Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

Meeting minutes — 05 / 03 / 2026

Firearms Community Advisory Forum — 9:30am-12:30pm

Meeting details	5 March 2026 09:30am-12:30pm
In attendance	**FCAF members** Andrew Bakker – McLeans Island Shooting Club Andrew Edgecombe – NZ Antique and Historical Arms Association Arthur Cozens – NZ Clay Target Association Gary Elmes – Pistol NZ Hugh Devereux-Mack – COLFO Kirsty Marshall – NZ Customs Phil Holland – Federated Farmers Richie Cosgrove – Fish & Game Representative Roger Duxfield – Hunting Guides / Game Animal Council Vicki Mackay – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gwyn Thurlow – New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Corina Jordan – F&G and GAC Mark Heath - GAC **Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority** Ewan Kelsall – Manager Partnerships (Chair) Emilia Steer – Senior Partnerships Advisor Catherine Petrey – Strategic Advisor Firearms Douglas Brett – Senior Partnerships Advisor John Herbert – Senior Partnerships Advisor Mike McIlraith – Director Partnerships, Te Tari Pūreke Mike Tarttelin – Clubs & Ranges Manager Nopera Hauwaho – Senior Partnerships Advisor Maori Te Honiana Ataria – Senior Partnerships Advisor - Māori **New Zealand Police** Jenna Marsh – Senior Policy Advisor **Ministry of Justice** Lauren Keenan – Manager (Policy) Conor Spring – Senior Advisor Firearms Luke Dinneen - Senior Advisor Firearms Scott Ryland **-** Senior Advisor Firearms
Apologies	Annette Marr - Rural Women New Zealand Antonia Kohler – Youth Representative Chris Clearwater – Target Shooting NZ Daryl May – National Rifle Association Lindsay Keats – National Service Rifle Association Nathan Watson – Mountain Safety Council Piripi Curtis – Whakatupato Representative Zhala Sharifi – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Item 1	Karakia and Welcome, Apologies and Agenda
Discussion	**Opening of meeting** The Chair welcomed members and opened the meeting with a karakia (prayer). Members noted that there has been a high level of activity within the firearms regulator space recently and acknowledged it has been a busy period for all involved. Ewan Kelsall is acting as Chair while Kendra is on secondment to the Registry team. **Apologies** Apologies were noted from Annette Marr (Rural Women), Nathan Watson (Mountain Safety Council), Darryl May (National Rifle Association), Piripi Curtis (Whakatūpato Representative) and Antonia Kohler (youth representative). **Membership updates:** The Forum noted the resignations of members Joe Green, Peter Furley and Piper Benbow. Members acknowledged and thanked them for their longstanding contribution to the Forum. The Forum discussed the need to appoint new members, with particular interest in securing representation from: • Dealers • Youth • Mental health Members agreed to provide suggestion for potential new appointments. It was agreed that Glen Thurston of **MentalHunts** would be a suitable candidate working in the mental health space and should be suggested. **Confirmation of agenda** The agenda was confirmed and tabled.
Actions	• Invite Glen to join the FCAF. • Forum members to email the Chair with suggestions for potential new members.
Item 2	**Confirm previous action points**
Discussion	The Forum noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 9 October 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/2026-01/2025%2010%2009%20Firearms%20Community%20Advisory%20Forum%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf The Forum reviewed the action items from previous meetings (refer to the actions table at the end of these minutes).

