

People before profits

Put the mines, banks and energy companies in the hands of the people!

The Socialist Alliance says:

Bring the mining industry, the big banks and the energy companies under public/community ownership and control, so that they can be run in a way that respects Aboriginal rights, the environment and social justice.

The urgent need to address climate change alone demands that these industries be immediately taken out of the hands of the billionaires and their global corporations and operated as not-for-profit public services under the democratic control of the majority.

From Greece to Australia, the whole world has witnessed the bankruptcy of capitalism as it has destroyed the lives of billions of people through the wholesale privatisation of our collective wealth and socialisation of their losses.

In Australia, Liberal and Labor governments have squandered the fruits of the biggest ever mining boom which has come to its peak. The Australia Institute calculated in May this year that income tax cuts between 2005-06 and 2011-12 have taken \$169 billion out of federal revenue and had disproportionately benefited the richest 10%.

Climate emergency!

The Australian Climate Commission says this is the "critical decade" to cut emissions. The Socialist Alliance says Australia's climate response must be based on the climate science, which says we cannot delay action. Business-as-usual, capitalist politics cannot solve this emergency. We need to look at radical measures adequate to the challenge.

There is already too much carbon in the atmosphere to guarantee a safe future. The warming already in the system risks the crossing of various natural "tipping points" that would cause runaway climate change

If these points are crossed, it would bring average temperatures to levels that have not existed for millions of years. Most existing species would die out. Large-scale farming would be difficult or impossible.

As we confront global warming, the existence of our civilisation, and perhaps of the human species itself, is at stake.

Most of Australia's fossil fuel reserves — coal, oil and gas — must stay in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change.

The technology for a zero-emissions economy already exists. But the fundamental block to action is that the major political parties and big business are stopping serious climate action.

The Socialist Alliance says we should set a target to power Australia with 100% renewable energy in 10 years. Governments should build big solar thermal plants and wind farms now. The national

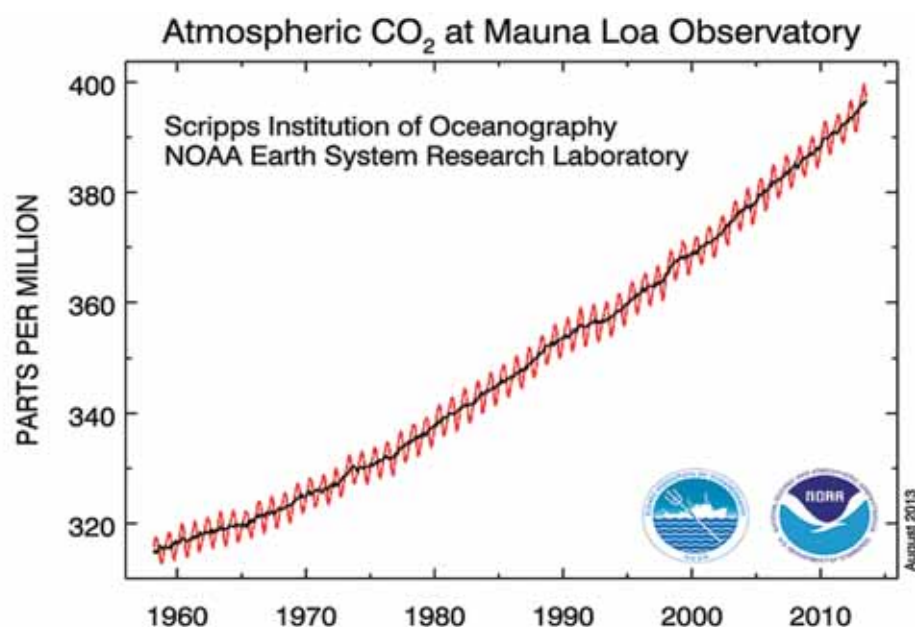
While mining companies and banks have made hundreds of billions of dollars in super profits, they have paid the smallest ever proportion of these profits in tax. Labor's mining tax was a dud.

We cannot afford to leave our future to the likes of Gina Rinehart, Clive Palmer and the faceless bankers. If we do so, we won't have a future worth leaving to future generations.

