

Meeting minutes

09 / 10 / 2025

Firearms Community Advisory Forum

9:30am-12:30pm

Meeting details	9 October 2025 09:30am-12:30pm
In attendance	<p>FCAF members</p> <p>Andrew Bakker – NZ Handloaders Association Andrew Edgecombe – NZ Antique and Historical Arms Association Gary Elmes – Pistol NZ Hugh Devereux-Mack – Council of Licensed Firearms Owners Steve Goodman – Council of Licensed Firearms Owners Joe Green – Firearms Safety Council Mike Daisley – Mountain Safety Council Pete Thomas – Department of Conservation Phil Holland – Federated Farmers Richie Cosgrove – Fish & Game Representative Roger Duxfield – Hunting Guides / Game Animal Council Sharron-Davie Martin – Rural Women New Zealand Vicki Mackay – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Daryl May – National Rifle Association Gwyn Thurlow – New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Piripi Curtis – Whakatūpato Representative</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority</p> <p>Kendra Hill – Senior Partnerships Advisor (Chair) Catherine Petrey – Strategic Advisor Firearms Charlotte Etheridge – Management Assistant and Coordinator Douglas Brett – Senior Partnerships Advisor Emilia Steer – Senior Partnerships Advisor Ewan Kelsall – Manager Partnerships John Herbert – Senior Partnerships Advisor Mike McIlraith – Director Partnerships Mike Tattelin – Clubs & Ranges Manager</p> <p>New Zealand Police</p> <p>Jenna Marsh – Senior Policy Advisor</p>
Apologies	<p>Antonia Kohler – Youth Representative Arthur Cozens – NZ Clay Target Association Chris Clearwater – Target Shooting NZ Hunting & Fishing Kirsty Marshall – NZ Customs Lindsay Keats – National Service Rifle Association Peter Furley – Importer Piper Benbow – Youth Representative Zhala Sharifi – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p>

Item 1	Karakia and Welcome
Discussion	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a karakia.</p> <p>Attendees introduced themselves and a health and safety briefing was given. The agenda confirmed noting that Chatham House meeting rules apply.</p>
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 26 June 2025 had been confirmed by email as a true and accurate record and are published on the website. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-09/2025%2006%2026%20FCAF%20minutes.pdf</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>Firearms Safety Code update</p> <p>The Firearms Safety Code has been updated and is available in English and Te Reo Māori. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback. The code is more succinct with updated photos and scenarios, hunting at night information has been expanded and Rule 3, chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire, has been clarified.</p> <p>Physical copies can be purchased from Whitcoulls, Paper Plus and Unity Books and some rural stores. It is around \$35. The Code can be printed for free as a pdf from the website. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-11/Firearms%20Safety%20Code%202022.pdf</p> <p>Secure Storage Pamphlet</p> <p>A new Secure Storage pamphlet has been developed; it clearly sets out how to safely store firearms and ammunition and what to do with keys etc. It includes information for licence holders that do not have firearms.</p> <p>https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-07/Firearms-secure-storage-guide.pdf</p> <p>Making it easier for visitors</p> <p>The Forum has previously provided feedback about the visitor licensing process and asked for some short guidance to help applicants understand how to apply. An information sheet has now been created. Thank you to the stakeholders who contributed to this. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/visiting-or-moving-new-zealand/bringing-arms-items-when-you-visit-new-zealand</p>

