

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

Submission No: 180

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*Introduction

I am writing to make a submission opposing the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hand of Terrorist and Criminal Amendment Bill 2026.

I am a law-abiding citizen who has never been charged with, nor convicted of, any criminal offence. I am deeply concerned that this Bill, while well-intentioned, unfairly punishes compliant citizens for the actions of a very small number of offenders and introduces broad powers that risk eroding long-standing civil liberties.

*Punishing the Law-abiding for the Actions of Criminals

This Bill significantly expands offences, penalties and regulatory burdens that apply to the general public, particularly licensed firearms owners, despite the fact that licensed holders are overwhelmingly law-abiding and statically unlikely to commit violent crimes. Criminals and terrorists, by definition, do not follow laws. Increasing penalties, licensing restrictions and compliance requirements for people who already comply does not address criminal behaviour. It shifts responsibility and consequences onto ordinary citizens who have done nothing wrong.

If individuals commit crimes, they should be punished as individuals. Collective punishment of lawful citizens undermines confidence in the justice system and creates resentment rather than safety.

*Freedom of Speech and Expression.

Freedom of expression must include the right to say things that others may find offensive, uncomfortable or confronting. That is not a flaw in a free society, it is a strength. Societies grow by allowing ideas to be challenged, debated and exposed to scrutiny, not by suppressing them.

Provided speech does not directly incite violence or criminal acts, it should not be criminalised. Restricting speech based on offensiveness or subjective harm risks creating vague and overly broad offences that chill legitimate discourse, dissent and debate.

*Expansion of Police Powers and Criminal Offences

The Bill introduces new offences relating to preparation, planning, possession of materials and expression, many of which rely heavily on interpretation and intent rather than completed criminal acts.

While law enforcement must have tools to address genuine threats, these powers must be tightly constrained and proportional. Broad offences risk capturing innocent behaviour, lawful expression or speculative intent, particularly when combined with increased penalties and expanded surveillance and controlled operation powers.

Strong laws must be precise. Vague or expansive drafting undermines the rule of law and creates uncertainty for ordinary citizens.

*Firearm Regulation Concern.

Queensland already has some of the strictest firearm laws in Australia. Licensed firearms owners are subject to comprehensive background checks, mandatory training, stringent secure storage requirements, inspections and ongoing compliance obligations.

I support the requirements that firearms licences be restricted to Australian citizens. Firearm ownership is a serious responsibility, and it is reasonable that this responsibility, and it is reasonable that this responsibility be limited to those who have a permanent and enduring legal commitment to Australia.

However, other proposed restrictions, such as the expanded consideration of historical matters irrespective of context or outcome, and the significant escalation of maximum penalties for offences already covered by existing laws, do not address the primary source of firearm related crimes. Criminal misuse of firearms overwhelmingly involves unlicensed individuals and illegally obtained weapons, not compliant licence holders.

Measures that further burden lawful owners risk discouraging compliance and cooperation with authorities, while failing to meaningfully disrupt criminal supply chains or reduce illicit firearm use. Effective firearms policy should focus on criminal behaviour and illegal possession, rather

that imposing additional punitive measures on those who already operate within the law.

* Conclusion

I do not support this Bill in its current form.

While antisemitism, terrorism and violent crimes must be addressed firmly, this must be done without sacrificing the rights and freedoms of law-abiding Australians. Laws should target criminals, not compliant citizens. Speech should be countered with debate, not criminalisation. Security must be balanced with liberty.

I urge the Committee to reconsider the scope, drafting and proportionality of this legislation and to ensure that fundamental freedoms and the presumption of individual responsibility remain central to Queensland's legal framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.