The mining industry needs to be publicly owned not just to redistribute the huge profits being made from exploiting finite resources, but also to stop uranium mining and to phase out coal and other fossil fuels, while creating new jobs in radically boosted renewable energy, public transport and other social infrastructure.

The banks do not have to be run as profit-gouging private operations. They can be run as a not-for-profit public service providing cheap credit to families, community groups and small businesses and a safe and ethical way for people to invest their savings.

Instead of gambling these savings on irresponsible and dangerous corporate schemes, our collective savings can be used to fund the public infrastructure we need for a just and sustainable future.



energy grid must also be upgraded to make it compatible with large scale renewable energy.

All government subsidies to the fossil fuel industry — which add up to more than \$10 billion each year — should end.

Australia's energy sector should be publicly owned and under democratic community and workers' control.

No new coal mines or coal-fired power stations should be approved. Government should develop a plan to phase out existing coal and gas exports, and close down fossil fuel power stations.

Such a massive program of changing Australia's energy infrastructure will create many thousands of green jobs and boost Australia's manufacturing industry. Communities affected by the transition must be guaranteed replacement jobs and retraining on full pay.

Public transport should be massively

expanded and made free, frequent and accessible. The Socialist Alliance also stands for greater public subsidies for carbon-neutral organic farming and an end to the logging of native forests, which are crucial carbon sinks.

If the mining and banking sectors were nationalised, the hundreds of billions of dollars of profit now siphoned away by the billionaires can be used to pay for the emergency measures the climate crisis demands.

The Socialist Alliance does not support the Labor/Greens carbon price or the emissions trading scheme. These crisis-prone market schemes subsidise the biggest polluters, while delaying the big structural changes we need to make now. The Socialist Alliance calls on the Greens to end its support for emissions trading and instead help to build the campaigns for an emergency transition to a zero-carbon Australia.

Refugee bashing a weapon of mass distraction



The global refugee crisis is real, but the fear and loathing of refugees that's generated in our media and by the major parties, is a deliberate and cynical concoction.

It's designed to distract people from the real causes of the problems in our lives. Whipping up hatred and fear of refugees is not going to create jobs, it's not going to improve services and it's not going to save the environment. It's not going to build houses, it's not going to do any of those things that urgently need to be done.

This anti-refugee hysteria that has been a big part of Australian politics for the last 10 or 15 years, is a weapon of mass distraction — very purposely pushed. But the collateral damage is the innocent lives of real people who need our solidarity.

That's what happens when politics — and the economy — is dominated by a fabulously rich clique.

While that racist poison is still spreading in our culture and our politics, ordinary Australian people will be unable to stand up and fight for their rights.

The ruling elite hates our innate sense of solidarity and does its best to destroy it. It sees this powerful asset of ours as a threat to its selfish and greedy interests. Don't be sucked in. Stand up for your rights and stand up for other people's rights.

Aboriginal control of Aboriginal affairs

Australia is a wealthy nation built on stolen Aboriginal land and resources. But Aboriginal people score lowest in health, education, employment and housing. Aboriginal infant mortality is twice that of other Australians and unemployment is three times that of the national average. Aboriginal people are more than 14 times more likely to face imprisonment than others and about a third live in overcrowded housing.

This is not a fault of those who suffer those statistics, but a result of government policy and two centuries of dispossession, racism and trauma. It doesn't have to be like this and it can be fixed, if Aboriginal communities are empowered to fix it.

Whether urban or remote, Aboriginal communities need the right, and the resources, to control their own destiny. Current policies like Stronger Futures (previously called the NT Intervention) and Alcohol Protection Orders in the Northern Territory have taken away local control from Aboriginal people and imposed a one-size-fits-all punishment model on people.

Neoliberal market forces have been imposed on Aboriginal people, destroying their



culture and trying to "normalise" people. Aboriginal people on remote communities are faced with the choice of having the guts ripped out of their land for profit, or going without vital infrastructure such as schools and health services.

The Socialist Alliance would put Aboriginal people back in the driver's seat by strengthening land rights and nationalising

the industries that dominate Australia. Local people would have control over what industries operate in their community and what they can and can't do.

