

Meeting minutes

6 June 2024

Firearms Community Advisory Forum

9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting details	6 June 2024 9:30am – 12:30pm
In attendance	<p>Te Tari Pūreke Charlotte Etheridge, Ewan Kelsall, John Herbert, Kendra Hill (Chair), Matt Lambert, Mike McIlraith, Peter Baird</p> <p>New Zealand Police Catherine Petrey (NZ Police), Nick Mercer (NZ Police)</p> <p>FCAF members Adam Smith, Andrew Bakker, Andrew Edgcombe, Antonia Kohler, Gary Elmes, Gwyn Thurlow, Jade McCormick, Joe Green, Kirsty Marshall, Lindsay Keats, Pete Thomas, Phil Holland, Roger Duxfield, Ross Mason, Steve Goodman</p> <p>Other Denise Hutana (minute taker)</p>
Apologies	Arthur Cozens, Chris Clearwater, Dave Benfell, Jared Wright, Mark Walker, Peter Furley, Piper Benbow, Piripi Curtis, Sharron Davie-Martin

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	No action items.
Item 2	Confirm previous minutes and action points

Discussion	<p>The Forum noted that the minutes from the meeting held on 6 March 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 below).</p>
Actions	<p>No action items.</p>
Item 3 Updates	
Discussion	<p>Seven Safety Rules 3 & 4</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted:</p> <p><i>Rule 3 - Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following feedback from the forum and the Recreational Firearms Users Working Group, there are additional scenarios planned to focus on how Rule 3 applies in different disciplines e.g., duck hunting. <p><i>Rule 4 - Identify your target beyond all doubt.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following feedback from the forum, changes are being made to the safety videos that are available on the Te Tari Pūreke YouTube channel. <p><i>Firearms Safety Code</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The printed Firearms Safety Code is available at bookstores and libraries. • It is also available to purchase for Kindle. • The free downloadable version is available on the Te Tari Pūreke website <p>https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/firearms-safety-code</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke Security display - connecting the community on safe firearms and ammunition storage.</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Tari Pūreke has had a practical display built, showing examples of non-prohibited firearms & ammunition storage options in a home context.

- The display includes examples of the minimum security requirement for a single firearm in a firearms rack in a hidden location, a commercially manufactured firearms safe, separate ammunition storage within a firearms safe and a locked, hidden ammunition tin underneath a fixed ceiling.
- The display is a “flat pack”, easy to assemble, can be secured and is available for display at events.

Health and wellbeing of licence holders

Te Tari Pūreke noted:

- The Te Tari Pūreke website includes information for licence holders on the health and wellbeing section of the website <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/health-and-wellbeing>
- Currently Te Tari Pūreke is working with a range of health organisations to ensure health practitioners are aware of their obligations. For example, a community forum was held in Wanaka in May where a Te Tari Pūreke Senior Partnerships Advisor spoke alongside community members and a registered counsellor.
- Work is being done with the firearms licence holder community to ensure they understand what is required of them and options they have if there are concerns for their health. The latest work done with the community is a Q&A with mental hunts. You can watch this here: <https://www.mentalhunts.co.nz/mentalhunts-tv>

The Forum noted that some people living in rural areas fear that asking for help for mental health may mean losing their firearms licence.

Te Tari Pūreke noted that there is some misinformation out there and key messages for firearms licence holders:

