70
	Total ranges to be inspected (certified & uncertified) excluding pistol	621
	Total non pistol ranges inspected this FY	121
	Total pistol ranges inspected this FY	12
	<p>NZ Police shooting range manual</p> <p>Minor changes have been made to the content and it will shortly go out for consultation with the Clubs & Ranges Engagement Group. The feedback will then be considered and implemented.</p> <p>Range inspection update</p> <p>Inspections are currently not raising many issues; there were only 4 safety improvement notices issued in the 100 completed in December. There was one safety breach which had potential to cause injury and that is now resolved.</p> <p>Clubs & Ranges Amendment Bill</p> <p>This has passed its second reading in Parliament. We are not yet aware of what the Regulations will be. Processes, notifications, and forms will need to be modified to reflect any changes.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>No comments from the forum.</p>	
Actions	No action items.	
Item 6	Ministry of Justice – Policy update	
Discussion	<p>Ministry of Justice joined the meeting and provided a brief update on their work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 2 of the Clubs & Ranges Amendment Bill: This is currently in its second reading. Phase 4 rewrite of the Act: thank you to everyone that submitted. The submissions are currently being reviewed. Phase 3 Firearms Registry Review: This has been completed and provided to the Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms) and it is 	

	<p>now awaiting her feedback. The transfer of Te Tari Pūreke and the best place for it to be located is still in progress. Once it has gone through Cabinet it will be available to the public.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>No comments from the forum.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 7	NZ Police – Policy update
Discussion	<p>NZ Police joined the meeting and provided a brief update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is largely business as usual. • The Policy team is continuing to provide advice where needed and contact appropriate subject matter experts for input on areas where required. <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>No comments from the forum.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 8	General Business

Discussion	<p>Firearms Pānui</p> <p>A Pānui is going out today. We have updated the numbers section to provide more and clearer information on statistics. Find the Firearms Pānui here: https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/news-and-publications/firearms-panui</p> <p>Licence processing time</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted that a large percentage of applications are still being received in paper format. There are a number of reasons people may submit their application via paper and post, but it should be noted that often those applications will take longer to complete due to time to receive the application via post and often the paper forms are incomplete.</p> <p>Licence holders are notified via email 3 months prior to expiry to renew their licence before it expires. The forum was asked to communicate this to their networks.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>The forum raised whether ethnicity should be asked for on the application.</i></p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke commented that there are privacy laws around this, and constraints on what we can ask that contribute to the licensing process and decision and race isn't one of those that we can ask. It is not something that will be perused at this time to change it.</p> <p>Agenda items</p> <p>The Chair reminded forum members that they can contribute or request agenda items for any of the FCAF meetings.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum general business items</p> <p>Airports</p> <p>There have been some reported issues with aviation staff. Moving forward it is proposed Te Tari Pūreke train the aviation staff that are tasked with checking firearms.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke commented that airlines have their own requirements. The regulator has tried to engage with some airlines to clarify information such as how the firearms licence checker works to validate a licence status.</i></p>
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	<p>It was noted that hotel staff also need to understand legislation and safe storage of firearms. It would help if there was a simple document to educate senior management of hotel staff. It was suggested a discussion with the travel minister take place to get traction on airlines understanding and implementing legislation.</p> <p>How to dispose of unwanted firearms and other arms items</p> <p>A question was asked about disposing of unwanted firearms. The forum members were pointed to information on the website: https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/disposal-illegally-held-or-unwanted-firearms</p> <p>Permits</p> <p>There was feedback from the forum where they are aware of visitors leaving NZ with firearms and ammunition, they have the required permits but are then interrogated on leaving about where they used their ammunition. Is there a way of communicating to the departing inspector at customs that this is not necessary? It was suggested a volume of ammunition (maximum weight) be considered on the application rather than quantity.</p> <p><i>This discussion will be continued offline.</i></p> <p>Arms Officer</p> <p>One member of the Forum has had an issue with a particular Arms Officer requesting inappropriate information for an event. They have also sent old application forms and shared these forms with their colleagues. A public event was almost cancelled due to the complications that arose from this.</p> <p><i>Due to time constraints, Te Tari Pūreke offered to pick this one offline to understand the issue and determine what actions might follow.</i></p> <p>Arms Engagement Group (AEG)</p> <p>The Forum asked whether it would be possible to have a joint FCAF/AEG meeting. They agreed there would be value in having a joint meeting with the Arms Engagement Group, it would allow different perspectives and knowledge sharing.</p> <p><i>FCAF Chair will speak with the AEG Chair to canvas interest from AEG members and report back.</i></p> <p>Gunsmiths refused permits to convert prohibited items to non-prohibited.</p> <p>A member asked why gunsmiths have been refused permits to convert firearms with tubular magazines with capacity greater than 10 for rifles</p>
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	<p>and five for shotguns. These are prohibited firearms under the current legislation.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke commented noted that in 2019 there was a window of opportunity to do this but that has expired as per the legislation. Section 10 of the legislation says a gunsmith cannot take a prohibited gun.</i></p> <p>Other members noted this section has had submissions to the Arms Act Rewrite to change this so there is a possibility this may be reviewed.</p> <p>Live fire / training (discussion continued)</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke noted it is not of the view that live fire exercises would be delivered by them. As part of the education pathway, it is something that could be considered in future and it is imagined this would be delivered by approved providers in the community. There would be a piece of work to understand what is needed and create a framework and process. Nothing has been decided at this point and all options need to be considered and investigated. A working group will be put together which will include interested community members to help understand all aspects of this topic.</i></p> <p>Safety training is knowledge but what evidence is there that on-range training is needed? What is the benefit of live fire training; are the safety outcomes changing?</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke noted some applicants have had no experience firing a gun before attending training so it is an important part of understanding firearm possession. There is a changing demographic, and it is important to get in front of it.</i></p> <p>A forum member noted hunting fatalities are down per year so, there is a place for some kind of training, but the point is focusing on the actual problem. We need to look at where is the cost benefit and what is the point. The government should not step in and overregulate where it is not needed. Volunteer instructors in the community (MSC) have reduced the number of deaths dramatically so what is the safety outcome of double the training time and then making people go on range.</p>
Actions	Chairs of AEG and FCAF to discuss possible joint meeting.
	Meeting closed
ACTION ITEMS	

05/09/2024	Circulate the presentation slides to the Forum with narrative added.	Forum Chair	Complete. Sent to the forum.
05/09/2024	Look into adding gun licence version number to the buyer form (permit to possess).	Forum Chair	Complete. This feedback has been provided to the relevant team.
05/09/2024	Send the Forum the automatic email that is sent when a person has an activating circumstance.	Forum Chair	Complete. Sent to the forum 03/03/2025
05/09/2024	Send the Forum a document on the exact processes for selling and transferring Firearms.	Forum Chair	Complete. Forum was emailed. Information can be found here: When a firearm changes hands
05/09/2024	Recreational Firearms Users Working Group to meet and discuss thermal imaging.	Te Tari Pūreke – Manager Partnerships	Complete. An update was provided at today's meeting.
05/09/2024	Consider how to make information accessible e.g. audio book.	Forum Chair	Complete. This feedback has been provided to the relevant team.
06/03/2025	NZ Deer Stalkers Association representative to share link on thermal imaging study.	NZDA	
06/03/2025	Share with forum members the Exiting New Zealand draft content.	Forum Chair	Complete. Information has been shared and reviewed by FCAF members that requested it.
06/03/2025	Chairs of AEG and FCAF to discuss possible joint meeting.		

End.