Actions	There were no action items.
Item 3	**Partnerships and Communities Updates**
Discussion	**Firearms safety in natural disasters** Members were advised that additional information has been published on the Firearms Safety Authority website relating to firearms safety during natural disasters. This work was informed by experiences following Cyclone Gabrielle, particularly where people evacuating homes left firearms and ammunition behind. The guidance focuses on encouraging licence holders to plan ahead and be prepared. It also advised that ammunition damaged by flood water should not be used without first seeking appropriate advice. **Domestic air travel with firearms** An A4 information sheet on domestic air travel with firearms has been published online and shared with key stakeholders. The resource consolidates relevant information in a clear, practical format to assist licence holders in planning air travel and can be presented at the airport if required. It is intended to address issues previously raised by the Forum. Police and airport-based Police staff have been made aware of the Process, and Police checkpoint applications include a firearms section, which will be checked to ensure alignment with this guidance. **Travelling on domestic airlines - fact sheet.pdf** *Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments* • *Whether reference to rail travel could be included. This will be discussed offline, as it would likely require a separate information sheet.* • *Whether there is agreement from airlines to follow the outlined process. Members were advised that engagement has occurred with Air New Zealand and Jetstar, and awareness has been raised across Police airport operations.* **Staying safe with airguns** Members were advised that a new public education resource, *staying safe with airguns*, is in development. The draft material focuses on raising awareness of safety responsibilities for airgun users, including PCP and BB guns. The draft will be circulated to Forum members for feedback in the coming weeks. *Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments* • *Export requirements should be included.* • *Greater clarity around import permit requirements will be important.* • *The Forum expressed strong support for this work and welcomed its development.*

Safety animations

The Forum viewed three of the new firearms safety animations. Forthcoming animations in the series including shooting under supervision, sighting in a rifle on private land, and shooting clay targets on private land. These are still in draft, and feedback is welcomed.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

- *Members described the animations as an excellent resource.*
- *Fish & Game requested an offline discussion to align terminology with their forthcoming knowledge hub.*
- *The depiction of flat ground was noted as potentially misleading; members suggested placing greater emphasis on the need for an effective backstop.*
- *Clarification was requested regarding what activities are permitted during a licence suspension. Members were advised that this information is already on the website and will be recirculated, including use of the* ***licence checker***
- *A suggestion was made to change one high-visibility item to blue.*
- *CTNZ noted that the use of a chamber flag in a break-action gun is difficult.*
- *Members recommended including narrative around lead toxicity.*

Guidance for RSA branches

Members were advised that guidance has been finalised clarifying how RSA branches can legally store and display firearms and ammunition. This guidance serves as a single, consolidated resource and reflects consultation and legal input. Engagement with RSA branches is ongoing, including site visits to support understanding and implementation.

Seasonal messaging

The Authority is collaborating with the Recreational Firearms Users Working Group on seasonal safety messaging for the Roar and gamebird seasons. Promotion of safety material has also occurred with Gun City, Hunting & Fishing and Farmlands. Printed materials will be available both in stores and online.

Auction guidance

Work is underway on new guidance for arms auctions. Auctions commonly cater to collector communities and may involve non-prohibited, prohibited, restricted firearms, pistols, and pistol carbine conversion kits. The guidance is intended to support auction organisers to operate in compliance with Arms Act requirements.

The guidance documents are currently with Legal for final sign-off and will be published once approved. Minor amendments may be required once legislative changes come into force. External engagement has been positive.

Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments

- *Members thanks staff for the work undertaken.*
- *A question was raised regarding the use of the term* ***weapons*** *rather than* ***firearms***

	• *Members were advised this reflects wording in the legislation.* **Avoid duplicate fee payments** Members were advised that some firearms licence and endorsement applicants are inadvertently paying applications fees twice. Clearer website messaging is being developed, advising applicants not to pay at a PostShop if intending to apply online. Forum members were asked to help share this message with their networks. **Firearms and ammunition as prizes** Guidance is being developed to clarify when firearms or ammunition may be offered as prizes, and where restrictions under the Gambling Act 2003 apply. A short explanatory webpage will be added to the website. *Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments* • *This is a frequently raised issue with recognised grey areas.* • *FSA noted that the key regulatory responsibility sits with the Department of Internal Affairs as the gambling regulator.* **Māori Partnerships Forum** Members were advised of a number of staffing changes. **Whakatūpato courses** scheduled for the East Coast were unfortunately cancelled due to timing constraints. Future planning will focus on earlier scheduling and greater use of local voices. Typically, three courses are delivered per month. The Community Trainer Model was identified as a significant work programme for the year. A working group has been established and has met once to scope the project. A further meeting is scheduled to consider requirements for a pilot programme, with the overarching objective of delivering a community-based training model. **Lean on a gate** Southern Firearms Safety Officers connected with **Lean on a Gate** founder Craig Wiggins at the Southern Field Days. Following this initial engagement, Partnerships staff explored opportunities for a formalised relationship and broader collaboration. Craig expressed interest in working together to address rural mental health issues linked to firearms possession.
Actions	• Circulate the *Staying safe with airguns* draft to the Forum for comment. • Circulate the **licence suspension website link** to the Forum.
Item 4	**Firearms safety, education, and engagement**
Discussion	Members were advised that *368 firearms safety courses* were delivered in the first six months, with *3,076 attendees* and an average attendance rate of 83.5%. Members noted frustration that a number of participants booked courses but do not attend.

