



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

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

Introduction

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.40 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Regulation 2016, the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024, the Weapons Act 1990, the Weapons Regulation 2016, the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 [140](#).

Tabled paper: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [141](#).

Tabled paper: Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [142](#).

I rise to introduce the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026, which meets the Crisafulli government's commitment to tackle the scourge of anti-Semitism in the wake of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack. On Sunday, 14 December 2025, two gunmen opened fire on hundreds of community members at a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach. This horrific attack tragically claimed the innocent lives of 15 individuals, including that of a 10-year-old child. The impact of this event has been enormous and rippled through all of Australia.

This was a targeted anti-Semitic attack, one that has caused deep pain and trauma to the Jewish community and strikes at the very heart of who we are as a nation. Such an act has no place in society, and this government will ensure it is met with the strongest condemnation. This attack stands as the deadliest act of terrorism in Australia's history and the second deadliest mass shooting our nation has ever witnessed, which emphasised the need for stronger laws to combat anti-Semitism, hate crimes and serious and organised crime, to protect community safety and to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of those who pose the greatest risk to Queenslanders. This government is resolute in ensuring every person in Australia has the right to practise their faith, celebrate their culture and live their lives free from fear, hatred and violence.

This bill provides for a range of Criminal Code amendments focusing on strong penalties and targeted measures and addressing terrorist symbols, hateful expressions and protections for faith communities in order to provide a balanced and considered criminal justice response to the rise of anti-Semitism. The other aspect to this bill delivers a suite of reforms that ensures our laws are the strongest in the nation when it comes to disrupting and deterring criminal conduct involving weapons and hate crimes. This bill will meet these objectives by strengthening responses to hate crimes, strengthening the penalties for offences involving the misuse of firearms and weapons, giving more

powers to police to assess the suitability of applicants for weapons licences, and providing additional mechanisms to prohibit extremists and organised crime syndicates from obtaining weapons. It will also impose limitations on most non-citizens accessing and using firearms and improve information-sharing and disclosure arrangements.

I want to make clear from the outset that the reforms contained in this bill are not targeting law-abiding firearms owners. Rather, they are intended to minimise, to the greatest extent possible, the risk of firearms falling into the wrong hands while prioritising the safety of the Queensland community. I turn to the first set of reforms in the bill.

The bill amends chapter 7A of the Criminal Code to strengthen the existing prohibited symbols so that our laws remain responsive to emerging threats. The bill does this by allowing terrorist organisations or state sponsors of terrorism listed under Commonwealth laws to be prescribed for the purpose of prohibiting in Queensland the display of symbols used to identify these entities. In speaking today I will refer simply to a prescribed terrorist organisation where this could encompass a prescribed state sponsor of terrorism as well.

The prohibited symbols offence under section 52D will apply to the symbols of a prescribed organisation so that it will be a criminal offence to publicly distribute, publish or display a symbol used by a prescribed terrorist organisation or its members to in any way identify that organisation. In line with the existing offence for displaying prohibited symbols, a person will commit an offence if they display a terrorist organisation symbol in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended.

A prescribed organisation may use many symbols to identify itself, including some that may be obscure and rarely used. Because of this, the bill provides an additional safeguard which only applies where the prohibited symbol relates to a prescribed terrorist organisation. In these cases the prosecution will also have to prove that the accused knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the symbol was used by a prescribed organisation or its members to represent that organisation. However, let me be clear. This additional safeguard, which only applies where the prohibited symbol offence relates to a prescribed terrorist organisation, is not a loophole for those who claim ignorance.

In practice, the court must be satisfied that a reasonable person in the same circumstances as the accused would have recognised the symbol's association with the prescribed terrorist organisation. In other words, individuals will be held accountable if it is clear they should have known better. For those rare occasions where display of these symbols is warranted, the existing non-exhaustive list of reasonable excuses that applies in respect of the display of prohibited symbols will also apply in the case of prohibited symbols of prescribed terrorist organisations. These excuses ensure that individuals will not be held liable if their conduct is for legitimate purposes, such as artistic, religious, educational, historical, legal, law enforcement or public interest purposes, or to oppose the ideology represented by a prohibited terrorist organisation symbol.

Importantly, the bill increases the penalty for all prohibited symbol offences from 70 penalty units, or six months imprisonment, to 150 penalty units, or two years imprisonment. These amendments send a clear and unequivocal message: there is no place for hate symbols in Queensland. The public use of chants or phrases rooted in hate and extreme prejudice strikes at the very heart of our values as Queenslanders. Such expressions are not mere words; they are weapons of division that undermine social harmony and cohesion, threaten public safety and cause profound harm to our communities. That is why this government is taking decisive action and introducing a new framework under the bill that will allow hateful expressions to be prescribed by a regulation so that their public use can be banned in Queensland.

