




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution on behalf of the people I serve as the member for Southern Downs on the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. Like many before me in this debate, I wish to emphasise my deep sadness and regret at what the Jewish community in our country have suffered, most poignantly through the outrageous murders and terrorist attack which occurred on Bondi Beach recently where 15 Jewish Australians had their lives senselessly taken. They were slain, and many others were injured and will probably be scarred physically and mentally forever after what they have suffered.

One of the first things that happened in the days after the Bondi attack was that I got a phone call from the Premier, as did a lot of members of the LNP party room, I think. He asked us for our views and provided an assurance that the response to this outrage was going to be appropriate and make a difference. By that, he meant it would not be a kneejerk reaction which served only political purposes and was for the purpose of optics. That is exactly what this bill achieves.

In relation to firearms, the bill does important things like increase penalties for the distribution of 3D printed guns or the material and data from which they are made. It increases penalties for the theft of firearms and for the theft of ammunition. It also introduces the offence which we would call drive-by shootings, which is something that has long been called for in Queensland, and I certainly welcome that. It introduces other sensible things like, as my honourable friend the member for Callide said earlier, the abolition of timber gun safes as an appropriate way of storing firearms. I think these are things which the community accepts.

In my electorate of Southern Downs, where many people are lawful users of firearms occupationally, as collectors or as members of various gun clubs throughout the electorate, I know this bill has been received very well. It was a relief to see that out of all of the state and territory leaders in this country it was the Crisafulli government which said, 'Hey, we're not going to be taking measures which don't make a difference except for perceptions. We're going to be thinking this through and making reforms which will actually make a difference.'

I want to make it very clear that anybody who says you cannot be tough on crime if you are not tough on guns is proposing an argument that is aimed at deceiving the people of Queensland. I doubt any of those people know—or if they do know, they are being deliberately dishonest to the people of Queensland—just how hard it is to be a licensed firearms owner, just how stringent and exhausting the checks are for applicants of firearms licences in Queensland. It is not a walk in the park. I have seen many good people who were refused the renewal of a licence or not given the licence they needed for what I thought to be rather arbitrary reasons. I have frequently had to correspond with ministers of both governments to advocate on behalf of good people in my electorate who have experienced difficulty in that area. The suggestion that our gun laws are not tough now, which is implicit in that statement, is false.

Mr Head: They oversaw them for a decade.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Callide. He represents the same sorts of people as I do in his large electorate. It was the Labor government that ran the show for so long. What you want to be tough on is criminals with guns, not law-abiding firearms owners.

Mrs Poole: And we know their stance on that.

Mr LISTER: The member for Mundingburra knows a thing or two about these sorts of things, having been a police officer for many years before coming to this place.

I think it is very important that we rejected the kneejerk reactions. We have heard many Labor Party members talk about the Coroner's report and they have said incorrectly that the Coroner recommended that mental health checks mandatorily be implemented for firearms owners. What the Coroner said was that that should be investigated. It has been and it has been found wanting.

I can say to the House with total certainty that I have a problem in my electorate with having enough clinicians to see kids who are suicidal. The idea that a clinician who is qualified to make an assessment of someone's mental fitness to be issued with a firearms licence could make such a determination in a single meeting or even in five or six is ludicrous. I think they would need 10 or a dozen meetings, perhaps of an hour at a time, to make a full assessment of the mental health of an applicant. That is simply impossible to implement. I will certainly argue that it is more important that the few mental health professionals we have in my electorate of Southern Downs—not that there is a great surfeit of them everywhere else in the state—should be focused on the mental health of country people, which is challenged by droughts, isolation and the difficult economic circumstances that we face, not as a punitive measure to further marginalise and punish law-abiding gun owners.

Those people I know in my electorate who are firearms licensees and use firearms are good people. They are local businesspeople. They are the local teacher or butcher. They are retirees. As I have heard said earlier by members on this side of the House, they are disciplined people; they are used to the discipline of safely handling firearms and are aghast at the idea of using them for unlawful purposes. It is not just for sporting purposes; it is also an absolutely essential tool for the many people who have large land holdings in my electorate. There is a general biosecurity obligation which was introduced by the Labor government that all landowners have a legal obligation to eradicate pests on their land. In my neck of the woods we have an explosion of pigs, dogs and deer. We also have rabbits and all of the damage they do and the potential to spread diseases which would decimate our rural industries.

I am very comfortable with the provisions of this bill in terms of firearms. I think they make very useful reforms which needed to be done, but they do not—

Mr Dalton interjected.

Mr LISTER: It is common sense. I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Mackay.

I will move on now to the proscribing of phrases. I would like to expose the shameful deception that has been perpetrated on this House and on the people of Queensland by the Labor Party in the course of this debate. In fabricating stories of dissent in the governing party over this bill, they are wickedly deceiving the people of Queensland. It is entirely false. None of them were in the party room. In my recollection there was no dissent whatsoever. That is because this bill is necessary and the measures in it are necessary. One of the measures, which I know I have heard the Attorney-General talk about—and I see her in the House—is necessary because we cannot leave it to a future Labor government to be able to remove these important protections with the mere stroke of pen through regulation without oversight.

Mrs Frecklington: What we have seen today shows us that.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. She said that we have seen that today in the course of the debate in the House; that is correct. These phrases 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada' are sinister phrases and it is entirely disingenuous to portray them as merely a slogan used in the course of peacefully pushing a particular point of view in a public forum. They are phrases which axiomatically call for the destruction of Israel and all that that implies. Given that Israel is the only Jewish state on the surface of our world, it is ipso facto an attack on Jewish people. The use of these phrases and other creeping anti-Semitism in the community has increased in recent years, bizarrely in response to the attacks on Israel which occurred in 2023 when many people were murdered. The left, which have used these phrases, have engendered a creeping disobedience to normal Australian values to take everyone as you find them and to be accepting and comfortable with

difference. We have seen growing anti-Semitism of which the Labor government in Canberra was informed on many occasions, publicly and otherwise. That has come to light and I am sure more will come to light throughout the inquiry. When I hear Labor MPs in this House say, as I heard one say last night, this breakdown of deference is the result of conservative politicians, I want to call that out. The left of this country is not least to blame in the growth of anti-Semitism, and these measures in stopping the use of these shameful, disgraceful terms are necessary. I do not see any other cohorts of multicultural Australia needing to have armed guards outside their schools.

I support this bill. I support the amendments. I commend them to the House. I thank the Attorney-General for her work in preparing them.