

Meeting minutes

26 / 06 / 2025

Firearms Community Advisory Forum

9:30am–12:00pm

Meeting details	26 June 2025 09:30am–12:00pm
In attendance	<p>FCAF members</p> <p>Andrew Bakker – McLeans Island Shooting Club (previously NZ Handloaders Association)</p> <p>Andrew Edgecombe – NZ Antique and Historical Arms Association</p> <p>Antonia Kohler – Youth Representative</p> <p>Arthur Cozens – NZ Clay Target Association</p> <p>Gary Elmes – Pistol NZ</p> <p>Hugh Devereux-Mack – COLFO / NZDA</p> <p>Joe Green – Firearms Safety Council</p> <p>Kirsty Marshall – NZ Customs</p> <p>Lindsay Keats – National Service Rifle Association</p> <p>Pete Thomas – Department of Conservation</p> <p>Phil Holland – Federated Farmers</p> <p>Richie Cosgrove – Fish & Game Representative</p> <p>Roger Duxfield – Hunting Guides / Game Animal Council</p> <p>Sharron-Davie Martin – Rural Women New Zealand</p> <p>Zhala Sharifi – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority</p> <p>Kendra Hill – Senior Partnerships Advisor (Chair)</p> <p>Catherine Petrey – Strategic Advisor Firearms</p> <p>Charlotte Etheridge – Management Assistant and Coordinator</p> <p>Douglas Brett – Senior Partnerships Advisor</p> <p>Ewan Kelsall – Manager Partnerships</p> <p>John Herbert – Senior Partnerships Advisor</p> <p>Mike Tarttelin – Clubs & Ranges Manager</p> <p>New Zealand Police</p> <p>Jenna Marsh – Senior Policy Advisor</p>
Apologies	<p>Adam Smith – Mountain Safety Council</p> <p>Chris Clearwater – Target Shooting NZ</p> <p>Daryl May – National Rifle Association of New Zealand</p> <p>Dave Benfell – Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Gwyn Thurlow – New Zealand Deerstalkers Association</p> <p>Hunting & Fishing</p> <p>Mike McIlraith – Director Partnerships, Te Tari Pūreke</p> <p>Peter Furley – Importer</p> <p>Piper Benbow – Youth Representative</p> <p>Piripi Curtis – Whakatupato Representative</p> <p>Steve Goodman – Council of Licensed Firearms Owners</p>

Item 1	Welcome, apologies, introduction of new members, processes, and meeting rules
Discussion	The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a karakia.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 2	Confirm previous action points
Discussion	<p>The Forum noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 6 March 2025 had been confirmed by email as a true and accurate record and are published on the website. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/about-us/firearmscommunity-advisory-forum-fcaf</p> <p>The Forum discussed the Actions from previous meetings (see Table at end).</p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 3	Partnerships and Communities Updates
Discussion	<p>Transport and storage guide</p> <p>Thank you to everyone that has provided feedback so far. The firearms and ammunition storage and transportation guide has been updated and the new version is available on the Te Tari Pureke website. This Forum, as well as others, were consulted with and have driven these changes and additions.</p> <p>The Guide now has certainty around the construction of safes, ammunition storage requirements and clearer advice for display of firearms (this includes disabled firearms). It also includes key storage advice, noting the keys to the firearms and ammunition must be kept separate from each other, as well as advice for airguns. It is important storage is practical and not a cumbersome process so firearm users are more likely to safely secure their firearms and ammunition every time that they use them.</p> <p>Sessions have been run with internal staff to ensure they are aware of the changes to internal processes and that there is a consistent message around the country. There will be a public launch for the Firearms community to promote the changes to the guide; the date is yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>Is there advice for accommodation providers? <i>Te Tari Pūreke noted this is a separate piece of work.</i></p> <p>Storage and transport stickers</p> <p>Stickers to remind licence holders of the requirements for the safe storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition have been developed.</p> <p>The idea is for these to be placed in locations to help licence holders remember their</p>