	Following feedback, plans are underway to deliver *approximately 730 courses* over the year. We have increased courses in *Greymouth* and are looking at *Kaikōura*.
	
	Heartlands have approached the Authority to explore partnership opportunities to deliver workshops in isolated locations, which was recognised as a valuable opportunity to improve rural access.
	
	Additional engagement activity includes:
	• A & P shows in Marlborough, Waimate, Horowhenua, Nelson, and Murchison.
	• Southern Field Days, Gore (three-day event)
	• Attendance at firearms clubs
	• Working with RSA branches
	
	Members noted that the Authority's presence at A&P events has received consistently positive feedback. Common questions raised at these events included:
	• Access to the Registry and perceived delays
	• Licence application and renewal processes
	• Mental health considerations
	• Whether ammunition must be registered.
	
	Members were advised that planning is underway to deliver firearms safety courses in schools over the coming months, with further updates to be provided at the next meeting.
	
	Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments
	• *Members asked how individuals who are unable to obtain a RealMe account can verify their identity.*
	  ○ *It was confirmed that this can be done via a paper application, followed by identity verification at a Police station.*
	  ○ *Heartlands 0have indicated willingness to support people with registration and identity processes, and work is underway to explore training them to provide on-the-ground assistance.*

Actions	There were no action items.
Item 5	**Engagement and Education**
Discussion	The Community Integration Manager provided an overview of the *2026 focus on* "**getting the basics right**", supported by an engagement and education information pack prepared for the Minister. Forum members have access to the full pack. As the firearms regulator, the Authority is responsible for overseeing the legitimate possession and use of firearms in Aotearoa New Zealand. The pack outlines planned actions to strengthen firearms education and engagement with the firearms community throughout 2026. This information has been shared with the Minister's Arms Advisory Group, the Minister of Police, and the Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms), and also presented to

	the Firearms Community Advisory Forum, Māori Firearms Forum, and Arms Engagement Group. Members noted the significant progress made since 2022, with a wide range of resources now available. The Authority's website remains the primary source of information. Social media reach continues to grow, with approximately 10,300 followers on Facebook, and recognition that many users access content without formally following the page. The YouTube channel continues to perform strongly, recording *over 120,000 views in 2025*. Key areas of focus for 2026 include: • Community outreach • Targeted media campaigns around seasonal safety topics (roar, duck season etc) • Expanding the reach of firearms safety education • Keeping stakeholders informed • Mental health and wellbeing • Website updates • Training courses and schools-based delivery • Supporting firearms community through legislative changes. Members were advised that significant input has contributed to safety campaigns, including hunter safety messaging for the *2026 Roar* and gamebird *season*. Reaching rural firearms users remains challenging. Members discussed the importance of maintaining a visible presence at rural events, utilising radio and online interviews, and engaging influential community members to help connect with users. The dealer community will likely see a range of legislative changes following the Arms Bill. Strengthening relationships and working collaboratively with dealers was identified as a priority area. Engagement with iwi, rural, and isolated communities was highlighted as a key focus. The Māori Firearms Forum has played an important role in supporting this work. Members noted the importance of directing resources to places where Māori communities are based, and that *Whakatūpato courses have doubled in number*. Members expressed support for continuing this momentum through 2026. Further enhancements are planned to support firearms licence applicants throughout their application journey. Members were advised that *52 schools* have expressed interest in participating in firearms safety training during 2026. Members were also advised that collaboration has occurred with specialist firearms groups, including RSA branches and National Clay Target, with increased collaboration planned with these forums throughout 2026
Actions	There were no action items.