	<p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>The forum asked is there any progress with multi visit applications?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Yes, legislation requires a licence to be automatically cancelled the moment you leave NZ, but you are now able to have multiple applications at the same time.</p> <p>Health & Firearms</p> <p>The health & firearms pamphlet is in 700+ health clinics across NZ from August–November via MediBoard. The campaign will run from August to November. There has been good uptake with a total of 7,977 pamphlets in circulation – either in the boards or picked up – between August and September.</p> <p>Air travel brochure</p> <p>The travelling with firearms and ammunition domestic air travel information sheet has just gone through an internal review and the next step is the final design and rollout. It is set up as a check list that is easy to read with key points and obligations in bold. Conversations with airlines are taking place to ensure they are on board and understand the rules. The draft version will be circulated to the Forum.</p> <p>Sika Show</p> <p>The Sika Show is 8–9 November; Te Tari Pūreke will be attending with a stand at the same site as last year. The stand will focus on safe handling, storage and transport of firearms and mental health awareness with an interactive family friendly focus.</p> <p>Māori Partnerships Group</p> <p>The Māori Partnerships Group has welcomed a new Senior Advisor to the team. They are working on uplifting staff cultural capability to ensure they have the skills to be culturally safe.</p> <p>There are growing enquiries for the Whakatūpato courses as well as requests for online and post course support. Community engagement has been a focus in the Eastern regions and the group were invited to attend the Karaitiana Tamararo regional kapa haka competition in Tolaga Bay. The team also attended the NASDAP conference to promote the schools course. With the proposed disestablishment of NCEA, this will likely impact the schools course, but as the changes are drip fed there will still be at least 3 years to continue gaining credits. The online Māori Firearm Forum hui took place and went very well.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>The West Coast feel they are being left out and would love more access and engagement.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> There is a member of the Māori Firearms Forum down there and we are keen to hold a Whakatūpato course there in the</p>
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	<p>future; it just needs to be planned.</p> <p>Community trainer initiative</p> <p>We are working to establish a Community and Regulator working group which will collaborate to set up a community-based training delivery model. There was a great number of highly skilled nominations received, and the group will be working hard to create a program that will give community members accreditation to deliver firearms safety training on behalf of the Regulator. The group are volunteers.</p> <p>Safety Animations</p> <p>A series of animations have been developed to illustrate safe use for hunters and assist compliance for firearm users. They will be used on firearm safety courses, social media and YouTube. It is an interactive way to learn about firearms safety and clearly explains the reasons why certain rules are in place. Animations are cost-effective to develop, edit and ensure consistency of style across individual topics.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>It would be great to include thermal imaging in the videos.</i></p> <p><i>The video looks good, but saying to remove the crucial part of the gun when you have a semi-automatic is confusing, an applicable sentence should be added in the video.</i></p> <p><i>How do the police feel about people that shoot from the road but are the owner of the entire farm so know it is safe? It is illegal for anyone to have a loaded firearm in a vehicle or on a public road, and to shoot from the road, however exemptions can be applied for pest control purposes.</i></p> <p><i>Has one been developed to give advice to landowners?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> There is advice on the website though and the number of animations will grow over time.</p> <p><i>Can we give advice for when a hunter unintentionally pops out on private land when they didn't expect to, and it was an accident.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Shooting on private land without permission is illegal and shooters need to take responsibility for knowing where they are. If unsure don't shoot. https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/shooting-rural-lifestyle-properties-or-small-holdings</p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 4	Firearms safety, education, and engagement

Discussion	Safety Course delivery – 1 July 25 to 30 Sept 25
	Total number of courses 206
	Available places 2060
	Bookings received 1778
	Available spaces – not booked 282
	Persons who attended course 1679
	Persons who booked and did not arrive 99
	Occupancy (attendance v available places) 82%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64 schools have expressed interest in the schools program for 2026. The spread across the country is really good and we are open to receiving more school interest for 2026. Work is ongoing to form the Community Working Group to look at developing the community delivery model. The team have been involved in ongoing training to obtain unit standards 4098 Assessor and 11551 Moderation qualifications Wider engagement activities have also commenced with an initial focus on information gathering 12 more Whakatūpato courses are planned to be delivered before the end of December More work will be done in the coming months on information for shooting under supervision. We are working on guidance material for accommodation providers about storage and the legal requirements. There is a draft document that has gone to the legal team.
	<p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>Do we encourage schools to include students from other local schools to attend as well?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> No, we do not but that is something that could be looked at.</p> <p><i>There is a high demand for courses in remote areas.</i></p> <p><i>There was a recent press release which said there is a reduced number of courses? This is incorrect, there are actually additional courses.</i></p> <p><i>There have been a few high-profile incidents recently, how can we make it easier for the average person to use a licence checker to make sure they are loaning their gun to a licence holder?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Yes, any one is able to use the licence checker online via the website, but people need to be aware of it. Air NZs are encouraged to use it as well. Forum members are encouraged to share this with their communities. <i>The Forum suggested this message be included in future communications.</i></p>

