



Vanguard

For an Independent and Socialist Australia

May Day Special Edition

May Day 2025

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Vanguard expresses the viewpoint of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist - Leninist)

Don't leave politics to the politicians!

On May 3 Australians will exercise their democratic right to vote for whoever will next misrepresent them in Parliament.

The vote is important. It was fought for many years ago.

But actual democracy is largely illusory.

The big end of town, with its money and its media, has powerful means of influencing and controlling public opinion such that the dominant ideas are those of the dominant class.

Whether Labor or the Coalition win the election, there will be no sudden outbreak of independent decision-making in matters of foreign policy.

There will be no withdrawal from our role in supporting US plans for war with China.

Whether Labor or the Coalition win the election, there will be no about-turn in economic policy to solve the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis.

It is not that there is not enough money for governments to act – there is too much money and it is in the wrong hands, at the big end of town.

But don't expect the selfish rich to be made to pay – politicians do not dare touch them.

It is true that Labor has passed some laws demanded by the unions, and that there are differences with the Coalition over nuclear power.

Despite the hopes and progressive ideas of many rank and file ALP members and voters, the "top brass" of the ALP in government will deliver more of the same servitude to US domination of Australia.

Far better to seek out Independents with progressive



policies, or the Greens, than to perpetuate the parliamentary version of the "difference" between Coles and Woolworths.

Better still – to rely on our united strength in people's struggles.

The proximity of the election to May Day will lead some opportunist elements within the union movement to try to make re-election of Labor the focus of May

Day.

That would be a disservice to the working class. We must stand for our own independent agenda as a class regardless of which party of capitalism is put into office.

Whether Labor or the Coalition win the election, we must refuse to be sent back to our rooms to play.

We must not leave politics to the politicians. We must make our voices heard in our workplaces and communities, in our social media

and out on the streets.

Against Zionism, and for the Palestinian people!

Out of the US "Alliance" - stop AUKUS!

Genuine self-determination for First Peoples!

For anti-imperialist independence and socialism!

Forget Plan B - Just dump AUKUS now!

The united front against AUKUS is definitely growing, with retired Admiral and former head of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) Chris Barrie calling for a Plan B, and former Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull calling it "a really bad deal".

These developments are unconditionally welcomed and strengthen the movement against AUKUS.

At the same time, they require genuine anti-imperialists to ensure that the movement is led by people whose view of Australian independence goes further than a re-tweaking of the so-called Australia-US "Alliance".

This leadership in turn re-

quires the involvement of the working class in the fight to dump AUKUS.

Labor Against War's letter to all Labor MP's, and the passage of motions questioning AUKUS by some 150 ALP sub-branches assist in the mobilisation of Australian working people.

The Plan B calls reflect a growing awareness that the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine arrangements are fatally flawed.

The US Congressional Research Service says the US can't build Virginia SSNs at a rate needed to transfer subs to us.

The UK Infrastructure and Projects Authority says that delivery of the AUKUS SSN reactors is un-

achievable.

Even the Australian Navy agrees AUKUS is high risk; yet they stumble on. Trump adds to the uncertainty.

But Plan B proponents generally speak from a belief in the continuing value of the "Alliance" and

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Whyalla workers, steeled in struggle, deserve job security! Nationalise the Steel industry!

By Ned K.

The working-class community of Whyalla, led by over 1,000 steel workers have won a significant short-term victory.

For months steelworks workers and workers employed by contractors dependent on the steel works for their very existence, endured reductions in working hours, layoffs, weeks of work without being paid any wages in an economic climate of ever-increasing costs of living.

The steel workers and their Whyalla community affected allies repeatedly demanded action by the SA Government and GFG Alliance CEO, Sanjeev Gupta.

Many promises were made by Gupta about the GFG Alliance commitment to the workers and to the SA Government that payment of lost wages, payment to GFG Alliance's many contractor feeder companies was just around the corner. However, the "corner" remained over the horizon!

The SA Premier Malinauskas read the mood of the town and the emptiness of Gupta's promises well,

As well as the possible situation of GFG Alliance going belly-up and the steelworks grinding to a halt, he needed a fully functioning Whyalla Steelworks to be the main customer of his pre-election promise in 2022 to build a liquid hydrogen fuel plant at Whyalla.

By January 2025, the Labor Prime Minister Albanese could see disaster ahead if Australia's only producer of high-grade steel essential for the construction industry and rail transport stopped producing steel. It would cost him the loss of Seats in the federal election that he would call to be held one Saturday before mid-May 2025.

In mid-February Premier Malinauskas pushes through SA Parliament an amendment to the 1958 Whyalla Steelworks Act to enable the GFG Alliance Whyalla Steelworks arm of its global economic "empire" to be put into administration.

