



Speech By
Hon. Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

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

Second Reading

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.47 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On Sunday, 14 December 2025, two gunmen opened fire on community members at a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach resulting in the death of 15 innocent Australians. This despicable attack was not only an act of extreme violence against innocent people; it was also an assault on Australia's social fabric and on the rights of communities to live, worship and gather without fear. After what happened in Israel on 7 October 2023, and particularly following the aftermath of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack, the Jewish community has borne a heavy burden of fear and trauma.

Just over a week ago, on Friday, 20 February 2026, we saw an individual charged after a vehicle rammed into the gates of a Brisbane synagogue. The Vice President of the Jewish Board of Deputies has commented upon the deep distress that this incident has caused to the Jewish community. I echo the statement of the Premier: 'alleged incidents like that are another signal that the proposed laws in this bill are necessary'.

These events emphasise a regrettable truth: when hateful narratives are allowed to circulate unchecked, they can progress from rhetoric to intimidation and, ultimately, to catastrophic violence. Our laws must be adaptable and able to intervene earlier on this path. This bill does exactly what it says. The Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026 addresses two connected public safety challenges that our community faces: the growth of anti-Semitism and the ongoing risk posed by guns and other dangerous weapons in the hands of terrorists and criminals. Taken together, the measures in this bill are preventative in nature, targeted in their operation and designed to ensure Queensland's criminal law and policing frameworks remain capable of responding to contemporary threats. In that sense, this bill is not only reactive to recent events but also forward facing in its design.

On 27 February 2026, the Justice, Integrity, and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The Crisafulli government would like to thank the committee for its support of the bill. I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to the community members, peak bodies and organisations, and the government representatives, who provided submissions and appeared before the committee.

I foreshadow that I intend to move two sets of amendments during consideration in detail of this bill. Firstly, we have listened carefully to Queenslanders and will be prescribing our prohibited phrases via legislation rather than regulation. The first set of amendments will remove the regulation framework

for prescribing particular expressions as prohibited expressions and instead proscribe the two phrases in this bill. These phrases are: 'globalise the intifada' and 'from the river to the sea'. The new prohibited expressions offence in the bill as introduced will operate with respect to these two phrases and these two phrases only. The effect of the amendments will be that no other phrases can be proscribed by regulation in the future. Given this amendment, Queenslanders should rightly expect bipartisan support for the bill.

It is important to remember that this bill is in direct response to a specific attack on Jewish people. To be clear, the offence provision maintains that it is not merely reciting or displaying the words that makes it an offence. The expression must be used in a way that might reasonably be expected to cause a member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. This means the conduct must be capable of causing a significant emotional or psychological response such as causing someone to feel threatened, repeatedly targeted, significant anger, significant resentment, outrage, disgust or hatred. I will emphasise this point. This offence is designed to focus on conduct that would cause a reasonable member of the public to feel menaced, harassed or offended. It is not directed at legitimate journalism, academic analysis, artistic expression or historical discussion. Rather, it is aimed squarely at behaviour that uses extremist material as a tool of menace or provocation, particularly in public spaces.

The second set of amendments to be moved during consideration in detail of the bill addresses an oversight made in the development of the bill and will ensure the reasonable excuse defences for the prohibited expressions offence operate as intended and consistently with those available for the prohibited expressions offence. Specifically, these amendments will ensure that the equivalent of section 52D(2)(a)(iii) of the prohibited symbols offence, which makes it a reasonable excuse for the person to engage in the conduct that is alleged to constitute the offence in opposition to the ideology represented by a prohibited symbol, will apply to the prohibited expressions offence. I reiterate: this bill is in response to a specific attack.

The bill strengthens the existing framework dealing with prohibited symbols under the Criminal Code by authorising the minister administering this law to prescribe particular classes of, or all state sponsors of, terrorism or terrorist organisations listed by the Australian government as a prescribed organisation in Queensland for the purpose of the existing prohibited symbols offence applying to the symbols used by an entity so prescribed to identify the entity or a part of it.

The bill also enhances protections for religious leaders and places of worship. Existing offences are modernised so that their language reflects contemporary practice and penalties are increased to recognise the seriousness of attacks on ministers of religion while they are carrying out their functions. In addition, a new offence is introduced to protect people entering and leaving places of worship. This offence deters conduct that is designed to obstruct, harass or intimidate individuals exercising their right to practise their faith. The offence of wilfully disturbing religious worship is also strengthened, reflecting the reality that deliberate disruption of religious observance is not merely offensive but can cause deep and lasting harm to community cohesion. The bill recognises that attacks on religious premises and worshippers should not be considered as isolated incidents affecting a minority. They are symbolic attacks on our entire community. Accordingly, the law should treat such conduct with appropriate seriousness, acknowledging the broader social impact of these offences.

