

Eurobodalla Shire Council  
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[council@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@esc.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mayor and fellow Councillors,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We write to you on behalf of Connecting Communities, a grassroots, volunteer-led action and advocacy group living on Yuin Country.

We are writing to you in regard to a motion that will be raised by Merri-bek Council at the [ALGA conference](#) on 2 - 4 July, about the horrific genocide in Gaza and we are requesting that the Eurobodalla Shire Council delegates support this motion.

We appreciate that the Eurobodalla Shire became a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2015. Our Council as a community and collective made a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community. By making this declaration, we committed to support the men, women and children who make the difficult journey to Australia to seek our protection. This shows that the Eurobodalla Shire Council has previously shown compassion towards refugees seeking a safe place to live. Palestinians are currently refugees in their own homelands and have been subjected to the murder of innocent civilians, destruction of hospitals, schools, universities, places of worship, dwellings and subject to the use of white phosphorus in a civilian area. All of which are illegal war crimes.

Current humanitarian crisis in Gaza between October 7, 2023 and 28 May, 2024:

- 36, 100 innocent civilians killed and more than 81,000 people injured by Israeli Occupation Forces. **These numbers do not include the thousands who are still missing under the rubble.**
- Over 730 aid and health workers killed
- Only 12 out of 36 hospitals remain partially functioning
- Currently 37% to 50% of aid missions denied access, impeded or canceled by Israel
- All universities destroyed
- 1.7 million people displaced
- 1.1 million people facing catastrophic food insecurity

We as Australians understand the pain of a dark history. Our First Nations communities have suffered and still suffer ongoing trauma at the hands of genocide and land theft. Last year we saw our entire Country deepen those wounds when the proposed Voice to Parliament Referendum resulted in a unanimous rejection. This result shows that we have mountains to climb in righting the wrongs of our past and walking together for a unified future, especially here in the Eurobodalla. The town of Moruya had a 42.8% 'yes' vote, which shows the potential of

our community to support First Nations Peoples and their rights for justice not only here, but overseas too.

Other Local Councils in Australia have moved a motion and showed their support for Palestinians. Councils such as Bankstown Council in October 2023, Merri-bek Council in November 2023, City of Sydney in December 2023, Wollongong Council in December 2023, Blue Mountains Council in February 2024, and Bellingen Council in April 2024. These Councils have advocated for the human rights and freedom of all people, our Council should do the same.

A big part of our community stands with Palestine. We held a day of healing in Moruya on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 to show our support towards the freedom and human rights of Palestinian people, First Nations Australians and Maori people. We walked across Moruya Bridge in unity and finished at Russ Martin park where we had live music from local musicians, a live art mural, an education table and a bake sale that raised over \$1400 which was donated to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the near East). We had around 200-250 people turn up and show their support. We have also attached a list of signatures from Community members who support this letter and request that our Council support the motion presented by Merri-bek.

We would be pleased to talk to you about this issue in further detail.

Eliza Cannon

Jordan Nye

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,

Eliza Cannon and Jordan Nye  
Connecting Communities