



Speech By
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FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM AND KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS AMENDMENT BILL 2026

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The bill follows the tragic events that occurred at Bondi on 14 December 2025. The subject matter that this bill addresses is complex and deeply emotive. At the outset, I thank the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for the calm and considered approach that they took before introducing this bill. The bill deals with hatred, it deals with extremism and it deals with access to lethal weapons. These are not matters to be rushed or politicised. They require balance, they require consultation and they require strong but measured leadership, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government has delivered.

I also thank the committee for their work in examining the bill and particularly for coming to Townsville to hear from regional voices. The committee holding a public hearing in Townsville demonstrates that regional voices matter. It acknowledges that regional Queensland matters. To have the committee come to Townsville to hear directly from our community about why this legislation is important and how it will impact those who live outside the south-east corner meant a great deal. It gave our community the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives on issues that directly impact them.

At the hearing we heard submissions from regional Queenslanders that reinforced a sobering truth: anti-Semitism is not something that occurs only in capital cities such as Sydney or Brisbane; it occurs right across the country and, unfortunately, even in regional Queensland and as far north as Cairns, which we were reminded of earlier today. We heard directly from members of the North Queensland Jewish community who shared their lived experiences of anti-Semitism—being targeted at school, at work and in public places and being made to feel unsafe because of their faith. That is not Australia, that is not Queensland and we can do better.

This bill makes it clear that we will do better. It strengthens our response to anti-Semitic conduct, ensures that hate-fuelled intimidation and violence are met with serious consequences and sends a clear signal that Queensland stands firmly against anti-Semitism. This legislation goes further. It recognises that hateful ideology left unchecked can escalate into violence, and where violence meets access to weapons the consequences are catastrophic. That is why the firearms reforms in this bill are so important. This government is delivering a nation-leading response following the Bondi terrorist attack—ensuring guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and terrorists.

First, Queensland weapons licence holders will be required to be Australian citizens, except in the case that a non-Australian citizen requires a weapons licence for genuine reasons related to sports or competitive shooting, or an occupational requirement. This provision will align Queensland with a decision of National Cabinet that will enhance and simplify the background checks for weapons licence applicants.

Second, this bill introduces the strongest penalties in the country for firearms trafficking with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Trafficking illegal firearms is not a minor offence. It fuels organised crime. It arms gangs. It arms extremists. It puts police and innocent families at risk. If you traffic guns in Queensland, you will face the harshest consequences in Australia.

Third, this bill closes a loophole that has hindered police from going after individuals preparing a terrorist attack before the attack occurs. We should not have to wait until tragedy strikes before action can be taken. If someone is preparing, planning or gathering materials for a terrorist attack, police must be empowered to intervene early. Prevention is always better than response.

The bill also directly targets drive-by shootings. We had one recently in Townsville. Drive-by shootings will now carry penalties of up to 16 years imprisonment and up to 20 years if the offender is linked to a criminal organisation or if a place of worship is targeted. Firing at someone's home or at a synagogue, church or mosque is an attack on the whole community. It is designed to intimidate and terrorise, and it will not be tolerated. We are also creating a new offence prohibiting the possession and distribution of blueprints for 3D printed guns. Technology continues to evolve and criminals adapt. The law must keep pace. Untraceable 3D printed firearms cannot become the next tool of organised crime or extremism. This bill shuts that door before it becomes a wider problem.

Further, the bill expands police powers when determining weapons licence eligibility. Police will be able to consider any history of violence, links to terrorist groups or weapons related offending. If someone has demonstrated violent behaviour or has extremist associations, careful consideration should be given prior to providing access to firearms.

Finally, this legislation strengthens police powers to disrupt illegal firearm trafficking before weapons hit our streets. Once those guns are circulating in the black market, it is much harder to contain the damage.

As the member for Townsville, I want to be clear: this bill is not about targeting law-abiding firearm owners. In North Queensland, we have farmers, graziers, sporting shooters and legitimate licence holders who follow rules, store their firearms correctly and treat ownership as the serious responsibility it is. They are not the problem. The problem is criminals and terrorists. This bill targets them and only them. For too long, under the former Labor government, during a decade of decline, Queenslanders saw our laws watered down.

The Crisafulli government is taking real steps to restore safety to our community and make Queensland a safer place to live. We are backing police. We are closing loopholes. We are setting the strongest penalties in the country. We are sending a clear message: Queensland will not tolerate anti-Semitism, terrorism or the illegal use of firearms. Every parent who drops their kids off at school, every small business owner who opens their shop in the morning and every family who attends their place of worship deserve to feel safe. This bill strengthens that safety. It honours the voices we heard in Townsville. It reflects the lived experience of regional Queensland. It ensures Queensland leads the nation in fighting anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. I commend the bill to the House.