The bill will also outline an extensive set of reforms to our weapons legislation. The Crisafulli government is proudly introducing a package which will see Queensland impose the toughest penalties in the country deterring criminal behaviour and the misuse of firearms, particularly for the most high risk offences which compromise community safety:

- unlawful possession, supply and manufacture of weapons, with all penalties increasing depending upon the category of firearm;
- shortening of weapons (increasing from four to 14 years imprisonment);
- modifying the construction of weapons (increasing from four to 15 years imprisonment);
- altering identification marks on weapons (increasing from four to 14 years imprisonment); and
- unlawful trafficking of weapons (now attracting a maximum penalty of life imprisonment).

This is a test of whether the Miles-led Labor opposition supports stronger laws and stronger penalties to keep Queenslanders safe. There is no better way to deter and stamp out unlawful behaviour than ensuring there are real consequences for actions. These new measures are consistent with our government's tough-on-crime approach and will make Queensland safer. The real question is whether the Labor opposition can bring themselves to support it. Will they stand with the Jewish community in their time of need?

The bill also introduces a specific offence dealing with the reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle, recognising that such conduct creates an obvious and unacceptable risk even where, by chance, no-one is injured. The offence will attract a penalty of 16 years imprisonment, with a circumstance of aggravation providing for 20 years imprisonment when connected to organised crime or a hate crime.

Like with youth crime, Labor have a track record of being soft on gun crime, and I will explain why. This is a provision that the former Crisafulli opposition tried to incorporate into their 2024 Community Safety Bill, but then premier Miles and his Labor government rejected the move to make Queensland safer. We tried to make drive-by shooting a standalone offence, and Queenslanders would already be benefiting from this strong measure if it were not for Labor's soft-on-crime approach. Now that we have the privilege of being in government, we are delivering. Will the opposition backflip on their previous position and support our move, or will they double down and show once again that they are still soft on criminals with guns?

The bill also addresses emerging technological risks by creating offences for possessing or distributing digital blueprints used to manufacture firearms using 3D printers or milling machines. This is a forward-looking measure aimed at preventing the proliferation of untraceable weapons outside of the legitimate firearms industry. This new offence will align Queensland with other jurisdictions and will prohibit the possession and distribution of blueprint material for the manufacture of 3D printed firearms. The maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment.

This has been a growing concern for some years, and Labor failed to support it in 2019 when the LNP opposition first attempted to address the rise in 3D printed guns and the possession of blueprints used to manufacture illegal guns. Seven years ago, the LNP opposition introduced a private member's bill, the Weapons and Other Legislation (Firearms Offences) Amendment Bill, stating—

The manufacture of 3D printed guns poses a threat to our community. ... this new offence goes one step further by holding offenders to account for merely having possession of—

the blueprints. Labor did not support our attempt to strengthen the weapons laws in 2019. Further, they saw New South Wales and Tasmania implement a ban on 3D blueprints, but they sat back and watched crime spiral out of control here in Queensland and did nothing. Here we are seven years later, delivering what Labor failed to do.

The framework for firearm prohibition orders, FPOs, is also being strengthened. FPOs are an important tool for preventing access to weapons by individuals assessed as posing a serious risk to community safety. The bill refines the administration processes for making these orders and strengthens enforcement mechanisms by expanding police search and compliance powers, ensuring that these orders will be practical and effective. These amendments will align Queensland with other jurisdictions and provide consistency by limiting decisions regarding the issuing of FPOs to the commissioner. While every other jurisdiction got the FPO scheme right the first time around, Labor's distrust of the police meant it left the power to issue an FPO with the courts, meaning intelligence like that from our national security agencies could not be disclosed.

Labor now states, 'You can't be tough on crime if you are soft on guns.' Well, what a contradiction! Labor legislated a convoluted process to make the FPO scheme unworkable and it worked in handicapping our police, because not one FPO has been issued under Labor's framework. Put simply, Labor does not back our police and it never has. Those opposite are soft on crime and soft on criminals with guns. By contrast, we will follow best practice and give the police the tools they need to keep Queenslanders safe. We will fix Labor's botched laws because we trust our police. If the commissioner deems someone high risk and unfit to possess a weapon, then we want that acted upon quickly so that community safety is not compromised. It is a pity that Labor has never shared that view.

In addition, the bill tightens licensing and suitability requirements for obtaining or renewing a weapons licence. The bill allows an authorised person to consider a broader range of relevant information in determining 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. A 'relevant offence' is defined to include offending that relates to:

- the 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

I want to make it clear that this expansion is intended to meet public expectations by giving police and authorising officers the tools they need to properly assess whether someone is fit and proper to hold and retain a firearms licence. A judgement on a licence holder needs to be proportionate to the offending. For instance, a one-off storage indiscretion should not immediately rule a licence holder

ineligible to hold a firearms licence but a pattern of negligence should be and will be taken into account going forward. Equally, it meets public expectations that authorised officers are aware of and may consider circumstances where an applicant has improperly used a firearm with violence on even one occasion, as that may be enough to compromise their eligibility, even in circumstances where a conviction has not been recorded.