Item 6	**Clubs & Ranges**
Discussion	Members were advised that activity within Clubs and Ranges has been relatively quiet over the reporting period. Several *new temporary range notifications* have been approved, along with approvals for *pistol range alterations* and changes to *enrolment status.* The revised *NZ Police Shooting Range Manual* was published prior to Christmas. A small number of minor amendments have since been identified, and a *Version 4* of the manual will be published shortly. Members were reminded that *Pistol Shooting Clubs are required to obtain incorporated status by April 2026*. While many have completed this process, a number have not yet done so and are being followed up. Work has been completed on the Pistol Endorsement holder 12-shoot activity return for the 2024/2025 period. We have seen an overall increase in compliance has been observed, which was acknowledged as positive. However, members noted that ongoing legislative changes during each reporting period have created challenges in maintaining accurate and consistent compliance reporting. **Pistol club renewal:** Members discussed upcoming pistol club renewals, noting that the majority are due in *June 2026.* Significant challenges have been identified in relation to the new legislative requirements. Close engagement with clubs will be required to ensure they are certified or renewed in time to continue operating beyond June 2026. Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments • Members asked about the overall quality of the range network. It was noted that the network is generally of a high standard, with maintenance, particularly bullet catch systems, being the main area requiring ongoing attention. • It was noted that *Pistol New Zealand* is actively encouraging its affiliated clubs to progress their applications for incorporated status.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 7	**Ministry of Justice - Policy update**
Discussion	Members received an update from Ministry of Justice on current firearms policy work and the progress of the Arms Bill. Members were advised that: • Amendments to the *Arms Regulations* are being progressed, and feedback is currently being sought. These amendments are required to support the Arms Bill rewrite.

	• The Arms Bill has progressed through the written submission stage, with a high volume of submissions received. *Oral submissions are now underway*, and the Select Committee is expected to report back in *early June.*
	• Fees for *international travellers* will be increased in due course.
	• The Bill will introduce *new licence types for museums*, and feedback is sought on the proposed requirements.
	• The Bill enables *permanent deactivation and modification of firearms*, with detailed technical requirements to be developed through regulations. This was noted as a significant and complex policy area.
	• Discussion is required on whether individuals who are unlawfully in possession of a firearm should be permitted to permanently deactivate it without prosecution, and whether this should occur through an amnesty or case-by-case approach. Currently, discretion sits with Police.
	• Clear definitions and regulatory requirements for deactivation are required in the new Bill.
	• Further clarity is needed around modifying a restricted firearm so that it is no longer restricted, including whether certain firearm types should be excluded from this allowance and how to ensure modifications cannot be reversed. Members noted challenges arising from interchangeable parts, even where possession of those parts is controlled through the permit system.
	
	Firearms Community Advisory Forum comments
	
	• *Members noted it would be helpful for those giving oral submissions to be able to read written submissions.*
	  ○ *It was advised this is unlikely until the Select Committee process concludes.*
	• *Members raised the distinction between exporting and importing permanently disabled firearms and asked whether overseas approaches to deactivation have been considered.*
	  ○ *It was confirmed that the international approaches are being examined.*
	• *Concern was raised about 3D-printed firearms and parts, noting these present a significant community risk.*
	• *A question was raised regarding why the Arms Bill includes criteria limiting endorsements.*
	• *Members emphasised that museum settings often rely on volunteers and that compliance requirements may create a heavy administrative burden. It was suggested the approach should be proportionate and recognise difference between small or irregularly open museums and larger institutions.*
	  ○ *Members were advised that the duration of curator licences will be extended to five years.*
	• *Members suggested that visitor licence settings should consider travel history, as visitors may enter and leave New Zealand with different firearms.*
	• *It was noted that firearms licences cannot be held by individuals who do not reside in New Zealand, including New Zealand nationals living overseas.*

