

ITEM 17

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR KIT DOCKER - COMMEMORATING THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE IN PALESTINE AND REAFFIRMING OUR CITY'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Councillor Kit Docker has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council –

- 1 Mourns the devastating loss of over sixty thousand ¹Palestinian lives in Gaza since October 2023, including tens of thousands of women and children, humanitarian aid workers and journalists in the current war on Gaza, and unequivocally condemns the targeting of civilians by all parties.
- 2 Expresses support for the Australian Government's recent pledge to recognise the State of Palestine, ongoing calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, to end the ongoing humanitarian crisis, prevent further loss of life, and allow the urgent delivery of aid and support to affected civilians.
- 3 Reaffirms Wollongong's commitment to peace and human rights as a member of:
 - a the Mayors for Peace initiative,²
 - b a declared *Refugee Welcome Zone*³, and
 - c the *Welcoming Cities Network*⁴.
- 4 Affirms that Wollongong is a diverse, multicultural, and multi-faith community, and strongly condemns all forms of hate, including racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, discrimination, and vilification, in both public and private life.
- 5 Commits to supporting members of the local Palestinian community, including those displaced by conflict, by facilitating connections with local charities and community organisations that provide essential services such as housing, food relief, trauma counselling, English language support, and culturally appropriate assistance.
- 6 Amends the Community Flag Schedule under Council's Flags Procedure⁵ to include the raising of the Palestinian flag as a show of solidarity within two months of the motion passing.”

Background provided by Councillor Kit Docker:

In September 2023, Save the Children [reported](#) that Palestinian child deaths had already exceeded those of 2022, which until then was the deadliest year on record, before the worst of the current escalation. The devastation has only deepened since.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [reports](#) that between 7 October 2023 and 6 August 2025, at least 61,158 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 151,442 injured, including 18,430 children. The Gaza Health Ministry has reported a further 150,000 injuries, with the UN now describing Gaza as home to the largest group of child amputees in modern history.

Since January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to which Australia is a signatory, has issued [three binding rulings](#) ordering the State of Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of genocide. In July 2024, the [ICJ determined](#) that Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank remain subject to racial segregation and apartheid policies. In May 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan KC sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity arising from Israel's actions in Gaza since 8 October 2023.

¹ [BBC report 30 July 2025](#)

² [the Mayors for Peace initiative](#)

³ [Refugee Welcome Zone](#)

⁴ [Welcoming Cities Network](#)

⁵ [Wollongong Flag Procedure](#)

During this period, numerous nation states, including South Africa, Ireland, and Spain, have taken concrete measures to fulfil their international obligations. More recently, democratic nations such as Germany have also adopted measures critical of Israel's conduct.

As a city and a council, Wollongong has always sought to play its part on the international stage. We work alongside global cities through networks such as the Global Covenant of [Mayors for Climate and Energy](#), the [Welcoming Cities Network](#) and have applied to join the [UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities](#). In sport, we have hosted world-class events including the UCI Road World Championships and this year's World Triathlon, and we remain Australia's only [UCI Bike City](#). At our most recent meeting, we approved a visit by our Lord Mayor to our [sister city of Kawasaki](#), Japan, a partnership built on shared values and mutual understanding. Many of our largest institutions, from Port Kembla and the steelworks to the University of Wollongong, have deep international connections. In every sense, Wollongong is a global city and there is no reason we should shy away from that fact now.