Item 11

Report No: C1210 Item 11

Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN

File Ref: 4056-03/78736.10

From Councillor Cathy Peters

MOTION:

THAT:

1. **Marrickville Council support the principles of the BDS global campaign and report back on any links the council has with organisations or companies that support or profit from the Israeli military occupation of Palestine with a view to the Council divesting from such links and imposing a boycott on any future such links or goods purchases.**
2. **Marrickville Council boycott all goods made in Israel and any sporting, academic, government or cultural exchanges.**
3. **Marrickville Council write to the local state and federal ministers (Carmel Tebbutt and Anthony Albanese) informing them of Council's position and seeking their support at the State and Federal level for the global BDS movement.**

Background

Since the Unified Palestinian call for BDS launched in July 2005, BDS initiatives have been multiplying all over the world and BDS movement has wide and growing international support.
The BDS movement began as a way for organisations and individual globally to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for human rights and equality and the return of the occupied lands.
This campaign focuses on Israeli goods, trading and military arrangements, and sporting, cultural and academic events as well as international companies that provide services for the Israeli government in their continued occupation and colonisation of Palestinian territory, the siege of Gaza and imprisonment of 1.5 million people, and the enforcement of a system of apartheid.

Actions that Australians can consider include

1. halting any military cooperation or trade with Israel;
2. refraining from participation in any form of sporting events, academic and cultural cooperation, collaboration or joint projects with Israeli institutions or teams;
3. advocating a comprehensive boycott of Israeli institutions at national and international levels, including suspension of all forms of funding and subsidies to these institutions;
4. Divestment from companies that provide goods and services to the Israeli state that assist the continued occupation and colonisation of Palestinian territorites
5. Economic, diplomatic and cultural sanctions against the Israeli government .
6. Boycotts of Israeli goods.

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1. The following Australian peak union bodies and unions have support the BDS campaign:

- Victorian Trades Hall Council;
- The South Coast Labour Council (SCLC);
- Australian Services Union, NSW and ACT branches;
- Council of the Queensland Teachers' Union;
- Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Workers Union, Queensland branch;
- Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union, NSW Branch;
- Maritime Workers of Australia, WA Branch.

International union organisations supporting the BDS campaign include

- the British Trade Union Congress;
- Irish Trade Union Congress;
- British University & College Union;
- Canadian Union of Public Employees;
- Canadian Union of Postal Workers;
- as well as unions in Brazil, Norway, and France.

2.

a. the boycott of South Africa contributed to the ending of that country's apartheid regime. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been outspoken in his support for the BDS movement: "The end of apartheid stands as one of the crowning accomplishments of the past century, but we would not have succeeded without the help of international pressure - in particular the divestment movement of the 1980s. Over the past six months, a similar movement has taken shape, this time aiming at an end to the Israeli occupation";

b. the National Council of Churches in Australia on 20 July 2010 issued a statement that the NCCA would "continue to add its voice to the call for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine and condemning all acts of terrorism" and that, "In solidarity with Palestinian Christians, the NCCA asks its member Churches and the wider Australian community to consider a boycott of goods produced by Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories."

3. The most recent UN General Assembly resolution of 6 October 2010 on the human rights situation in the Palestinian Territories can be found at http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/98edce37e189625b85256c40005da81b/e0f07b785ecd9984852577b900617f4e?

4. A question on notice from The Greens to the Minister of Defence revealed that Australia sold $48 million worth of military body armour to Israel in the 2008-09 financial year.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.