




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.17 pm): I would like to remind the member for Miller: who voted against tougher laws when it came to criminals with guns? It was the Labor Party. It was the Labor Party who failed to vote against the very important legislation that we are bringing into this House when it comes to getting tough on criminals with guns. I completely refute those comments from the member for Miller. He should hang his head in shame for having been part of a government, part of a cabinet actually at times, that watered down the laws when it comes to firearms and crime in Queensland.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to the comments from the member and ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member has taken offence. Could you withdraw?

Mr HEAD: I withdraw. There are few moments in your life you never forget—every detail: the room you were in, even the weather, and what you are meant to be doing at the time. Instead you are sitting there in disbelief, disbelief at the evil act unfolding in this great country. On 14 December last year, two days after the Wieambilla anniversary, we had the Bondi terrorist attack. The commonality here between the attackers is their pure hatred for this nation and their pure hatred for our way of life.

Sovereign citizen types, Hamas supporters and overall terrorists—those who love their country do not treat it in the way we have seen it treated by these people and other corners of society. If you love this country it will love you back. Too much hatred has been allowed to fester on our shores. If we do not change this trajectory there will be no Australia to love, which is exactly the goal of these very terrorists who attack on our shores. It is the very goal of many who spew hatred about our nation generally. I hope this is the last time we see an attack like this on our soil. Until we not only as a government but also as a society at large call out hatred and rebuild our passion and patriotism for this great nation, hope is all we can do. We have many people who turn up to rallies across the country spewing this hatred and trolling people online. Frankly, it is not good enough.

This is good legislation, but as a state we can access only some levers needed to address these issues, not all. I ask those members opposite in the Labor Party whether they believe in this legislation, because I would suggest that some of their behaviour suggests otherwise. What we learned during question time today is that the scourge of anti-Semitism lies within the Labor Party itself. The member for Cairns, a member of the opposition front bench, has been espousing and circulating anti-Semitic garbage on his social media profiles. He has liked comments that can only be described as horrifically conspiratorial, suggesting that Jewish people have cells all over the world and are somehow controlling things. It is the oldest form of anti-Semitic trope that rose to prominence in the shadows of World War II through a Nazi regime that perpetrated the most horrific crimes imaginable against Jewish people. These are the kinds of views that the member Cairns has expressed and associated himself with.

Mrs Frecklington: And now the Leader of the Opposition is associated.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. Those opposite have refused to call it out. The member for Cairns has not even apologised or expressed regret over sharing these comments. These views are not reflective of, or compatible with, a modern Queensland, yet they sit in this very chamber. If these are the views of the member for Cairns, how will he vote on this bill? How can he possibly support the bill if he feels the way he says he does on Facebook? It is the reason we need strong laws to address anti-Semitism and it is why this government has taken action. The question now is: what action will the Leader of the Opposition take with regard to the member for Cairns? His position in this chamber is untenable. As we also heard in question time, members of Labour parties around the world have been sacked for sharing the same sorts of things the member for Cairns shared.

Like many in my electorate, I own guns. I use those firearms for controlling pests on the family property and at times, when I get the opportunity, recreational shooting as well. Firearms support many parts of life in the bush and across the great electorate of Callide, whether it is clubs and community groups or small and family business. I talk to a lot of our ammunition and firearms dealers regularly about the work they do and how it is tough to operate a business in that world in this day and age. They support pest controllers cracking down on feral pigs—

Mr Perrett: Wild dogs.

Mr HEAD:—and wild dogs; I take that interjection from the Minister for Primary Industries, who is working hard with his cabinet colleagues to address the failures we have seen from those opposite when it comes to pests in national parks and across our regions. The tourism hunting industry exists off the back of firearms in Queensland. I support law-abiding firearm owners. I support sensible laws that support law-abiding firearm owners and, importantly, the crackdown on criminals with guns.

We have worked calmly and methodically since the Bondi attack to give due consideration to all policy proposals to make Queensland safer. I know that the cabinet continues to consider all of the recommendations from the coronial inquest into the Wieambilla attack. Some of these laws reflect that. We have consulted with stakeholders and the community to address a serious and complex issue with a broader plan to strength community safety, disrupt activity and ensure Queensland has the toughest possible laws to keep weapons out of the wrong hands.

Hundreds of firearms are stolen in Queensland each year and recovery rates are low. Unfortunately, this is an issue I hear about too often. Stolen firearms directly contribute to the illicit firearms market and impose increased risks to community safety. I know that one of my local firearm dealers, Retschlag Firearms in Biloela, received a call from South Australian police recently trying to track down a firearm they sold many years ago. It is not just a Queensland problem; it is nationwide issue. This bill addresses this serious issue by increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. Stakeholders have been calling for change to strengthen offences for stolen firearms, yet those opposite—because they are soft on crime and they do not believe in getting tough on criminals—failed to act. We are focused on keeping guns out of the hands of criminals while supporting our law-abiding firearm owners.

This bill increases penalties for the unlawful supply, manufacture or trafficking of weapons, including shortening or modifying firearms. A new offence for acts in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm has been created to capture acts done in preparation to commit an offence likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm that sit outside the definition of terrorism. This offence carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment.

A new offence has been created for reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle, with a maximum penalty of 16 years imprisonment. If the offender is a participant of a criminal organisation and in association with or under direction from that organisation, the minimum sentence is seven years imprisonment. This offence is also subject to Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing provisions.

We are introducing limits with regard to citizens. There will be exemptions for noncitizens who require a weapons licence for genuine reasons such as sports, competitive shooting or occupational requirements. These are sensible laws to ensure that any noncitizen with a firearm in Queensland needs a very good reason to have it. 3D printed firearms are becoming a growing issue and pose a significant risk to community, and there are provisions in the bill to crack down on that. We first attempted to address the rise in 3D printed firearms in 2019; however, once again—as has been a theme throughout this speech—the Labor Party was soft on crime and failed to support it.

This bill provides greater community safety by strengthening storage requirements. I say to all of my constituents across Callide: if you still have a timber safe, once this bill receives royal assent it is time to upgrade. If you have category A, B, C, E or M weapons they will now have to be stored in solid steel containers. This is a sensible change to ensure it is harder for criminals to steal guns.

Mrs Poole: We have given them 12 months to do that.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. You will have 12 months to do that. This is a great bill. It is a sensible bill that will deliver for Queensland and I commend it to the House.