

Suburb joins Israeli boycott

Kelsey Munro | Sydney Morning Herald | December 21, 2010

Marrickville Council has joined a global boycott of Israel over its occupation of the Palestinian territories. It is believed to be the first Australian local council to do so.

The Greens and Labor-dominated council voted 10-2 to cut links with organisations that support the Israeli occupation, and ban any academic, government, sporting or cultural exchanges with Israel.

The Greens councillor Cathy Peters, who put the motion at last week's meeting, said the council was representing the feelings of its multicultural community and its sister-city relationship with the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

Vivienne Porzsolt of Jews Against the Occupation welcomed the move to put pressure on Israel.

But Vic Alhadeff of the Jewish Board of Deputies, said the boycott was "an exercise in rank hypocrisy that has everything to do with local politics and nothing to do with the realities of the Middle East".