In order to introduce a ban in relation to a particular phrase or slogan, a number of requirements must first be met. These requirements are similar to those which must be met before a symbol can be prescribed as a prohibited symbol. An expression may only be prescribed if it is widely known by the public or members of a relevant group as being solely or substantially representative of an ideology of extreme prejudice against a relevant group. Importantly, 'relevant group' includes people who identify with each other on the basis of race or religion. This means that anti-Semitic expressions calling for violence against Jewish people inspiring hatred may be considered for prescription provided all the criteria under the bill are met. In addition to the criteria I have just outlined, it must also be shown that the expression is regularly used to incite discrimination, hostility or violence against a relevant group, such as race and religious groups.

Before making a regulation to prescribe an expression, and consistent with the approach for prohibited symbols, the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner, the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission and the Commissioner of Police will be consulted. These requirements are extensive, and rightly so. They act to ensure that only those phrases that have the potential to incite

hatred and sow division within our community can be prohibited. Ultimately, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity has responsibility under the legislation to consider what expressions should be prescribed having regard to the criteria set out in the bill.

The bill introduces a new offence to criminalise publicly reciting, distributing, publishing or displaying a prohibited expression, carrying a maximum penalty of 150 penalty units, or two years imprisonment. This offence will apply to expressions that have been prescribed by regulation in line with the process I have just referred to. This offence will target both written and spoken expressions where they are spoken or displayed in such a way that could reasonably cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. As with the operation of the existing prohibited symbols offence, a reasonable excuse defence will also apply.

The amendments I will address next are of profound importance. They focus on protecting Queensland's faith communities. The Crisafulli government wants to ensure that every Queenslanders, no matter what religion they follow, can worship and express their faith freely—without fear, harassment or violence. To address this, the bill introduces several measures targeted at protecting our faith communities. Firstly, the bill amends section 206 of the Criminal Code, which deals with offering violence to officiating ministers of religion. These amendments modernise the language of the offence to reflect contemporary language and practices. The amendments also increase the maximum penalty from two years imprisonment to five years imprisonment. This sends a clear message that assaults against religious leaders, who play such a vital role in our communities, will not be tolerated.

Secondly, the bill strengthens section 207 of the Criminal Code which criminalises the wilful disturbance of lawful religious worship. The maximum penalty for this offence will be increased to 20 penalty units, or six months imprisonment. For cases where the offence is motivated by hatred or serious contempt for a person or group based on their personal characteristics such as race or religion, the penalty will be further increased to one year imprisonment.

We also recognise the importance of ensuring that all Queenslanders can access places of worship safely and without fear. To this end, the bill introduces a new offence to criminalise conduct that hinders or impedes access to places of worship by intimidating or obstructing individuals entering or leaving a lawful religious gathering without a reasonable excuse. The offence carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. This will ensure that, where protest action crosses a line and people are intimidated as they go to and from a place of worship, offenders can be charged with an offence that reflects the seriousness of their conduct.

The bill establishes a special case of punishment under section 469 of the Criminal Code for wilful damage to places of worship, increasing the maximum penalty to seven years imprisonment. Put simply, acts of vandalism or destruction targeting places of worship will not be tolerated in Queensland. These sacred places must be protected, and those who seek to deface or otherwise damage them will face the full force of the law.

As the Premier said when responding to the appalling attacks on Bondi Beach, the Queensland government has been working carefully, thoughtfully and methodically to finalise its response, and this is what these reforms to the Criminal Code achieve. They are balanced and they ensure that our laws are amended so that all Queenslanders can feel safe no matter where they live, their cultural beliefs or their religion. The Crisafulli government is also delivering strong, decisive action to combat anti-Semitism. A comprehensive package has been delivered to crack down on anti-Semitism and terrorist symbolism, restrict terrorist slogans and bolster safety around places of worship.

This government will make no apologies for enforcing strong penalties for the misuse of firearms. The Queensland community expects those who misuse weapons to be held accountable, and this bill will deliver on that expectation.