	<p>obligations – these can be stuck in convenient places such as in or on gun safes, ammunition secure storage boxes or firearms transport cases or bags.</p> <p>These will be available to Te Tari Pūreke staff initially to hand out during interactions with licence holders.</p> <p>Airline travel when a firearms licence is under renewal</p> <p>Air New Zealand have now updated their processes for check in of a firearm, to allow the use of the Firearms Licence Checker when a licence is under renewal. The licence holder will still need to have their physical licence card with them.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the NZ firearms holder to use the Firearms Licence Checker during the check in process.</p> <p>They can enter their details into the Firearms Licence Checker “Step 2: Seller details”. The Customer Service Agent at Air New Zealand will confirm the licence holders name and number are the same on both the physical licence and the Firearms Licence Checker. They will then need to sight the statement “Seller has been validated”.</p> <p>Please note: Only digital confirmation will be accepted.</p> <p>Travelling with firearms and ammunition is at the airline’s discretion. Each airline has specific rules for the carriage of firearms and ammunition and has the final say on whether firearms are permitted on board. Passengers must check each country they are travelling to/from, to ensure they can travel on an ‘expired’ licence card.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>A member shared a recent experience when flying to Christchurch to collect a firearm. The firearm was checked in inside a lockable case with the bolt removed, however he was not allowed the bolt in his carry on and had to check the bolt in separately in another bag, it is something people need to be aware of to ensure they have a separate checked bag.</p> <p>Auctions guidance document</p> <p>This new document provides guidance on how to run an auction that is compliant with the Arms Act 1983 with a focus on public safety. This includes information on how to meet security requirements, dealer record keeping obligations, firearms registry obligations and the information that must be provided to Te Tari Pūreke to receive consent to run the auction. Feedback has been received and the final document will be rolled out shortly.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>The Forum asked if it includes items that require a permit to possess. <i>Te Tari Pūreke noted that it does.</i></p>
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	<p>New webpages</p> <p>Some new webpages have been published on our website:</p> <p><u>Hunting access and unlawful hunting activities</u> – This page has information for hunters and landowners. Hunters must always have permission to hunt, regardless of who owns or occupies the land – no permission, no access. Any hunting activity that occurs without landowner permission is illegal.</p> <p><u>Travelling overseas with firearms</u> – This page provides licence holders with information about their obligations and other considerations when travelling overseas with firearms. This includes notification of export for their firearms, ensuring they have followed all processes and obtained all permits and approvals for travelling on airlines and entering other countries, and have a permit to import to bring firearms back to New Zealand.</p> <p>Meeting with Wairarapa Rural Police</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke and the Rural Police Manager recently met with landowners in the Wairarapa who have been negatively impacted by unlawful hunting. It was an eye-opening experience and has enabled internal work to be done to make information more readily available including prosecution advice.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>The Forum asked if there is information around lawful hunting and who is liable if lawful hunting is allowed on a property?</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke noted this is not covered on the webpage but there are other agencies that have information on this available: <u>Policy clarification: Recreational access and the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015) WorkSafe</u></i></p> <p>Visitor collateral</p> <p>Website content and collateral to help visitors understand and complete the process for licenses and import permits are being updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before you apply for a visitor's firearms licence – this page is being amended to only reflect information relevant to overseas visitors. • Apply for a visitor's firearms licence – This page is being updated to include specific information to assist complete the application form. • Bringing arms items when you visit New Zealand – corrected and updated information regarding firearms that can be imported. <p>Factsheet – a factsheet (copies distributed to attendees) has been created for visitors to download and keep. This resource is also available to target shooting organisations to include on competition entry websites.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>The Forum discussed whether MFAT could automatically be notified when a visitor</p>
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	<p>brings a Firearm into the country to save multiple forms and double handling. <i>Te Tari Pūreke noted this would be challenging due to information sharing and privacy rules.</i></p> <p><i>It could be possible that a tick box on the application be added to read 'do you consent to MFAT being notified'. There would be a lot of work required to further this, but the discussion has been started.</i></p> <p>The Forum noted there are still issues with the import permit requiring the applicant to explain where every bullet has gone that was imported into NZ. It is an exasperating issue that is on-going and requires further discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.</p> <p>Shooters with disabilities</p> <p>We have started looking at how current legislation and our approach impact shooters living with an impairment resulting from a medical condition or injury. Discussions have been held with a para-athlete about para-shooting. We have started reviewing how we approach various aspects of the licencing journey to understand the barriers people with impairments encounter, and policy impacts. This is an ongoing piece of work at the moment and comments are welcome.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>A Forum member noted safety still needs to be front of mind and the type of shooting and disability restrictions would need to be considered. The legislation does give reasonable flexibility with licences and supervision within New Zealand. Sometimes to enter the Paralympics and other international para shooting competitions you must be a firearms licence holder in your home country.</p>
Actions	There were no action items
Item 4	June 2025 obligations: ammunition sales
Discussion	<p>Arms Regulations came into effect on 24 June 2025</p> <p>Arms Regulations 1992 Section 41 (1)(e) Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992/346) (as at 28 June 2024) – New Zealand Legislation</p> <p>Licensed dealers and ammunition sellers are required to record ammunition sales in the Registry, using the Dealer Transactions form, as part of their legal obligations. This Regulation came into effect on and from 24 June 2025.</p> <p>This requirement is referred to in the Arms Regulations 1992 Section 42(3). Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992/346) (as at 28 June 2024) – New Zealand Legislation</p> <p>Licensed dealers are now no longer required to provide to the Police the particulars of all arms items in their possession on or after 24 June 2025. The government has agreed to defer this obligation to 2027.</p>

