

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

Submission No: 056
Submission By: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

I write in response to the tragic incident at Bondi Beach and extend my deepest sympathies to the victims, their families, and the first responders who placed themselves in harm's way.

While tragedies often prompt calls for new firearm restrictions, I respectfully submit that Australia already has some of the strictest firearm laws globally. The overwhelming majority of licensed owners comply fully and pose no risk to public safety. This incident instead highlights failures in government oversight, enforcement of existing laws, and inter-agency accountability.

Reports indicate that at least one perpetrator was known to ASIO and flagged as early as six years ago for associations with extremists, including individuals linked to terrorism. Despite this, his father retained a firearms license and so both men continued to have access to firearms. This raises serious questions about how existing safeguards were applied, what role the firearms registry and relevant agencies played, and whether appropriate follow-up actions were taken.

Current legislation requires license holders to be "fit and proper persons," and authorities have revoked licenses for sharing a residence with a criminal, suspected sovereign citizen ideology, motorcycle gang affiliations, mental health concerns, or comparatively minor issues such as speeding fines. The fact that potential extremists known to intelligence agencies remained licensed demonstrates not a gap in the law, but a failure to enforce it. This was a failure of intervention, not legislation.

The offender's license makes the failure more serious, not less. However in Queensland our current system under Weapons licensing would have prevented the terrorist from acquiring the same firearms. Authorities had visibility and powers to monitor, suspend, or revoke licenses under existing laws, including those governing associations. If those powers had been exercised, this attack would have been prevented. Extremism—not licensing—was the cause. I would strongly propose advocating Queensland Weapons licensing procedures to NSW's and our national MP's as the right move forward. Rather than implementing an untested and radical change that does nothing to remove illegal weapons from our community. It only reclassify already registered and legal firearms to unobtainable licensing requirements which will impact all law abiding Queensland shooters and associated business.

Attempts to pivot toward further firearm restrictions, such as firearm caps, category bans, or Western Australian-style administrative crackdowns, distract from the real issue and unfairly punish compliant license holders. The solution lies in decisive action against violent extremists, proper use of existing powers, and accountability when agencies fail to act.

The key changes we are seeing are not based on thorough risk assessments or factual evidence that would make any meaningful impact on criminals. It simply punishes law abiding shooters. We cannot demonise law abiding Queenslanders for the acts of terrorist who should never have been allowed access in the first place.

We cannot allow the heavily anti-gun lobbied labor government to push through laws that fail to address the key issue while scapegoating all law abiding shooters.

I urge you to ensure existing laws are enforced, warning signs are acted upon, and agencies are held accountable when their systems fail. Only this approach will meaningfully improve public safety without unfairly penalising responsible Australians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]