



Speech By  
**Natalie Marr**

**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026. I begin with a heartfelt acknowledgement of the horror that made this bill necessary. On 14 December 2025, two gunmen opened fire at a peaceful Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach, killing 15 innocent people. It was Australia's deadliest terrorist attack and our second deadliest mass shooting. Families were shattered, a community was terrorised and the entire nation was left grieving. Every Queenslanders felt the shock and the sorrow. This bill is the LNP Crisafulli government's direct, decisive response to that evil. It honours the victims by refusing to let hatred and violence go unanswered. This bill is about keeping all Queenslanders safe.

As the member for Thuringowa and a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, we have observed our communities having the opportunity to express their own contribution with over 410 submissions and two public hearings, and the committee took detailed evidence from the Queensland Police Service and Department of Justice. Our committee report is clear with one recommendation—the committee recommends that the bill be passed.

The bill does two vital things at once. First, it stamps out anti-Semitism with new strength. It expands the prohibited symbols offence to capture graphic representations and written descriptions. It creates a new offence for publicly reciting, distributing or displaying prohibited expressions that incite hatred or violence against groups defined by race, religion, sexuality or gender identity. It strengthens protections for every faith community such as higher penalties for obstructing ministers of religion, new offences for intimidating people entering or leaving places of worship, and a new aggravated offence for wilful damage to synagogues, mosques and churches carrying up to seven years imprisonment. These are not abstract changes. At our Townsville hearing, Rabbi Ari Rubin spoke powerfully about the rising tide of anti-Semitism in regional schools, workplaces and universities. He reminded us that anti-Semitism is the canary in the coalmine: when it is allowed to fester, no-one is safe.

Second, the bill keeps guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals, it increases penalties for stealing firearms and ammunition and it criminalises acts done in preparation for causing death or grievous bodily harm, closing the gap before an attack occurs. It makes reckless discharge of a weapon toward a house, car or premises a serious offence. It broadens the considerations for licensing decisions, aligns our firearm prohibition orders with other states and strengthens storage rules, especially for high-risk categories.

These measures matter deeply in regional Queensland. In my electorate of Thuringowa and right across North and Far North Queensland firearms are tools of the land for primary producers protecting crops and livestock, for farmers managing pests, for responsible sporting shooters. Law-abiding regional families rely on them, but we have also seen how quickly those same tools can be turned into

terror. The Bondi attackers did not get their guns through legitimate regional channels, yet every loophole closed here makes our whole state safer. This bill is targeted. It is not blanket. It protects everyday users while denying weapons to those who would harm us.

Travelling to Townsville was an important part of our inquiry. At the request of regional Queenslanders, we left the south-east to hear directly from the people most affected by firearms laws in daily life. The hearing was packed. Local families, sporting clubs, faith leaders and community advocates all had their say. We heard that anti-Semitism is not a city problem; it is happening in our regional schools and streets too. We heard that stronger gun laws done right give regional communities greater confidence that their neighbourhoods remain safe. That is a powerful outcome for Thuringowa, for Townsville, for Cairns, for Mount Isa and for every regional centre.

The committee carefully tested the bill against fundamental legislative principles and the Human Rights Act. We found it compatible. Any limitations on rights such as freedom of expression are reasonable, proportionate and necessary to protect the rights of others to live free from fear and violence. Reasonable excuse defences remain.

I want to touch on Labor's statement of reservation. It chooses to nitpick and politicise, hiding behind reservations that undermine the very protections our communities are desperately needing. Its suggestion that existing laws under the Anti-Discrimination Act and Criminal Code are sufficient rings hollow. Stakeholders and the community called for stronger measures. If Labor truly believed in these laws, why did it not strengthen them during its tenure? It accused us of playing politics by combining anti-Semitism and gun control measures. Nonsense! This bill addresses interconnected threats head-on as evidenced by the Bondi tragedy itself where hatred fuelled gun violence.

Far from a gag on freedom of speech, as we just heard, our prohibitions on particular expressions are targeted to those that promote hatred, with safeguards for legitimate discourse as confirmed in departmental briefings and human rights assessments. Labor's hand-wringing over free speech ignores the real harm—the fear in our communities and the rise in anti-Semitic incidents across metropolitan and regional areas, as we heard firsthand in Townsville. Today's question time exposed a shocking and intolerable truth: the scourge of anti-Semitism is not an external threat; it festers within the Labor Party itself.

**Ms MULLEN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr J Kelly): Resume your seat please, member for Thuringowa. Pause the clock. What is your point of order, acting manager of opposition business?

**Ms MULLEN:** Relevance to the long title of the bill. Can we please bring the member back to the—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will have silence while I take points of order.

**Ms MULLEN:** It is not relevant to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I am listening carefully to your contribution. I will pull you up on relevance if you are not being relevant to the objectives of the bill, as per the Speaker's ruling this morning. You may continue.

**Ms MARR:** This is not mere political pointscore; it is a damning indictment of a party that claims to stand against hatred yet harbours and enables it within. A member of the opposition front bench has been espousing and circulating anti-Semitic views on his social media profiles. The disgust is palpable.

**Ms MULLEN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think I can anticipate your point of order. Member, I will bring you back to relevance to the bill, as per the Speaker's ruling this morning. You are straying into matters that do not relate to the objectives of this bill, so I will ask you to continue.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to your decision—and I note the Speaker's decision earlier in the day—however, how is the conversation around anti-Semitism not relevant to this bill, if I may?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I am not here to have a debate with you. If you want to question my decisions, there are mechanisms for you to do that. My ruling stands. I call the member for Thuringowa.

**Ms MARR:** How can any decent Australian trust a government whose own ranks are tainted by this poison in opposition? We must demand better—zero tolerance for anti-Semitism that starts at home, and right now Labor is failing spectacularly to understand that. Labor's reservations are nothing more than a cynical attempt to appear measured while being soft on hate and crime. This government,

under Premier Crisafulli, acts with resolve to protect all Queenslanders from hatred and violence. This bill acts with purpose and compassion. It responds to the worst of humanity with the best of Queensland values, fairness, community and zero tolerance for hate.

I thank Minister Purdie and Attorney-General Frecklington for their leadership. I thank the chair, Marty Hunt, and every member of our committee. I thank the brave witnesses who shared painful, personal stories and I thank the regional Queenslanders who trusted us enough to come forward in Townsville, which was a very emotional time for most. I am proud to stand here today as the member for Thuringowa and say that this bill will make our state safer and our faith communities more secure and our regional way of life stronger. I commend the bill to the House.