The next day, Thursday 19 February, Premier Malinauskas and Prime Minister Albanese visited Whyalla and announced the much broadcast \$2.4 billion "rescue package" to pay lost wages and pay



contractors owed money by GFG Alliance, to keep the steelworks operating while it is under administration and to partly fund a modernisation of the steelworks with a hoped-for new owner of the steelworks.

This announcement received a big sigh of temporary relief from workers and the whole Whyalla community.

The appointed administrator Korda Mentha was also the administrator in 2017 which led to the previous owner of the steelworks, Arrium, being taken over by GFG Alliance.

Korda Mentha is reported by the *Adelaide Advertiser* newspaper on Friday 20 February 2025 to charge \$795 per hour per senior partner for administering the steelworks and sorting through GFG Alliance finances.

Korda Mentha will also be making a recommendation to the SA and federal governments on which company should take over and own the steel works.

The underlying cause of the current situation has been the large corporate owners of the steelworks, British-based GFG Alliance, and those before it - Arrium, One Steel and its parent BHP have always put profits before the interests of the workers, Whyalla community and the Australian steel industry as a whole.

These large corporations have not only made profits from the steelworks itself, but also from the nearby Middleback Ranges where they owned and mined some of the

highest grade iron ore in the world. The iron ore from Iron Knob and Iron Monarch in these Ranges has purity of ore of over 60%.

In the 1920s and 1930s before the steelworks at Whyalla was constructed, the high grade ore was shipped to Newcastle and Port Kembla steelworks.

In 1939, the UK declared the ore to be the highest grade deposit of iron ore known in the world.

In the turmoil of the last few months, it was reported in mainstream media that GFG Alliance was propping up its European steelwork interests from profits made from the iron ore mines and the steel produced in the Whyalla steelworks.

Nationalise the Steel Industry!

Albanese in his announcement on Thursday 19 February rightly made the comment that the steel industry is part of Australia's national sovereignty. Malinauskas made the same point.

If they really believe this, rather than just sounding good before a federal election, they should take the first step towards

a nationalised steel industry by placing the steelworks and iron ore mines at Whyalla into public hands.

Workers in Australia, led by the courageous people of Whyalla have the ability to operate the steelworks and the iron ore mines for the benefit of their community and the needs of Australian construction and expanding rail network construction.

Albanese and Malinauskas may say the steelworks need the "expertise" of a foreign owned multinational corporation or a nominally Australian owned company like Bluescope who operate Port Kembla steelworks.

Or they may say Australia has not got the money to modernise our own steelworks.

Where then did the Albanese Government find the money to send to the USA to part-finance the building of more nuclear-powered submarines? Where do they miraculously find \$368 billion to fund nuclear-powered submarines in coming decades?

Demand Nationalisation of the Australian Steel Industry now!



Federal government breaks critical environmental promise



By Leo A.

On February 5, the Albanese administration's promise to create an Environmental Protection Agency in the current parliamentary term was finally killed off.

One Labor insider admitted to *The Saturday Paper* that this was due to the government having "the most powerful business interests in the country screaming" over the proposed legislation.

In our current political system, it is easy for our so-called "leaders" to easily make promises that they know won't be kept, and face no consequences in the aftermath.

Similarly, it is easy for government to follow the will of big corporations and other fundamentally undemocratic forces, again without facing any consequences for betraying the interests both of the working masses and of our natural environments.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young described the decision as "a stunning capitulation to vested interests in the mining and logging lobby".

The legislation aimed to establish Australia's first independent national environmental regulator to enforce environmental laws, improve transparency, and enact stronger nature and wildlife protection.

This, of course, is within a context of ongoing environmental catastrophe both in Australia and across the planet.

And this catastrophe is affecting both well-documented ecosystems and species, and those

which have yet to be sufficiently understood.

Across the Pacific, the presumed-extinct South American Tapir has recently been sighted for the first time in over a century, and this Hidden Threatened Species is just one of countless examples that demonstrate that even the long lists of wildlife at risk of extinction are incomplete.

Under capitalism, environmental protection is an uphill struggle, as any promises can be broken and any progress can be reversed. But it is a necessary struggle.

For every presumed-extinct species that turns up alive, a dozen more - perhaps even a hundred more - are truly lost forever.

Under socialism vast changes to protect these species will finally become fathomable, but we must still do what we can until then.

The latest betrayal



The opposition Liberal/National parties have joined Labor in rushing legislation to continue salmon farming in Tasmania's west coast Macquarie Harbour.

Editorial

Give progressive demands a focus on anti-imperialist independence

US imperialism is in crisis; a crisis built up over years of imperialist wars, national debt, over-production, competing imperialist rivalries and many fierce anti-imperialist struggles waged on many fronts. The crisis now raging furiously from Trump's reckless tariff strategy.

Supply chains and distribution networks across the world have been crippled, disrupted or frozen completely. Many were established in the free trade globalization era, and were eagerly promoted by US imperialism to capture cheaper labour, and new markets and resources.

There is now a scramble by many countries to build new free trade arrangements and an international retreat from investment and co-operation with the United States.