	<p>Arms Regulations 1992 Section 41(4) Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992/346) (as at 28 June 2024) – New Zealand Legislation.</p> <p>New regulations will be available in due course to reflect this change.</p> <p>Helping our firearms community meet their obligations</p> <p>On 25 June, we emailed licence holders, ammunition sellers and dealers to remind them of their obligations, with links to updated web information.</p> <p>This information included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated 'how to use the Dealer Transactions form' YouTube video for dealers • new Dealer Transactions form video for ammunition sellers on YouTube • Information Sheets for ammunition sellers, dealers and clubs and ranges. <p>The Dealer Transactions form was updated during the evening of 24 June 2025 so that dealers and ammunition sellers can record ammunition sales in the Registry, using the Dealer Transactions form and meet their legal obligations. This is a record of sale, not a registration of ammunition.</p> <p>The record of sale may initiate an activating circumstance notification to licence holders who purchase ammunition after 24 June, if they haven't already had an activating circumstance or purchased an additional arms item requiring registration.</p> <p>Our local team is available to help from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday on the freephone number 0800 844 431.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>Members have a lot of questions and there is confusion around this, a clear message needs to be given so it is understood better. The video explaining the changes has received positive feedback.</p> <p>It is a simple process, and it is just for dealers to notify when ammunition is purchased. There is information available online for dealers, clubs and ranges.</p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 5	Firearms safety, education, and engagement
Discussion	<p>We're making progress on our plans</p> <p>Discussed previously, lots of work has been going on in the firearms safety team. Expanded courses start next month. The School's Pilot is going well and a video has been created with a great response.</p> <p>It is hopeful the schools project will be expanded in 2026. All the feedback received has been very positive and the NCEA credits are a great initiative.</p>

