

ACT'S NEXT STEPS *for* FIREARMS REFORM.



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ACT's next steps for firearms reform.

When ACT came into Government, licensed firearm owners had spent years being treated as the problem. Under Labour licensed firearm owners were hit with rushed law changes that failed to target criminal offending while scapegoating licensed firearm owners. Only ACT stood up for licensed firearm owners.

I entered Parliament determined to change that. Over the past three years, ACT has delivered the biggest reform of firearms law in a generation.

We have replaced the Arms Act 1983 with a new law that respects licensed firearm owners and targets criminals. Firearms regulation has been separated from Police enforcement. Licensing decisions can now be independently challenged. Clubs and ranges face fewer unnecessary burdens. The regulator has been given greater independence and accountability, and the new system is designed to make compliance easier for licensed firearm owners.

These reforms are a strong foundation. With your support, ACT can go further.

ACT remains committed to repealing the firearms registry and creating a narrow sporting pathway for restricted semi-automatic centrefire firearms. We pushed for both during this term, but could not secure our coalition partners' agreement. We invoked the coalition agreement's agree-to-disagree provisions and secured a change preventing the regulator from collecting information for the registry beyond what regulations require.

Our position has not changed. A stronger Party Vote ACT will give us greater influence to turn these commitments into law and deliver further practical improvements for licensed firearm owners.

Now that we have replaced the old Arms Act, the next job is to review and rewrite the firearms regulations. There are still too many practical problems, unnecessary costs and confusing requirements that can and should be fixed.

That is what this consultation is about. We want to hear from licensed firearm owners, hunters, competitive shooters, clubs, collectors, dealers, farmers, pest controllers, museums, safety instructors and others who deal with the system in practice.

Tell us what should change, what we have missed, and which reforms would make the biggest difference.

ACT's goal has always been to keep firearms out of the hands of criminals while making the system fairer, simpler and more workable for licensed firearm owners. We have made real progress. With your input and your Party Vote, we can go further and faster.

Nicole McKee MP

ACT Firearms Spokesperson

Proposals for consultation

Getting implementation right

- Continue the firearms reform programme by reviewing, rewriting and simplifying all firearms regulations that sit underneath the Arms Act.
- Monitor the new Arms Act and make any necessary changes to ensure the law operates as intended.
- Review those aspects of the Arms Act that were introduced via Amendment Paper to ensure they function as intended and adhere to the intent of the Arms Act.

Simpler and fairer licensing

- Reduce duplication in licence applications and renewals where the regulator already holds the information, or the information is not necessary for public safety.
- Simplify overlapping licence and endorsement categories.
- Prevent increases in firearms licensing fees over the next term.
- Allow licence firearm owners to choose a shorter licence duration, with fees paid on a pro-rata basis to improve flexibility and affordability.
- Ensure Firearms Licensing Review Committee fees are affordable.
- Review the fit-and-proper test to ensure decisions are transparent, consistent and connected to genuine public-safety risks, including whether more objective standards are needed.
- Require the regulator to work with mental health organisations and professionals who understand firearms to develop clear, consistent information about mental health and firearms licensing, and build trust between licence holders, health professionals and the regulator.

Sporting and pest-control endorsements

- Create a tightly-controlled sporting endorsement for semi-automatic centrefire firearms used in recognised shooting disciplines including:
 - requiring enhanced vetting and secure-storage standards for those endorsement holders;
 - requiring membership of an approved shooting organisation and ongoing participation in a recognised discipline;
 - Clearly limiting where and how firearms held under the endorsement may be used; and
- Create a personal pest-control endorsement for appropriately vetted people who can demonstrate a genuine pest-management need.

Back clubs, ranges and firearms training

- Allow suitably qualified shooting clubs, community organisations, and firearms safety instructors to deliver accredited firearms-safety training.
- Remove the Part 6 requirements in the Arms Act as they apply to non-pistol shooting clubs and non-pistol shooting ranges.
- Protect existing shooting ranges from noise complaints by people who move into the area after the range is already operating.
- Investigate whether suitable unused or low-value Crown land could be made available for safe shooting ranges in areas where access is limited.