Allies and stooges of US imperialism have also copped Trump's tariff hit - (Israel 17%, Philippines 17%, Australia 10% on top of steel and aluminium 25%). Impoverished developing countries have also been subjected - Timor-Leste 10%, Bangladesh 37%).

China has hit back with its 84% tariff on US imports, while Canada has 25% tariff on US cars and is boycotting many US goods and services.

End the govelling before the US overlords

In Australia both Albanese and Dutton continue to endorse the subservient US alliance and its AUKUS off-shoot.

Opposition to the expensive and dangerous AUKUS deal has been steadily growing across Australia, with calls for scrapping it coming from Labor Party branches and the Greens Party, councils, community meetings and unions. It adds to the disgust that many feel over US imperialist support for the relentless genocidal slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank.

Calls now, for shutting down the US alliance altogether and sending the Darwin-based US marines back home. Lambie, Keating and others have drawn attention to the role of the Pine Gap spy base and suggested it could be used as a lever against the Trump agenda.

Among these responses, the demand for a more self-reliant and independent Australia has been frequently asserted.

Independence demands must be anti-imperialist and socialist

This all indicates the growth of what is objectively an anti-imperialist united front that is drawing in people from all walks of life, and coalescing around the desire for independence.

However, it is at present not consciously anti-imperialist, seeing the Trump regime and AUKUS as the issues of concern, rather than the over-arching issues of economic, political and cultural domination by US imperialism. This is despite the good work of progressive organisations like the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network, and Labor Against War.

So, the immediate task of revolutionary mass work among the people must therefore be two-fold. Firstly, to win people, especially the working class, into the struggle against AUKUS and the threat of another US-led war and then to build this united front into a consciously anti-imperialist force that strives towards an independent and socialist Australia.

Feed and waste from the farming pens has not been contained and threatens the future of a rare local species, the Maugean skate, by reducing the dissolved oxygen level

needed for the skate and its eggs to survive.

Capitalism plunders the environment and destroys life. Only Socialism can restore nature's balance.

Marxism Today

Independence from imperialism is a class issue

By CPA (M-L)

As the contradictions of patching together a dying U.S. empire that lies on top of the inter-imperialist rivalries continue to escalate, Australia's sub-imperial role as running dog of Yankee Imperialism, reveals itself clearly to the masses with even more lucidity than before.

The subservient and dominant nature of the relationship between Australia and the U.S. that only benefits the imperial power abroad and the local comprador class of bureaucrat capitalists, like Clive Palmer and Gina Rinehart, at the expense of our own self-determination, is directly under flood-lights and entering the consciousness of the Australian masses more and more by the day.

The bootlicking, subservient nature of these compradors brings home the reality of Australia's ruling class's political, economic and military subservience and dependency to the US Empire and manifestly displays itself through milquetoast stooges we call prime minister.

From Morrison to Albanese, they lack the calcium needed to make the backbone necessary to carry the Yankee Imperialists off this land, their collective output wouldn't be enough to grow a baby's tooth.

Independence is once again becoming mainstream discourse for the Australian masses

While latent revolutionary fervour for genuine independence and self-determination is rising across this country, let's use this to expose the true one-sided nature of the US-Australian alliance and unleash the masses in struggle.

Unity-struggle-unity

One front that is becoming ever more antagonising since the announcement of AUKUS, is that of Australia's military, its defence capabilities and the multiple U.S. spy and military bases across the continent.

Australia's willingness to appease the Imperial powers has the bruised kneed bureaucrats

accepting rorts at the expense of the Australian masses, which have our Imperial overlords foaming at the mouths financially, at a cost of more than \$400 billion to the Australian people.

With this arises a contradiction between the local bureaucrat comprador capitalist class and the national bourgeois capitalist class over how to build this country's defensive capabilities.

Amongst the local (patriotic) national bourgeoisie it was originally raised by Paul Keating and some in port, more sections of the bourgeois military bureaucracy in reaction to the announcement of AUKUS, and more recently by former head of the Australian Defence Forces, Chris Barrie and ex Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Now again, because of US tariffs, we have even more outspoken criticism from the political establishment, namely the Greens and Jacqui Lambi.