Aboriginal people need jobs based on the needs of their communities. We would support funding for jobs that care for country, promote Aboriginal culture and encourage more Aboriginal people into health

and education services. A vital contribution would be funding public works campaigns that employ local people.

The Socialist Alliance advocates treaties between Aboriginal peoples and the government to recognise Aboriginal people as colonised people and therefore deserving the right to maintain their own languages, customs and culture. Education and health services would be made rights, not privileges depending on postcode.

The Socialist Alliance would implement all of the recommendations of the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and support changes that reduce incarceration rates of Aboriginal people, such as significant investment in community-controlled, culturally appropriate diversionary and rehabilitation programs.

We would repeal the Stronger Futures legislation and begin a real discussion with Aboriginal communities. We would acknowledge the many strengths Aboriginal people bring to the table — environmental and scientific knowledge, artistic and cultural excellence, an understanding of their own communities and people.

Aboriginal health and legal services would be adequately funded to meet needs and bilingual education and cultural support would also be funded.

The Socialist Alliance NSW Senate team



JIM MCILROY

Jim, 67, is a veteran socialist activist for more than 40 years, and a member of the Socialist Alliance national executive. He has been involved in anti-war and solidarity movements since the anti-Vietnam War period of the 1960s, and is a solidarity activist with the Latin American people's revolutions. He is a retired public servant, and was a delegate in the Community and Public Sector Union for 15 years. He lives in Sydney, and has two daughters and a grandson.



REG DARE

Reg has been a member of the Socialist Alliance for five years. He has been involved in the marriage equality campaign and is passionate about protecting workers' rights, including shift allowances and penalty rates. He is a member of the United Voice union and Community Action Against Homophobia. Reg works in the security industry.

Workers' rights basis for democracy

Our wages, living conditions and democratic rights have been fought for and won over two centuries by working people, and their basic defence organisations, the trade unions. Now these union rights and conditions are under attack by big business and the governments of the two major parties, Liberal and Labor.

John Howard introduced the draconian "Work Choices" laws, and the ALP under both Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard failed to repeal important parts of those anti-union laws, with its "Fair Work Australia" legislation.

Union right of entry is often still outlawed, and award stripping, job cuts, casualisation, insecure work, privatisation and outsourcing are still rife.

Attacks on the right to strike, picket and organise union and community solidarity are rampant.

The Socialist Alliance calls for:

- Repeal of all anti-union laws; defend and extend the right to organise industrially.
- An end to the crippling legal restrictions on the right to strike and picket.
- Stronger health and safety legislation to ensure a truly secure workplace.
- Genuine equal pay for women, and all workers; end all discrimination in the workplace.

• Abolition of the 457 visa class in favour of full, permanent residency and industrial rights for all migrant workers.

• Abolition of Sections 45D and E of the *Trade Practices Act*, which restrict the union movement's right to carry out solidarity actions with other unions, locally and internationally.

Workers' and union rights are fundamental to democracy. The Socialist Alliance stands in full solidarity with unions and their members, and condemns the ALP for its betrayal of workers' interests. The ALP has also promoted bureaucracy and corruption in the unions. We need strong and militant trade unions under the democratic control of their rank and file members.



Struggling with the cost of living?

The 2012 Poverty In Australia report by the Australian Council of Social Service revealed that 2,265,000 people, including 575,000 children, are still living below the poverty line in Australia.

This was at the height of the mining boom!

Poverty is a crime for which both Labor and Liberal parties in government are responsible. In government, both parties have boosted the incomes of the rich, in a country where the richest 20% already own two-thirds of the wealth and the poorest 20% are left to share just 1% of the wealth.

The situation of the poorest in Australia is desperate but a much wider layer of people are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.

The main reason for this is the ridiculously high — and still rising — cost of housing. If you are a landlord, developer or real estate agent you may be celebrating the news that home prices rose by



The Business Council of Australia is demanding that the GST be raised to 15%. This will tax the average household an extra \$3200 a year. The Socialist Alliance calls for the abolition of the GST.

2.4% on average over the last three months, but for most people this spells greater rent or mortgage stress.

Even the historically low interest rates are not much of a relief because the banks have been slow to pass them on to people servicing huge mortgages.

