

GUN CONTROL NEW ZEALAND



Report: March 2026.

The Firearms Registry continues to be supported by National and New Zealand First; they also support the semi-automatic ban. However, the ACT party have invoked the “agree to disagree” protocols to disagree. This is an example of the pressure on the government by the far right.

It will be another three years from August 2025 before it is fully implemented.

The New Zealand Police Review of Firearms Registry 13 May 2025 finds public safety benefits: it has been cost-effective, it meets government standards for security of personal information, the requirements for licence holders are necessary, appropriate and streamlined. The Review recommends that it continue.

Nicole McKee (ACT) introduced a new Arms Bill in December 2025, submissions closed 16 February 2026. The WILPF submission is attached to this report.

The Arms Bill is available on the New Zealand Parliament website.

Philippa Yasbek, Gun Control NZ co-founder has written her response to the mass shooting at a Hannukah event in Bondi. It is included in the Gun Control newsletter update January 15 2026.

I recommend that WILPF Aotearoa continue to support Gun Control NZ.

Irene Johnson



Submission attached.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

United Nations Consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNCTAD

Special relations with the ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and other organisations and agencies

16 February 2026

Submission to Justice Select Committee

Re: Arms Bill

This submission is being made on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Aotearoa Section.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a peace and disarmament organisation which has been working for social justice and a non-violent society since its establishment in The Hague in April 1915. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a submission on this Bill.

In general, we support the submission made by Gun Control NZ. We are heartened to see that the Bill makes no changes to the public safety measure of banning semi-automatic weapons and maintaining a register of firearms. On 14 December 2025 a mass shooting happened at Bondi beach in Sydney, despite the effective 1996 Australian gun control law changes. If the Bondi shooters had had access to semi-automatic weapons and large magazines, the death toll would have been much higher.

Regarding the Bill:

We recommend a licensing period of 5 years, (not the 10 years (clause 76) in the Bill) as is the case for other like-minded jurisdictions. Canada and the UK both have 5-year licences. Australian states have a range of terms, that vary from 1-5 years, depending on the types of firearms owned.

A person's circumstances can change significantly over 10 years. For example, relationship breakdowns, ageing and online radicalisation are all risk factors that can have a significant impact on a licence holder.

In terms of administration, we believe that the process of appointing the chief executive of the Firearms Safety Authority (Clause 302) should follow the practice outlined in clause 5, schedule 7 of the Public Service Act 2020, that is, be made by the Governor General on the advice of the Public Service Minister, not by the responsible Minister. This proposed change is constitutionally unprecedented in New Zealand's system of government. (See also Clause 308 and 309 regarding the chief executive.) We see no good reason for an exceptional process for appointing the head of this important authority.

Recommended additions to the Bill:

The December 2025 Bondi attack also illustrated the slaughter that is possible if shooters have multiple weapons. For that reason, WILPF suggests the addition of a clause to set a limit on the number of firearms that can be owned on an ordinary firearms licence.

We also recommend that ammunition sellers be required to keep records of their ammunition sales, as under section 22E of the Arms Act 1983. Maintaining a register of ammunition sales is important for reducing the risk of ammunition being sold to unlicensed individuals. It would ensure that the ammunition is only sold to those with registered weapons that require that calibre of ammunition and would enable the Police to detect any suspicious patterns of ammunition purchases that warrant further investigation.

Megan Hutching

National Co-ordinator