One of the key facets of this bill is an increase to the maximum penalties for a specific range of Weapons Act offences. This suite of reforms equips Queensland with the strongest laws in the nation to deter criminal behaviour that threatens community safety through increasing the maximum terms of imprisonment for the following: stealing of firearms or ammunition, from 10 to 14 years imprisonment; unlawful possession of weapons, from a range between two and 10 years imprisonment to a range between seven and 20 years, subject to the category of the weapon; unlawful supply of weapons, from a range between four and 13 years imprisonment to a range between 10 and 20 years, subject to the category of the weapon; shortening of weapons, from four to 14 years imprisonment; modifying the construction of weapons, from four years imprisonment to 15 years imprisonment; altering identification marks on weapons, from four years to 14 years imprisonment; unlawful trafficking of weapons, from 15 years imprisonment to life; and unlawful manufacture of weapons, from a range between four and 10

years imprisonment to a range between 10 and 20 years. These reforms send a clear message: the misuse of firearms and weapons will not be tolerated in Queensland and those who commit these offences will face serious consequences.

Hundreds of firearms are stolen in Queensland each year. The recovery rates for these stolen firearms are low. Of the almost 600 stolen firearms last year, just 102 were recovered—a recovery rate of just 18 per cent. These low recovery rates translate in real terms to an increase every year in the number of illicit firearms circulating in Queensland. The bill amends the storage requirements for category A, B, C, E and M weapons to provide that these weapons must be stored in solid steel containers rather than storage containers made of timber. This will provide greater protection to the community by making it more difficult for weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

This bill introduces a new offence to tackle a particular form of gun crime—namely, drive-by shootings. This offending behaviour presents a significant risk to the safety of the community and is often associated with organised crime groups. In 2025 there were 131 charges for dangerous conduct with a weapon and 37 charges for discharging a weapon in a public place. Both carry a minor penalty. The new offence will prohibit the reckless discharge of a firearm towards a building or vehicle and will also introduce aggravation provisions to ensure higher penalties apply where the offender is an organised crime participant, is motivated to commit this offence as part of a hate crime, or where conduct is targeted at places of worship. An additional circumstance of aggravation will apply if the person is a participant in a criminal organisation and the offence meets specific conditions that represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community. The penalty imposed will mean that an offender must be subject to at least seven years imprisonment.

Additionally, this government recognises the emerging threats posed by evolving technologies. The increasing availability of 3D-printed firearms presents a serious risk to community safety as digital blueprints can be easily accessed online, allowing individuals to manufacture fully operational firearms without regulation, oversight or accountability. To address this, the bill introduces a new offence prohibiting the possession and distribution of blueprint materials used to manufacture firearms with a 3D printer. This government has considered the creation of these new offences and the harm or perceived harm that this type of conduct causes, with long-term psychological and social impacts for victims. Therefore, these two offences will be prescribed under section 175A of the Youth Justice Act 1992 as Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, reflecting the seriousness of offending in the community.

This government recognises the evolving nature of threats to our community and the need for laws that allow police to act early and decisively. This bill will introduce a new offence in the Criminal Code to prohibit acts done in preparation for the commission of serious violence. This offence will apply in circumstances where an offender may not yet have settled on a precise course of action but is nevertheless engaged in planning or preparatory conduct for offences likely to cause the death or grievous bodily harm of another person. This new offence addresses a real and not theoretical legislative gap where grievance-fuelled, lone actors can plan and prepare to commit violent attacks, not amounting to terrorism, potentially without committing any criminal offence. This legislative gap has been acknowledged here in Australia and overseas. Just in the last week with the Perth attempted bombing case, we have seen the difficulties in gathering sufficient evidence to prove that conduct aimed to cause significant harm to the community satisfies the definition of 'terrorist act'. In that matter, it took specialised state and federal police nine days to be satisfied there was sufficient proof of a 'terrorist act' to charge. The words of Mike Burgess, the previous director-general of Security, in his 2025 ASIO Annual Threat Assessment are ringing true as we experience a more dynamic, more diverse and more degraded safety environment.

The new offence is modelled on the existing offence located under section 101.6 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code of acts done in preparation for, or planning, terrorist acts. The significant difference is Queensland's new offence will not require proof of the motivation behind the offending. The bill will also amend section 540 of the Criminal Code to clearly state the offence provision applies in relation to dangerous or offensive weapons and instruments, including firearms, knives and other bladed weapons. Together, these amendments ensure police have the powers they need to take proactive action to protect the community, particularly in relation to potential acts of violence with mass casualties, such as the Olympic Games.

Firearm prohibition orders are an important scheme adopted by Australian jurisdictions to minimise the risk that certain individuals represent to the community through their potential misuse of firearms. Firearm prohibition order schemes deter these people from possessing and acquiring firearms by imposing specific offences and enhanced police search powers to ensure compliance with these orders. The current firearm prohibition order scheme established under the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024 introduced an authorising environment that significantly departed from all other Australian jurisdictions.

