




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.03 pm): On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, let us reflect on the atrocity of war on innocent men, women and children. During the past eight weeks we have seen an erosion of the most basic of human rights across Gaza and the West Bank: the right to life, food, safety and shelter. Recent casualty figures report that more than 14,854 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza. Of those, 6,150 were children, 4,000 were women and a further 6,800 are missing.

Over half of Gaza's homes have been destroyed and families have been displaced from their homes. Nearly 884,000 displaced people are seeking refuge in UN shelters, schools and hospitals. Those buildings themselves are often the target of bombings. Nowhere is safe for the people of Gaza. Food, water, electricity and fuel have been restricted to a trickle, depriving people of what they need to survive. It is unacceptable to think that not even the youngest and most vulnerable have been spared.

This devastation, though unfolding on the other side of the world, has made itself felt here in our own communities, in my own community and in communities across Australia, and people are grieving for family members and friends. I stand with those community members who not only are bearing the burden of that immense grief but also are shouldering the heavy load of advocating for the rights of their people, and they are doing it with courage and strength.

I have advocated for human rights for decades. I know this is not the first catastrophe for the Palestinian people. I have stood beside members of the Palestinian community to commemorate the Nakba, the displacement of 700,000 Palestinians from their land. I have seen the resilience, courage and remarkable faith in our political system in our community, whose members stand with and support self-determination. Today is a day to show that that faith is not misplaced.

I am incredibly saddened that the violence still unfolds, despite a fragile truce that is in place. I stand in solidarity with the international community, as represented at the UN, to call for a ceasefire across those ancient lands. Today, on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, I stand beside Palestinians the world over to call for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories.