

The following is Green's candidate Katie McCusker's responses to questions AFOPA sent to all candidates in the Dunstan byelection.

Please find my responses to your questions as follows:

1. An immediate ceasefire in Gaza

The Greens have consistently called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and will continue to do so. I will continue to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

2. An immediate restoration of aid to UNRWA

The UNRWA has been one of the most critical organisations who supply aid to people in Gaza, run refugee camps and ensure people can eat. It is deeply distressing and reckless that Australia is suspending funding to the UNRWA on the basis on an allegation without evidence from the Israeli government. I support an immediate restoration and an increase of aid to UNRWA.

3. Self-determination and statehood for the Palestinian people

I support freedom and statehood for the Palestinian people, as well as their right to self-determination.

4. An end to the illegal Israeli military occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories, including the 17-year blockade of Gaza

The Greens recognise that the state of Israel has occupied the Palestinian territories and dispossessed the Palestinian people. The expropriation of Palestinian land, water, airspace, and resources is illegal and must be opposed. It is our goal to remove the Israeli settlers and Israeli security and military forces from all the Palestinian territories, including the land and sea blockade of Gaza.

5. The provision of military arms (or components) to Israel by the Australian government and Australian businesses

In November last year, the Greens marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People by taking two actions in the Parliament. First, by tabling a petition supported by over 35,000 members of the public calling on the Albanese Government to stop fuelling violence by exporting military equipment to Israel, and second calling for a permanent ceasefire to stop the killing of civilians. In December last year, documents obtained by Greens Senator David Shoebridge revealed how the Future Fund has invested more than \$600 million in public funds in global weapons companies, including an investment of nearly half a million dollars into the Israel-based Elbit Systems despite the Future Fund being banned from doing so. The Greens are pushing the Australian Government to work towards a UN-supervised removal of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, from all states in the region. I, along with all Greens, will continue to fight to stop investment in or provision of arms in the region.

6. The recent ruling by the International Court of Justice that it is plausible that the Israeli government and military is perpetrating genocide on the Palestinian people in Gaza

The Greens are calling on the Australian Government to support the International Court of Justice to fully and quickly investigate the sustained attacks on Palestinians. The Labor Government must also commit to backing any actions that arise from the ICJ's decision. The collective punishment and displacement of civilians through the use of indiscriminate bombing, the deliberate blockage of food, water and other essential supplies amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. In short, nothing can justify the violence we have seen and the Greens will continue to call on governments at all levels to support a permanent ceasefire, an end to the ongoing siege of Gaza and the illegal occupation of Palestine.

KATIE MCCUSKER

Candidate for Dunstan

The Greens SA

0421 829 458