

Legislative Council
Hansard
Wednesday 2 September 2026

[excerpt...]

The President, **Mr Farrell**, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

QUESTION ON NOTICE - ANSWER

CONDOLENCE MOTION

The People of Nepal and Nepalese Tasmanians

[11.25 a.m.]

Ms WEBB (Nelson) - Mr President, I rise to speak on this condolence motion and thank the government for bringing it forward for us to be able to add our words of support and condolence. This is an extremely sad and solemn occasion, and it is with a heavy heart that I stand here to convey my condolences and deepest sympathy to the Nepali community on behalf of myself and the electorate of Nelson.

It's indeed daunting and challenging to attempt to find words adequate in the face of something that's simply so unfathomable. The sense of meaning seems so elusive at times like this, when it's most desperately needed. Maybe all we, here today, can hope for is to convey some small but deeply felt and genuine way of expressing our shared shock, our profound sorrow and, above all, our solidarity and our shared humanity with the people of Nepal, including those in our local community.

The horror of seeing those images of the enormous wall of water and mud that could not be contained as it tore like a tsunami from Tibet through into Nepal, the crushing speed of those floodwaters and mud slides gave the people there little chance as the wall of water devastated the affected districts. If I found it shocking and heartbreaking to view those images of devastation, to hear of entire villages buried, and to absorb the horrifying toll of lives lost and the many thousands still missing, I simply cannot imagine what it has been and continues to be for those who endured it and those directly affected by it all around the world and including here, in Tasmania. The sense of overwhelming grief in the face of such immeasurable, incalculable and devastating loss is enormous.

For those in our local Nepali community in Tasmania, it must feel that Tasmania is so incredibly far away from those people in their precious homeland, the relatives and communities and friends directly affected. We recognise that, for you, our Nepali community members, your worlds have changed dramatically and permanently. There cannot be any return to normal, as normal has been redefined for so many.

I wish to acknowledge the selflessness and the bravery of the many first responders and volunteers who continue the desperate rescue effort at this very moment in a quest to save lives on the ground in Nepal.

My heart goes out to the displaced and those enduring the weight, the uncertainty, desperate for news either here or in Nepal.

I wish to also acknowledge the many local Nepali community organisations here in Tasmania: the Nepali Society of Tasmania, the Non-Resident Nepali Association, the Nepali Society of Northern Tasmania, the Nepalese Business Association of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Nepalese Cricket Association and the Nepalese Tasmania Sports Association. These organisations are no doubt overwhelmed as they support our much-valued Nepali community members here in Tasmania. I hope that there are many Tasmanians rallying around and providing support in every way possible.

Of course, I extend my personal sympathies to our colleagues here in this building who may be affected by this tragedy, Anil and Prajita and their families.

On behalf of myself and my family, and also on behalf of the electorate of Nelson, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the people of Nepal and all Nepalese Tasmanians impacted by this tragedy.

I recognise, as the member for Rumney has just alluded to, this is not an extreme tragedy that has occurred without warning and it is in the context of a broader climate change discussion that even more urgently now must be driven not just by the people of Nepal, but people all around the globe, including here in Tasmania.

I cannot pretend to have any real sense of what our local Nepali families and people all over the globe from Nepal are facing, what they're thinking about in terms of their families, friends and communities, what they're going through, the challenges that they may face. But I can add my voice to this parliament's expression of condolence, which says that we grieve with you, we hope with you, and we say that you are not alone.