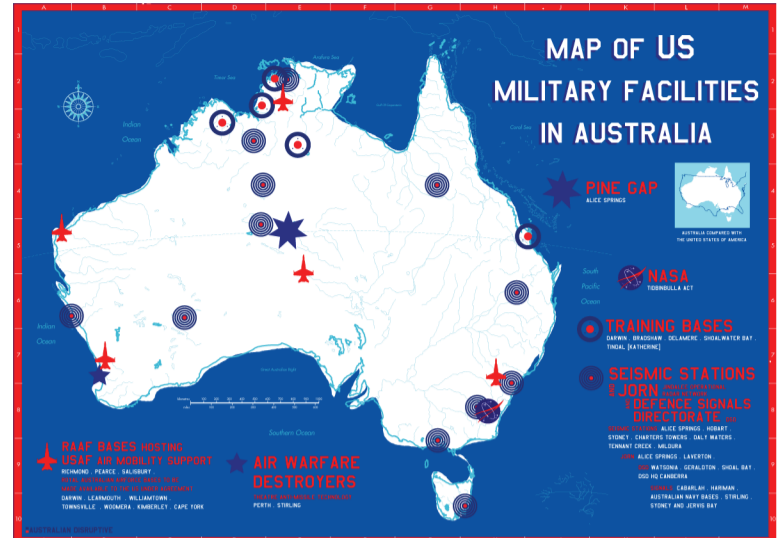
Welcome allies, rely on the working class

All of these developments are greatly welcomed by us because they strengthen the movement against AUKUS and US domination, but they don't get to the fundamental matter which we hold as principal.

That of class struggle for Anti-Imperialist Independence under the ownership and control of the workers.

This means ships and defence capabilities being built not for shareholders and imperialist wars, but for self-defence of our shores in order to protect what would be our independent socialist republic from both imperial and expansionist forces.

Despite this we should still support all progressives willing to assist on the front of dismantling AUKUS and striving for non-aligned independence.



More Marines, more nuclear submarines in port, more B52 and B1 Bombers, more Australians integrated into US war plans

In winning genuine independence and socialism, Australia's working people will put to a halt the bloodletting Australia unleashes in its own domain and abroad at the behest of Yankee Imperialism.

Only then can Australia's role as a sub-imperial power propping up global US imperialist hegemony, be ended.

Only a socialist Australia led by the working class can guarantee lasting and genuine anti-imperialist independence.

The core of Australian capitalism as it exists today is US imperialism.

For us, the struggle for an anti-imperialist independent Australia is inseparable from the struggle for socialism.

Our continent is far too ripe with resources and geographically useful politically and militarily for the US to sit by idly in the struggle of Australian decolonisation for its First Peoples.

With World War 3 growing ever closer and the battle lines clearly drawn. It will be our bodies thrown into the fray against fellow

workers to protect the interests of US Imperialism. We cannot have a repeat of Gallipoli.

As the great revolutionaries before us have taught, we must take advantage of the reformist struggles of the people to advance mass revolutionary consciousness.

Integral to our support for the progressive mass movement against AUKUS and for independence it is our awareness and understanding that the fundamental contradictions are that of settler-colonialism and class.

Down with Yankee Imperialism!

Down with Australian sub-imperial domination!

Down with Settler-Colonialism and capitalism!

Down with the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie!

We call on all progressive forces to unite and mobilise the people against AUKUS and inter-imperialist war!

Unite and mobilise the people for genuine independence from the USA and all big powers!

The Prime Minister will tell you
About your Australian values;
As soon as he gets the details
In Tweets and texts and emails
Straight from the powers that be
In Washington DC.



Women resist capitalist economic crises and imperialist wars

By *Mary P. and Alice M.*

The world today is in deep capitalist economic and social crisis.

This crisis intensifies the rivalries between imperialist powers competing for global resources and spheres of influence.

These imperialist rivalries are driving most military conflicts and wars.

Fascism and state repression by ruling classes is increasing worldwide. Working class people are expendable in imperialist wars.

In a crisis the ruling class inevitably shifts the economic burden onto the shoulders of working people, who also fight and suffer the wars.

Women have always been at the forefront of liberation struggles against colonialism, imperialism and imperialist wars.

We are indispensable in the fight for socialism and building a socialist society. No more so than now!

Women in Australia

Today economic conditions for working people are deteriorating.

The cost of living crisis and the struggle to make ends meet puts extra burdens on working class women juggling their jobs, family budgets and the largest share of caring duties.

In the family it is mostly women who must balance the budget and try to make it stretch to meet everyone's needs.

The cost-of-living crisis this puts even more strains on women than usual. The rising prices of food, utilities, healthcare, housing, education, childcare – the basic needs of life – increase hardships in their day-to-day struggle.

Exploitation of women in workplaces intensifies. Wage discrimination persists, because the type of work they do is generally lower paid and more precarious.

While approximately 62% of working-age Australian women are in the workforce, over half are in low paid, insecure or part-time work, sometimes all three.

These jobs are largely concentrated in the hospitality, retail, healthcare, social assistance

and service industries like aged care, cleaning, etc

All workers are exploited in a capitalist society. This exploitation is intensified with women.

In Australia they earn 22% less than men annually, including significantly less superannuation. Women earn 78 cents for each dollar men earn overall. This means on average women earn \$28,428 less annually than men.

That figure increases significantly when it comes to the lowest paid women (the majority of lowest paid workers).

Poverty and homelessness amongst working class women is rising.

Older women are the fastest growing homeless demographic due largely to lower superannuation, unprecedented rent increases, family breakdown and widowhood.

