

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

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**Submission By:** North Queensland Rifle Association

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## **NQRA Submission – Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 – Queensland.**

### **Introduction**

The North Queensland Rifle Association NQRA welcomes the opportunity to contribute comments to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

The NQRA is the governing body of long-range Fullbore target rifle shooting in North Queensland. We are a member of the National Rifle Association of Australia (NRAA) who are a member of Shooting Australia and the International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations (ICFRA). Biathlon Australia is an affiliate of NRAA.

NQRA members participate only in competitive target rifle shooting activities on Police-approved and Defence-approved rifle ranges throughout Australia. A range of rimfire and centrefire firearms are used across the many different sporting disciplines that are controlled within the NRAA/NQRA sport. A North Queensland member has won gold and Silver in previous Commonwealth Games competitions.

All activities must comply with relevant firearms laws and the safe control required under the NRAA Standard Shooting Rules (SSR) [SSR PART 1-7 All Chap v2.0 Jan 26](#)  
[https://nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/SSR-PART-1-7\\_-All-Chap\\_v2.0\\_Jan-26.pdf](https://nraa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/SSR-PART-1-7_-All-Chap_v2.0_Jan-26.pdf)

Individual members compete at different levels as individuals or as a team, from club, to district, state, national and international level. NRAA/NQRA members have a remarkable record in international competitions, in 2023 winning the bronze medal in the F-Class Teams World Championships and in 2024 winning the Target Rifle Teams World Championships for the second consecutive time. An Australian also won the Target Rifle Individual World Championship in 2024, making it three successive titles to NRAA individual members. Australians also won the Individual World Titles in the Veterans (Over 60) and Under 25 categories. Target rifle shooters

Longe Range Target Rifle Shooting is an all-inclusive sport for all legally licenced ages, genders and nationalities.

Straight pull rimfire rifles are used by biathlon members and straight pull centrefire rifles are also used by members competing in Precision Service Rifle and Sporter disciplines under NRAA rules. Competitions and training occur both domestically and internationally.

NRAA and Biathlon Australia have strongly objected to the changes to NSW laws and Federal regulations which change the category of straight pull rifles to prohibited category C.

Under the Prohibited Imports Regulations, Biathletes and NRAA competitors are not “certified sports shooters” or “certified international sports shooters”

as those shooters are essentially limited to clay target shooters that use semi-automatic shotguns, or pump-action repeating shotguns and handgun shooters (category H articles).

Competition straight pull rifles are not shotguns or handguns. So, by definition the owners are not “certified sports shooters” or “certified international sports shooters” under the Prohibited Imports Regs. Accordingly, the Minister is not able to give permission to biathletes and NRAA competitors to import straight pull Rifles under the Sports Shooters Test or International Sports Shooters Test.

So, these tests will be of no use to Australian or international biathletes and NQRA/NRAA competitors. It also means that it will not be possible to conduct an international biathlon or Precision Service Rifle event in Australia/Queensland in which straight pull rifles are to be used / imported by international competitors.

On behalf of all members, NQRA pays respects to the victims of the Bondi terrorist attack, their families, and everyone affected. NQRA condemns this violence in the strongest possible terms. There is no place for terrorism, antisemitism, or any form of hatred in Australia.

Whilst it is comforting that the proposed Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 (“the Bill”) delivers on the Queensland Government’s commitment to stronger laws which stamp out antisemitism and prevent the misuse of firearms by terrorists and criminals, its placement ahead of the Bondi Royal Commission findings being available, other state regulations being finalised, and the renegotiated National Firearms Register (NFR) being finalised delivers challenges for our sport and members. NQRA notes the comment in the Explanatory Notes that the Bill aligns with fundamental aspects of the NFA but is not intended to be uniform with legislation of the Commonwealth or another State.

NQRA members are law abiding firearms users and owners who comply with the strict responsibilities of firearms usage and ownership. NQRA/NRAA sporting activities are carried out with strict adherence to the applicable laws and are also governed by the NRAA safe system of control on approved rifle ranges as laid out in the SSR.

As a national competitive target shooting organisation, NQRA has focused its comments on elements of the Bill related to firearms, particularly those used by our Queensland members. NQRA acknowledges the Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia (SIFA) as an industry leader and national sport shooting organisation convenor and thanks them for providing information which has been used in this NRAA response.

### **1. Increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition**

NRAA supports the Bill increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 years imprisonment to 14 years imprisonment and omits the current circumstance of aggravation to stealing of a firearm or ammunition that requires an offender to intend that the firearm is used to commit other offences.

## **2. Amendments to the Weapons Act 1990**

NRAA supports the Bill increasing the maximum penalty of certain offences within the Weapons Act to deter criminal behaviour that endangers the community. These offences are:

- Section 65 'Unlawfully trafficking in weapons' of the Weapons Act;
- Section 50B 'Unlawful supply of weapons' of the Weapons Act;
- Section 50 'Possession of weapons' of the Weapons Act;
- Section 69(1A) 'Armourers to be licensed' of the Weapons Act;
- Section 61 'Shortening firearms' of the Weapons Act;
- Section 62 'Modifying construction or action of firearms' of the Weapons Act; and
- Section 63 'Altering identification marks of weapons' of the Weapons Act.

