



15 January 2026

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: pjcis@aph.gov.au

NFF submission to Review of the Exposure Draft Legislation: Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) thanks the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the Committee) for the opportunity to provide input to the Review of the Exposure Draft Legislation: Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026 (the Review).

There is no place in Australia for the kind of violence that occurred at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025. Like every Australian, farmers place community safety above all else. The tragedy that occurred in Bondi demands a serious response, and we understand the need for governments to act decisively to ensure something like this never happens again.

Any reforms must deliver the best outcomes for the whole community, recognising that community safety also includes food security and protection from biosecurity risks.

Role of firearms in agricultural production

Firearms play a legitimate and essential role in Australian agriculture. They are critical for best practice animal welfare and for controlling invasive animal species that threaten biosecurity, food security, and Australia's ecosystems. Their use is highly regulated, and farmers take these responsibilities seriously.

For example, during natural disasters such as bushfires or floods, farmers may need to humanely euthanise injured or suffering livestock to prevent prolonged pain. Access to firearms in these circumstances is critical to uphold animal welfare standards and ensure humane outcomes.

Firearms are also vital for managing invasive species, both introduced and native, that threaten Australia's biosecurity. These species damage crops and farmland,

spread weeds and plant diseases, destroy habitats, and transmit serious animal and zoonotic diseases such as leptospirosis, Q fever, brucellosis, and Japanese encephalitis virus. Humane, regulated firearm use is an essential component of integrated pest management to protect food security, animal welfare, and the environment.

We support sensible reforms that strengthen community safety, but those reforms must be developed carefully and with proper consultation to ensure they do not undermine farm safety, animal welfare, and environmental management.

Reform processes should prioritise addressing illegal firearm use by non-licensed individuals, rather than the legal and necessary use of firearms in primary production.

Combatting Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism Bill 2026 ('the Bill')

The NFF offers the following comments regarding the Bill's provisions on firearms.

We note the Bill provides for the Australian Government to implement the National Gun Buyback Scheme and introduces a range of firearms amendments relating to intelligence use for background checking, importing, and online material for the manufacture of firearms and explosives.

While the intent of these reforms is legitimate and common-sense, it is essential to ensure they do not inadvertently affect food production, animal welfare, biosecurity, or environmental management. The rapid development of this Bill and the absence of industry consultation make it difficult to assess its practical impact on primary production. It is disappointing that significant changes to national firearms policy are being progressed without meaningful stakeholder engagement and a robust evidence base. NSW Farmers has raised similar concerns regarding recent state-based reforms, which have already demonstrated the potential for unintended consequences that affect the agricultural sector.

For example, we are concerned about the potential impact of restricting the import of firearms and ammunition that are legitimately and safely used in agricultural production, particularly where those firearms remain lawful under state and territory regulations. Such restrictions, if not clearly communicated and properly consulted, risk creating confusion and uncertainty for law-abiding licence holders and may lead to unintended consequences for compliance and farm operations.

The NFF urges the Australian Government to take a calm, considered and collaborative approach to remaining reform items and initiatives.

We ask that the Australian Government commit to:

- Genuine and timely consultation on key reforms to be progressed over the coming months, including the National Gun Buyback Scheme, acceleration of the National Firearms Register, and renegotiation of the National Firearms Agreement; and
- Working with the agricultural industry to better understand the implications of the Bill's and other reforms and address any issues that may arise during implementation.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch for further information. The policy contacts for this matter are Ms Charlotte Wundersitz, General Manager (Rural Affairs) via cwundersitz@nff.org.au and Mr Zac Rayson, Senior Policy Officer (Rural Affairs) via zrayson@nff.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

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