Currently, respective police commissioners in other jurisdictions are allowed to issue prohibition orders, whereas in Queensland this authority is granted to the commissioner for a temporary order but then the court. This hybrid scheme has raised complex evidence admissibility issues. Therefore, this government is giving the Commissioner of Police the authority to be the decision maker for all firearm prohibition orders. The commissioner is best positioned to consider the information and criminal intelligence needed to make the decision to issue a firearm prohibition order against an individual. This will ensure that those individuals who pose a threat to our communities may be prevented from possessing and acquiring firearms without any unnecessary procedural delays.

This bill will provide a clear statutory framework, enabling police to proactively manage threats involving firearms and respond to emerging risks in Queensland. The bill achieves this by providing police with additional powers to stop, detain and search individuals under specific circumstances, including when the person is:

- in the company of someone subject to a firearm prohibition order;
- in or in relation to a vehicle to which section 141ZF applies (i.e. power to search vehicle linked to a person subject of an FPO); or
- at premises to which section 141ZG applies (i.e., premises owned or occupied by an individual subject to an FPO).

The bill also addresses an anomaly with the giving of directions by police officers for firearm prohibition orders which is inconsistent with directions given under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

This bill will also expand and strengthen the decision-making scope and criteria for weapons licence applications. To better equip police when making weapons licensing decisions, the bill will allow police to consider a broader range of relevant information. The bill ensures protection to the community is maintained and permits an authorised officer to consider relevant factors when determining if a person is a 'fit and proper person' for a weapons licence, including details of a relevant offence where a court has ordered that no conviction be recorded or the rehabilitation period for the conviction has expired. 'Relevant offence' is defined in the bill to include offending that related to:

- improper use of weapons, firearms or the storage of firearms; or
- the use or threatened use of violence; or
- the possession or distribution of a digital blueprint of a firearm on a 3D printer.

In order to enhance and simplify the background checks conducted on applicants, the bill will also limit who is eligible for a weapons licence to a resident of Queensland who is an Australian citizen. Exceptions will be provided to those persons who, although not Australian citizens, can nonetheless demonstrate that they require a licence for genuine purposes, for example, to allow them to participate in sports or target shooting or an occupational requirement such as for rural purposes. These amendments will strengthen the integrity of Queensland's weapons licensing and ensure the decisions are grounded in public safety.

The bill amends the list of 'approved agencies' with which the QPS is authorised to share information for a law enforcement purpose to include the Australian Defence Force. This will enable the QPS to assist the ADF by sharing information with them efficiently.

Currently, chapter 11 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 authorises controlled operations for the purpose of obtaining evidence that may lead to the prosecution of persons for relevant offences. It does not currently permit the authorisation of controlled operations for purposes of disruption or prevention of criminal conduct. This bill will allow the authorisation of controlled operations to frustrate criminal activity and better protect the community.

Currently in Queensland, controlled operations, controlled activities and surveillance device warrants are generally limited to offences that carry at least a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. This is inconsistent with model laws adopted by other Australian jurisdictions that have a much lower threshold of three years imprisonment. In practical terms, this means that these advanced police investigation strategies cannot be deployed for significant offences that may be linked to hate crimes such as section 69—going armed so as to cause fear—or section 75—threatening violence—of the Criminal Code. The bill will rectify this deficiency by lowering offence thresholds for controlled operations, controlled activities and surveillance device warrants from seven-year-imprisonment offences to three-year-imprisonment offences. This government is committed to ensuring that law enforcement has the powers necessary to act decisively in the interest of public safety. This reform will ensure that our police have the tools they need to proactively intercept criminal conduct and keep Queenslanders safe.

A reform introduced under the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024, which is set to commence in August 2026, created an unnecessary administrative burden on police when issuing consorting notices and banning notices electronically. These provisions are out of step with the pre-existing electronic service requirements provided for under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. The bill will ensure that the existing legislative framework is maintained to allow police to continue serving these notices efficiently.

The Crisafulli government is committed to taking firm, proactive and assertive action in combating terrorism and anti-Semitism. This bill represents a decisive step forward in responding to the scourge of anti-Semitism, protecting community safety and ensures that guns are kept out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. This bill protects Queenslanders, supports our police and justice system and ensures our laws are fit for purpose, evidence based and shaped with consultation from relevant experts.

We will be moving that this critical piece of legislation be passed as an urgent bill. We all know that the first duty of a government is to keep its people safe, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government intends to do. We intend to pass this important piece of legislation at the next parliamentary sitting week, with the majority of changes commencing from assent. I commend the bill to the House and urge all members to support its passage because every Queenslanders deserves the right to live safely and free from fear, regardless of their religion or background.

First Reading

Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

Declared Urgent, Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (12.08 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 27 February 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.