



## Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref No: 2026/4033 JF

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14 MAY 2026

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
[TableOfficer@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOfficer@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to ePetition 4378-26 'Proportionate, Evidence-Based and Consultative Firearms Policy' tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 April 2026.

The petitioners raise concerns that licensed firearms owners in Queensland are subject to rigorous background checks, ongoing compliance requirements, and strict regulatory oversight, and that public commentary has, at times, implied an association between lawful firearms ownership and terrorism or criminal activity. The petitioners request that the House refrain from such associations and ensure firearms policy remains proportionate, evidence-based, and clearly distinguishes licensed firearms owners from criminal or terrorist actors.

I referred this matter to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) so that I can be better informed about the issues raised.

The *Weapons Act 1990* (Weapons Act) establishes the legislative framework governing the possession, use, storage and regulation of firearms in Queensland. The principles of the Weapons Act provide that the possession and use of a weapon is subordinate to the need to ensure public and individual safety, and that safety is enhanced through strict controls on access to and use of firearms. The object of the Weapons Act is to prevent the misuse of weapons, while enabling lawful possession and use of weapons by licensed individuals for genuine purposes such as occupational, sporting and recreational activities. This framework includes robust suitability assessments for prospective licence holders, ongoing compliance obligations, and enforcement mechanisms.

The Queensland Government has recently strengthened this framework through the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026* (Act). Amendments in this Act were evidence-based, informed by operational experience and aligned with laws in other jurisdictions. This Act introduced new offences to deter serious criminal and extremist behaviour and imposes the strongest maximum penalties in Australia for a range of Weapons Act offences that represent a potential risk to community safety. Further, this Act improves weapons licensing processes through amendments that ensure that a person who holds a weapons licence will be a fit and proper person to do so. These reforms target individuals who, by engaging in criminal activity, pose a risk to community safety and will not impact lawful firearms owners who comply with legislative requirements.

The Government acknowledges the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between licensed firearms owners and individuals engaged in criminal or terrorist activity. Queensland firearms legislation is designed to support the legitimate use of firearms by law-abiding Queenslanders while ensuring strong and effective measures are in place to prevent their misuse.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Should your office require further information, Ms Bianca Stone, Chief of Staff, is available on (07) 3719 7150.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Purdie', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dan Purdie MP

**Minister for Police and Emergency Services**