



Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref No: C2958 and 2026/2622 JF

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I refer to your correspondence of 9 March 2026 regarding Petition 4385-26 received by the Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026.

The petitioners request the imposition of a five-year period before new Australian citizens are eligible to apply for a weapons license in Queensland. Within Queensland, weapon possession and use are subordinate to the need to ensure public and individual safety, and the *Weapons Act 1990* (Weapons Act) establishes strict and comprehensive legal requirements for the safe and legitimate use of firearms and weapons within our communities.

The Crisafulli Government has taken strong measures to reduce the risk of gun related criminal activity within our communities, most recently through the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026* which received royal assent on 11 March 2026 (the Act). The Act implemented a range of measures including introducing specific firearm offences, increasing penalties for certain existing firearm offences, giving more powers to police to assess the suitability of applicants for weapons licenses, and provided improved mechanisms to prohibit firearms from falling into the hands of individuals who pose a threat to community safety. These reforms align with those made in other Australian jurisdictions in the wake of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack on 14 December 2025.

The Act also introduced licensing requirements under the Weapons Act. The object of the Weapons Act is to prevent the misuse of weapons which is met, in part, through a strict licensing regime that authorises a person to possess a firearm. A person seeking a weapons licence must satisfy an authorised officer of a number of conditions before the officer may issue, renew, endorse or alter the licence.

The Act will require a person to be an Australian citizen to obtain a weapons licence. This amendment, which will commence on proclamation, will enhance and simplify background checks conducted about the person and will align Queensland with agreements made at National Cabinet. Exceptions have been legislated which allow for non-citizens who require a licence to possess a weapon for the genuine reason of sports or target shooting or an occupational requirement including for the person's employment in primary industries, for rural purposes or animal welfare.

The Crisafulli Government considers that amendments made to the Weapons Act provide appropriate safeguards to the community while balancing the rights of lawful firearm owners.

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

Yours sincerely

Dan Purdie MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services