- Health conditions are common, and we encourage anyone with symptoms to seek help early from a health practitioner or other medical professional.
- Physical and mental health conditions that are treated or managed do not prevent a person from applying for or retaining a firearms licence. Licence holders may be asked to provide more information from a health professional about treatment or management of condition.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For licence holders, the appropriate treatment and management of physical and mental health conditions is always preferable to suspension or loss of licence. • Licence holders can be proactive and surrender their firearms licence. <p>Firearms Registry</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted that the review of the Registry was recently announced.</p> <p>Monthly statistics on the Firearm Registry are published in the Firearms Pānui.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="625 779 1235 1149"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Registry Update at 24 June 2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Active Individual Licence Holders</td> <td>233,222</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licence Holders Registered</td> <td>43,231</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Endorsement Holders Registered</td> <td>2,958</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Firearms</td> <td>206,920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average Firearms per person</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Photographing arms items for the Registry</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted licence holders may be required to photograph firearms for the purpose of positive identification in the Firearms Registry.</p> <p>You can find more information on the website: https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry/photographing-firearms-firearms-registry</p>	Registry Update at 24 June 2024		Active Individual Licence Holders	233,222	Licence Holders Registered	43,231	Endorsement Holders Registered	2,958	Firearms	206,920	Average Firearms per person	5
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Actions	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate to members the scenario that will be added to the Rule 3 documentation. • Share the videos from Mental Hunts when available. 												
Item 4	Te Tari Pūreke: Kōtūi Whanake Māori / Māori Responsiveness Manager												
Discussion	<p>Micro-credentials for Firearms Licence Applicants</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted:</p>												

	<p>Te Tari Pūreke is creating a NCEA ‘skills standard’ which runs alongside the process for gaining your firearms licence. This means that if you attend and pass the firearms safety or Whakatupato course, you will also be eligible to gain credits towards an NCEA qualification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft micro-credential skills standard is currently being edited by Toitū Te Waiora and the Social Services Workforce Development Council. • The final micro-credential will meet the standards set by NZQA and will be either a Level 3 or 4 NCEA equivalent worth three credits (30 hours of work plus study). • We are working through what implementation would look like once the skills standard is available, work with stakeholders. <p>Te Tari Pūreke thanked the members and other stakeholders for their input and support.</p> <p>The Forum noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the micro-credential is particularly for those gaining their firearms licence for the first time as it is for those completing the firearms safety or Whakatupato course. • The Open Polytech has a course on firearm safety but unlike the micro-credential does not point towards gaining a licence. <p>Māori Firearms Forum</p> <p>Te Tari Pureke noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Te Tari Pūreke Māori Firearms Forum is to create a group that represents Māori and Māori views on firearms possession, safe use, and firearms licensing. • The Forum will enable engagement between Te Tari Pūreke and the community and help to identify community needs and expectations on how the Māori Firearms Strategy will be developed. • Te Tari Pūreke is looking for people who identify as Māori and have the key attributes (i.e., communication, knowledge of Tikanga Māori and leadership skills) to be part of the Forum.
Actions	No action items.
Item 5	Arms Transformation Programme – Assisted Registration

