



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.12 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. This bill is firmly grounded in one principle: community safety. The bill does exactly what it says. The Crisafulli government is taking clear, practical steps to fight anti-Semitism and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. These laws are deliberate and targeted by a steady, strong, calm and methodical government, and that is what Queenslanders expect from their government. We do not legislate in anger; we do not legislate for headlines. We legislate carefully, deliberately and with one clear focus: ensuring Queenslanders can live, work, worship and raise their families without fear. I will say that again. We legislate carefully, deliberately and with one clear focus: ensuring Queenslanders can live, work, worship and raise their families without fear.

From the outset I thank the police minister and Attorney-General for bringing this bill to the House and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for coming to Townsville and listening directly to the voices of regional Queensland. That matters and it is reflected in their voices in this bill.

I will address the bill in two parts. The first is fighting anti-Semitism. We are debating these laws because of the atrocities that occurred on the shores of Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025. It was a deliberate anti-Semitic terrorist attack, and we must take this moment to remember the 15 innocent people who lost their lives in that horrifying attack where Jewish Australians were specifically targeted. Anti-Semitism is not just an issue for one community; it is an attack on the very fabric of our democracy. When hatred towards one group is allowed to go unchecked it erodes trust, undermines social cohesion and weakens the shared values that bind us together as Queenslanders and Australians. The embers of anti-Semitism were allowed to burn uncontrollably for too long, and that is why we are here today. That is why the Crisafulli government has acted. A witness who so bravely and powerfully spoke at the Townsville committee hearing said—

As a serving officer in the Australian Army, I have dedicated my career to defending the values that underpin our nation—fairness, safety, democracy and respect for people.

...

Freedom of expression is a core Australian value, but it is not a blank cheque to intimidate, vilify or endorse organisations responsible for terrorism.

This bill also strengthens bans on hate symbols and ensures Queensland's prohibited symbols framework can apply to terrorist organisations and state sponsors of terrorism that are already listed under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. That matters because it ensures our laws stay current, consistent and capable of responding to evolving threats while remaining grounded in established national definitions and processes.

Importantly, there are safeguards. Prosecutors must prove that a person knew or ought reasonably to have known that a symbol identifies a prescribed terrorist organisation. This ensures we are targeting deliberate conduct, not innocent or unintentional behaviour. We are also increasing penalties for displaying prohibited symbols from six months to two years imprisonment because symbols are not harmless. They intimidate, they incite and they embolden extremist ideologies.

The bill also introduces a new offence for the public recitation or display of specific prohibited expressions that, in the context of recent events, have been used to menace and harass Jewish Australians. Let me be clear: this is not about stifling legitimate debate. It is not about silencing academic, artistic or religious discussion. The offence only applies where the conduct could reasonably be expected to make a reasonable member of the public feel menaced, harassed or seriously offended. Courts will determine that threshold. Reasonable excuses are preserved. Our government has listened to concerns during the parliamentary process, and that is why these expressions are included directly in legislation—not left to regulation—ensuring full parliamentary scrutiny. When hateful narratives are allowed to circulate unchecked, rhetoric can escalate into violence. We saw that in Bondi and we cannot ignore that lesson.

This bill modernises and strengthens protections for places of religious worship. We are increasing penalties for assaulting or threatening ministers of religion from two years to five years imprisonment. We are introducing a new offence for intimidating or obstructing people entering or leaving places of worship and we are increasing penalties for wilful damage to religious premises. Let me be clear: these protections apply to all religions. Queenslanders of every faith or of no faith have the right to practise their beliefs free from fear.

This bill also creates a new offence of capturing acts done in preparation to cause death or grievous bodily harm. There has been a legislative gap. Individuals preparing for serious acts of violence but who did not fit terrorism definitions have fallen through the cracks. This offence closes those gaps. As a police officer in Townsville for 28 years, I know the frustration that officers feel when they see danger building but lack clear legislative tools to intervene early. This reform empowers our Queensland police officers to act before that tragedy occurs, not after.

Hundreds of firearms are stolen in Queensland each year, and 75 per cent are never recovered. Those firearms feed the illicit market and remain in circulation for decades. We are increasing the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm or ammunition from 10 years to 14 years. This sends a clear message that stealing a firearm is not a property offence; it is a threat to public safety.

We are criminalising the possession and distribution of digital blueprints used to manufacture 3D printed firearms. Eight per cent of firearms examined by the QPS last year were 3D printed. These weapons are untraceable and they often lack safety mechanisms. This is a modern crime and this bill is a modern response to that.

We are limiting weapons licences to Australian citizens residing in Queensland, with sensible exemptions for sporting and occupational needs. We are strengthening storage requirements. Timber safes are easier to breach, while steel storage reduces theft risk. There will be a 12-month transition period which is practical, fair and reasonable.

During the course of this bill, I have been contacted by many members of the Mundingburra community in relation to this bill and I want to add some of their comments to my speech. One member said—

Firearms owners in Queensland should be well pleased with the raising of this bill. We were consulted through our various sporting organisations, we were listened to, we were treated respectfully and, of particular significance, Queensland law continues to follow commonsense principles where the detrimental outcomes are for those who break the law, not for those whose lives are devoted to holding it. Thank you.

Another person said—

Congratulations to you and your government. Some common sense in the firearm debate.

Another said—

From the outset I would like to acknowledge Premier Crisafulli and his team for the balanced and respectful approach when considering how to make Queensland a respectful and a safe place to live.

We are adding new offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework, because if somebody is old enough to terrorise a community with a firearm they are also old enough to face adult consequences.

This bill reflects a government that governs with resolve and responsibility. We have listened, and we have listened to regional Queensland. We have consulted. We have aligned with National Cabinet. We have ensured safeguards. We have acted. Community safety is not a slogan; it is a duty and it is a duty that this government takes seriously. Queenslanders expect strong laws. For those on this side of the House, the rights of victims will always outweigh those of offenders. Queenslanders expect clarity and consequences for actions, and this bill delivers that. I commend this bill to the House.