

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

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Submission By: Electrical Trades Union Queensland and NT
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The Electrical Trades Union (ETU) Qld NT Peace and Social Justice Subcommittee aims to:

- Serve as a credible voice for peace and social justice within our union
- Act as a social conscience for our union
- Educate and mobilise our members to understand and advocate for peace and social justice issues

The ETU Qld NT Peace and Social Justice Subcommittee strongly opposes the newly introduced Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 in its current form.

In line with our aims, we stand against all racism, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Indigenous and anti-Palestinian racism. We believe the current Bill threatens Queenslanders' democratic freedoms, suppresses legitimate political dissent, and disproportionately targets communities advocating for Palestinian human rights.

- 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 prescribe political speech without appropriate democratic scrutiny or oversight. If this is not rectified future Queensland Governments may have the ability to abuse this power.
- The explanatory notes seem to conflate antisemitism and legitimate political expression that seeks to educate and advocate for the Palestinian people.
- Queensland Government media statements indicate this Bill will be used to target Queenslanders who stand for justice for Palestinians and against atrocities committed by the Israeli government.
- The Bill fails to recognise the growing number of Queenslanders standing for peace and justice for the Palestinian people. Instead, it seeks powers to silence Palestinian history and human rights.
- The rushed timeframe for public submissions on this far reaching Bill is an affront to Queenslanders' rights, undermining our state's democratic principles.

The ETU Qld NT Peace and Social Justice Subcommittee supports the rights of minorities to live free of genuine hate and violence. This Bill is unlikely to protect the Jewish community, but is likely to create further division and erosion of public trust.

The Bill is an overreach which risks criminalising advocacy for Palestinian rights. The Bill undermines key civil liberties, especially freedom of political expression.

The ETU Qld NT Peace and Social Justice Subcommittee strongly opposes this Bill as an attempt to restrict free speech and create extraordinary powers without proper democratic scrutiny. The Bill must be withdrawn to allow for a comprehensive review of its impact on civil liberties, political participation and the rule of law.

We call on the Committee to safeguard Queenslanders' fundamental right to political communication.