

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

Submission No: 101
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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

1) Introduction and appreciation for consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this Bill. I appreciate the Government and the Committee taking the time to consult, consider submissions carefully, and avoid reactive lawmaking.

I support reforms that keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists and serious criminals. I also support policy that is evidence-based, proportionate, and targeted at criminal misuse, while maintaining fairness for compliant licence holders.

2) Recognise lawful shooting and hunting as part of Queensland life

For many Queenslanders, lawful shooting and hunting are part of regional life, land management, pest control, and community culture. Policy settings should avoid inadvertently dismantling legitimate participation in lawful shooting sports and ethical hunting, especially where licence holders already meet training, background checking, and compliance obligations.

3) Storage reforms should be risk-based, not a "one-material only" rule

I understand the Bill proposes to strengthen storage requirements by requiring firearms be stored exclusively in solid steel containers.

I submit that "solid steel only" is an overly rigid standard that risks punishing compliant licence holders who already use high-security storage, including:

- properly installed, compliant safes with strong anchoring and locks, and/or
- secure purpose-built storage rooms with robust construction and access controls, and/or
- substantial safes that demonstrably meet the security intent of the law.

A more effective approach is a performance/risk-based storage standard focused on actual theft prevention and real-world security (e.g., construction strength, anchoring, locking method, access control, inspection and compliance), rather than specifying a single material regardless of circumstances.

Where a licence holder demonstrably exceeds the minimum security intent, they should not be forced into costly replacement without clear evidence of safety benefit.

4) Criminal history must allow for rehabilitation and maturity

I understand the community expectation that firearms licensing considers a person's history. I support strong exclusion of people with serious violent offending, domestic violence, organised crime involvement, or any conduct connected to extremism/terrorism.

However, the framework should clearly distinguish that from minor youthful poor judgement. What I mean by "teenage poor behaviour" is the kind of low-level misconduct that can occur in late adolescence or early adulthood—such as a pub/bar fight, a heated argument, or a non-serious altercation arising from immaturity, alcohol, or poor impulse control. This is not a reference to terrorism, extremist activity, or serious offending.

Where a person has:

- grown into stable adulthood,
- maintained a long clean record, and
- demonstrated years of safe and compliant conduct,

then a minor youth incident should not operate as a lifelong barrier without a clear, evidence-based reason.

If the Bill expands the scope of information considered (including spent or non-recorded matters), it should include strict safeguards so the system remains fair and proportionate, including:

- clear definitions of what information may be considered and how it is weighed,
 - a reasonable evidence threshold and procedural fairness,
 - a written reasons process, and
 - a practical review/appeal pathway.
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5) Focus enforcement on criminal misuse and illegal supply

If the objective is public safety, the highest-impact reforms are those that target:

- illegal firearms trafficking and theft,
- repeat violent offenders, and
- organised crime access to weapons.

I encourage the Committee to prioritise measures with a clear link to harm reduction, including intelligence-led disruption of illegal supply, targeted compliance where genuine risk is identified, and appropriate resourcing so the system focuses on criminals rather than compliant licence holders.

6) Closing

Thank you for considering my submission. I support reforms that are targeted, practical, and evidence-based, and I ask that Queensland's approach protects public safety without unnecessarily undermining lawful shooting, hunting, and collecting.

7) Balance stronger licensing with practical trust for proven lawful owners

I recognise that this Bill is aimed at combating antisemitism and terrorism and tightening access to firearms licences. If the licensing and screening process is strengthened, then the framework should also reflect a complementary principle: once a person has passed that process and been issued a licence, they should be treated with less suspicion and afforded more practical freedom as a compliant, "fit and proper" person.

In practical terms, a person who has successfully completed the licensing checks, obtained a PTA when required, and maintained compliance has demonstrated that they can be trusted to handle firearms responsibly. A strong front-end screening model should be paired with a trust-and-verify approach for proven lawful owners, rather than unnecessary administrative barriers or blanket restrictions that do not clearly improve public safety.

This is particularly important because lawful firearms ownership supports legitimate Queensland activities including hunting, sport shooting, target shooting, and collecting, which remain significant parts of life in regional and rural Queensland.

As part of this balanced approach, I ask the Committee to consider whether some older rules could be modernised where there is a clear safety rationale. One example is reviewing the controlled use of sound suppressors for licensed shooters under strict conditions. Suppressors can reduce the risk of hearing damage, reduce noise impacts on neighbouring properties and livestock, and improve safety communication on ranges and in the field. Any consideration should be evidence-based and include appropriate safeguards (for example, limiting access to licensed owners only, strict storage and transfer requirements, and strong penalties for misuse).

Sincerely,