The housing crisis and housing debt hit women hard.

Most single parent women and their children live below the poverty line.

Capitalism entrusts a handful of privileged women, alongside the much larger number of privileged men, to enforce the powers of capital and imperialism against the oppressed and exploited. It parades this as “women’s liberation”.

First Peoples’ Women

First Peoples’ women face even deeper oppression and exploitation.

For 237 years, from the first day of brutal colonial occupation, dispossession and racism, First Peoples’ women have refused to succumb to the devastation caused by colonialism, the destruction of their communities and the genocide of their people.

They are often pillars of strength and resilience, keeping their communities together and fighting racist oppression, instilling pride in their culture and heritage.

The countless deaths in custody of their children, families and community only strengthens their resolve to continue the fight for self-determination, land rights and sovereignty.

A new generation of young First Peoples’ women are stepping

up, leading militant struggles. Their knowledge, organisation and action inspire and educate non-indigenous young people.

Women and imperialist wars

For centuries women have fought against brutal colonial occupations and imperialist wars.

Today they continue to mobilise and lead anti-war and anti-imperialist struggles.

Globally, women are at the sharp end of the wars of aggression and occupations, fleeing devastation, displacement, hunger, homelessness, and violence often while caring for children and elders.

They also fight for liberation in people’s armies, standing alongside their brothers and sisters in struggle.

As the US tightens control of Australia’s economy, politics and the military it is harder for women to win higher wages, more social services or redistribution of wealth. It impels them to struggle.

Revolutionary conditions could rapidly develop. Our party must be ready to learn from them and concentrate their resistance into a fighting force.

AUKUS gives billions for US war

Australia’s US puppet governments have committed to spend over \$400 billion of public funds on AUKUS, the US-Australia alliance and deeper integration into the US militarily and economically.

This money will be spent on US nuclear powered submarines over the next 30 years. More than \$35 million a day will be diverted from the Australian people’s social and economic needs, including First Peoples’ sovereignty and land rights, preparing Australia as a major US military base and a proxy in a US-led imperialist war with China.

Domestic and Social Violence against Women

Meanwhile these billions for US-led wars are denied for critically needed funding for women’s health, homelessness, childcare, single parents’ payments, women’s workplace rights, women fleeing

domestic violence, and many other urgent funding to meet the economic and social needs of Australia’s people and the environment.

Despite capitalist ideology claiming women are liberated, capitalism still subjugates them.

It enables double exploitation of their labour for profit making – as workers with perceived abilities in forms of often lower paid labour and as unpaid labourers in the nuclear family, which remains the predominant form of social organisation in the private sphere.

This leads to a culture which designates women as less valuable than men and commodifies our bodies as sexualised objects for male gratification, control, and profit-making.

It is a culture which produces sexual abuse, harassment, domestic and social violence across the society, normalised by the capitalist state, its legal system, and commercial popular culture.

International Solidarity of Working Women

We stand in solidarity with working women in all corners of the world fighting for their rights in society, against war and fascism.

We pay tribute to the women of Palestine, the Philippines, Myanmar, Rojava, and all women fighting in their people’s armed struggles for liberation from imperialism, feudal autocracy, colonial Zionism and capitalism.

We recognise the women tirelessly fighting for reforms within the capitalist system to alleviate the burden of discrimination and exploitation. History has taught us that the real and lasting end to the exploitation and oppression of women cannot be achieved without abolishing capitalism and replacing it with a new socialist society where women’s potential is fully liberated.



We fight for an anti-imperialist independent socialist Australia

State and Federal Elections in Western Australia

By Allan M.

2025 is a year of elections in WA, with Western Australians being asked to head to the polls to decide their State and Federal representatives.

The State election here has just occurred, and WA Labor has had a decisive victory for a third term.

Opposed by a Liberal/National Coalition (whose shambolic campaign, candidates, and policies are not worth further thought) the WA Labor Party entered their election campaign promising 'a steady hand' for WA.

When looking back at their previous terms, we can see that this steady hand was used to quietly rob Western Australians of their future while enriching mining magnates and their political cronies.

The WA Labor Party experienced a record win in 2021, securing a 4-year term with no effective opposition in either house of Parliament. With this significant majority, WA Labor has had the opportunity to address major issues in our State.

But in 2025, we face a huge housing crisis, with more and more families having to choose between rent payments and food, continued attacks on our natural environment, and attacks on worker power.

With a record majority in Parliament, WA Labor promised to address the State's seriously outdated rental laws.

For the Landlords, Developers, Miners and Pastoralists

Soon after making this promise to the people of WA, the Labor government was falling over themselves to placate the landlords and property developer lobby, giving assurance after assurance that their proposed new law would not impact their ability to gouge tenants.

What WA renters got from this law was a requirement that landlords are limited to a once-yearly rent increase, compared to the previous twice-yearly limit. What a comfort! To the landlord class, WA Labor delivered a massive green-light to continue their daylight robbery.

