



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

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.59 am): 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. This bill goes to something fundamental: the standards we set as a parliament and the standards our communities expect. They say that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. I would go further: the standard you walk past does not merely get accepted; it lowers the standard for everyone. We have seen that when standards drop and laws are weak communities do not just feel less safe; they become less safe. We saw that in reality in the horrific terror attack in Bondi late last year—an attack targeting Jewish people, an act of hatred designed to terrorise not just individuals but an entire community.

That tragedy did not happen in a vacuum. It followed a rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric, symbols and intimidation. It followed a period where hateful narratives were far too often dismissed as fringe or excused as mere political speech. Anti-Semitism is not political discourse; it is hate. Hate, when allowed to circulate unchecked, can progress from rhetoric to intimidation and, ultimately, to catastrophic violence.

This bill draws a clear line. The bill does exactly what it says: it fights hate and anti-Semitism and keeps guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. The Crisafulli LNP government are taking clear, deliberate steps to protect Queenslanders, and we are doing so in a way that is specific, targeted and measured. These laws are not abstract. They are not theoretical. They are not kneejerk. They are a direct and considered response to the anti-Semitic terrorist attack that occurred on the shores of Bondi late last year where 15 innocent people lost their lives. It was an anti-Semitic terrorist attack, and this bill takes the necessary steps to address what led to those shocking events.

Our response was not rushed. We did not lurch from headline to headline. We calmly and methodically considered the situation and developed legislation that addresses the travesty that occurred in a way that is proportionate and precise. We must be honest: the attack did not happen in isolation. We have seen the rise of unchecked anti-Semitism in this country over recent years. It was allowed to run rampant. It was allowed to grow unchecked and unabated. What started as vile ideas became hateful words. Hateful words turned into symbols sprayed on walls and threats hurled at families. Places of worship were violated and vandalised. Eventually, those embers of hate—allowed to burn uncontrollably for too long—culminated in a terrorist attack at one of our nation's most iconic places. That is why we are here today.

The bill draws a clear line. Two hateful phrases—phrases that call for the destruction of a people based on their faith—will be outlawed as part of this bill not because we are policing thought but because when those phrases are used in a way that intimidates, menaces or incites hostility they cease to be debate and become threat. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to menace. Artistic licence does not mean licence to incite hatred.

This legislation is targeted. It applies where conduct could reasonably be expected to make a reasonable member of the public feel menaced, harassed or offended. It includes safeguards. It is not to stifle genuine debate, education or historical discussion. It does say this, though: if someone's conduct spreads anti-Semitic hatred in a way that intimidates others, there will be consequences. This is what social cohesion requires. This is exactly why strong laws matter. We know that when standards slip or when laws are weak negative consequences follow—and don't the people of North Queensland know about it after 10 years of Labor!

This bill is not just about words; it is about protection. It strengthens protections for faith communities. It modernises offences relating to assaulting ministers of religion and disturbing religious worship. It introduces a new offence for intimidating and obstructing people entering or leaving places of worship. Let's think about what that means in practical terms. Families should be able to walk into a synagogue, church, mosque or temple without fear. They should not have to wonder whether someone outside the gates intends to intimidate them. This bill sends a powerful message: Queensland will not tolerate attacks on faith communities. Let me be clear: these protections apply to all religions.

This bill also ensures guns are kept out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. That matters deeply in regional Queensland. In my electorate of Hinchinbrook, firearms ownership is practical and responsible. Primary producers rely on firearms for pest management. Sporting shooters are members of disciplined, law-abiding clubs. These Queenslanders follow the rules. They are not the problem.

This legislation is specific and targeted. It does not punish lawful owners; it targets terrorists and criminals. It introduces the toughest penalties in the world for people carrying and dealing in illegal weapons. It increases penalties for stealing firearms and ammunition because stolen firearms feed the illicit market and pose a direct risk to community safety. It strengthens penalties for trafficking and unlawful supply because trafficking is the pipeline that arms organised crime. It creates a new offence for reckless discharge of a weapon towards a building or vehicle—conduct designed to terrify communities and often linked to criminal organisations. It tackles the emerging threat of 3D printed firearms by criminalising the possession and distribution of blueprint material used to manufacture untraceable weapons. Technology has changed. The law must keep pace.

This bill also ensures only Australian citizens are able to hold a firearms licence, aligning Queensland with national decisions, but includes reasonable carve-outs for genuine occupational and sporting needs. It tightens storage requirements to reduce the risk of theft, because secure storage is one of the most effective preventive measures available. It strengthens firearm prohibition orders so high-risk individuals can be restricted quickly. It broadens what can be considered in determining whether someone is fit and proper, because when it comes to firearms we must err on the side of community safety. It empowers police not just to investigate crime after it happens but to disrupt and frustrate serious criminal activity before harm occurs. This is not overreach; it is responsibility. Our response is deliberate and targeted. It targets terrorists, criminals and those who seek to spread anti-Semitic hatred, and it does so while respecting the rights of law-abiding Queenslanders.

Queenslanders expect leadership. They expect strong standards. They expect governments to act when hatred spreads. For far too long the embers of anti-Semitism were allowed to burn. This government has made the tough calls necessary to extinguish them. We are making Queensland safer. We are protecting faith communities. We are ensuring guns are kept out of the hands of terrorists and criminals. We are sending a clear message that anti-Semitism has no place in this state. This bill does exactly what it says. For those reasons, I commend it to the House.