	• *Members expressed concern that policy settings need to be correct at the outset to avoid unintended consequences for future law reform and licensing outcomes.*
	• *A sponsor-based model for international visitors was suggested as a potential mitigation, and members queried whether the current approach to multi-visit licences was appropriate. Concerns were raised that unresolved issues could lead to rushed outcomes.*
	• *Members suggested there should be a requirement for airport Police to physically check firearms departing New Zealand.*
	• *Members noted situations where firearms are left in New Zealand following medical evacuation overseas, and that further policy consideration is required.*
	• *Members expressed interest in clearer provisions enabling routine audits of ammunition sellers, noting inconsistencies in record-keeping obligations between dealers and non-dealer retailers.*
	• *Members questioned the need for increased regulation of museums given the absence of known safety issues.*
	• *It was suggested that permanently deactivated firearms should no longer be legally considered firearms.*
	• *Members asked whether consultation could occur collectively with the full Forum, rather than in segmented groups.*
	  ○ *It was noted that MoJ is open to being guided on this and that a full-Forum discussion would ideally require a dedicated session of at least 90 minutes.*
	• *A request to extend the consultation timeframe was raised.*
	  ○ *Members were advised this is not possible.*

Actions	• The Forum is to read the Amendments to the Arms Regulations discussion document and provide feedback before 24 March.
Item 8	**NZ Police – Policy update**
Discussion	A brief update was provided: • Staff are working closely with the *Ministry of Justice* on the Arms Bill, providing technical expertise to support policy development. • There has been a high volume of *Official Information Act (OIA) requests* received. Efforts are underway to respond as promptly as possible, with responses being proactively published on the website where appropriate.
Actions	There were no action items.
Item 9	**General Business**
Discussion	**Firearms licence checker** Concerns raised about the usability of the firearms licence checker, noting that it would be more user friendly if users could simply input a licence number and receive a "valid" or "not valid" response. It was noted that the current design discourages use. Members were advised that improving the licence checker is on the forward work programme as a future piece of work. **Registry complaints**

	COLFO advised that approximately *40 complaints* have been raised with their complaint system, including issues where firearms are being re-registered rather than transferred, resulting in duplicate records. He suggested that the system should identify when a firearm is already registered and prevent re-registration. The Chair requested that complaints and feedback be emailed through in advance so they can be addressed offline where possible and brought to the Forum only if necessary. **International events and visitor impacts** Update on international travellers being disrupted due to the current conflict in Iran. Visitors currently stuck in New Zealand have been contacted by email and advised to request a *one-month extension* if required. A message will also be added to the website for visitors planning to travel to New Zealand. A question was raised about issuing instructions on letterhead that could be emailed in response to requests. Members were advised that individuals can be directed to the website for up-to-date information. **Export and import process** Members were advised that, for firearms being exported from New Zealand under a Permit to Export (PTE), proof of the importer's (or recipient's) local import permit is now required as part of the MFAT process. This requirement is intended to ensure that the recipient is legally entitled to import the item. This does not apply to situations where a notification of exempted sporting firearms export is permitted. **New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA)** Members were advised that there are four stands remaining at the upcoming NZDA Expo in Lower Hutt. Forum members interested in attending were encouraged to contact NZDA directly. It was also noted that NZDA is hosting a formation evening for Gisborne Deerstalkers on Thursday 12th, and an invitation will be circulated to the Forum.
Actions	There were no action items.
Meeting closed	
The Chair thanked members for their attendance and noted that the meeting had been productive. the meeting closed at 12.30 pm with a karakia.	
END	

ACTION LIST				
	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: 5 March 2026				
1.	Invite Mental Hunts to attend/join the FCAF.	FCAF Chair		**Complete**
2.	Forum members to email the Chair with suggested new Forum members.	All forum members		
3.	Circulate to the Forum the 'staying safe with airguns' draft after adding permit clarity and export requirements.	Emz Steer		
4.	Circulate to the Forum the licence suspension website link.	Emz Steer		**In minutes - complete**
5.	Discuss development of guidance on travelling with firearms on railways offline.	Partnerships		
6.	Update the safety animations to reflect comments around safety.	Partnerships		
7.	Read the Amendments to the Arms Regulations discussion document and provide feedback.	All forum members		**24 March**