HORIZON 1 Consolidation and uplift		HORIZON 2 Approved partner delivery	
2025		2026	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement with both licence and non-licence community Firearms safety training comes in-house (from MSC) Uplift training theory and practical: longer course, better student/trainer ratios, more practical safety skills Pre-course learning improvements Community and Regulator working group established Firearms safe handling training for Te Tari Pūreke employees 	<p>Partnership's BAU work will further boost engagement and education framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pistol target shooting legal obligations training launched Māori Firearms Forum established Skills standard in place: NZQA – Level 2 = 3 credits Safety training programme pilots in selected secondary schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and Regulator working group initial report: community-based training delivery and live-fire component Schools training course goes live Increased community engagement evaluation Decision points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning management system Online testing Increased language options available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and accredit approved community-based providers to deliver firearms safety course content School training course evaluation Community engagement next steps Decision points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live fire component for firearms safety training
		2028	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved community-based providers commence delivery of firearms safety course content Evaluate live firing component Community engagement consolidation Evaluate next steps 	

been sent out to all clubs and ranges updating them of the changes, but this created a raft of enquiries. A further communication will go out on Monday to all clubs and ranges. Currently certified clubs and ranges have no changes. The processed applications allow us to inspect previously certified ranges that didn't have an inspection; this applies to around 600 and will last for 5 years from inspection.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

Deerstalkers noted that clubs want to know what changes affect them and what reporting changes there will be.

Te Tari Pūreke noted there is no change for certified ranges. If they change their name, they just need to notify them via email.

Policy change

As most firearms community members know, in April 2019, in the immediate aftermath of the Christchurch terror attacks, changes were made to reduce the number of semi-automatic firearms and large capacity magazines in our communities. Large capacity magazines had been exploited in Christchurch mosques attacks and had also been identified as a common feature of many mass casualty shootings in other countries. These changes meant .22 calibre firearms (lever, bolt, and pump actions) with non-detachable tubular magazines of a capacity of more than 10 rounds became 'prohibited' firearms at this time. These .22 calibre firearms wouldn't be prohibited but for the capacity of the tubular magazine.

Recently, Te Tari Pūreke has noted a number of licence holders trying to register their now prohibited .22 calibre firearms – those with large tubular magazines. To assist these licence holders with .22 calibre firearms with large tubular magazines become legally compliant, Te Tari Pūreke has included a new modification pathway.

Licence holders must first register the firearm. They will then be contacted by Te Tari Pūreke Compliance Team and solutions will be discussed.

Licence holders have some other choices, along with the new modification option.

They can also:

- Surrender the firearm to the Police or a dealer for destruction.
- Seek an Heirloom/Memento endorsement and permit (having met the criteria)
- Seek a Collectors endorsement and permit (having met the criteria).

Registering their firearm is the only pathway for modification.

You can find more information on our website:

[What items must be registered | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

	<p><u>Te Tari Pūreke responds to .22 prohibited magazine issue Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand</u></p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>Forum members noted that this was a positive policy change. The Forum has previously noted their concerns about the issue.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke noted that .22 calibre firearms with tubular magazines should be registered as per the current capacity of the magazine. Te Tari Pūreke will then contact the licence holder to discuss their choices, including the option to modify.</i></p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 7	Ministry of Justice – Policy update
Discussion	<p>The Ministry of Justice noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs and ranges: nothing to add. We are working on proactively releasing the cabinet material and it will be available online in the next week or so. The registry review has been completed and the report which presents the findings of the review is now available online – this report is at this link https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Proactive-release-firearms-registry-review_for-release-v2.pdf Rewrite of Act: The last few months have been spent on policy development. The Minister has now confirmed the policy and it is going through Cabinet. It is hoped the Act will be easier to navigate and understand. It is expected there will be an announcement in the next month about the content of this, followed by a proactive release of the Cabinet material. The submissions analysis will also be released next month. <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p>The Forum asked if the tabled Bill then goes through another consultation process? <i>MoJ replied no, just the Select Committee process; the Justice Committee will be the Committee involved.</i></p> <p>The Forum asked how many submissions were received? <i>MoJ replied 8,400 submission and over 700,000 points were raised. The submission analysis was completed by an external consultancy firm.</i></p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 8	NZ Police – Policy update
Discussion	<p>New Zealand Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs and Ranges: We are supporting FSA with updated forms etc. Registry review: We are supporting the FSA with briefing material and responding to feedback as required. Rewrite of Act: we are working with MOJ on what the impacts of proposals will

