




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.26 pm): The terrible events of 7 October in Bondi shook Australians. It was such a breach of the standards that we seek to build in this country. I know this is before the courts, so I will respect the House and limit my descriptions and allegations of events. However, our hearts go out to all 15 who died, targeted simply because they were at a Jewish event.

I want to recognise Chabad, the organisation that seeks to have such a public-facing event in so many places around the world, including Australia, for the festival of Hanukkah. I have attended their events before and celebrated by bringing home gifts to my kids of a dreidel, colouring books and menorahs. This year I went to the Jewish hall in Surfers Paradise not only to celebrate but also as a mark of respect and to be a witness to the ancient lighting of the giant menorah. My heart goes out to the Jewish community—now more than ever—who have to think twice about safety and security. I spoke to one attendee whose son had been abused at school because of his surname. My grandparents—especially the O’Kanes—taught me that all people deserve respect. They especially taught me to be supportive and respectful of Jewish Australians.

I thought this could be a unifying event for this parliament, not one where the government seeks political advantage to divide. I condemn any desecration or wilful damage of any place of worship. As an Irish Australian I know that all of our places of worship in Ireland were either destroyed or wilfully damaged, so this is particularly important to me. It disappoints me that this bill pretends to introduce further protections for places of worship by inserting a new subsection (13) as it is already in 11(1)(c) of the Criminal Code. Both have the same seven-year penalty; however, the new subsection (13) calls upon the prosecution to prove paragraph (a). Although it may not be difficult to do, 11(1)(c) does not require it. So the existing law will exist twice in our Criminal Code, but it will also have a small hurdle towards prosecution. The question is: why introduce it then? The Premier is doing what he always does when introducing laws—that is, seeking advantage not for the people of Queensland but for himself.

We recognise these laws are not just about synagogues. Overwhelmingly they will be for other places of worship. It is important that all places of worship are protected. This is an example of how hurried the bill was and how little consultation was undertaken. It had more to do with politics than with making faith communities genuinely safer. This is why the bill has had such a short time available for examination and has been criticised so much by faith communities. This was a great opportunity for unity—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Member, I am sorry to interrupt but I ask that you resume your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I now call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.