POLITICAL RESOLUTION

Adopted by the 15th National Congress held on 27th Febuary to 1st March 2026

FIGHT FOR JOBS, THE PLANET AND SOCIALISM

WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Bartlett Adamson

Workers of the world awake!
All the world is yours to take!
March in vast unconquered might!
Wake, arise, unite, and fight.

Workers of the world arise!
New hope flames along the skies!
Wake the world! New days begin!
Rise, unite, and fight, and win.

Workers of the world, unite!
Freedom calls you to the fight!
Wake the world with battle din!
Rise, unite, and fight, and win.

Acknowledgement of Country

“The struggles of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been characterised by acute violence imposed by White Australia upon the First Nations of this land. These societies were the first to experience the violence of British Colonialism on this continent and continue to face a genocidal state and abject marginalisation on their own country.

“For this reason, the Communist Party of Australia acknowledges that the land on which this resolution was produced has been expropriated, that sovereignty was never ceded. Similarly, the Party pays its respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders past and present and acknowledges that their just resistance for land rights, sovereignty, and treaty has not ended.”

Section 1

Our conditions

The future of the world and humanity is at stake.

The pursuit of maximum profit – the constant need for capital to accumulate more capital is at the heart of the capitalist economic system. Under capitalism the thirst to maintain ever-increasing profits drives endless exploitation with no consideration for the human cost. The drive for maximum profits by capitalists and ruthless competition within markets has a natural conclusion in the establishment of monopolies. Monopoly control leads to suppression of competition and innovation, increased prices, and lower living standards.

This monopolistic power drives governments to further protect corporate interests by lowering corporate taxes, weakening labour protections, privatising public services, imposing austerity measures, and driving down living standards. These neoliberal policies have not only increased economic inequality but have also eroded the thin veneer of so-called democratic institutions, exposing the limitations of capitalist liberal democracy.

The capitalist class is getting richer, and the working class is becoming poorer. Wealth continues to concentrate amongst capitalists, with the disparity between the lowest and highest income earners reaching new records since the last CPA Congress. This is the failure of the capitalist system.

In recent years the relentless capitalist system has ensured a collapse of the world’s ecosystems, all whilst exploiting to its greatest extent the labour of the working class in a self-consuming downward spiral.

The capitalist order is in crisis, including here at home. Headlines frequently feature crises of all kinds: cost-of-living, housing, climate, rising military expenditure, cuts to public services, and offshoring of our manufacturing base. And yet the media fails to point to the nub of the problem: obscene profit, limited public ownership, minimal regulation, a lack of democratic participation in decision-making, diminished workers' rights, and inadequate ambition in state-led construction, production, and environmental protection. Capitalism is entering a new stage of crisis and stagnation.

This blatant theft from the people – of our time, of our wealth, of our services, of our cultures, of our environment and even our futures through the climate crisis – is at the heart of capitalism. Without intervention, the insatiable need for profit threatens all life.

Australia today – at a crossroads

Australia stands in a decisive moment in its history, a time of dangers and opportunities. The working class faces a future that will be shaped either by deeper submission to the rule of capital and the domination of imperialist powers, or by the conscious struggle to build a new socialist future. For communists, this is not a moment to drift with events but to act with clarity, discipline, and revolutionary purpose.

The ongoing intervention and occupation of parts of this country by the United States military and its assets continues. Military installations (Pine Gap, Exmouth, Darwin and Geraldton, amongst others) are used, in conditions of utmost secrecy, to bolster the pernicious influence of the United States in the region and the world. Our political leaders at the behest of the national bourgeoisie, provide support – logistics, weaponry and propaganda – to aid genocidal Israeli aggression in West Asia (Middle East), undermine China and sovereignty of other nations, and finance the war in Ukraine. AUKUS, which only further entrenches our continued loss of Australian sovereignty to an ever more hostile and aggressive United States war machine, not only hampers good relations with our neighbours in the region, but undermines the safety and security of all Australians.

As the United States and Europe shift rightward, Australia is following suit. The Imperialists are further threatening to gut the public sector and the services it provides. Amid the breakdown of trust, those political powerbrokers are conjuring various scapegoats, scaremongering over immigration, waging culture wars, and blaming minorities. All of this is designed to divide and confuse. Australia, as a middle imperialist power, is marching in lockstep with the United States and its allies in their mission to provide ever greater power to capital.

The breakdown of the two-party system is the inevitable result of internal contradictions of capitalism. What is offered by the two major political parties, the minor parties, as well as independents alike, is rarely focused on providing relief to the actual pressures experienced by the working class; namely declining standards of living. Traditional large parties survive on preferences, with independents generally not offering the clarity needed or pathways towards a policy overhaul. This dynamic – declining popularity for the major political parties and nothing to fill the vacuum – has become worse since the CPA's last Congress. Concerningly there has been a significant shift to reactionary parties such as One Nation. Some of this is due to deliberate preference deals by the major parties.

