

Speech by

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ANNIVERSARY OF HIROSHIMA BOMBING

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.14 a.m.): It was 53 years ago today, at 8.15 a.m. on 6 August 1945, that Hiroshima, the Japanese city on the island of Honshu, became the first city to be destroyed by an atomic bomb. It is therefore timely for us to remember the 80,000 people who were killed instantly and the many others who died later or who were severely burned or crippled. This is a time also to remember the people who died three days later when the Allies dropped another bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, and the other lives that have been lost and damaged in the development of nuclear power for non-peaceful purposes.

Today Hiroshima is a city dedicated to peace. As the peace bell rings today in Hiroshima we should all renew our personal commitment to world peace—to a world that is free from the threat of nuclear war. It is incumbent upon all of us also to continue to demonstrate our own personal commitment to world peace in our communities. We should demonstrate that in whatever way we each feel fit and appropriate in our communities so as to remind people of the importance of continuing the quest for world peace.

That is also particularly timely now in terms of the current threat about which we are reading on the Indian subcontinent and the prospect of nuclear conflict in that theatre. I commend all members to spend some time today remembering the people of Hiroshima and others who have been killed or hurt through the non-peaceful use of nuclear power and to continue to work in our communities for peace.