




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.22 pm): Hate speech is always unacceptable. No hate speech should ever be tolerated in a thriving democracy like ours. National protection should continue to be defended, and governments at all levels should act to do all they can to promote and protect cohesive, kind, accepting and tolerant communities.

For well over a decade, the conservative Liberal Party members of parliament have been actively chipping away, discrediting and attacking our nation's racial vilification laws under the guise of a serious threat to free speech. The last attempt, which we saw only recently, provided yet another scalp from the opposition leader in Canberra. It is surprising that we now have the LNP here in Queensland who have overreached in this respect to free speech in the extreme. It is right for the community to expect all politicians, including conservatives, to do all they can to deliver protections—real protections that matter—and use their platforms to call out racism and division.

On multiple occasions, the Labor team has come into this place and called on the LNP to take a stand around violent racist rallies happening in our streets and to demonstrate leadership. Those calls were left unanswered and Queenslanders were left wanting. We on this side of the House have also called for the LNP to act and deliver stronger community safety protections and commit to the coroner's recommendations after the Wieambilla massacre. On this, we saw no action. It is devastating that it took a national massacre to see the LNP government take action in this respect. The only action the LNP have actually taken to date is the stalling of the implementation of major Anti-Discrimination Act reforms for almost a year. These provisions would prevent harassment and protect victims of domestic violence, homeless people and more. That is the record of this government: shameful actions that leave vulnerable communities even more vulnerable.

In what utopian society does the LNP think that proposing the most extreme laws in the country—to give one politician the power to criminalise phrases without debate, oversight or explanation—is okay? Not content with already having gagged free speech here in this parliament, the LNP proposed to gag free speech anywhere in the state—only to, under mounting pressure, magnificently backflip. The nature of that backflip still remains a mystery, as the House has had no amendments tabled from the Attorney. This level of unchecked power is entirely inappropriate.

In a desperate effort to hold themselves together, the LNP have proposed to strip away freedom of speech, while not actually addressing the issue of anti-Semitism, gun violence and terrorism. That is the consensus position of the LNP. That is what it looks like: overcooked on freedom of speech and undercooked when it comes to safety protections with national buybacks and safeguards to stop guns falling into the hands of unstable people.

David Crisafulli is a clever politician, but Queenslanders have seen through this poor attempt from the LNP to act normal. After Bondi, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Premier offering for parliament to reconvene early—to come back in December or January and get the ball rolling on

legislation. The LNP ruled this out of hand publicly. They said they would act in a calm and methodical way. They sat on their hands and delayed legislation, only to come back into this place and rush legislation through a committee process.

Mr O'Connor: Is it rushed or is it delayed? Which one is it? You said we did both.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BOYD: I will take the interjections from the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Youth Justice. Through the chair, you delayed the implementation of it, you delayed the introduction of a bill and then you rushed the committee process. I hope you are now up to speed.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BOYD: Follow along. It is important. Even the curtailing of the committee process—one highlighted as integral by corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald—cannot contain the overreach of this bill. Due process is important. Community conversations take time. History has shown that progress in this space, striking the right balance of laws that are robust, effective and inclusive, cannot be rushed. We heard that on high rotation from submitters and witnesses to the committee process.

The member for Mundingburra said that this legislation aligns with National Cabinet. I think it is important that the record is corrected. This does not align with the recommendations or the position of National Cabinet; it actually deviates from that. It was audacious of the Attorney to come in here and debate the committee's consideration of this bill in a procedural motion earlier today and state that the Leader of the Opposition had said, 'Urgent! We need to recall parliament. We have to recall parliament and we have to debate it without any community consultation.' Anyone here who has actually read that letter from the Leader of the Opposition—and that is obviously not the ministers on the government benches because they are still overwhelmingly confused—would know that that is not what it said. Introducing a bill earlier would have afforded a longer community conversation. Nowhere did that correspondence ever propose curtailing community conversations. The only people who proposed that and actually did that were this LNP government. The LNP have no qualms about running other pieces of legislation through committee processes over the course of December and January. This could have been law already if a genuine act of bipartisanship was accepted, but even throughout my contribution we have seen ministers on the government benches entirely incapable of doing that.

Our nation is a rich multicultural melting pot. Everyone, regardless of their origin, religious beliefs, ethnicity or colour of their skin, deserves to be safe and to feel safe. It is the responsibility of every person in this House and our community to uphold that community. We cannot afford to be weak on hate speech and we cannot afford to be weak on gun laws. I stand for strong, nationally consistent gun reforms that will avoid turning Queensland into the weakest link. I have not spoken with one person in this state who wants to see another Wieambilla incident occur. If you talk to any community member proposing a mental health check to get a gun licence—

A government member: You've got no idea.

Ms BOYD: I take that interjection. If you talk to any community member proposing a mental health check to access a gun licence—I have never heard an argument for why that proposal cannot be agreed to. Whether people come off the land or live in suburbia, whether they are at the beach, the shops or the school drop-off, when I have this conversation with them they think that is entirely reasonable, yet this government is refusing to implement the coroner's recommendations that would make communities safer. Recommendation 2 of the coroner's inquest into the massacre was that the Queensland government undertake a review to consider the feasibility of the introduction of mandatory health assessments for weapons licence applicants. We know that Gareth, Stacey and Nathaniel Train each had an undiagnosed and untreated psychotic illness, a shared delusional disorder. Nothing that is being proposed by this government would have in any way averted that tragedy. The public health reports for the Trains would never have eventuated. Let's not kid ourselves.

(Time expired)