

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | September 2025

Kia ora,

In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

- Police action on unlawful hunting
- Firearms diversion
- Firearms Registry reaches milestone
- It's Wild Goat Hunting Season – Join the 2025 National Competition!
- Firearms Safety - Shooting under immediate supervision
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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Police action on unlawful hunting

Over the winter months Police have been active throughout New Zealand targeting areas known for unlawful hunting activity.

Police in the rural areas of Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay, East Coast, West Coast and Southland have encountered a number of offenders, resulting in charges and warnings to hunters acting unlawfully.

Hunters are reminded that they always need permission to hunt on any land, and you must follow the transportation rules every time you are on the road with your firearms. Do it right every time, you never know when Police may be active in your local area.

For more information on hunting access and preventing unlawful hunting see [Hunting access and unlawful hunting activities | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

For advice on transporting firearms safely see [Firearms Safety Authority | Youtube](#)



Firearms diversion

The diversion of firearms to the black market was the focus of a joint Police and Firearms Safety Authority operation in Bay of Plenty and Gisborne during August. Four men have been charged and a firearms dealer has had his licence suspended, pending revocation.

The Authority's Executive Director Angela Brazier said: "We know from the recent review of the Firearms Registry that firearms diversion from licence holders to the black market remains a threat to public safety. The majority of firearms licence holders are good law-abiding people, unfortunately there are still a few who divert firearms to unlicensed offenders." [Read more.](#)

Firearms Registry reaches milestone

Our monthly Firearms Registry Update shows we have reached a notable milestone. The total number of licence holders who have entered details in the Registry has passed the 100,000 mark.

A sizeable proportion, more than 30 percent of those who have registered, did so proactively without waiting for an activating circumstance.

We acknowledge everyone who has completed the Registry so far and are doing their bit to make it harder for unlicensed people to access firearms.

It's Wild Goat Hunting Season – Join the 2025 National Competition!

We are entering the second month of the 2025 National Wild Goat Hunting Competition and it sounds like hunters have been taking advantage of the spring weather and getting out into the hills.

The Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association are working together to organise this event and help tackle these environmental and agricultural pests. We are proud to support this unique opportunity for hunters and landowners to help reduce wild goat numbers, protect the environment, and win!

Remember there are over \$70,000 in prizes are up for grabs, from top-tier hunting gear to unforgettable experiences. We've donated some personal locator beacons to support safe hunting, and other amazing prizes have been generously provided by Hunting & Fishing NZ, Nocpix, M.I.A, Bushnell, Real Meals, NZ Hunter, Hunters Element, and more.

To get your entries in go to www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition.



Firearms safety



Shooting under immediate supervision

Many firearms licence holders like to take new people out with them to introduce them to hunting or shooting but remember anyone who possesses or uses a firearm needs to have a firearms licence unless they are under the immediate supervision of a licence holder.

Shooting under the supervision of an experienced licence holder is how most people first learn how to safely use a firearm, before they apply for their own licence.

Immediate supervision means that the licence holder is:

- physically present and actively supervising the shooter
- close enough to be able to take control of the firearm being used by the shooter if necessary, and
- not using another firearm while providing supervision.

More information here: [Shooting under supervision | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Keep up to date on the latest numbers

On our website we proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the licence holder community, and aspects of the

performance of New Zealand’s firearms regulatory framework. We have provided a snapshot of this data below.

This section contains:

- Active firearms licences summary by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. *This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.*
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

Find more information here: [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Active firearms licences summary | 1 Sept 2025

Individual	226,343
Visitor	22
Dealer*	429
Total	226,794

*A person who has a dealer licence must also have an individual licence.

Firearms licensing completion summary | 1 Sept 2025

	July 2025	Aug 2025
Individual	2,361	2,127
Visitor	25	19
Dealer	18	20

Firearms Registry Update | 1 Sept 2025

Total Firearms Registered	506,239
Total Firearms Parts Registered	15,198
Total Licence Holders Registered	106,850

Total Licence holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.

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