

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

Submission No: 300

Submission By: Australian Clay Target Association

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February 17, 2026

Mr. Martin Hunt MP
Member for Nicklin
Chair
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Via email: JJCSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr. Hunt,

Re: Submission on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026

1. Introduction

The Australian Clay Target Association (ACTA), as the national governing body for clay target shooting across Australia, provides this submission in relation to recent legislative amendments concerning firearms regulation, terrorism prevention, and community safety.

ACTA represents affiliated State Associations and around 14,500 licensed sporting shooters nationwide. Our mandate includes governance of national championships, discipline rules (DTL, Skeet, ISSF Trap, Sporting/Compak), development pathways, and oversight of compliance standards within affiliated clubs.

We recognise the importance of legislation that strengthens community safety and addresses criminal misuse of firearms. At the same time, we emphasise the need to preserve the lawful participation of genuine sporting shooters who operate within Australia's already robust regulatory framework.

2. Public Safety and Criminal Enforcement

ACTA fully supports measures that:

- Increase penalties for unlawful possession and trafficking of firearms
- Strengthen deterrence against organised crime and terrorism
- Enhance investigative and enforcement powers directed at criminal conduct

Our sport is conducted under strict safety protocols, mandatory licensing, and continual compliance requirements. Law-abiding sporting participants are not the source of firearm-related criminal activity. Accordingly, legislation should remain targeted at unlawful actors while preserving legitimate sporting activity.

There is no conflict between strong criminal sanctions and the continued operation of regulated sporting disciplines. ACTA has consistently promoted responsible firearms ownership and adherence to licensing requirements in every jurisdiction.

3. Australia's Regulatory Framework and Sporting Participation

Participation in ACTA-affiliated competition requires compliance with State and Territory licensing regimes, which already include:

- Verified "genuine reason" for ownership
- Background and criminal history checks
- Safety training certification
- Ongoing compliance monitoring
- Secure storage requirements

These safeguards ensure that individuals competing at club, State, or national level are subject to extensive scrutiny before ever stepping onto a range.

Any policy adjustments must recognise that licensed sporting shooters are already screened through one of the most comprehensive regulatory systems globally.

4. Citizenship Requirements – National Impact

ACTA notes that some legislative amendments introduce or reinforce Australian citizenship criteria in connection with firearms licensing.

While sovereign governments are entitled to determine eligibility settings, ACTA respectfully submits that:

- Citizenship status alone does not equate to risk.
- Long-term permanent residents and visa holders may have decades of lawful participation and full compliance histories.
- Many such individuals have contributed significantly to club administration, coaching, officiating, and athlete development.

The sport of clay target shooting has historically benefited from participants from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. At grassroots level, this inclusivity strengthens clubs and promotes social cohesion.

If citizenship thresholds are tightened, ACTA urges that:

- Existing compliant licence holders be protected through transitional arrangements.
- Any new criteria apply prospectively rather than retrospectively.
- Individual risk assessment remain the primary basis for licensing decisions.

A blanket exclusion approach risks unintended consequences without necessarily advancing public safety objectives.

5. Development Pathways and International Representation

Clay target shooting operates through structured development pathways:

Club → State → National → International representation.

ACTA oversees national championships and contributes to the broader high-performance pipeline in disciplines such as:

- DTL
- Skeet
- ISSF Trap
- Sporting/Compak

Disruption at grassroots level inevitably affects the national talent pool. Restrictive measures that unintentionally reduce participation may weaken:

- Junior development programs
- Coaching accreditation structures
- National squad depth
- Australia's international competitiveness

Sustaining participation numbers is essential to maintaining a viable pathway from entry-level participation to elite representation.

6. Economic and Community Contributions

ACTA-affiliated clubs:

- Operate in metropolitan and regional areas
- Support local employment and volunteer networks
- Host national and interstate championships
- Contribute to tourism and regional economic activity

Licensed sporting shooters participate within structured, insured, and supervised environments. They contribute positively to their communities and comply with stringent statutory obligations.

7. Principles for Legislative Balance

ACTA respectfully submits that effective legislation in this space should adhere to the following principles:

1. Target unlawful conduct, not lawful sporting participation.
2. Maintain proportionality between risk and restriction.
3. Avoid retrospective disadvantage to compliant licence holders.
4. Preserve nationally consistent regulatory treatment wherever possible.
5. Ensure administrative clarity to avoid uncertainty across jurisdictions.

8. Conclusion

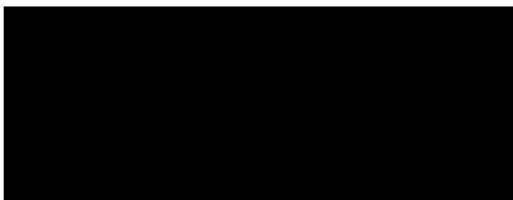
The Australian Clay Target Association supports strong and decisive action against criminal misuse of firearms and terrorism-related risks. Enhanced penalties for unlawful behaviour are consistent with our sport's long-standing commitment to safety and compliance.

However, legislative reform must be calibrated carefully. Measures that inadvertently restrict genuine, licensed sporting shooters — particularly those with longstanding compliance histories — risk undermining participation without demonstrable public safety benefit.

ACTA stands ready to engage constructively with policymakers to ensure that Australia's firearms laws continue to:

- Protect the community
- Target genuine threats
- Preserve legitimate sporting participation
- Sustain the future of clay target shooting nationally

Yours Sincerely,
Australian Clay Target Association Ltd



Lesly Joseph Kadziela
Executive Officer