The bill will also limit eligibility for a weapons licence to Queensland residents who are Australian citizens unless the person can demonstrate that they require a licence for genuine purposes such as to allow them to participate in sports or target shooting or an occupational requirement. Our approach fits with community expectations that only citizens deserve the privilege of possessing firearms while providing reasonable carve outs, ensuring Queensland businesses and people's livelihoods are not impacted. Further, the bill ensures that the potential risk of firearms being stolen is reduced through a number of measures. To deter the stealing of firearms, the Criminal Code will be amended to increase the maximum penalty for this offence from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. On 22 August 2024 during debate of the Community Safety Bill, the then Crisafulli LNP opposition proposed this same amendment to increase the penalty for stealing firearms from 10 to 14 years. As the shadow minister in the Crisafulli LNP opposition, I stated—

Today the LNP will show leadership and offer solutions. I will table amendments to increase the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition in Queensland from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment. The LNP believes the focus should be applied to criminals who steal firearms because, as we have seen in other states, this does act as a deterrent and reduces the number of unlawful firearms that end up in the hands of violent criminals or organised criminal gangs, ultimately improving community safety.

Stakeholders of all persuasions had been calling for this strengthening measure, as stolen firearms pose the highest risk to community safety, and yet then premier Miles and Labor did not support it, compromising Queensland's safety and showing once again that they are soft on crime. Labor acknowledged that 75 per cent of stolen firearms are never recovered but not only failed to act; it refused to respond even when we tried to assist by governing from opposition. The explanatory notes from Labor's Community Safety Bill 2024 stated—

The increased availability of firearms within the community grants further opportunities for these deadly weapons to be misappropriated. The rate of firearms reported as stolen has also increased by at least 21% within the last decade, with over 779 firearms reported stolen in 2023. Coupled with continuing challenges in recovering stolen firearms and the longevity of a functioning firearm, there is a corresponding increase in the risk that these weapons come into the possession of high-risk individuals and are used in the commission of an offence. The risk to the community is apparent when considering the increased number of reported offences involving firearms in Queensland, which has risen at least 30% in the last decade, with approximately 3,352 reported firearm offences in 2023.

Labor knew there was an issue and chose to ignore it, even when prompted. All it took was for Queensland to elect a Crisafulli LNP government and the job is finally getting done following a decade of decline under Labor.

We will also strengthen the storage requirements for a category A, B, C, E and M weapon which will be enhanced through requiring these weapons to be stored in a solid steel container exclusively. Sporting shooter associations advocate for the secure storage of weapons and recommend storage containers be made of metal. Likewise, gun control organisations have advocated for stronger storage requirements to mitigate against the likelihood of firearms being obtained by criminals seeking to use them in other offending. Importantly, we have listened to feedback and have outlined a practical path forward. There will be a 12-month transition period for affected firearm owners, ensuring there is sufficient time for compliance. This is just another step that our government is taking to minimise the risk of firearms being stolen, ensuring that everyone plays their part to keep Queenslanders safe. The former Labor government failed to deliver this modernising provision which left Queensland standing alone as the only Australian jurisdiction permitting use of older and less safe timber and wood storage containers. Where Labor failed, the Crisafulli government is delivering.

Finally, the bill will enhance our laws that address acts of serious crime. The bill will introduce a new Criminal Code offence that will prohibit acts done in preparation for or planning to commit serious violence. This new offence is modelled on similar Commonwealth legislation and will apply in circumstances where an offender has not decided precisely what they intend to do and will be limited to the preparation for, or planning of, offences likely to cause the death of or grievous bodily harm to another. This new offence will be supported by another amendment in the bill which improves on the existing section 540 of the Criminal Code. This offence provision prohibits the making or possession of an explosive or other dangerous or noxious thing by a person who intends to commit a crime by using the thing. The bill will clarify that this offence will have application to dangerous or offensive weapons and instruments which include firearms, knives and other bladed items.

The bill also refines the framework for controlled operations by giving this policing strategy an expanded scope and by making it clear that such operations may be undertaken not only to gather evidence but also to disrupt and frustrate serious criminal activity. This reflects modern policing practice

where preventing harm and disrupting criminal enterprises is often just as important as securing a prosecution after the event. The amendments will lower the offence threshold for controlled operations, controlled activities and surveillance device warrants to bring Queensland into alignment with other jurisdictions by providing a three-year imprisonment offence as the threshold. Under Labor, Queensland was the only jurisdiction in Australia with a seven-year imprisonment offence threshold. Every other state and territory prescribes a threshold of three years imprisonment. Crucially, police are currently unable to commence controlled operations to counter serious offences that fall between these limits, including riot, which has a maximum penalty of three years; going armed so as to cause fear, which has a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment; and aggravated threats of violence, which has a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

The provisions in this bill are directed at early intervention. They are designed to ensure where individuals are taking concrete steps towards committing acts of extreme violence, particularly involving dangerous weapons, the law can respond before lives are lost. In doing so, the bill shifts the focus from purely reactive enforcement to proactive disruption of serious harm. It is the paramount responsibility of a government to protect its citizens. Queenslanders rightly expect their parliament to put in place legislation that will protect them. They expect to be able to practise their faith without fear, to live free from intimidation and to know that responsible firearms laws will be enacted to protect the community. The bill meets that expectation. The reforms in this bill are targeted, proportionate and supported by safeguards and appropriate oversight. I commend the bill to the House.