

Firearms Policy

The Arms Act 1983 and Arms Regulations 1992 together constitute world-class legislation that tempers the right to lawfully possess a firearm with the safety of the individual and of society.

The philosophy of allowing only 'fit-and-proper' persons to possess firearms and ammunition is the most effective way to ensure the safety and security of firearms.

However, its enforcement and policing is piecemeal and inconsistent across NZ regions.

Any future amendments to firearms legislation must only be as a result of robust consultation with firearm licence holders. Any proposed amendments must have rational objectives with outcomes based on real, rather than perceived, risks and benefits.

For this reason we reject any notion of a firearms register. It is touted as the way to identify those who illegally use and own guns. But, of course, criminals will not register their firearms. Thus it is a pointless exercise.

The NZ Outdoors Party policy is to keep existing firearms legislation and regulations as-is but change both sentencing tariffs under the Sentencing Act 2002 and the enforcement processes under the Crimes Act 1961. Thus our firearms policy objectives are:

1. Illegal use, possession or procurement of firearms will be considered as an aggravating factor in sentencing. If the sentence is custodial those charges relating to illegal firearms will be served consecutively and not concurrently as is the case currently.
2. An enquiry into the current enforcement and management practices by the NZ Police relating to the Arms Act, to include, but not limited to;
 - Assessing and managing who is and is not fit to hold a firearms licence
 - Issue and renewal of licences
 - Firearms categorisation (including air powered firearms)
 - Firearms related crime reporting and recording
 - Firearms safety instruction
 - Firearms administration
3. Establishment of a single and publicly accountable entity, to manage the Arms Act and related regulations so they are applied and enforced consistently.