



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEЕ

Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026

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

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.27 pm): There are likely few things that every member of this House universally agrees on, but the fact that hate, violence and discrimination has no place in our community is surely one. The events that unfolded on 14 December 2025 at Bondi Beach were a national tragedy, forever a stain on our country's history and the way that we treat one another. Fifteen innocent lives lost, families bereft and a community traumatised. Anti-Semitism has no place in Queensland, in this country or, indeed, anywhere in the world.

On 30 June 2023, as the then multicultural affairs minister, I recall officially opening the Queensland Holocaust Museum, an education centre, alongside chair of the centre and president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Jason Steinberg. It was a solemn day, but a special day also, to honour the locally recorded stories of Holocaust survivors and their families alongside non-Jewish people who risked their lives to save Jewish people, including those awarded the prestigious Righteous Among the Nations honour. By establishing that museum and education centre, and sharing the stories of victim-survivors and their families, we have the opportunity to deeply understand a significant and tragic part of our history. I said in my comments on the day of opening that it is critical that we continue our efforts to be clear that racism and hatred have no place in Queensland so we can build a better and safer community for generations to come. But that work is far from complete. I take this opportunity to send my sincere regards to Jason and the Queensland Jewish community. I have always admired the way that Jason calmly and respectfully leads and advocates for his community and the deep and abiding resilience of the Queensland Jewish community.

The bill before us deals with several distinct and important matters: prohibiting particular expressions, weapons offences, faith-based protections—matters that deserved a consultative and measured response. This bill failed that test at the first hurdle. As the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland put so aptly—

Government has a unique responsibility to act as a stabilising force in times of social strain. The way legislation is framed, consulted on and communicated can either build calm and reinforce equal protection, or deepen uncertainty and division. In this instance, the speed and limited consultation associated with the Bill have contributed to community unease and risk undermining the very cohesion the reforms seek to strengthen.

From Multicultural Australia—

As the Queensland government works to provide an adequate response to ensure tragic events such as 14 December are not repeated, we call for a measured, consultative approach that seeks to address all forms of hatred and harm in collaboration with communities.

Multicultural Australia remains concerned that this significant legislative reform is being afforded very limited consultation time.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Ms LINARD: There are two peak multicultural bodies in Queensland and neither was shown the due respect of appropriate consultation. Countless other submissions raised the same key issues and the same concerns. This bill was hastily drafted and afforded only 17 days for examination. Submitters raised being given only six days to make a written submission, which is a totally unreasonable and unnecessary ask. When the former attorney-general, the member for Waterford, and I introduced serious vilification laws in this state to increase penalties for offences that are motivated by hatred or serious contempt, we did so after nine months of consultation and we did so with 28 multicultural leaders standing by our side. Where are those leaders today? Many of them are the very people who are now wondering why they were not consulted and raising concerns that this bill does not get right the tone and the response on such an important issue.

The LNP bill that went to the committee did not even contain the two phrases that have been the subject of so much commentary from those opposite, meaning the committee was unable to properly consider those phrases. At least 38 submissions and many more Queenslanders raised that exact issue. It is past time that the Crisafulli LNP government practise what they preach and allow proper and due process to occur. Rushing the bill and amendments in this way subverts process and subverts democracy. The proposed expressions should go back to a committee for proper scrutiny and oversight.

We support the stated intention of this bill to further curb hate speech and introduce tougher sentencing for gun violence but not at the expense of taking Queensland backwards and putting Queensland out of step with the rest of the country in respect of gun reform or by placing a potentially unconstitutional gag on freedom of speech. If this bill is truly about keeping our community safe, firstly we need to openly name the problem and call out extremism, radicalisation and those who seek to weaponise division. They do so at the expense of our community cohesion as a state and as a nation.

Secondly, before rushing to create new laws, we must enforce and implement the existing laws we have. As the Human Rights Commissioner acknowledged, stronger laws will not themselves prevent the spread of hate, division and radicalisation. Our immediate focus needs to be on making sure not only that we have the right laws in place but also that those laws are actively enforced. In this regard, there are already existing criminal and civil protections for serious vilification in Queensland under the Anti-Discrimination Act, in particular section 124A, and the Criminal Code, in particular section 52A. These laws already enable individuals and the Queensland Police Service to take action against a person who knowingly or recklessly incites hatred towards, serious contempt for or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons on the ground of the race, religion or general identity of a person or members of a group.

In their submissions, both the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland stated that there are existing offences that are broad enough to capture the conduct contemplated by this bill, labelling the proposed offence unnecessary given existing offences and legislative prohibitions at both state and Commonwealth levels. If there are barriers to prosecuting conduct that falls within the realms of those existing provisions then that is what we should be discussing. That is what we should be addressing rather than rushing to legislate provisions that stakeholders have variously labelled unworkable and as not respecting the principles of necessity, legality and proportionality.

In their submission, the Queensland Law Society also rightly called for the implementation of changes to Queensland's anti-discrimination laws contemplated by the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act—reforms that are highly relevant to the core intent of this bill and were the product of a four-year community-driven process that this LNP government has paused indefinitely. It is time these provisions were allowed to operate as intended to strengthen anti-vilification and anti-discrimination protections for all Queenslanders.

The opposition supports other elements of the bill that protect religious worship. The increased penalties and new offences bring them into line with modern community standards. Queenslanders should be able to go about their lives and attend their religious services and faith-based activities without fear.

With respect to weapons reforms, we do not believe that the reforms in this bill go far enough. This is a missed opportunity to keep Queenslanders safe and, concerningly, puts Queensland out of step with the rest of the country. The Crisafulli LNP government have not implemented the agreement of National Cabinet to sign up to a national gun buyback scheme and they continue to drag their heels on implementing recommendations from the Wieambilla coroner's report. Three years on from that terrible tragedy, Queenslanders rightfully expect that the lessons learned would drive change. It is time Queensland signs up to the national gun reforms because any reduction in the number of firearms in Queensland makes our community safer.

It is time to also implement mandatory mental health checks for weapons licence holders in Queensland, as recommended by the Coroner, which will protect Queenslanders and protect our hardworking police officers on the front line. This is not about taking firearms away from law-abiding citizens; it is about keeping Queenslanders safe, which is something that this LNP government like to talk about a lot but they have failed when it comes to standing up to the gun lobby in Queensland, giving Queensland the unenviable reputation of being the weakest jurisdiction in Australia when it comes to these national gun reforms. In their submission, the Alannah & Madeline Foundation said of the changes—

We are deeply dismayed that this Bill ignores the options agreed by National Cabinet. It ignores the prioritisation of public and individual safety and the prevention of the misuse of weapons ...

The opposition stands with all Queenslanders in advocacy for stronger gun reforms and we stand united, as a Labor opposition, in condemning hatred and vilification in any form, as we always did steadfastly when in government.