On average rents rose by 83.7%

in the decade to 2010, and they have continued to rise since then. In the same decade, wages only increased by 34.8%.

More than one in ten of all Australian households and one in four households in the private rental market are in housing stress because they have to pay more than 30% of their income for housing.

Some people are paying as much as 58% of their income in rent.

The major parties have helped inflate the giant Australian property bubble. Landlords, developers and real estate agents get public subsidies disguised as measures to relieve housing stress. Negative gearing, cuts to stamp duty and first home buyers grants, all end up as effective subsidies to these bloodsuckers.

With some households already cutting back on food — even skipping meals — to keep a roof over their heads, recent large rises in electricity, gas and water bills (largely due to privatised utilities passing on the cost of investment in more coal and gas power stations, desalination plants, etc) and rising petrol prices have been crippling.

James Packer, Gina Rinehart, Clive Palmer and the other billionaires don't feel any of this pain. Indeed our cost-of-living headache might even be another boost to the profit lines of their companies.

The Socialist Alliance calls for:

- Immediate reversal of all the attacks on welfare payments, in particular restoring the parenting payment for single parents;
- Newstart Allowance to be immediately raised to the level of the age pension and all welfare benefits to be raised to the level of a living wage automatically indexed to real cost-of-living rises;
- Massive investment in quality public housing for the 173,000 households on public and social housing waiting list but to go beyond the confines of "welfare housing" to free housing from the market and make it a social right;
- De-privatising the energy sector under community and worker control so that it can operate as a not-for-profit service run on 100% renewable energy sources within 10 years.

A people-first government that took back the wealth from the billionaires could find the funds for such ambitious but urgently needed programs — which would also create useful jobs.

Our candidates for the House of Representatives

SUE BULL for CORIO



Sue is a health and safety teacher and a lifelong trade unionist. She has been a socialist activist for most of her adult life. Sue stood as the Socialist Alliance candidate for Mayor of Geelong last year and received over 10,000 votes.

ZANE ALCORN for NEWCASTLE



Zane works as a community organiser and helped build

the campaign to stop the proposed fourth coal loader in Newcastle. Zane has been involved in climate and renewable energy campaigning for many years and is an executive member of Save Our Rail. Zane also worked in the mining industry in the Northern Territory in 2011-12, witnessing the over-policing and substandard provision of housing faced by Aboriginal communities there and problems associated with Fly-In-Fly-Out workforces.

SAM WAINWRIGHT for FREMANTLE



Sam is a City of Fremantle councillor and long-term human rights activist and trade unionist. He worked as a wharfie for twelve years and edited the Maritime Union of Australia's WA newspaper. He is now a disability support worker and member of the

ASU. Passionate about sustainable transport he helped relaunch the Fremantle Bicycle Users Group and is an active member of Fremantle Road 2 Rail campaign. He is also convenor of the group Action for Human Rights in Tamil Eelam & Sri Lanka.

PETER BOYLE for SYDNEY



Peter is a national co-convenor of the Socialist Alliance and has been a socialist activist since the early 1970s, when he radicalised around war, race and class issues after his family migrated to Australia from Malaysia. He remains involved in solidarity work with the democracy movement in Malaysia. Peter writes regularly for the newspaper *Green Left Weekly* and has had a long involvement with the Aboriginal rights movement. He has two daughters and two grandchildren.

LIAH LAZAROU for ADELAIDE



Liah is a Communications student and a single mother. A passionate grassroots activist, she has been involved in organising students and young workers around various social issues, including feminist, anti-war and international solidarity campaigns. She is also an activist with the South Australian Feminist Collective.

LIAM FLENADY for GRIFFITH



Liam has been active in a

number of social movements, including anti-CSG, Occupy, Wikileaks and education cuts. He has been campaigning against Campbell Newman's public and community sector cuts through the coalition QLD Uncut. Liam is also a composer and is currently studying for a PhD in music at the Queensland Conservatorium.

MARGARITA WINDISCH for WILLS



Margarita has been a socialist activist for more than 20 years. She teaches in the TAFE sector and works as a sexual assault counsellor. Margarita is an active unionist and a leader in the fight against the cuts to TAFE in Victoria. She is a long-time campaigner for the rights of women, against war, for the rights of refugees and against racist attacks by police on migrant communities.