	<p><i>Sporting Shops could be approached to sponsor a gun safe at their local accommodation provider with their advertising on it. It was noted the management of access to the safe is equally important and the traveller must be educated on their responsibility. The Forum noted current legislation is not conducive to this. There was disagreement about who the liability is on with some believing the staff member that locks the gun away is legally responsible. This will be continued offline.</i></p>																									
Actions	There were no action items.																									
Item 5	Firearms burglary and theft data update																									
Discussion	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2022</th> <th>2023</th> <th>2024</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>TOTAL firearm taken/ attempted to be taken Occurrences</td><td>180</td><td>150</td><td>131</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Firearm burglaries/thefts compared to previous year All burglaries/thefts compared to previous year[#]</td><td></td><td>-20% -1%</td><td>-15% +9%</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsuccessful attempts to take a firearm</td><td>27 (15%)</td><td>32 (22%)</td><td>30 (23%)</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Occurrences where a firearm was taken</td><td>153 (85%)</td><td>118 (78%)</td><td>101 (77%)</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small># This is to see if the trend is the same for all burglary/thefts reviewed when compared to the firearms stolen/attempted to be stolen trend</small></p> <p>Note the above data is burglary and thefts that are reported to Police.</p> <p>The deep dive looked at how many times a firearm was taken or attempted to be taken and where from (safe/rack, insecure or vehicle). There is no specific firearm theft of burglary charge so 220,000 narratives in 2024 had to be looked at manually.</p> <p>There was a decrease of 19 in total occurrences from 2023 (150) to 2024 (131). However unsuccessful attempts went up 1 percentage point.</p> <p>How was the safe or rack accessed?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cut or forced open (57%), 2. Safe key used (20%) 3. Entire safe taken (14%). <p>The 4% decrease in the use of the safe key is positive and indicates more users are storing the keys securely away from the safe. The thefts were largely equal across NZ with no specific region standing out. Of the safes that were broken into 56% of incidents were done by tools the thief brought with them; this shows it was premeditated with intent to steal firearms. There were an additional 10 incidents where just ammunition was taken.</p>		2022	2023	2024		TOTAL firearm taken/ attempted to be taken Occurrences	180	150	131		Firearm burglaries/thefts compared to previous year All burglaries/thefts compared to previous year [#]		-20% -1%	-15% +9%		Unsuccessful attempts to take a firearm	27 (15%)	32 (22%)	30 (23%)		Occurrences where a firearm was taken	153 (85%)	118 (78%)	101 (77%)	
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	<p>There were 65 repeat offences of the same individual / property. Often the first offence the safe was not accessed and the offender came back a month or more later to access the safe.</p> <p>Going forward data will continue to be added each year for further analysis and the findings will be turned into messaging for firearms holders.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>How do we compare with Australia?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Very similar percentage wise.</p> <p><i>Do we need to be clearer to theft victims that they may be targeted again for firearms.</i></p> <p><i>Was there a break down on the types of storage and their construction i.e. a \$1000 bought safe vs a cheaper safe?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> This will be added to the list of analysis.</p> <p><i>Are the repeat thefts happening at the same property or if they have moved?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> The same property.</p> <p><i>Police are busy, there are some people that have had guns stolen and the police don't turn up or turn up a week later. It is a real problem and results in an under reporting of thefts. It would help if Police had a standard list of information to go through with victims of firearm theft and if there was a standard reporting form for better reporting and tracking.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Police always respond where there is a report of firearms being stolen. It may not be immediate if the person reporting confirms there is no evidence of an offender being present.</p> <p><i>Town and cities do have burglary zones generally speaking, safety messaging needs to be improved to reduce risk especially when going on holiday.</i></p> <p><i>How many of the guns were registered on the registry?</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> This is unknown but will be analysed in the future.</p> <p><i>There should be a standard form that pops up for officers to fill in electronically when firearms or ammunition are involved, and this will help with better narratives for analysis.</i></p> <p><i>The time of year of thefts would be interesting to look at further as well.</i></p> <p><i>Federated Farmers used to do a rural crime scene survey so that would be interesting to look at as more than half of victims did not change anything following</i></p>
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	<p><i>the theft.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> Retail thefts were not included in this analysis. This is the burglaries that have been reported, there will be a large number that go unreported.</p>
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 6	Clubs & Ranges
Discussion	<p>A brief update was given on Clubs and Ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to negotiate the recent legislative changes. It is challenging but we are getting there. • All application forms are now available on the website. Maps, internal forms and documents are still being progressed. There has not been a large number of new applications but there has been a raft of questions and clarifications. The email address is the number one point of contact. • Police Shooting Range Manual: This is very close to being finished and is in final draft. There have been no drastic changes, but it is a lot smaller as the website has been referenced wherever possible. • It looks like we will have same number of defaulters as the past 2 years which is disappointing. For people that default twice there are significant ramifications. The process is manually intensive which may have put some people off. • New guidelines have been developed to cover the change of legislation for temporary ranges with just the forms to be completed. • North Island range inspections are continuing, and the South Island should begin closer to Summer. There have been a lot of questions about the new legislation. The standards of the ranges inspected have been largely ok with only a handful of improvement notices for maintenance issued so far.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