## **3. Introduction of a specific offence prohibiting the reckless discharge of weapons towards a premises, dwelling or a vehicle**

NQRA supports that the Bill amends the Weapons Act to include a specific offence provision that prohibits the reckless discharge of a weapon towards a place that may be occupied such as a dwelling, building or a vehicle.

## **4. Unlawful possession and distribution of blueprint material for manufacture of 3D printed firearms**

NQRA supports that the Bill introduces offences that prohibit the possession and distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of 3D printed firearms. It is important however, to exclude innocuous accessories designed for the simple protection of firearms parts. Such items may include telescope tube caps, rear sight knob caps, front sight caps, front sight tubes, bolt protection tubes, etc.

## **5. Mandating Citizenship for firearms ownership**

With respect to citizenship and residency requirements, caution is warranted. On a first principles basis, if non-citizens are lawfully admitted into Australian civil society, they are already trusted to participate in a wide range of regulated activities, including

holding driver licences, operating motor vehicles, opening bank accounts, accessing Medicare, and owning property.

There is no clear, objective test that can be consistently applied across these domains to exclude non-citizens while maintaining coherence and fairness. Citizenship status alone is therefore a weak proxy for risk. Factors such as background checks, residency stability, compliance history, and demonstrated genuine need are far more relevant to assessing suitability and public safety. Introducing blunt citizenship based exclusions risk arbitrary outcomes without a corresponding safety benefit.

NQRA notes and supports that the Queensland Bill has sensibly made provision in the amendments to the Weapons Act to provide for an exception to this citizenship requirement if the person satisfies an authorised officer that the person has a genuine reason for possessing a firearm for either sports or target shooting.

## **6. Broadening the scope of considerations made by an authorised officer when making firearms licensing decisions**

The Bill amends the Weapons Act to ensure that authorised officers have the legislative authority to consider all relevant aspects of an applicant's suitability when making determinations as to whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a weapons licence or be an associate of an applicant for a dealer's licence. The risk is that without a framework for making these determinations, the process becomes subjective and prone to mistakes.

There are opportunities to strengthen the licensing scheme by improving clarity, alignment, and risk targeting, rather than by simply increasing restrictions. Key opportunities include:

- Focusing eligibility assessments on meaningful risk indicators such as personal history, compliance behaviour, storage practices, and demonstrated need, rather than status based proxies such as citizenship.
- Improving administrative clarity and consistency in decision making to reduce uncertainty and ensure like cases are treated alike.

A licensing framework that evolves to reflect legitimate use while maintaining strong, individualised risk assessment will better support community safety than one that relies on narrow definitions or blunt exclusions.

NQRA supports the use of criminal intelligence as a legitimate and necessary tool in firearms licensing decision making, particularly where it contributes to protecting community safety and the integrity of the licensing system.

As the use of intelligence is expanded, it is important that licensing decisions remain procedurally fair, proportionate, and capable of review. Intelligence information is often sensitive and cannot always be disclosed in full, which can limit an individual's ability to understand or respond to an adverse decision. Without appropriate review pathways, this may affect confidence in the system, even where decisions are substantively sound.

These considerations do not argue against the use of intelligence but rather highlight the importance of complementary safeguards to ensure decisions are robust, trusted, and durable over time.

There is a strong opportunity to strengthen intelligence-informed decision-making by pairing its expanded use with an accessible and effective administrative review mechanism.

NQRA considers an administrative appeals model to be the most appropriate safeguard in this context. Administrative review offers several advantages:

- it is low cost and accessible for applicants
- it allows sensitive intelligence material to be considered in closed session
- it provides an independent assessment of proportionality and reasonableness without exposing intelligence sources or methods

This approach preserves the operational value of criminal intelligence while ensuring that decisions can be reviewed in a way that is fair, efficient, and legally robust. By contrast, reliance on judicial review alone would be costly, slower, and less well suited to handling sensitive intelligence material.

A framework that supports the use of criminal intelligence, underpinned by a practical administrative appeals mechanism, will strengthen both community safety and confidence in the firearms licensing system.

## **7. Strengthening the storage requirements for category A, B, C, E and M weapons**

Storage compliance has a direct connection to theft and misuse risk. A risk-based audit program, supported by intelligence and compliance history, is more effective than repeatedly increasing paperwork at renewal.

NQRA supports a move to storage only in steel containers, but the specifications of steel 'safes' need to be consistent with other states. Many firearms owners have storage in other arrangements which have been more than adequate for many years.

There also needs to be a reasonable time frame to allow firearms owners to upgrade their facilities. A period of up to 12 months to upgrade existing facilities is considered reasonable.

NQRA would welcome requests for further information or discussions on aspects of the above.

Yours faithfully



Martin Eiteneuer

Chairman

North Queensland Rifle Association