

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

Submission No: 072

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Dear Committee Members,

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026.

I am writing to express my strong support for the primary objectives of this Bill. The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code and Weapons Act 1990 aimed at preventing acts of terrorism and curbing the illegal trade of firearms are vital for the safety of Queenslanders. Specifically, I commend the measures designed to deter criminal behaviour, prevent the radicalisation of individuals, and ensure that those who pose a risk to the community are prohibited from accessing weapons.

While I fully endorse the intent of the Bill to enhance public safety, I believe two specific areas require amendment to ensure the legislation is practical, fair to law-abiding citizens, and effective in its implementation.

I respectfully propose that the Committee consider an amendment to allow for the legal possession and use of sound suppressors (moderators) by licensed firearm owners. Currently, the use of suppressors is heavily restricted, yet they are essentially safety devices. My recommendation is based on the following grounds:

* Hearing Protection: The primary function of a suppressor is to reduce the peak sound pressure level of a gunshot to a threshold that is less damaging to human hearing. For farmers, pest controllers, and recreational shooters, hearing loss is a significant occupational hazard.

* Noise Pollution: Suppressors significantly reduce noise complaints and disturbance to livestock and residents in rural areas.

* Clarification on Function: Contrary to popular media, suppressors do not "silence" a firearm or make it undetectable. They simply lower the decibel level to a range that is safer for the shooter and those nearby, similar to a muffler on a car.

* Legislative Consistency: Many jurisdictions, such as New Zealand and the United Kingdom, encourage the use of suppressors specifically for health and safety reasons without compromising public safety.

I urge the Committee to introduce a provision that allows licence holders to acquire suppressors for the genuine reason of hearing protection and noise abatement.

Secondly, the Bill introduces offences prohibiting the possession and distribution of "blueprint material for the manufacture of a firearm." While I support preventing the proliferation of undetectable "ghost guns," it is critical that the legislation distinguishes between the manufacture of a firearm (the pressure-bearing component) and the manufacture of non-regulated accessories.

* Risk of Over-Reach: Without a clear distinction, the legislation risks criminalising the possession of digital files for harmless items. Many law-abiding enthusiasts use 3D printers to create custom ergonomic grips, camera mounts, storage clips, or cosmetic replacement parts that do not alter the mechanical function or lethality of the firearm.

* Definition of "Firearm": The prohibition on digital blueprints should be strictly limited to the receiver, frame, or pressure-bearing parts that constitute the legal definition of a firearm.

* Proposed Amendment: I recommend that the Bill explicitly excludes digital files and "blueprint material" related to non-essential accessories (e.g., stocks, grips, rails) from the new offence provisions. This ensures that the focus remains on preventing the manufacture of illicit weapons, rather than penalising innovation and harmless hobbyist activities.

In conclusion, I support the Government's initiative to fight terrorism and keep the community safe. However, I believe the legislation can be improved by recognising the health and safety benefits of suppressors for licensed owners and by ensuring that definitions regarding 3D printing are precise enough to protect legal firearm accessories.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,
Louis Cooper