<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Assisted Registration</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channels to register firearms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online (MyFirearms) ○ Phone (i.e. call the Registry and Services team) ○ Assisted Registration (for people with 50 or more firearms in their possession). • Assisted Registration is a new service (launched on 22 May 2024) and can be used by firearms licence holder to register a large number of firearms and arms items (50 or more) by uploading a file via a secure service. • Access to assisted registration is via a link sent by Te Tari Pūreke. Only a verified person in MyFirearms is able to access the portal. • The process provides access to a repository with downloadable templates and information and the ability to upload completed templates. The uploaded templates will be reviewed by the Registry team who will update the Register. • The licence holder will be notified on the completion of registration. • Once the process is completed then access to the secure portal is removed. • Firearms licence holders are encouraged to have a validated MyFirearms account so they can access their records online. <p>The Forum noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some licence holders are concerned that they may incur a levy on each firearm. Te Tari Pūreke noted that there is no fee associated to firearms registration or transfers. Any change would be a government decision and outside their control. • A future improvement to the firearms registry could be to include a box where holders are able to describe their firearm if it cannot be found in the drop-down box.
<p>Actions</p>	<p>No action items.</p>
<p>Item 6 Department of Conservation</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed Pete Thomas from the Department of Conservation who noted:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two Ministers of Parliament overseeing the work of the Department: Minister of Conservation (Hon Tama Potaka) and Minister for Hunting and Fishing (Hon Todd McLay). • The Minister for Hunting and Fishing has the responsibility for hunting of game, all matters relating to fishing and hunting, the Game Animal Council Act and recreational use and access to Department of Conservation land. • Since 1 June 2024 the standard hunting conditions on conservation land has been used to allow for handheld thermal binoculars (excluding hunting at night) https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/permits-and-licences/permit-conditions/ • Work in progress includes updating and improving access to hunting permits, modernising IT architecture and improving information associated with hunting areas. Rakiura Island will be the first area to introduce the updates which will then be rolled out nationally. • The Ministry is working with New Zealand Deerstalkers Association for the National Wild Goat Hunting competition 2024.
Actions	No action items.
Item 7	Break and Karakia for Kai
Item 8	Ministry of Justice
Discussion	<p>The Chair welcomed a representatives from the Ministry of Justice policy team. They noted:</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arms Act 1983 is now administered by the Ministry of Justice. • There are proposed changes to Part 6 of the Act which relates to the regulations for shooting clubs and ranges. • The Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has a commitment to reforming firearms laws which includes reforming the regulation of shooting clubs and ranges. ○ Recognises the important role clubs and ranges play and that it is in the interests of safety that they are run well.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is concerned that current requirements go beyond what is needed to ensure public safety. <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government is undertaking focused consultation (closes 21 June 2024). ● A Bill is expected to be introduced later this year. ● Firearms Community Advisory Forum members have been asked if they would like to be consulted with and some members are taking part in this. A discussion document has been provided to stakeholders for feedback. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of the forum discussed the proposals in the discussion document, and the points were noted by the Ministry of Justice officials for the consultation.
Actions	No action items.
Item 9	Clubs and Ranges – Pete Baird
Discussion	<p>Te Tari Pūreke has been actively working with the community since 2021 for all types of ranges. Through this engagement a way forward was agreed to ensure pistol ranges were compliant with new legislation and operating as best practice.</p> <p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Te Tari Pūreke and Pistol NZ range specialists have reviewed 412 pistol ranges. ● It was agreed through community engagement to streamline the review of ranges to identify and focus on ranges that needed improvements. ● Based on PNZ certification and inspection data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 309 ranges were accepted as compliant ○ 103 pistol ranges were identified as needing additional oversight ● Some of the ranges initially accepted as compliant were later found to be non-compliant. ● When the new legislation came into place there were some issues identified with ranges, themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintenance or failure to maintain ○ Design and construction including materials, ballistic safety and danger area risk beyond the range ○ Non-compliance with the ranges’ own standing orders.

- Te Tari Pūreke discussed these issues with the appropriate organisations and shared details of the range failures as they were being uncovered.

Clubs and Ranges	
Title	Number
Pistol clubs registered	93
Pistol clubs under compliance (improvement notices or otherwise)	1
Pistol clubs that are no longer approved	2
Pistol Clubs recertified and operating	93
Existing non-pistol shooting clubs	303
Non-pistol shooting clubs under compliance (improvement notices or otherwise)	0

Shooting Ranges	
Title	Number
Individual ranges existing	1201
Individual ranges operating	1185
Individual pistol ranges recertified and operating	411
Number of shooting range operator applications received (Includes complex)	328
Active non-pistol ranges	774
Number of shooting range operators applications processed (excluding pistol) since July 2023	112
Current number of ranges certified	655
Current number of ranges yet certified	528
Total number of shooting ranges that have been subject to compliance (improvement notices or otherwise)	259
Ranges under active compliance (improvement notices or otherwise)	3
Ranges whose certification is revoked	4

Actions No action items.

Item 10 Policy Update

Discussion	<p>Te Tari Pūreke noted that policies that the Ministry of Justice are working on include the review of the Registry and a wider review of the Act seeking to by the end of the term.</p> <p>The Forum noted that Police policy is not embedded in the Justice Policy group.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 11	General Business
Discussion	<p>Item 1 – General</p> <p>The Forum congratulated Catherine Petrey who received a Member of the New Zealand order of Merit in the Kings Birthday Honours’ list for services to the New Zealand Police, arms control, and the community.</p> <p>Item 2 – Suspensions data</p> <p>Does data on suspensions have any correlation with the length of time the person has held a firearms licence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is proactive data released on the Te Tari Pūreke website about the number of suspensions and revocations https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/news-and-publications/proactively-released-information. • Suspensions don’t always end up with a revocation. • The data does not show the length of time a licence has been held for those that are suspended or revoked. <p>Item 3 – Firearms Safety Council</p> <p>The Firearms Safety Council have recently completed a stock take on how Te Tari Pūreke is progressing towards the strategic goals. They are pleased with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focus on safety. • That industry players are part of Te Tari Pūreke. • There is prominent advertising of firearm safety across a range of mediums. • The Firearms Safety Code is published in Te Reo and English. • Te Tari Pūreke attending events and being visible in the community. • An Iwi Maori liaison role established, recognising the needs of Maori and Whakatupato.

