



Lyrebird Dreaming Pty Ltd

10 February 2026

Premier Chris Minns
Parliament House, Sydney NSW 2000

Premier,

I am writing as an Australian citizen who is deeply disturbed by video footage circulating widely online from the protest in Sydney on 9 February 2026 opposing the visit of Israel's President Isaac Herzog.

Footage shows NSW Police kidney punching and using other forms of unacceptable violence against protesters who are acting non-violently and, in some cases, already on the ground and restrained, as well as people who are praying peacefully and are being dragged away and assaulted. I understand NSW Police have claimed some officers were assaulted and that arrests were made. But those claims do not excuse the state-sponsored violence shown in footage and reported by participants. Violence that could cause serious harm was used against people who were not presenting an immediate threat, including people who appeared already controlled.

Australia is a democracy. Peaceful protest and freedom of assembly are not optional extras. When policing looks like punishment, public trust collapses, and the rule of law is diminished.

I am calling on you to take the following steps.

1. Publicly reaffirm the right to peaceful protest and instruct NSW Police that force must never be used as punishment. The standard must be necessity and proportionality, not retaliation.
2. Refer the events of 9 February 2026 to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission for independent investigation, including the use of force depicted in widely circulated footage and any command decisions that led to that use of force.
3. Direct NSW Police to preserve and publish all relevant evidence immediately, including body-worn camera footage, CCTV, radio communications, and operational logs.
4. Commit to a public report on outcomes from the operation, including arrests, charges, injuries, medical attendances, and any review findings, so the public can understand what occurred and what corrective action will follow.
5. I am not asking for political point-scoring. I am asking for accountability. If Australian governments cannot protect the right to peaceful protest at home, we lose moral standing when we criticise human rights abuses abroad.

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ABN 32 662 957 413.



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I am asking for clear action, not a vague reassurance. If the footage is as it appears, the public deserves accountability. If it is not, the public deserves an evidence-based explanation. Either way, independent oversight is essential.

I urge you to watch the footage yourself, to listen to the many Australians who are alarmed by what they have seen, and to act to defend democratic rights and public confidence in lawful, proportionate policing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory Andrews
Lyrebird Dreaming

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