Conservative capitalist forces are encouraging a rightward shift in our political culture; this will only lead to greater suffering for the average Australian and for the international working class. We are seeing the rise of fascism and far-right forces.

The CPA commits to playing a role in building the widest and broadest opposition to rise of fascist and white supremacist forces including neo-Nazis within our communities. A culture of militarism and war, inequality and unchallenged racist views on migrants and immigration sit at the heart of the rise of the right.

People are looking for solutions, and the extreme right seeks to blame others for the condition of the working class, its exploitation and the lack of power and opportunities afforded to the masses of people. Reactionary politicians and their vile racist rhetoric in parliament and in public add to, and fuel these circumstances.

The CPA will stand up to racism and fascism and seeks to build the widest popular front against the rise of the extreme right.

The working class in Australia is deeply divided and often lacks clear political direction. Many workers remain tied to the influence of reformist politics or are drawn toward reactionary ideas that serve the interests of capital.

The task of communists is to work patiently and persistently among the working masses to organise, mobilise and lead them away from these dead ends and toward class consciousness and revolutionary purpose. This means building the capacity of workers to understand their own power, uniting them in effective organisations that can defend their immediate interests, while advancing a vision for the complete transformation of society.

Our work must prepare the ground for a decisive push toward workers' control over industry, services and the state. Such a goal can only be achieved by earning the trust of the working class through consistent work in their communities, workplaces and unions, showing in practice that the Communist Party is the most capable and determined force for their liberation.

Placing the Construction and General Division of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) into administration is one of the ALP's recent attacks against the Australian working class. It aligns with a broader agenda of outlawing strike action and the weaponisation of the courts against workers.

Australia continues to breach International Labor Organisation (ILO) standards to actively enforce the interests of the employing class. Support for state intervention in workers' organisations is unprincipled and contradicts the interests of the whole working class.

Trade unions should be independent of the capitalist state and the conduct of union affairs should be rightfully in the hands of each union's membership. The Party must work to increase member participation in unions.

Barefaced government intervention in the functioning of a union not only disregards the rights of the membership to elect their leaders, but sets a dangerous precedent for future governments of any stripe. Labor's attack on the CFMEU is an attack on the whole union movement and all workers.

The Labor Party has completely capitulated to capital's brutal offensive, sparing no worker from the greatest allowable exploitation. No union is safe from the clutches of state control to wind back militancy and struggle. The illusory nature of liberal democratic pluralism is becoming increasingly clear.

There is an opportunity in the present moment for communist parties to offer a new home to those leaving the groups and parties that have failed the working class. The ruling class is ramping up class warfare and it is our collective responsibility to fight back. The Labor Party has shifted the goalposts dramatically towards promoting a service model of unionism only.

Our region and the world

The period since the last Congress has seen a surge in 'hot' wars and a continuation of 'cold' ones. The US is trying to impose its hegemony over the entire world despite (and in response to) the weakening of its economy and international standing.

The world is transforming into a multi-polar world, with new forms of international cooperation being combined with intensified great-power competition. This conflict has not yet led to the establishment of blocs, although this may change in the future. The decline of imperialism increases the danger of war through its desperate attempts to forestall its own ruin.

Increasingly, Australia is facing a choice as to how it interacts with the world. In our region, the US pivot to the Asia-Pacific is creating tensions. There is an increased presence of its navy and in military exercises (with Australia's participation) as part of US efforts to contain and isolate China. The United States is trying to strengthen its military alliances via defence pacts and soft power with the countries in the region. By joining this alliance, Australia is actively participating in attempts to prevent Chinese economic engagement in the region.

While much of our foreign policy in the region is dictated by the interests of the United States directly, Australia (particularly Australian big business), is continuing its perverse role in the underdevelopment and exploitation of nearby nations. Since the last Congress, Telstra purchased the largest telecommunications provider in the South Pacific, Digicel, "on behalf of the Australian government", developing a monopoly hold on telephony services in Papua New Guinea and other neighbouring states.

Alongside similar monopoly or near-monopoly positions in markets such as rice, grains, mining, etc, Australian business and imperial interests are more and more intertwined. Australia is playing an exploitative rather than a partnership role in the Pacific. Australian businesses leverage their monopoly positions to increase their profits, while the Australian state uses access to key infrastructure for espionage and other purposes. For decades, this dynamic has proven enormously advantageous to Australia's capitalist class in the region.

Asia is rapidly becoming the main industrial and trade centre of the world. Although the Asian countries have not yet outstripped the combined economic power of the US and the European Union, the economic clout of China, India, Russia, as well as Vietnam, and

the other countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), is developing at a rapid pace.

