

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

Submission No: 279

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Re: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026**Introduction**

As a licenced firearm owner and Queenslander concerned about the process of legislative change, I make this submission to the Committee to register my general support for the Amendment Bill. The Queensland Government has shown a far more responsible and considered approach to ‘gun reform’ by rejecting the draconian measures hastily legislated by both the NSW and Federal Labor Governments – I strongly oppose their approach, and implication that law-abiding firearm owners are an issue. Understandably, however, Queensland needed to address the issues of antisemitism, hatred, extremism and criminality given recent events. I am appreciative of the opportunity to provide a submission to support targeted legislation which does not vilifying lawful firearms ownership and usage.

Background

In less than 24hrs following the Bondi terrorist attack in Dec 2025 the Australian Labor Government showed its true colours by announcing not a review of the terrorist event and their failures in curtailing antisemitism, or security intelligence and vetting, etc - but of ‘gun reform’. I was in disbelief at the response from the Prime Minister, and bitterly disappointed as he and the NSW Premier later doubled down on this approach which ultimately led to rushed NSW and Federal legislation which I believe was neither democratic nor constitutional (through use of rushed omnibus wedge-legislation without appropriate review, submission and consultation timeframes). Education, community engagement and targeted counterterrorism/criminal strategies under extant laws would have been a more effective response than introducing broad punitive laws.

While there will understandably be many repercussions from such a tragedy, ‘gun reform’ was used by both the Federal and NSW Labor Governments, and anti-gun lobbyists, in an attempt to deflect discussion on the underlying issues, to twist the facts, insert their own narrative, and shift the focus away from the grim reality that the Australian Government had failed to fulfill a fundamental function they are there to provide – protecting the community.

The Australian Government used this event to make it the Australian people’s fault, and lawful firearm owners were made the scapegoat. The same as anyone in the community – licenced firearms owners deserve appropriate consideration and treatment from our elected representatives. Just applying further restrictions on already very restrictive gun laws disproportionately impacts law abiding citizens and associated firearms and agricultural industries. Terrorists and criminals don’t follow laws. Just as the control and criminalisation of illicit drugs haven’t stopped the illegal drug trade, further firearm restrictions and bans won’t stop determined offenders.

Support for the Amendment Bill - focus on underlying issues

I have been pleased to see a more reasoned, evidence-based approach from the Queensland Government and I provide my general support to the Amendment Bill for the following reasons:

- **Focuses on actual firearms misuse, not lawful ownership** – the legislation targets criminal conduct, trafficking, theft, illicit manufacture and extremist/criminal misuse, consistent with evidence that most violent firearm crimes arise from illegal acquisition rather than by licenced owners.
- **Targets emerging threats like 3D-printed firearms** – addresses modern pathways criminals use to evade existing controls.
- **Maintains strong regulatory oversight** – expanding assessment powers for licences using existing intelligence data to make decisions on risk evidence, not speculation.
- **Responds to community-specific harms (antisemitism and hate crimes)** – recognises where violent intent overlaps with firearms misuse, providing a more nuanced approach than broad firearms restrictions.
- **Avoids punitive measures against responsible licence holders** – universal buybacks return minimal safety gains relative to cost and disruption. The Bill leaves legal firearms owners free to continue sporting, occupational and farming activities.
- **Distinguishes law abiding owners from criminals** – since 1996 firearms owners have been one of the most discriminated against groups in this country – with government, lobbyists and media applying ‘guilt by association’ whenever any firearms incident occurs. Conflating lawful owners with terrorists and criminals undermines evidence-based policy and community trust.
- **Cooperates with safety culture** – by focussing on safety standards (e.g. upgraded storage requirements and background assessments) without confiscation, the Bill aligns with best-practice harm prevention while preserving legitimate use.

Refuting anti-gun arguments

I am sure anti-gun lobbyists will also make submission for further reforms, opportunistically and emotively seizing on events, like the Bondi tragedy, to push for further firearms restrictions. Unfortunately, this is likely to be supported by mainstream media which is neither politically neutral nor often presenting evidence-based reporting.

