

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

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SIFA submission

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Authorised by

James Walsh *Chief Executive Officer*

PO Box 8311, Seymour VIC 3660

www.sifa.net.au

Introduction

The Shooting Industry Foundation of Australia (SIFA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill).

SIFA is the national peak body representing the major importers, wholesalers and retailers of firearms and related accessories across Australia.

In 2019, our industry was conservatively estimated to contribute \$2.4 billion to Australia's GDP and supported some 19,500 jobs.

SIFA applauds the Crisafulli governments clear focus on illegal firearms and criminal activity which is in stark contrast to the misdirected and ill-informed actions of some other jurisdictions.

Clause 30 Amendment of s 743 (Monitor's annual report)

SIFA supports the inclusion of firearms prohibition orders and reviews in the annual report of the public interest monitor as an important transparency measure given the weight of such an order.

Clause 53. Amendment of s 2 (Application of Act)

SIFA is broadly supportive of measures designed to address the illegal manufacture of firearms.

The definition of a blueprint needs to be much tighter than it is in the draft.

4) Schedule 2—

insert—

blueprint material—

(a) means any of the following things, whether in electronic, digital or hard copy form—

(i) a technical drawing of the design of an object;

(ii) a plan, drawing, instruction or template for the manufacture of an object;

(iii) a program, software or code for an electronic device for the manufacture of an object; and

(b) without limiting paragraph (a), includes a reproduction, copy or photograph of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a), whether in electronic, digital or hard copy form.

Our primary concern here is the potential for these definitions to be reinterpreted at some later point and applied well beyond what was originally intended, i.e. automated instructions for the illegal manufacture of firearms.

Specifically, the bill fails to adequately differentiate between a simple exploded parts diagram such as might appear in maintenance and cleaning instructions in a firearm user manual, and proper engineering specifications from which a functional item can be CNC machined or 3D printed.

As drafted, the definition is not sufficiently bound. We feel that the bill would be greatly improved and safeguarded into the future by making that distinction far more explicit.

There is another scenario where this provision might have unintended consequences.

From time to time, specialist engineering shops are subcontracted by civilian suppliers to Australia's defence forces to manufacture or repair component parts for firearms and other regulated items. The parts themselves are unregulated, and by themselves do not represent a public safety risk.

Often the engineering shop is not licensed for firearms as firearms are not their core business. Firearms licensing obligations are onerous (e.g., every employee of the sub-contractor must be security vetted). If licensing was required, it would simply be unviable for the business to take on that specialist work which is clearly in the public interest.

As drafted, the bill does not address this scenario as the subcontractor is not directly in receipt of an authority given by the Minister, even though the prime contractor would be. The inclusion of the words "or subcontractor" in 67B (b) after "employee" would resolve this.

Clause 56. Amendment of s 10 (Limitations on issue of licence)

Citizenship status is a poor proxy for having a verifiable history of being a fit and proper person.

It is pleasing to see the bill includes a provision for a non-citizen to demonstrate a genuine reason (e.g. for occupational purposes) and obtain a license under appropriate circumstances.

Clause 57. Amendment of s 10B (Fit and proper person—licensees)

SIFA has some discomfort around the inclusion of unproven charges in licensing decisions.

Even though the declaration is simply a prompt for further investigation by the licensing decision maker, it does appear to be an example of double jeopardy.

We know for example that firearms license holders (and others) are sometimes subjected to vexatious and unfounded accusations of offences such as domestic violence. These vexatious claims are intended to subject the accused to elevated levels of emotional and procedural stress.

Having endured all that until the accusations are determined to be unjustified, the firearms license applicant is once again forced prove their innocence, compounding the problem.

Clause 58. Amendment of s 10C (Fit and proper person—licensed dealer’s associate)

As per Clause 57 above. Consideration of quashed convictions undermines the authority of the courts.

Clause 59. Amendment of s 13 (Application for licence)

As per clauses 57 and 58 above.

Clause 60. Amendment of s 14 (Inquiries into application)

As per clauses 57 and 58 above.

Clause 65. Amendment of pt 4, hdg (Possession and use of weapons)

“and other things” is an alarmingly broad enabler which we feel is open to abuse.

Clause 76. Amendment of s 141D (Definitions for part).

As per clauses 57 and 58 above.

Clause 81. Amendment of s 141I (Content of firearm prohibition orders)

SIFA supports the availability of an independent review through QCAT and feel that this should not be limited to firearm prohibition orders but extended to all firearm licensing decisions.

This is also mentioned in Clause 107.

Clause 114. Amendment of s 92 (Container)

SIFA broadly supports the enhancements to safe storage requirement but cautions that sufficient time must be allowed for industry to import adequate stock to support this transition.

It is possible that the proposed 12-month timeframe before the enforcement of these new safe storage obligations commences may need to be extended should supply become an issue.

We also wish to flag that since most firearm safes are imported and are produced from steel which is not manufactured here, referencing Australian standards in any related regulations is not helpful.