



Speech By
Hon. Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Bondi, Deaths

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I would like to contribute a few words regarding the events that unfolded at Archer Park at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025 and, on behalf of the Queensland parliament, extend our condolences to the family and friends of those who lost their lives, as well as to everyone injured or affected by this devastating event.

On that evening, an estimated 1,000 people had gathered at Archer Park to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. This gathering was made up of families, parents, grandparents and children. What had been a joyous event was interrupted by an attack by two gunmen who fired indiscriminately into the crowd killing 15 innocent attendees and wounding many more.

The victims ranged in age from Alex Kleytman, who was 87 years of age and a Holocaust survivor, to a child, Matilda, who was just 10 years of age. The victims never stood a chance. The attack was conducted in a manner to kill and maim as many victims as possible in a calculated, cruel and heartless manner.

There were many stories of incredible bravery by members of the public and emergency services including the police officers who were quickly on the scene and engaged with the gunmen, killing one and wounding and capturing the other. Ambulance officers were on the scene, alongside local surf lifesavers, treating the wounded while gunshots were still being fired. Many lives will never be the same after the events of that tragic day—the families who lost loved ones and those still recovering from both physical and psychological wounds. The first responders will also need support to deal with the scene that they were confronted with that day.

The entire Jewish community has been deeply affected by the event that unfolded at Bondi. Whilst charges have been laid with respect to the events of that terrible day and the investigation commenced into the motives that led to it, the Jewish community have been expressing concern about the rising level of anti-Semitism for some time. This claim is indisputable—we have all seen it—and it is deeply concerning that this level of hatred is being fostered in this country.

It is my understanding that legislation is to be introduced into this parliament regarding this issue, so I will not comment further at this stage, except to say that that is the role of parliament. If the current laws are failing then they need to change. That is not to say that it all should fall on lawmakers. We can all play a part to increase tolerance and inclusivity and call out anti-Semitism when we see it.

When I was elected to the role of Speaker, one of the first things I did was to rewrite the acknowledgement that I read at the beginning of every sitting day. I felt it was important to make it more inclusive. It consists of three paragraphs: the first acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people of the state, as is only proper; the second acknowledges the former members of this chamber for their contribution over the years; and the third acknowledges all who have come to make this their home

from all parts of the world and contributed to the life and culture that we all enjoy. They came for all sorts of reasons. In my case, the Weirs came from Portadown in Northern Ireland to escape conflict and poverty. We need to do all in our power to ensure that those who come to our country feel safe. On 14 December 2025 that did not happen.

I express my sympathy to the Jewish community. I express my sympathy to those directly affected on that tragic day. Together we need to do all we can to ensure that this does not happen again. I am sure all members of this parliament will join me in extending condolences and thoughts to those impacted by this terrible tragedy.