

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

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My name is Rocky Henry and I strongly oppose the newly introduced Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 in its current form. I oppose all forms of racism, but this bill is a large overreach, not quelling but inciting opposition. The term 'fighting antisemitism' is a misnomer, Antisemitism is a hatred of Jews and Jewish people. The protests we are seeing now is not against Jews or Jewish people, but the Israeli government which is breaking international law and committing a genocide. To conflate the two shows a lack of understanding, or more probably an attempt to legitimise the introduction of draconian laws. This another step towards an authoritarian state not unlike Trumps America.

The Bill severely restricts freedom of political communication which is an implied right in the Australian Constitution. The Bill's scope is broad and creates extraordinary power to without any clear parameters, especially what is deemed to be hate speech. This not how to run a democracy, the citizens of a democracy should have the right to peacefully protest actions of the government of the day whatever stripes they wear.

The Bill fails to acknowledge the growing public movement in Queensland in support of Palestinian rights. Addressing this legitimate sentiment with dialogue, rather than measures that seek to silence and erase Palestinian history, is essential for social cohesion.

The rushed nature of the Bill, with less than a week for public submissions, is an affront to the democratic process. Legislation that so significantly impacts minority groups requires deep consultation, not a rushed Bill that undermines the democratic principles of Australian society. The fact these laws are being rushed through gives more credence to the thought that this government is not acting in the best interests of the people of Queensland, but to crush any form of opposition to the current government's regime.

In conclusion many people in the Jewish population of Queensland and Australia support our efforts to quell the Zionist influence in Israel, yet you are putting them in the same basket as others who want a peaceful end to hostilities.

The Bill is an overreach of political power and structurally biased. It risks criminalising legitimate political expression, suppressing advocacy for Palestinian rights and undermining civil liberties. I am appealing to you take a stand for peace and democracy and redraft these laws and use a measured approach to this legislation.

Yours sincerely Rocky Henry.

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