Other than the changes stated in the Amendment Bill I strongly oppose any further firearms restrictions. I offer the following points for consideration:

- **Queensland Labor’s slogan ‘You can’t be tough on crime if your soft on guns’** – let’s be clear - this approach by Labor is not about community safety. It’s about endeavouring to get political gain and public sentiment against a Queensland Government prepared to stand its ground and use a considered, evidence-based approach on crime and on firearms reform. It must be noted that the firearms legislation Queensland Labor are now demanding be changed is the same legislation that they presided over for the 9 years they were in power.
- **Creating false safety concerns and urgency** – effective lawmaking requires care, evidence, and proportionality rather than be responsive to an anti-gun narrative that creates an 'urgency' which is not supported by evidence of extant legislative failures. To be seen to be 'doing something' because of a ‘media and politically driven anti-gun outcry’ is not the basis of good, evidence-based legislation.
- **Disproportionate harm from further firearms restrictions** – I do not support changes that would disproportionately harm law-abiding firearms owners, recreational and commercial shooters, and those who support our agricultural sector and firearms industry. Queensland already maintains a strict licensing and compliance framework that places significant obligations on lawful firearms owners. Further restrictions, as recently imposed in NSW, would risk penalising individuals and businesses who have consistently demonstrated responsible ownership, safe storage, and compliance with the law. These individuals are not the source of violent crime, yet they would bear the financial and administrative burden of reforms that will do little to address unlawful firearms use.
- **Agricultural impacts** – recreational and commercial shooters play a vital role in supporting Queensland agriculture. Primary producers rely on licensed shooters for pest and feral animal control to protect livestock, crops, and biosecurity. Increased regulatory hurdles or reduced access to lawful firearms would undermine these essential services, placing additional strain on farmers already facing economic and environmental pressures. Any reform that weakens this support risks unintended consequences for food production and rural livelihoods.
- **Firearms industry impacts** – the firearms industry, including retailers, trainers, manufacturers, and gunsmiths, represents legitimate small and medium businesses that contribute to regional employment and the State economy. Poorly targeted reform could damage these businesses without delivering measurable public safety benefits, leading to job losses and reduced services, particularly in regional Queensland. Effective public safety policy should focus on criminal misuse, illegal trafficking, and enforcement, rather than expanding restrictions on compliant citizens and industries that operate within the law.
- **Urban-based firearms ownership and number of firearms owned** – it is important to understand that many of the shooters supporting rural areas reside in urban areas. When the NSW Minns Labor Government argued ‘*why someone living in Sydney would need six firearms*’ it was just a ridiculous statement – many urban-based shooters travel to

support those in rural areas and need multiple firearms and calibres to undertake those activities. It's that simple – shooters know that, farmers know that, firearms retailers and suppliers know that. However, many non-firearm owning, city-living politicians endlessly developing new and more restrictive legislation don't know that - and probably aren't asking or listening to their constituents.

Conclusion

Legislation should be stable, deliberate, and evidence-based, not symbolic. Good policy is developed through consultation with experts, law enforcement, and affected communities. The *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026* represents a targeted, proportionate and evidenced-focused policy response. It concentrates on criminal misuse and extremist threats, increases penalties where they are demonstrably needed, improves enforcement tools and respects the rights of legitimate activities of law-abiding firearms owners, including those in the sporting and agricultural sectors.

This approach supports community safety without undermining Queensland's strong culture of responsible firearms use, and I therefore support it. However, I do not support any further restrictions on firearms ownership or usage. Should the Queensland Parliament consider further legislative change relating to firearms it needs to consider the economic, community, and agricultural impacts and to advocate for evidence-based policies that target criminal behaviour without harming responsible Queensland citizens and businesses.

For your consideration.

Regards,

Michael Rosenthal