

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

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Dear Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Members

The Queensland Rifle Association (QRA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Committee on the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* and acknowledges the Queensland Government's measured and considered approach in responding to serious and complex public safety issues.

The QRA considers the Queensland Government's response to be a welcome relief when contrasted with the knee-jerk legislative reactions adopted or proposed by the Commonwealth and other State Governments in the aftermath of the tragic events at Bondi. The Association submits that calm, evidence-based policymaking—rather than reactive or emotive responses—is essential to achieving genuine community safety outcomes while maintaining public confidence in the firearms regulatory framework.

The QRA is Queensland's peak body representing organised long range target shooting and affiliated rifle clubs across the State, representing thousands of licensed, law-abiding firearms owners who participate in regulated sporting and competitive shooting activities. Our members are responsible members of their communities and as such have a longstanding record of cooperation with law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

The QRA unequivocally condemns antisemitism, terrorism, violent extremism, and all forms of criminal misuse of firearms. We strongly support measures that genuinely enhance public safety and prevent firearms from being accessed by terrorists and criminals. However, it is critical that legislative responses are evidence-based, proportionate, and precisely targeted at those who pose a real risk, as this Bill is addressing.

Accordingly, this submission seeks to outline a number of specific concerns in relation to provisions within the Bill where licensed, compliant firearms owners and affiliated clubs may be captured as an unintended consequence of the proposed amendments. The QRA is concerned that, without appropriate safeguards and clarity, certain measures may inadvertently impact individuals and organisations that are already subject to rigorous vetting, oversight, and regulatory compliance, despite having no connection to criminal or extremist activity.

This submission focuses on ensuring that the Bill achieves its stated objectives without undermining the integrity of Queensland's existing firearms framework, eroding civil liberties, or adversely impacting legitimate sporting, recreational, and historical firearms use. The QRA submits that effective public safety outcomes are best achieved through strong intelligence-led policing, enforcement of existing laws, and targeted interventions against criminal networks—rather than through broad measures that risk capturing lawful and responsible participants.



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Taking this into account we wish to raise the following concerns regarding the Bill's implementation and how this may have potential unintended consequences for our law abiding members. Below are the areas of concern we wish to raise:

1. Mandating Citizenship for firearms ownership

The Bill raises an amendment to S10 of the Weapons Act to restrict eligibility for weapons licenses to Australia citizens who reside only in Queensland.

Further, the "amendment will allow a licence to be issued to an individual who is not an Australian citizen if they require a licence for the genuine reasons of sports or target shooting, or for occupation requirements including employment in primary industry, rural purposes, and for animal welfare. Limiting the ability to obtain a weapons licence to Australian citizens only, will bring Queensland into alignment with a recent agreement of National Cabinet. It will also simplify and enhance the process of conducting background checks." (Explanatory Notes, Pg.6)

Under this amendment non-Australian Citizens, meeting all requirements of being a fit and proper person, will be able to apply for a firearms license for the purposes of:

- sports or target shooting;
- an occupational requirement, including an occupational requirement for rural purposes; or
- a reason as prescribed by regulation.

We agree with the intent of the amendment to limit access of firearms to high-risk individuals and those that don't meet fit and proper persons assessment is important to public safety; the amendment may have unintended consequences for excluding long-term permanent residents. Recognising the above exclusions, it is requested of the Committee that the following be considered:

- provide a process for an authorised officer to determine where and how an exemption applies and what information would be needed to ensure the applicant can demonstrate their genuine reason; and
- review the amendment to include permanent residents who current hold firearms licenses and have met the requirements under the Act as a fit and proper person.

2. Storage Requirements – Mandatory Solid Steel Storage Requirements

Part 8 – Amendment of Weapons Regulation 2016, Item 115

Section 94 of the Weapons Regulation 2016 outlines that a person must, when a weapon is not in the person's physical possession, store it in locked container. This clause will require that a person who possess a category A, B, C, E and M weapon must store it inside a solid steel container exclusively **by omitting the term 'or solid timber'**. (Explanatory Notes, Pg.47)



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We support safe, secure and practical storage requirements for our members and law abiding firearms owners. However, this change could result in additional compliance costs for existing license holders where suitable existing storage has been constructed using solid timber.

Justification is understandable in terms of illegally accessing solid steel safes as opposed to solid timber safes, however, has suitable analysis been conducted to determine stolen firearms storage conditions? In response to this missing analysis, we recommend:

- Providing a reasonable timeframe for a transition period for existing solid timber safes to be replaced with compliant solid steel safes, e.g. 12 months as a minimum.

3. Broadening the scope of considerations made by an authorised officer when making firearms licensing decisions

The Bill amends the Weapons Act to ensure that authorised officers have the legislative authority to consider all relevant aspects of an applicant's suitability when making determinations as to whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a weapons licence or be an associate of an applicant for a dealer's licence under sections 10B(1) and 10C(1) of the Weapons Act.

This amendment requires a robust framework to ensure that decisions are consistent with the intent of this change and not subjective in nature nor eroded over time. Further, this amendment offers scope to improve risk management in approving firearms licenses and strengthening the licensing structure in Queensland.

Additional opportunities for improvement of this amendment include:

- Ensuring eligibility assessments are undertaken on risk where personal history, compliance with existing legislation, and genuine need is demonstrated through active membership or activity;
- Consistency in decision making allowing for applicants to understand, with clarity, where likely outcomes will be in application or renewal of firearms licenses; and
- Allowing for the use of intelligence to be based on public risk, ensuring that applicants have the adequate opportunity to respond to adverse decisions in a procedurally fair and suitable manner.

In summary, the QRA supports a robust framework for firearms licensing where the use of criminal intelligence will strengthen the trust in the system and improve public safety. Such framework must have a foundation of practical, affordable, accessible and fair administrative appeal mechanisms.

The QRA supports the remaining amendments contained within the Bill and thank the Queensland Government for their considered and consultative means of establishing sensible legislation in the wake of this grievous attack on our Australian way of life. Lawful firearms owners are often overlooked due to inaccurate media coverage and sensationalism, which can obscure the important role responsible sporting shooters play in promoting safe and compliant firearms use.



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The QRA looks forward to constructively engaging with the Committee to ensure that the final legislative framework strengthens community safety while preserving the rights and responsibilities of Queensland's law-abiding firearms community.

Kindest Regards



Andrew McKillop
QRA Chair