Remove unnecessary red tape

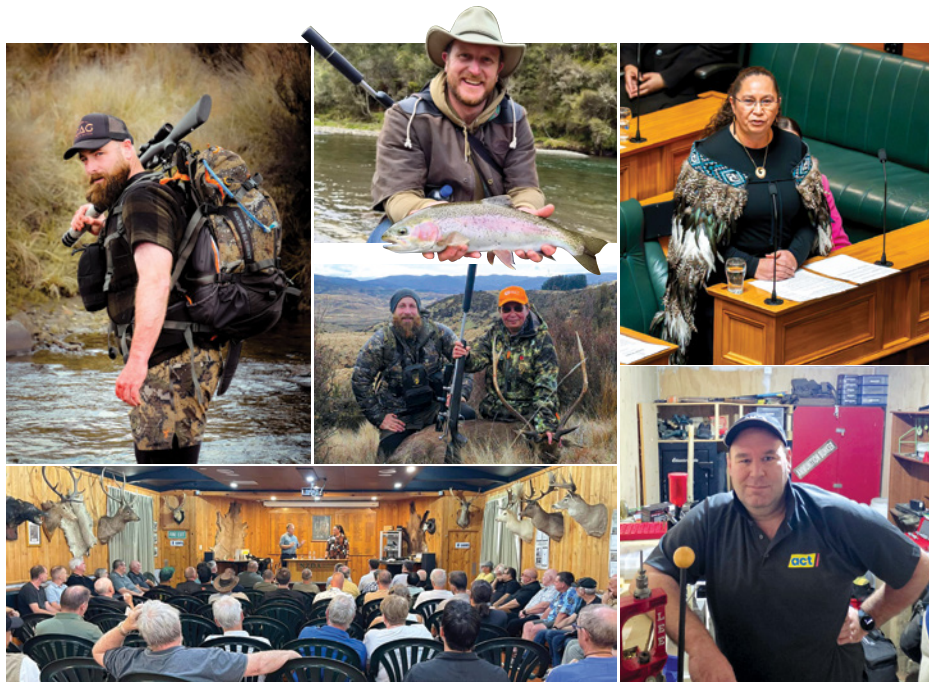
- Review the definition of a firearms part so ordinary accessories are not unnecessarily subject to the same regulation as essential firearm components.
- Create a clearer, technology-neutral definition of high-energy airguns.
- Review the classification of tracer and enhanced-penetration ammunition to ensure prohibited classifications are justified by genuine additional risk.
- Update minimum-firearm-length rules to better account for folding, telescopic and adjustable stocks that are convenient for hunters.
- Streamline importation arrangements for trusted licensed dealers, including better coordination between Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand and Customs.
- Remove the requirement for restricted magazines to be serialised.
- Allow multiple authorised users or custodians to be recorded against firearms belonging to clubs, businesses, museums and other approved organisations.
- Review regulations relating to the transport of firearms to ensure there are not excessive barriers to the mailing or couriering of firearms, their parts, and relevant accessories.

Collectors, museums and historic firearms

- Simplify the separate museum licence and museum worker licence categories so museum staff can handle firearms as part of their employment without unnecessary duplication.
- Allow collector firearms to be used at approved historical shooting events under strict conditions as is done overseas.
- Create a clearer pathway for museums, dealers and bona fide collectors to receive surrendered or donated firearms.
- Work with major museums such as the National Army Museum to simplify regulatory requirements. Where existing rules are impractical given a museum's scale, security arrangements and professional operation, ACT would allow exemptions where this can be done without compromising public safety.

Improving public safety

- Establish a standing good-faith amnesty to allow firearms to be voluntarily surrendered without fear of prosecution for possession-only offences. It would not provide protection from investigation or prosecution for other offending involving the firearm.
- Create a pathway for suitable surrendered firearms to enter lawful ownership rather than automatically being destroyed.
- Create a new offence of unauthorised disclosure of firearms information, applying to any person with official access to that information. This includes the firearms regulator, Police, intelligence agencies, or other authorised agencies, punishable by up to three years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$100,000, or both.
- Introduce tougher penalties for Police officers, firearms regulator staff, and other public officials who abuse their position to unlawfully acquire, supply, divert, traffic, or facilitate access to firearms or ammunition.
- Repeal the firearms register and put that money back into the firearms system to improve public safety.
- Ensure the regulator has access to qualified armourers and other firearms technical experts and move the process for assessing new firearms to Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand.



Have your say...

Which of these proposals should form part of ACT's 2026 election policy?

Are there any of these proposals that could be improved?

Are there more specific areas within particular proposals that should be directly addressed?

Are unintended consequences we have not identified that we should be aware of?

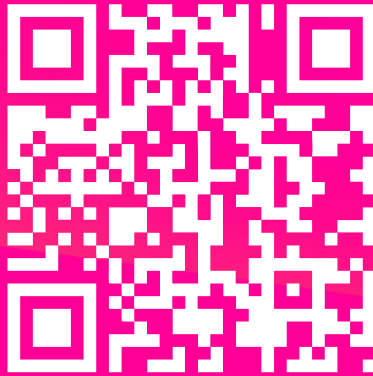
What further changes should be considered?

Following consultation, ACT will publish its firearms policy for the 2026 election and use the feedback received to inform coalition negotiations.

You can have your say by emailing: firearms@act.org.nz

Share your feedback by: 26/10/2026

**Be first to hear
what's next for
firearms reform**



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