




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Dockside Boardwalk; Middle East

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (2.43 pm): It is unacceptable that the state Labor government and the Minister for Resources have allowed the Dockside boardwalk to remain closed for well over a year now. This state owned public boardwalk is on the Brisbane riverfront in one of the most densely populated suburbs in the whole state—Kangaroo Point. This is a piece of crucial public infrastructure and it is disgraceful that the government has let the private leaseholder completely ignore his responsibilities for maintenance for over a year now.

In February the minister's office assured us that the leaseholder was finally going to fix the boardwalk. Almost seven months later, down at the site there is no evidence that any repairs have started. It looks exactly the same—fenced off, rotting boards, decaying. The community has been asking the Minister for Resources to come and meet with them to hear their concerns, but he has not shown up. Why is the Labor government letting the leaseholder—the same leaseholder who owned the ill-fated Drift restaurant—off the hook time and time again? Enough. Minister, it is time for the state government to step in and get this public boardwalk fixed.

I turn now to a broader global issue. More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the genocide in Gaza. Last month the International Court of Justice declared that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is unlawful. The ICJ said that all nations were obligated to cease any aid or assistance contributing to Israel's presence in Palestinian territories, including Gaza and the West Bank. In January the ICJ found that Israel is carrying out a plausible genocide and has since issued multiple orders that Israel has disregarded. Despite this, neither the federal nor state Labor governments have taken any action to ensure that we also are not aiding and assisting the occupation or the genocide.

Following my question to the Treasurer during estimates, it seems that the state government has taken no action or due diligence to investigate whether weapons companies receiving government funds here in Queensland are exporting weapons bound for Gaza. Despite the ICJ calling on all countries to cut any trade with Israel that entrenches the occupation of Palestine, the federal Labor government has continued to allow the export of weapons, parts and materials bound for Israel. The International Criminal Court has issued warrants of arrest for Israeli politicians, yet the federal Labor government has not taken any diplomatic or trade actions against Israel. All governments, including here in Queensland, have an active responsibility to withdraw any and all support for the Israeli government, the illegal occupation and the genocide. We are calling on the federal and state governments to cease their unconditional support for Israel and to actively push for an end to the genocide.