

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

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SUBMISSION REGARDING THE
FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE
HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL
2026 (QLD)

Prepared for the Queensland Parliament Justice, Integrity and Community Safety
Committee

By

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Introduction and Authority to comment:

Shooters Union Queensland Collectors Pty Ltd (“Shooters Union Collector’s Branch”; “Shooters Union Collectors”) is the Collector’s Branch of Shooters Union Queensland, and is an Approved Historical Society (No. 49001015) in Queensland per Division 2 of *Weapons Act 1990 (Qld)*.

We have more than 300 members and our president, Royce Wilson, is a noted and respected firearms historian who has written extensively on the subject for approximately two decades.

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* (“The Bill”).

General observations and recommendations:

The Bill covers a number of aspects not related to firearms; we have limited our comments and recommendations to matters relating to Collector’s Licences (per the *Weapons Act 1990* and *Weapons Regulation 2016*).

Shooters Union Queensland Collector’s Branch is broadly supportive of the firearms-related changes presented in the Bill and believe they are well-intentioned and designed to address legitimate shortcomings rather than punish licensed firearms owners.

We particularly appreciate the calm, fact-and reality-based approach the Queensland Government has taken regarding the issue, and consider it a welcome and refreshing breath of air in a country where responsible firearms owners are frequently seen as an easy target for scoring political points.

However, we feel that restricting Collector’s Licences to citizens only is excessive, unnecessary, and punishes responsible members of the community who, while born elsewhere, have made Australia their home and have been through exactly the same police checks, genuine reason requirements, and fit and proper person checks as an Australian citizen licence-holder.

Given the close history, cultural, and economic ties between Australia and New Zealand and the United Kingdom, we believe that New Zealand citizens lawfully residing in Australia should be treated the same way as Australian citizens for the purposes of firearms legislation, as should British citizens permanently residing in Australia – especially considering some British subjects permanently residing in Australia are eligible to vote in elections and referenda as well.¹

¹https://www.aec.gov.au/enrolling_to_vote/british_subjects.htm

It is also worth noting that New Zealanders are the only nationality who obtain effective permanent residency as soon as they arrive in Australia; they do not need to apply for it and as a result New Zealanders enjoy nearly all the privileges of Australian citizenship except for being able to vote in elections and referenda.

This has created a situation where many New Zealand citizens have been living in Australia lawfully for a long time, yet do not hold Australian citizenship because there has essentially been no need for them to obtain it.

A number of these people are licensed firearms owners, including Collector's Licence holders, and now find themselves facing the possibility of losing their licences and firearms – often holding considerable historic or financial value – through absolutely no fault of their own.

We also note the well-intentioned inclusion in the Bill to criminalise possession of 3D printing or electronic milling machine files, but are concerned the way the Bill is worded does not afford adequate protection to legitimate possession or use of these files by firearm collectors, historians, researchers, or others engaged in firearms-related study.

Specific Comment On Aspects Of Bill:

Australian citizenship requirements

Clause 56 of the Bill adds a requirement to the *Weapons Act 1990* that a licence-holder must be “an Australian citizen within the meaning of the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007 (Cwlth)*, section 4”; the limited exemptions are for competition shooting and occupational use.

Collecting is not included in these exemptions, which means that someone who is a lawful permanent resident in Queensland is not able to obtain a Collector's Licence, regardless of whether or not they meet the fit and proper person requirements, background checks, secure storage requirements, and genuine interest in the study, preservation and collection of firearms.

This unfairly disadvantages these upstanding people, and also has significant ramifications for historical study in Queensland.

Australia's post-European Settlement history is inextricably intertwined with that of New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and there are many New Zealand citizens and British nationals in the country as a result; a number of them also lawfully hold firearms licences including Collector's Licences. New Zealand citizens in particular are essentially Australian citizen-adjacent; they have unlimited residency and work rights in Australia, and are on a path to Australian Citizenship essentially as soon as they step off the plane.

One of the most popular collecting interests our members have identified involves military firearms, particularly from WWI and WWII. The ANZAC history in particular is a popular study

and collecting field, and both Australian and New Zealand citizens are rightly proud of that history and have a strong interest in its study and collection.

Preventing New Zealand citizens lawfully residing in Queensland from obtaining a Collector's Licence would, we suggest, go against the vaunted ANZAC Spirit and would be considered as going against community expectations on the matter.

The way the Bill is currently worded is that non-Australian citizens may lawfully obtain a firearms licence and own firearms for sports/competition shooting or occupational purposes, but not for collecting purposes.

This creates a situation where a non-Australian citizen with a firearms licence (such as a New Zealand citizen who has been living in Queensland for many years) can own category A, B and H firearms for target shooting – say, for participating in the Combined Services or Service Rifle and Service Pistol disciplines - but cannot have a Collector's licence for firearms which are exactly the same.

This creates a situation which encourages non-citizen licence-holders to put as many guns as possible on their “regular” firearms licence so they can retain them.

Collectible firearms are frequently very expensive, and indeed one of the definitions of “Collectible firearm” outlined in the *Weapons Act 1990* is “obvious and significant investment value”².

Many of our members have firearms worth considerable sums of money, often irreplaceable or extremely rare items, and under the Bill, any of those members who are not Australian citizens will be forced to dispose of those items, almost certainly at a significant loss due to the limited buyers with the appropriate funds for these pieces and the “forced disposal” nature of the sale.

We are supportive of denying firearms licences to transient or temporary residents (such as those on student visas or, in Queensland on other visas which are not recognised as “Permanent Residency”), but believe extending this denial to lawful permanent residents – especially those from countries with whom Australia has close cultural and/or historical ties – is excessive and an over-reach.

We submit that it is entirely within community expectations that non-Australian citizen lawful permanent residents in Queensland – particularly New Zealand citizens, citizens of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, and other Commonwealth nations, European Union citizens, and citizens of allied countries such as the United States of America – be permitted to hold a Collector's Licence in Queensland; especially as the Bill already permits them to do so for the purposes of competition shooting or occupational use.

² s77(2), *Weapons Act 1990*

Recommendation 1:

That Clause 56 of the Bill be modified to clarify that non-citizens may hold Collector's Licences.

For example:

(2) Section 10—

insert—

(2C) Subsection (2)(h) does not apply to a person who satisfies the authorised officer that the person has a genuine reason, stated in section 11 or prescribed by regulation for this subsection, for possessing a weapon for which a licence is required under this Act.

Recommendation 2:

That Clause 56 of the Bill be modified to include New Zealand citizens alongside Australian citizens.

For example:

Section 10(2)—

insert—

(h) is an Australian citizen within the meaning of the Australian Citizenship Act 2007(Cwlth), section 4; or is a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident lawfully residing in Australia

Firearm Blueprints for 3D Printers and Electronic Milling Machines

Clause 74 of The Bill creates offences relating to possessing “*blueprint material for the manufacture of a firearm on a 3D printer or an electronic milling machine*”

As written, we believe this section of the Bill has the potential to capture necessary historical study and research activities undertaken by holders of Collector's Licences. Part of studying firearms is understanding how they work, and understanding how they are made – not only with traditional technology, but with new, emerging, and yet-to-be developed technology. This clearly includes 3D printers, electronic milling machines, and a range of other manufacturing devices.

With this in mind, we submit that a firearms or weapons collector has a legitimate, lawful need to have 3D printer or electronic milling machine blueprint materials as part of their research and studies, and that this should be reflected in legislation.

While we acknowledge there are “lawful purpose” and “public interest” defences already included, these do not explicitly include research, study, or educational purposes and this oversight leads to ambiguity and “grey areas”, which is not a desirable legislative outcome.

Recommendation 1:

Narrow the 3D printer /electronic milling machine blueprint material offence to include a requirement for explicit intent for criminal purposes as an element, to prevent legitimate academic and research access to digital material being captured under the offence.

Recommendation 2:

That possession of 3D printer/electronic milling machine blueprint materials by collectors, historians, researchers, and the like be explicitly listed as a “lawful purpose” via the proposed amendments to s67.

For example:

Examples of possession or distribution for use for a lawful purpose—

- *a person who holds a licence that authorises the person to manufacture a firearm possesses blueprint material for the manufacture of the firearm*
- *a person who holds a licence that authorises the person to manufacture a firearm distributes blueprint material for the manufacture of the firearm to an employee who is involved in manufacturing the firearm*
- *a person who holds a licence that authorises the person to collect, study, research, preserve or maintain firearms possesses blueprint material for the manufacture of the firearm or distributes it to another licence-holder*
- *a person engaged in firearms-related research, study, education, or similar possesses blueprint material for the manufacture of the firearm as part of those activities (including establishing or maintaining a reference library), or distributes that material to someone also engaged in firearms-related research, study, education or similar.*

Concluding remarks:

We believe the issues raised in this submission can be easily resolved via minor amendments to wording in the Bill, while still retaining their aim and intent – keeping firearms and weapons out of the hands of terrorists, criminals, and others who absolutely should not have access to them.

These recommended amendments would ensure that firearms collectors, researchers and historians in Queensland would not be negatively impacted by the proposed laws, but still strengthen the penalties for criminal and terrorist misuse of firearms in line with the Bill's stated aims and community expectations on the matter.

Once again we appreciate the considered, fact-based approach to the Bill taken by the Government, and appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission to the Committee regarding it. We hope these recommendations will be received favourably and look forward to reading the Committee's report when it is published in due course.