	be so there is a lot of work going on at the moment to support the FSA.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 9	General Business
Discussion	<p>Text messages from Te Tari Pūreke to licence holders</p> <p>It was noted that some licence holders are receiving texts from Te Tari Pūreke that contain links and there was concern that this looks like spam and people should not click them.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke responded that smart phones will turn anything that looks like it could be a weblink into one. For example, we won't put 'www' on the front of our website address when sending it but phones will continue to turn this into a link which although correct can be construed as a scam and ignored. A reminder that people can always call to check that it was an official text from Te Tari Pūreke. Following this, we will be reviewing some of our text message templates.</i></p> <p>Firearms categorisation</p> <p>FCAF comment: We would like to see better consistency for people transferring firearms between categories, there seems to be confusion between transferring between category B and C in the registry.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke responded that they would require an example of this to be able to respond.</i></p> <p>Registrations over the phone</p> <p>A Forum member noted that some of their firearms registrations had been put in draft and they were confused about this status.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke responded that firearms registrations will be in draft until the registration details are complete. For example, if a person calls to register their firearms and they do not have all the required details, they may be told that their items are in draft, and they can call back with the required details and the registration can be completed. So, if a registration appears in draft, it means it has not been completed.</i></p> <p>Identification markings on firearms</p> <p>The registry requires serial numbers / identification markings but a number of older firearms do not have them.</p> <p><i>There is guidance online for firearms without serial numbers - markings on arms items. Kendra (forum chair) requested she be emailed the details of this.</i></p> <p>Blank vs Live Ammunition</p>

	<p>The terms blank and live are used in the Act but not defined. There is a group in the South Island wanting to do cowboy action shooting but they advise that the group were told that blank ammunition is live so cannot be used. It runs contrary to common sense to say blank is live. The Act as it currently stands does not define it so any ammunition needs a permit to import whether live or blank.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke responded that each arms item will have a permit with specific conditions attached. It was also noted that there are different types of ammunition, and different types of blank ammunition which may or may not be capable of being converted to live fire. This is subject that needs further discussion.</i></p> <p>Increase in vetters referring unlicensed people to free courses</p> <p>Deerstalkers noted people are being referred to their hunts courses and clubs and told by vetters that NZDA can act as referees to help them obtain their licence. As they look to shift and find approved teaching facilities for the training then there needs to be funding available if this is to continue.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke noted that it would be useful for NZDA to send specific examples to Kendra (forum chair) where individuals have specifically been told to join a club before they get a licence, to make it easier for them to obtain a licence. The example given above is not standard practice and does not follow the licensing pathway. Referees are interviewed before the vetting of the licence holder takes place.</i></p> <p>Increased call wait times recently</p> <p>There has been an increase in calls to the registry team, resulting in up to 45 minute wait times.</p> <p><i>Te Tari Pūreke responded that throughout May and June we have seen an unprecedented number of calls to our Registry & Services Team. We are expecting that this increased volume could continue. While we understand that this may cause frustration for licence holders, we're doing everything we can to manage demand and maintain the best possible service.</i></p>
Actions	<p>Actions mentioned above about emailing the chair are optional for forum members who raised this.</p>
Meeting closed	
<p>The Chair thanked for everyone attending and closed the meeting at 12.26 pm with a karakia.</p>	
END	

Actions

	Action	Person responsible	Due date	Status
Meeting: 6 March 2025				
06/03/2025	NZ Deer Stalkers Association representative to share link on thermal imaging study	NZDA	N/A	Unavailable yet, remain open.
06/03/2025	Share with forum members.	Douglas Brett	N/A	Complete. Information has been shared and reviewed by FCAF members that requested it
06/03/2025	Chairs of AEG and FCAF to discuss possible combined meeting.	FCAF Chair	N/A	Discussions about it and will look to do this at a later date, tbc.
Meeting: 26 June 2025				
26/06/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A