With the retention of no-grounds evictions and the ability to increase rent to whatever they like



CFMEU workers in Western Australia - Paid up and proud!

on a yearly basis, landlords are still able to scare renters into shutting up and paying up for the privilege of living in low-quality housing.

Now WA, like the rest of Australia, is in the midst of a massive housing crisis.

In late 2024, Perth became the least affordable capital city to rent in, while 0% vacancy rates in many of our regional centres have led to rapidly increasing homelessness.

Working families are in precarious conditions, having to find ways to keep up with extortionate rent increases or risk eviction. Many have been unable to keep up, shown by the growing number of families living out of cars.

This is what the Labor party achieves when it faces no opposition.

With a record majority in Parliament, WA Labor promised to protect the State's natural environment and heritage, while promoting sustainable economic growth.

In the wake of the tragic destruction of Juukan Gorge in 2020, that vast majority of Western Australians were eager to see the arrogance of mining companies reined in.

After introducing a new law to modernise the protection of Aboriginal heritage in WA, the WA government came under increasing pressure from pastoralists and smaller mining companies to water it down. Scared of a fight with industry, the WA Labor government revoked the law overnight and reverted our Aboriginal heritage protections to rely on a law from 1972.

This disgraceful weakness of our 'elected representatives' and their deference to big industry continued throughout their term.

Under pressure from mining and property developer lobbyists, the

WA government introduced changes to our environmental protection laws with zero mandate or public consultation. These changes limited rights of appeal for the community, and changed the composition of the Environmental Protection Authority to enable greater representation of industry interests.

The egregious lack of transparency in this process caused uproar for many Western Australians, but the WA Labor government was able to use their Parliamentary majority to push through the changes unopposed in late 2024.

Shortly after, it was revealed that the WA Labor government also gave special privileges to Alcoa, allowing the mining giant to continue expanding its bauxite mine outside of Perth while an environmental assessment on that expansion was ongoing.

It was further revealed that public servants advising the government told them that this could poison a significant portion of Perth's water supply. Despite this, the WA Labor government allowed Alcoa to continue mining effectively without any constraints.

This is how the Labor party uses its Parliamentary majority, not for the benefit of the workers, but to bow down to business interests.

With a record majority in Parliament, WA workers might have thought that the Labor government would enact policies from their allegedly 'pro-worker' platform.

But not for Workers

Instead, the WA Labor government used their majority to continue an attack on workers across the state.

In 2022, WA nurses went on strike as part of their campaign for

a pay-rise after years of being overworked, understaffed, and protecting our community from Covid-19.

Instead of supporting the workers, the WA Labor government attacked them through the Industrial Relations Commission.

After continued pressure from the government, the nurses union were forced to call off their campaign and pay a \$350,000 fine.

In the Pilbara, where most of the State's mining occurs, unions are looking to build up their membership and support mine workers who are experiencing worsening pay and conditions.

Instead of supporting the unions, WA Labor has sided with their friends in the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, with the Deputy Premier stating that workers in WA 'thrive without unions'.

It should also come as no surprise that as the union presence in the Pilbara is growing, the WA Labor government joined in the attack on the CFMEU and introduced an arbitrary 'fit and proper person' test for any union representative seeking to enter a worksite.

This is how the Labor party treats the workers when they fight for fair conditions.

The WA government has had a once-in-a-century opportunity to improve the lives of the WA community. With no effective opposition in Parliament and large public support, the government could have embarked on a series of reforms to ensure we have good housing, strong protections for our heritage sites and our natural environment, and good conditions for our workers.

Western Australians can now see how the WA Labor government used their majority to cosy up to big business, for individuals to secure Board positions at Rio Tinto, BHP, or FMG, and to attack the working class.

The best thing to come out of this term of government has been that WA Labor has exposed to all Western Australians just how hostile they are to the working class.

This is driving us to continue building the worker solidarity, to reject the bourgeois Parliamentary system, and to fight for a system that represents the working class and our interests.

Australian culture under attack

By Duncan B.

Australian culture has come under attack on several fronts lately.

In the past six months, two big multinational publishers have taken over two independent Australian publishing houses.

Simon & Schuster took over Affirm Press and Penguin Random House took over Text Publishing.

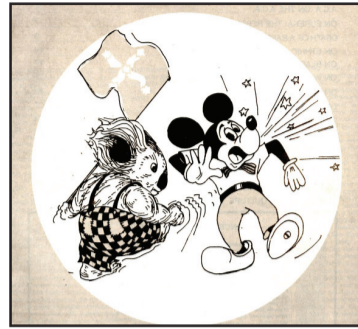
The big five overseas publishing companies (Penguin Random House, Hachette, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins and Pan Macmillan)

now control a large chunk of the Australian publishing industry.

These take-over deals are bad for Australian authors, Australian readers and Australian literature. We risk losing more Australian culture because of them.