The forum asked can the new training booklet for pistol holders be printed and made available for sale?

Te Tari Pūreke response: It was noted the new version will be available to view or print online for free but will not be available for sale as the first version did not sell a single copy.

The forum asked do we still engage with the range inspectors that were trained and then stood down, they are a resource that should be lost.

Te Tari Pūreke response: No, we do not.

The forum asked did we have any major incidents reported?

Te Tari Pūreke response: No, it is a recording requirement not a reporting requirement, so we only see the report when we visit the range (unless it is a death). There have been no significant incidents reported. It may be worth

	engaging with ACC as they may have data on injuries.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 7	Ministry of Justice – Policy update
Discussion	<p>A brief update was given by Ministry of Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first reading of the legislation changes should occur at the end of this year. The changes are in draft, they cannot be discussed today. She reassured the Forum they will be given more information and invited to feedback once the information is made public following the first reading via the Select Committee process. <p>We want the new legislation to work and make sense and MOJ will come back to the Forum to discuss the changes once they are announced.</p> <p>Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments</p> <p><i>The Forum asked who is currently advising the Ministry on the Arms Act?</i></p> <p><u>MOJ response:</u> There was a consultation process this year, and the responses received contributed to the decisions that were taken.</p> <p><i>The Forum is very concerned that they are not being invited to provide advice before the first reading is made public. They requested they be provided the draft before it is made public.</i></p> <p><u>MOJ response:</u> It was noted this is not possible and they will be consulted after the first reading.</p> <p><i>The Forum suggested they hold a special meeting to discuss concerns about the draft. It was noted regulations are also being developed to go along side it and they must be practical and realistic but are unlikely to be so if this Forum's feedback is not included.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum suggested the previous consultation feedback be looked at as there was a lot of good advice given in there that was not used.</i></p> <p><i>There are a lot of unintended consequences when proper consultation isn't done, and feedback is ignored. Waiting until it is public will result in rushed consultation and feedback not being used.</i></p> <p><u>MOJ response:</u> It was noted that the consultation will not be rushed, and it will be going through the Justice Select Committee. It is unknown at this time if there will be a roadshow for feedback or if it will be online.</p> <p><i>The Forum agreed it does not feel like an open process which was requested from the start, and this is concerning.</i></p> <p><i>The community want the new legislation to be durable. The 2019 process was rushed and disastrous and it is feared this will happen again.</i></p> <p><i>The Forum noted they are all happy to attend any meetings to provide feedback and input, preferably as soon as possible.</i></p>

Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kendra to arrange with Ministry of Justice a meeting for the Forum to discuss the new Arms Act Legislation.
Item 8	NZ Police – Policy update
Discussion	<p>A brief update was given by NZ Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are supporting MOJ with advice on proposals in relation to the Arms Act rewrite and the impact it will have on the Police.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 9	General Business
Discussion	<p>Items from the forum:</p> <p>Assisted registration</p> <p><i>It isn't clear that there is an assisted registration option for people with large firearms holdings. There are a lot of older people that would benefit from this and don't know it is an option.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> It was noted that this option is provided to people if they inform Te Tari Pūreke of large firearms holdings. It is encouraged that the Forum let their networks know about the assisted registration where it would be useful.</p> <p>Registered items not visible</p> <p><i>Multiple people have registered their firearms then they gone back in, and they are all gone.</i></p> <p>The Chair asked that forum members email her with specific details. There are multiple reasons this could be, for example, a person has not verified their account.</p> <p>Call Wait Times</p> <p><i>There is a lot of feedback about frustration about wait times on the 0800 number.</i></p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke response:</u> In September 2024 our call centre team received 8,825 calls from the firearms community. This year, that number almost doubled, climbing to 16,158. This higher demand means it may take a longer to reach one of our team on the phone, with the average wait time now sitting around 10 minutes.</p> <p>At the beginning or end of the day, that wait time can stretch out even further. We suggest that people check the website – the answer to your question might be online. Licence holders can register their firearms and arms items online via MyFirearms – 54% of registrations have been successfully completed via MyFirearms.</p> <p>COLFO new feature on their website</p> <p><i>COLFO raised that they now have a 'whistle blower' function is available on their website. It is case by case as to where the reports are referred to and how they are</i></p>

	<p>managed.</p> <p><u>Te Tari Pūreke/New Zealand Police response:</u> Te Tari Pureke and New Zealand Police asked that COLFO discuss with them how they will be managing cases they want to send to The Regulator/Police to ensure that people are being given accurate advice about their rights to complain to the IPCA, and any complaints are managed through official processes.</p> <p>New Zealand Deerstalkers Association</p> <p><i>The hunts manual has been refreshed and is available. It will be used from next year. The regulation changes are included as well as technology changes including thermal imaging.</i></p> <p><i>Funding has been lost for the hunts course which is disappointing. The hunts program went really well with over 30 clubs taking part and it is still over subscribed with more people wanting to learn how to hunt.</i></p> <p><i>Conference will be held at the Lower Hutt town hall July 2026. There will be over 85 stands and Ministers are keen to attend. Information will be sent out to the forum when it is available.</i></p> <p><i>A Gisborne branch of Deerstalkers is being looked at and they have also been approached to start a Kaikoura one. There is a lot of demand and NZDA would like to help those communities that don't have a hunting club.</i></p>
Actions	<p>There were no action items.</p> <p>Any items from general business were up to the FCAF members if they wish to follow up with the Chair.</p>
Meeting closed	
The Chair thanked for everyone attending and closed the meeting at 12.33 pm with a karakia.	

END

Actions				
	Action	Responsible	Due	Status
Meeting: 6 March 2025				
1.	Chairs of AEG and FCAF to discuss possible combined meeting.	FCAF Chair	N/A	Remain open.
Meeting: 9 October 2025				
1.	Email the making it easier for visitors document to the Forum.	Douglas		
2.	Email the draft air travel brochure to the Forum.	FCAF Chair		
3.	Arrange a special meeting for the Forum to discuss the new Arms Act Legislation.	FCAF Chair	asap	
4.	Discuss the 18 whistle blowing notifications.	FCAF Chair MoJ		