

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

**Submission No:** 043

**Submission By:** Gympie Pistol Club Inc

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

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# Gympie Pistol Club Inc

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16 February 2026

Committee Secretary  
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Brisbane QLD

Dear Committee Members,

RE: Submission on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

The Gympie Pistol Club appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the above Bill.

We support, in principle, legislative measures that focus on preventing firearms from falling into the hands of terrorists, organised criminals, and individuals who pose a genuine risk to community safety. Law-abiding sporting shooters share a strong and genuine interest in ensuring Queensland maintains an intelligence-led and risk-based approach to unlawful firearms trafficking and criminal misuse.

We have limited our comment to provisions in the bill which are likely to affect our members or the law-abiding firearms community at large. We have not had the time to consider the rest of the provisions in the bill, and we note that our members have diverse views on other topics which are contained in the bill.

Our comments below are directed specifically to provisions that may affect compliant licence holders and the integrity of the broader licensing framework.

## **General Compliance and Investigative Enhancements**

The Club supports amendments that strengthen investigative powers directed toward serious criminal offending, including organised crime and terrorism-related activity. Measures that enhance the ability of police to disrupt high-risk networks and prevent unlawful access to firearms are consistent with community safety objectives.

We respectfully submit that the regulatory framework should remain clearly focused on unlawful conduct and genuine public safety risk, rather than creating unintended or disproportionate burdens for compliant licence holders who have demonstrated long-term adherence to the law. We support the sharing and consideration of federal intelligence in

licensing decisions but note that decisions must remain transparent and balanced.

### **Firearm Prohibition Order (FPO) Association Provisions**

We note with caution the expanded stop, detention and search powers relating to persons who are in the company of an individual subject to a Firearm Prohibition Order (FPO).

While we acknowledge the operational rationale for preventing circumvention of FPOs, it is often impossible in practice for an ordinary citizen to know whether another person is subject to such an order. FPO status is not publicly available, and there is no lawful mechanism by which a person can verify the status of a casual acquaintance, neighbour, former colleague, or social contact.

For example, a licensed firearm owner may attend a community event, local café, agricultural show, sporting function, or club meeting and engage in conversation with someone known socially or through business. That individual may later be revealed to be subject to an FPO. The licence holder may have had no knowledge of that status, no intention to facilitate wrongdoing, and no involvement in unlawful activity. Yet the expanded provisions could expose that compliant individual to stop and search powers based solely on incidental association.

In regional communities such as Gympie, social, business and sporting networks frequently overlap. It is unrealistic and impractical to expect licensed firearm owners to avoid all individuals who may be subject to an FPO, particularly when that status cannot reasonably be known.

We respectfully submit that:

- These powers must be clearly directed at deliberate facilitation or intentional circumvention of FPO restrictions;
- Reasonable suspicion must not be inferred solely from incidental or casual presence; and
- Operational guidance and oversight should reinforce proportional and risk-based application.

Without such clarity, there is a risk that law-abiding individuals may be unintentionally drawn into intrusive enforcement processes despite posing no public safety concern.

### **Consideration of Findings of Guilt Where No Conviction Is Recorded**

The Club notes proposed amendments permitting licensing decision-makers to consider findings of guilt where no conviction has been recorded. We understand the rationale for this change but urge extreme caution with its use.

We acknowledge that the licensing regime must enable consideration of serious offending relevant to public safety. However, from a legal fairness perspective, the long-standing purpose of a “no conviction recorded” order is to recognise circumstances in which a court has determined that recording a conviction would be unjust or disproportionate, having regard to the offender’s character, antecedents, age, rehabilitation prospects, or the trivial or exceptional nature of the offence.

Such orders reflect established sentencing principles including proportionality, rehabilitation, and judicial discretion. They are deliberate judicial determinations.

Allowing these matters to be relied upon broadly in administrative decision-making risks undermining:

- The sentencing court's intent;
- The principle of proportionality;
- The rehabilitative purpose of non-recorded convictions; and
- The legitimate expectation of individuals that compliance with court outcomes will restore their standing in the community.

We respectfully submit that if these amendments are to proceed:

- Reliance on no-conviction-recorded matters should be confined to serious and significant offences demonstrably relevant to firearms safety;
- Such matters should carry weight only where there has been a failure to disclose the matters in circumstances where disclosure was legally required; and
- Clear and transparent statutory or policy guidance should require decision-makers to consider factors such as the age of the offence, subsequent good conduct, and demonstrable rehabilitation.

Without such safeguards, there is a risk of disproportionate consequences for individuals who have complied fully with court orders and lawfully held licences for many years without incident.

The Club does not oppose scrutiny of serious offending. Rather, we urge that any expansion of discretion be exercised consistently with established sentencing principles and fundamental fairness.

### **Storage Requirements – Transitional Considerations**

The Club supports clear and robust storage standards. Secure storage is a foundational element of responsible firearms ownership.

However, if the Bill introduces enhanced or exclusive steel storage requirements for Category A and B licensees, we respectfully submit that a reasonable transitional period is essential.

Many long-standing rural licence holders may currently utilise storage arrangements that were compliant at the time of installation. Immediate enforcement without transitional measures may create financial hardship and technical non-compliance for otherwise responsible owners.

A structured transition period would:

- Uphold public safety objectives;
- Allow reasonable time for procurement and installation;
- Avoid retrospective penalisation of good-faith compliance; and
- Support orderly implementation across regional Queensland.

Our Club members (Category H licensees) are already required to use steel safes and would not be directly affected. Our comments are made in the broader interests of proportional and practical reform.

### **Importance of Review and Procedural Fairness**

Confidence in the licensing framework depends on transparent decision-making and access to meaningful review rights. Administrative decisions affecting lawful property and participation in regulated sporting activity should remain subject to clear review mechanisms consistent with natural justice principles. We note that the bill does **not** remove QCAT as an appeal pathway for Weapons Licensing matters, and we commend the parliament for preserving timely and equitable appeal processes.

### **Recognition of Balanced Legislative Approach**

The Gympie Pistol Club wishes to acknowledge that the Queensland Government has adopted a measured and targeted approach in this Bill.

Unlike legislative developments in some other jurisdictions, the proposed reforms preserve the viability of lawful sporting disciplines, including Olympic-recognised shooting sports, and avoid unnecessary restriction of compliant licence holders who have demonstrated long-standing adherence to the law.

We commend the Government for striking an appropriate balance between community safety and the rights and expectations of law-abiding citizens. In our view, the Bill reflects careful consideration of those most directly affected by the reforms and demonstrates a commitment to proportionate and principled lawmaking.

## **Conclusion**

The Gympie Pistol Club supports the Bill's objective of focusing enforcement on terrorism, organised crime, and unlawful firearms activity. We commend the Government for directing legislative reform toward serious criminal misuse rather than legitimate sporting and recreational firearm ownership. We have observed with horror the destruction of legitimate sporting and recreational interests in New South Wales, and we thank the Queensland government for not going down that same path.

Summarily, we respectfully recommend:

- Clear and proportionate safeguards in relation to FPO association powers;
- Carefully confined and principled use of no-conviction-recorded matters consistent with proportionality and rehabilitation principles; and
- The inclusion of an appropriate transitional period for enhanced storage requirements affecting Category A and B licensees.

We thank the Committee for considering this submission and would be pleased to provide further information if required.

Yours faithfully,

Kahlel James | Secretary

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On behalf of the Gympie Pistol Club Committee