The big companies are cautious about what they take on, while independent publishers take more risks and support innovative and experimental writing.

Text Publishing has authors who have been short-listed for the

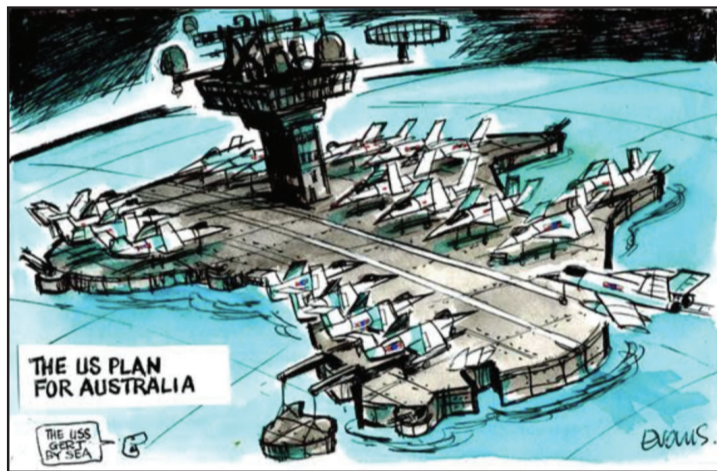


Nobel, Booker and Pulitzer prizes.

Other Text authors have won the Miles Franklin and Stella Prizes.

Forget Plan B - Just dump AUKUS now!

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seek better ways to protect it.

For example, Admiral Chris Barrie, calling for a Plan B on March 13, said the “US is no longer a reliable ally”.

He said he had previously supported the idea of acquiring nuclear-powered submarines because of their superior capabilities but was worried there was no guarantee they would arrive under the current AUKUS strategy.

However, he did not criticise the “Alliance”. Likewise, Turnbull’s comments did not advocate independence from the US stranglehold.

The positive message was that “The most likely outcome of the AUKUS pillar one is that we will end up with no submarines of our own.”

“There will be Australian sailors serving on US submarines, and we’ll provide them with a base in Western Australia.

“We will have lost both sovereignty and security and a lot of money as well. That’s why I say it is a really bad deal.”

Turnbull’s prediction about how AUKUS will be implemented echoed an opinion piece in the US

online *Breaking Defense* journal.

Under the heading “It’s time to ditch Virginia subs for AUKUS and go to Plan B”, Henry Sokolski, referring to the Australian Government’s recent gift of \$800 million to help pump-prime US shipyards, said “Because the submarine deal is unlikely to overcome budgetary, organizational, and personnel hurdles, that payment should be Australia’s last.”

His Plan B would cancel the sale of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia “in light of Australia’s budget, organizational, and personnel shortfalls.”

Instead, “US and UK subs operating from Australia with RAN sailors and maintained by Australian workers would serve as a sufficient deterrent.

The first element of a Plan B is already underway, with US and UK nuclear submarines regularly visiting HMAS Stirling near Perth, including conducting maintenance with a visiting US Navy tender.”

This is just what Turnbull was suggesting might happen.

Sokolski then outlined how an expanded AUKUS Pillar 2, with

additional partners South Korea, New Zealand and Canada, should develop “innovative projects” like uncrewed systems, AI, quantum computer science, and hypersonic weapons, which “could deliver technologies that provide most of what the Virginia-class subs would offer for Australia.”

Sokolski’s Plan B, with Turnbull’s warning of its likelihood, shows that more than a Plan B is needed.

What is needed is a break with the US and the removal of its military presence in Australia.

This movement needs sufficient strength to last beyond Trump’s four-year term of office, and a recognition that whoever or whatever replaces Trump will try and maintain Pine Gap, North-West Cape, US marines in Darwin, nuclear-armed US bombers based at the Tindal RAAF base outside Katherine, nuclear-armed US and UK submarines based near Perth, US fuel dumps, access to satellite surveillance...and the list goes on.

The only alternative to AUKUS, according to former Australian Ambassador to the US John McCarthy on March 6 is Plan A. “This should not be a Plan B but rather a new Plan A – with the A standing for Australia and not ANZUS, let alone AUKUS.”

For us, Plan A means an independent and peaceful Australia that protects its own sovereignty without the aggressive belligerence that both Labor and Liberals are completely committed to.

Text has also reprinted books by past Australian authors, bringing them to a new generation of Australian readers.

The Australian Music industry is also facing a crisis thanks to Spotify.

This Swedish-owned streaming platform with global revenues of \$25 billion per year, controls 70% of the Australian audio streaming market. Australian music is suffering as a result.

Many people now get their music from Spotify instead of buying CDs or listening to radio stations such as Triple J.

American pop stars dominate the music played on Spotify, which is not subject to any local content rules, despite promises by the Labor Party to introduce them.

Three major record labels, Warner, Sony and Universal, released 95% of the music on the Australian top-100 in 2023.

