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Above the ministerial paygrade

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
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MP: <u>Hon. Lang Hancock</u>	
Clerk's Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>	

Queensland Labor MP for Cairns Michael Healy supported the Irish Senate, which passed a bill to boycott "apartheid state" Israel. Picture: Supplied

But as **Michael Healy** – who holds Cairns for Labor on a margin of just less than six per cent – went after his LNP opponent, his own political credibility was questioned.

Sky News unearthed some anti-Israel private Facebook posts made by Healy between 2018 and 2021, including one suggesting Australia should “follow the Irish” and boycott Israel as an “apartheid state”.

The posts were made when Healy was a backbencher but before he was elevated to Cabinet by newly installed Premier **Steven Miles** in December last year.

Asked about Healy’s social media activity on Friday, Miles said everyone had been shocked by what was happening in the Middle East and “we would like to see an end to it”.

“Foreign affairs is well above our pay grades, and certainly well above Michael Healy’s pay grade,” Miles said, adding “everyone I speak to wants to see peace”.

For his part, Healy tells Chooks he’s “anti-war, nothing more. The killing has to stop”.

Chooks wonders if Miles thinks foreign affairs is above former Labor Premier **Peter Beattie**’s pay grade, after he penned an editorial for The Australian’s Friday edition condemning the Albanese government’s policy on the Middle East.