




Speech By  
**David Lee**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. The tragic and chilling event at Bondi Beach on Sunday, 14 December 2025 is irredeemably etched into our minds. Two gunmen opened fire on hundreds of community members at a Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach. This horrific attack resulted in the deaths of 15 innocent people including a 10-year-old child. This horrific act of terrorism is Australia's second lethal act of a mass shooting and it was a cruel and calculated act of hatred directed at our Jewish community. The Crisafulli government is resolutely committed to confronting the evils of anti-Semitism and keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists in the aftermath of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

One has to wonder what Queensland Labor's position is, given the member for Cairns' alleged egregious anti-Semitic conduct on his Facebook posts. Queensland Labor is yet again demonstrating their double standards in tolerating anti-Semitic conduct in the shadow cabinet yet sanctimoniously lecturing this side of the House about freedom of expression. Premier Crisafulli has publicly said, in the aftershock of the appalling attacks at Bondi Beach, that the Queensland government has been working carefully, thoughtfully and methodically to finalise its response. The Crisafulli government is taking a well-considered, proportionate and thoughtful response in making several amendments to the Criminal Code. We are taking an appropriate response in strengthening the bans on symbols of hatred, prohibiting particular expressions, protecting faith communities and creating a new offence of acts in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm.

The bill expands the prohibited symbols framework in chapter 7A of the Criminal Code by enabling the minister to prescribe particular classes or state sponsors of terrorism or terrorism organisations listed by an Australian government as a prescribed organisation in Queensland. The existing section 52D will continue to apply to the distribution, publication or display of a symbol of a prescribed organisation. A further element of constructive knowledge will be included where the person knew or ought reasonably to have known that the symbol was used by a prescribed organisation. A reasonable excuse defence is available in circumstances where there is a legitimate purpose or a public interest purpose pursuant to section 52D(2). The maximum penalty for the offence is 150 penalty units or two years imprisonment. The bill furthermore introduces a new section 52DA offence for a person who publicly recites, publicly distributes, publishes or publicly displays a prohibited expression. Today we are legislating as prohibited expressions 'globalise the intifada' and 'from the river to the sea'.

In Australia, the High Court has held that there is an implied constitutional right of political communication. However, this bill is appropriate, proportionate and adapted to the legitimate purpose of protecting and promoting the public safety of our Jewish and other faith communities here in Queensland. This bill will now make 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada' prohibited expressions because they are expressions used regularly to incite discrimination, hostility or violence

towards our Jewish community. A defence of reasonable excuse is available under section 52DA(2) of the Criminal Code and the maximum penalty for the offence is 150 penalty units or two years imprisonment.

The bill furthermore introduces several amendments directed at protecting our faith communities. Firstly, the bill amends section 206 of the Criminal Code to remove outdated concepts and provide for an offence that criminalises assaults on ministers of religion which hinder or prevent the minister from lawfully officiating at religious worship assemblies, religious ceremonies or performing other religious functions of their office. This bill will increase the maximum penalty from two years to five years imprisonment. Secondly, the bill amends section 207 of the Criminal Code and establishes an offence of wilfully disturbing a religious assembly or assaulting an officiant or attendee at such a gathering and includes an element of aggravation. Thirdly, the bill introduces a new offence to criminalise conduct by a person at or near a place of worship that intimidates, harasses, obstructs, hinders or prevents access to a place of worship without a reasonable excuse, and for that there is a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Fourthly, the bill introduces a new special case of punishment for wilful damage to premises that are a place of religious worship and that penalty will increase to seven years imprisonment. Finally, the bill introduces a new offence, modelled on section 101.6 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code, of acts in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm.

I now turn to some amendments to the Weapons Act. The Premier, David Crisafulli, is demonstrating strong, calm, courageous and decisive leadership in taking a practical and commonsense approach to amending the Weapons Act 1990. This is a glaring contrast to a flaccid, equivocating Queensland Labor opposition known for its prevarication. This bill is about keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and not unduly restricting gun ownership amongst lawful Queensland gun owners. My late grandfather was a prestigious Queen's Prize shooter and coach of the Australian rifle team during the 1974 Bisley tour. My late father was a gun collector of small and long arm weapons. Our law-abiding Fraser Coast Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia, primary producers, hunters and other local pistol, rifle and shotgun shooters should not be unfairly restricted because of the cowardly acts of terrorists.

The Crisafulli government continues to take a measured approach. We are mandating Australian citizenship for firearms ownership subject to certain exceptions by amending section 10 of the Weapons Act. An Australian citizenship limitation to obtain a weapons licence will bring Queensland into alignment with the recent agreement of National Cabinet. Secondly, the bill broadens the scope of considerations by an authorised officer in ascertaining an applicant's suitability when determining if an applicant is a fit and proper person. It addresses the issue highlighted in the Queensland Court of Appeal decision in Commissioner of Police v XPR (2025) where the court held that authorised officers cannot consider non-recorded convictions. These amendments will rectify that anomaly. The focus is on those offences that due to their inherent nature or direct connection with other offences constitute a significant risk to community safety. These offences include prohibiting the reckless discharge of weapons towards premises, a dwelling or a vehicle and unlawful possession and distribution of blueprint material for manufacture of 3D printed firearms. The bill also amends chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to provide for the authorisation, conduct and monitoring of controlled operations in frustrating criminal enterprises.

In closing, I honour and pay tribute to those 15 innocent lives tragically taken on 14 December 2025 at Bondi Beach. May they rest in peace. I commend the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill to the House.