Only five Australian songs made it to the ARIA top 100 for 2024.

Only 18 Australian artists made it into Triple J’s Hottest 100 for 2025. Triple J’s ratings have dropped to 4.3% nationally.

This is a sad result for a radio station which has done so much to promote Australian music in its 50 years of operation.

The Triple J playlist has always featured a much higher level of Australian music than the commercial stations. Programmes such as *Unearthed* and the *One Night Stand* travelling live music shows have allowed many Australian musicians to gain recognition.

Live music in Australia is dominated by overseas multinationals such as the US-based Live Nation.

The three top video streamers in Australia are foreign-owned-Netflix, Amazon and Disney. Video streamers are also not subject to local content quotas.

The government is being urged to introduce local content quotas of at least 25% for streaming services. This would be a start.

Much more action is needed to seize back control of our culture from the multinationals and return it to Australian authors, performers and audiences.

Only a genuinely anti-imperialist independence will protect our people

By Nick G.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's recent address to the National Press Club, in which he called for Australian politicians to "get up off your knees and stand up for Australia," represents a further strengthening of the movement for Australian independence.

Turnbull said that there should be a retaliation against Trump's imposition of tariffs on Australian exports to the US, and that the Albanese government "could start with the \$3bn or the \$2.5bn left being handed over to support the US submarine industrial base."

Attacking the AUKUS arrangements, he said "Australia was unlikely to ever receive submarines from the US given production challenges in America's shipyards and there was a bipartisan lack of transparency about the risks to Australian sovereignty and defence capacity from the deal."

He also said the government should consider withdrawing American access to naval bases in Perth.

He called on both Labor and the Coalition to stop being so timid and deferential, and said that "Australia needed to be more independent in the new world of brute power politics and reclaim sovereignty from the US."

Of course, there will be some on the Left who will reject Turnbull and remind everyone of his role as Coalition PM between 2015 and 2018 when he did nothing to reclaim our sovereignty from the US,



or make any reference to the need for Australian independence.

He was then, and is now, a supporter of the so-called US-Australia "alliance".

A person's background and political record must not be forgotten, but whether their change of heart occurs sooner or later, the important thing is that it does occur.

The same may be said of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser who was the beneficiary of a US-managed parliamentary coup.

Whitlam had ruffled US imperialist feathers by talking of revealing the CIA role in Pine Gap, so hatchet man Marshall Green was despatched as US Ambassador to Australia to lay the ground for Whitlam's dismissal.

Fraser secured the Australian state within the hold of US imperialism and launched attacks on the working class.

Yet in his later years, he had his own "road to Damascus" awakening and wrote the book "*Danger-*

ous Allies" in which he criticised the US hold on this country, warned about US plans to make us take Virginia class submarines, and called for the closure of Pine Gap.

Down the rabbit-hole

Some on the Left extend their rejection of new-found allies on the Right to those progressive persons who try to establish an alternative to the US stranglehold.

The various Trotskyite groups, for example, have blasted the Greens for proposing a defence policy based on rejection of ties to the US and the development of a policy of armed neutrality, limiting Australian armed forces to the defence of Australia's territorial integrity.

One Trotskyite organisation pilloried the Greens for "suddenly positioning themselves as defenders of the realm against an undefined enemy".

The organisation conceded that the Greens had called for the scrapping of AUKUS, but criticised them because the demand "is not

particularly progressive". It accused the Greens of "floating with the tide when every left-wing organisation ought to be swimming against the current."

Another group which emerged out of the Trotskyites went further, slamming the Greens as "imperialism's left-wing".

This group aimed its attack at the independence movement, in which it lumped the Greens, saying "Support for an "independent Australia" policy is not anti-imperialist in practice. Rather, it seeks to facilitate an independent Australian imperialism, liberated from its sub-imperial status under the American nuclear umbrella... An independent Australia would simply be an imperialist Australia."

Working class leadership is vital

As long-time supporters of an independent Australia, we know that the question of Australian independence is fundamentally a class question.

Which class will win the right to lead the movement for independence will determine whether it moves in a genuinely anti-imperialist and socialist direction, or whether it suffers defeat and the strengthening of the grip of imperialism and reaction.

We are implacably opposed to bourgeois nationalism.

But we are not opposed to strengthening and widening the anti-US movement and do not support sectarian rejection of allies who, whatever their shortcomings as firm anti-imperialists, are nevertheless welcome participants in the movement in which we are trying to establish a proletarian revolutionary main force.



Election, AUKUS, tariffs - but the people have not forgotten the ongoing genocide inflicted on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank - crimes aided and encouraged by US imperialism.

Meet the CPA (M-L)

Whether you're interested in joining or just want to discuss ideological or political issues, we welcome your enquiries.

Email: info@cpaml.org

with name, location and a contact mobile phone number, to arrange a discussion with one of our comrades.