

# **Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026**

**Submission No:** 004

**Submission By:** Ipswich and District Rifle Club Incorporated

**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public

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# Ipswich & District Rifle Club Inc.



Committee Secretary  
Community Support and Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

## **Submission: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026**

Dear Committee Members,

The Ipswich & District Rifle Club Inc. has been a cornerstone of Queensland's sporting and civic life for over 165 years. As one of the state's oldest sporting institutions, our club has played a proud role in fostering social cohesion, discipline, and community service through the sport of target shooting.

We welcome the Queensland Government's introduction of the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026*. The Bill's focus on criminal misuse of firearms, extremist threats, and hate-motivated violence is both timely and appropriate. We are encouraged that the legislation avoids placing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding, licensed sporting shooters.

That said, we believe it is important to raise several practical concerns regarding the Bill's implementation and its potential unintended consequences for responsible firearms owners. Our concerns are outlined below.

### **1. Citizenship Requirement for Weapons Licence Holders**

As outlined in the Explanatory Notes (p. 6), the Bill proposes to "require that a Queensland weapons licence holder must, unless limited exceptions apply, be an Australian citizen." While we understand the intent to limit access to high-risk individuals, this provision risks excluding long-term, law-abiding residents who are permanent residents but not citizens.

We respectfully request that the Committee:

- Clarify the scope of the “limited exceptions” (e.g., primary producers, agricultural workers, gunsmiths)
- Consider a pathway for permanent residents with a clean record to retain or renew their licences

## **2. Consideration of Spent or Non-Recorded Offences in Licensing Decisions**

The Bill proposes to “broaden the scope of an individual’s history that may be considered in firearms licensing decisions to include information about violent and weapons-related offences, irrespective of whether a conviction is spent or not recorded” (Explanatory Notes, p. 6). This aligns with recent changes introduced under the Queensland Community Safety Act, which expanded the Weapons Act 1990 to include new classes of “serious offences” and introduced the concept of “disqualified persons,” as reflected in the Queensland Police Service’s Self-Assessment Tool.

While we support thorough vetting, this raises concerns about:

- Procedural fairness and natural justice
- Transparency for applicants
- The potential for inconsistent application

We urge the Committee to ensure that applicants are informed of any such information used in decisions and are given the opportunity to respond or appeal. We also recommend that the criteria for disqualification be clearly defined and publicly accessible, and that the use of non-conviction information be subject to appropriate safeguards and review mechanisms.

## **3. Mandatory Solid Steel Storage Requirements**

The Bill proposes to “strengthen the storage requirements for category A, B, C, E and M weapons by requiring these weapons to be stored exclusively in solid steel containers” (Explanatory Notes, p.9).

While we support secure storage, this change would impose significant costs on compliant licence holders—particularly in rural areas—without clear evidence of improved safety outcomes.

We recommend:

- Grandfathering existing compliant timber storage
- Providing a reasonable transition period
- Offering financial support or rebates where appropriate

#### **4. Mandatory Reporting by Clinicians**

During parliamentary debate, Health Minister Tim Nicholls stated:

“If a clinician forms the view that a patient is of a higher risk of committing violence with a weapon, then it will in effect be mandatory for that clinician to report it to the Queensland Police Service.”

While we support preventive measures, we are concerned about:

- The impact on patient trust and willingness to seek care
- The lack of clarity around reporting thresholds
- The potential for overreach or unintended consequences

We ask the Committee to clarify the legal basis and scope of this proposal, and to ensure that any reporting obligations are accompanied by clear guidelines and procedural safeguards.

#### **Closing Remarks**

While we support the Bill’s intent and its focus on criminal misuse of firearms, we must also acknowledge the broader context in which this legislation arrives. In recent months, Queensland’s law-abiding sporting shooters have faced a wave of public commentary that has, at times, unfairly cast doubt on the integrity of our sport and its participants. This has caused real damage to the reputation of our community and left many responsible shooters feeling marginalised and misrepresented.

As a volunteer-run organisation, our club—like many others—relies on the tireless efforts of members who give their time to promote safety, discipline, and community engagement. Rebuilding public trust will require significant effort, and we believe it is important that Parliament recognises the impact of recent discourse on the morale and standing of our sport.

We respectfully ask that the Committee acknowledge the role of shooting sports in Queensland’s cultural and sporting landscape, and ensure that future policy development includes meaningful consultation with the organisations and individuals who uphold the highest standards of firearms safety and compliance.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

Yours sincerely,

Glenn Rush

Volunteer Club Captain IDRC