	<p>The Firearms Safety Council suggests that measures for safety outcomes (e.g., the number of suicides, homicides, violent offending by firearm as a percentage of violent offending, and convictions and misuse of firearms) should be developed.</p> <p>Te Tari Pūreke thanked the Firearms Safety Council representative for their comments.</p>
Actions	No action items.
Item 12	Meeting closed
Discussion	The Chair thanked for everyone attending and closed the meeting at 12.45 with a karakia.
Actions	Te Tari Pūreke to send the karakia to Forum members.

Actions				
Agenda/ Action item	Action	Person responsible	Due date	Status
Meeting: 6 June 2024				
3. Updates	Te Tari Pūreke to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate to members the scenario that will be added to the Rule 3 documentation prepared by Fish and Game. • Share the videos from Mental Hunt when available. 	Kendra H		MentalHunts videos have been shared.
11. General Business	Follow up from Action (9 General Business 7/3/24) Discuss offline with members progress on the work relating to transporting firearms with Air New Zealand and airport security.	Kendra H		
Meeting: 07 03 2024				
3.Updates	Te Tari Pūreke to consider the following challenges that international competitive shooters and hunters have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement to prior flight details on the application form, before knowing their entry has been accepted. • Application for entry can only be made after the previous application has expired. 	Douglas B		6/6/24 Closed – investigating technical feasibility and costs of changing the systems

	The four-month advance lead time to get a licence is considered excessive.			
4. Arms Transformation Programme	Te Tari Pūreke to share the advertising (via online and publications) for the duck shooting campaign.	Kate B		6/6/24 Closed
5. Clubs and Ranges	Te Tari Pūreke to discuss with the Communications team the possibility of developing a form for reporting clubs and ranges shooting range applications.	Mike M		6/6/24 In progress
7. Operational Policy	Te Tari Pūreke to send Forum members the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment to Legislation Sections 24, 24A that defines what is not “fit and proper”. • The Intervention principles for “fit and purpose”. 	Lachlan M		6/6/24 Closed
7. Operational Policy	Te Tari Pūreke to add to the agenda for the next Forum meeting a discussion on the work programme to develop a cultural lens.	Kendra H		6/6/24 Closed – agenda item
7. Operational Policy	Te Tari Pūreke to gather feedback (online) from Forum members on the cultural lens for the Targeted Approach Framework.	Matt L		6/6/24 Closed – agenda item.

9. General Business	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to follow up on the information for executors and trustees of licensed firearm holders' wills to identify other avenues for communication (e.g. template for licence firearm holders to complete).</p>	<p>Douglas B</p>		<p>6/6/24 Closed – currently part of work programme. In progress.</p>
9. General Business	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to follow up with Air New Zealand to ensure the staff have the information required when firearms are transported by Air New Zealand.</p>	<p>Kendra H</p>		<p>6/6/24 Closed – on the work programme.</p>
9. General Business	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to discuss with the compliance team the “blocking” of numbers for those not issued with police phones.</p>	<p>Kendra H</p>		<p>6/6/24 Closed – some numbers are blocked for a number of reasons. Currently Te Tari Pūreke is working on scam messaging and checking in with other organisations to find best practice messaging. If a receiver is unsure, then they should ring back on 0800 number. Kendra will send out specific messaging when available.</p>

<p>9. General Business</p>	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to follow up on advice on how to photocopy the firearms licence without blanking out the photo.</p>	<p>Kendra H</p>		<p>6/6/24 Closed.</p>
<p>9. General Business</p>	<p>Te Tari Pūreke to send the number of dealers who are sole trader gunsmiths.</p>	<p>Kendra H</p>		<p>6/6/24 Closed.</p>