Can nationalisation work?

Around the world, over the past 30 years or more, the ruling classes have launched an offensive against working people and the "welfare state," under the theme of "neoliberalism."

Beginning in the US with Ronald Reagan and Britain with Margaret Thatcher, the neoliberal push was on for privatisation of public assets, cuts to social welfare, deregulation of markets and so on.

In Australia, this process began under the Hawke-Keating Labor government, and accelerated under Howard, continuing under the Rudd-Gillard ALP governments. It was also implemented by state governments led by both major parties over this period.

Despite this offensive, in some countries, a revolt has occurred to defend and extend public ownership and control. In Latin America, Venezuela showed the way under the leadership of President Hugo Chavez from 1998. Chavez nationalised, or re-nationalised previously privatised, industries.

These included banking, steel, aluminium, electricity and other key industries, and of course the crucial oil industry. In some cases, workers' control experiments have commenced.

In Bolivia, under its first Indigenous President Evo Morales, vital mining and other resource industries have been placed in public hands. In other parts of Latin America, important industries such as oil, airlines and other sectors have been nationalised.

Even under capitalist governments, banks were effectively nationalised to save them from collapse during the global financial crisis. But instead of retaining them in public hands, after a massive bail-out from the public purse, they have generally been handed back to the private sector.

However in Norway, a 78% super profit tax on the oil industry has taken back resources for the community. A similar measure in Australia would be a step in the right direction.



Chavez at the opening of Invetubos, a state owned pipe factory, in 2007. The factory had been abandoned and laying dormant since 1995.

Source: venezuelanalysis.com

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander rights: Treaty now to respect sovereignty; repeal the Northern Territory intervention laws; abolish racist welfare quarantining; no uranium waste dumps; close the gap in Aboriginal health, education and housing.

Public ownership: Nationalise the mines, banks and energy companies, under community and workers' control, to take back the wealth, so that it can be used for social and environmental purposes.

Climate change: Re-nationalise the energy sector and begin immediate and large-scale public investment for 100% renewable energy in 10 years; stop fracking, CSG and other unconventional gas mining; scrap the emissions trading scam; tax the corporate polluters and billionaires.

Asylum seekers: Reject the 'PNG solution';

What we stand for:

Honour Australia's UNHCR obligations; close offshore and onshore detention centres and end mandatory detention; end excisions of Australian territory; end deportations and end ASIO security veto of refugees.

Workers' rights: Scrap all anti-union laws; recognise workers' right to strike and organise in law; full industrial, residency and citizenship rights for all migrant workers.

Democratic rights: Full marriage equality; full rights for trans and intersex people; scrap 'anti-terror' laws and abolish ASIO; adopt a Bill of Rights.

Women's rights: Full pay equity now; remove abortion from the criminal code; strengthen laws against sexual harassment.

Youth rights: Right to vote at 16; scrap "learn or earn"; boost funding to youth services; end youth wage rates.

Education: Reverse all the cuts to education. Make public education free to tertiary level; increase funding to public schools to, at least, the level recommended by the Gonski Review but end funding to private schools and tertiary institutions.

Housing: Tackle homelessness and the housing shortfall with a large-scale expansion in quality public housing. Cap all rent and mortgage repayments at 20% of income.

Health: Boost funding for preventative care; free dental care; end subsidies to private insurers; expand community-based

health care networks; boost funding on mental health.

Public transport: Boost investment in suburban and high-speed intercity rail. Make public transport free, frequent and reliable.
Poverty and unemployment: Reverse the attacks on sole parent pensions; lift all welfare payments above the poverty line; create useful jobs in housing, public transport and renewable energy.

Childcare and social services: Boost funding to community-based aged and child care networks, expand disability services and access.

Anti-war: Bring back all military forces from Afghanistan; no participation or support for imperialist interventions; isolate apartheid Israel; end ANZUS and the basing of US military in Australia; boost development and climate change aid to poor countries.

Keep up with the campaigns to stop the mining mayhem

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