Based on these economic developments new political groups have emerged, putting forward new priorities. These include the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Eurasian Economic Union, and the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Cuba).

The development of new institutions outside of Western hegemonic control adds new opportunities to the global south and socialist countries – both current and future in overcoming economic containment, suppression, and embargo of their economic and social development.

War

In 2022, since the last Congress, we have witnessed alarming escalations in conflicts around the world. The conflict in Ukraine, which has led to an untold number of deaths and a rapid deterioration in the Ukrainian working age population, has cut Europe off from Russian hydrocarbons thereby increasing their dependence on extremely expensive US substitutes, fuelling European domestic discontent while boosting US fortunes.

Australia, in sending military resources to further the war – participating actively in NATO summits and supporting United States and European manoeuvrings against Russia to prolong the conflict – has played a significant role in heightening the escalation. Even if the period of this Congress witnesses a cessation of active conflict in Ukraine, the gutting of its economy and its future by Western vultures is largely complete.

The genocide of the people of Gaza, conducted by Israel and its Western imperialist allies is one of the most horrific tragedies of our time. The complete levelling of Gaza, the total blockade of food, medicine and water into the Strip, and the policy of ethnic cleansing have devastated the starving people of Palestine. These horrific acts, undertaken by Israel, with the goal of removing all Palestinians from their homelands have been met with the courageous efforts of the steadfast Palestinian resistance which has justly struggled for their land and people ever since the colonisation of Palestine. The key demands for sovereignty over the land, and the right of all Palestinians to return, must be realised.

People around the world, including in Australia, have responded to the horrors with large-scale demonstrations, trade union actions, acts of defiance, and direct action – actions which have been met, almost universally, by repression and state violence. We need to fight relentlessly for an end to the genocide and a long-term solution to the crisis, both on the streets and in the halls of diplomacy.

The solution to end the genocide is not more anarchy, but a strong and stable State of Palestine. The State of Palestine needs a strong united government, free from settler colonial violence, and permanent stability, which can only happen when it gains full international recognition, the right of return for displaced Palestinians, the right to form a defence force, and the right to govern over all its territories.

At time of writing, the genocide in Palestine is the great moral struggle of our time. Not only have the people of Gaza suffered through genocidal bombardment, starvation and deprivation in an area that was already increasingly unliveable, but Palestinians in all of historic Palestine continue to live as second class citizens. The continuation of the long-standing apartheid is intolerable.

While the future of Palestine is a matter for all of its inhabitants, one thing is clear, the conditions of genocide and apartheid must end, and equal rights must be enacted across all of historical Palestine. This includes sovereignty and independence over their own territories and internal affairs. International manoeuvres and gestures at recognition have thus far failed to provide even these most basic guarantees.

Military coups and internal conflicts have increased on the African continent, displacing more than 45 million people. The countries forming the contiguous areas of the Sahel region, the Great Lakes, and the Horn of Africa are all primarily affected by these conflicts. Sudan is the worst hit country among them, with a raging civil war and a death toll in the hundreds of thousands. The US continues to intervene in the internal affairs of many countries in Africa through AFRICOM, its military command centre. In the last three years, France was forced to withdraw its troops from its former colonies – Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Senegal and Ivory Coast. Burkina Faso is increasingly standing up to the colonial powers in ways perhaps not seen since the twentieth century. The masses are protesting, demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops stationed on their lands.

Western countries are increasing their military spending, further boosting share prices within the war machine: a vicious cycle of death and profit. Global military spending in 2024 grew 7.4% to $2.46 trillion. The UN says: Spending on security needs increased across all five global regions during 2024, marking the steepest year-on-year rise for at least the last three decades. Compared to the US$2.7 trillion directed to military budgets, the world could eliminate extreme poverty for just under US$300 billion.

The United States, United Kingdom, Australia and its allies have provided direct and indirect support to Israel to continue its genocide unimpeded. It has bombed Syria, Yemen, Iran, Lebanon and Iraq. They conducted assassination campaigns, including on top Iranian generals. The US has also vetoed all resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire in Palestine and ignored International Court of Justice (ICJ) rulings, threatening to abandon both the ICJ and the UN Security Council. The fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria ended one of the last remaining secular states in West Asia, plunging the state into yet another civil war, reigniting sectarianism and ethnic cleansing. It shouldn't be forgotten that this is about the 'greater Israel' and the defeat of progressive governments and opening up space for Israel and Türkiye to carve the country up in their interests.

The behaviour of the United States under the second Trump administration is a continuation of the foreign policies of prior regimes, but now seen raw and unmasked for what it is. The US is using increasingly brazen and blatant bullying methods in attempts to expand or solidify its hegemony around the world. Threats to other nation states, such as Canada and the territory of Greenland, occur alongside attacks on the United Nations and its bodies. US 'soft power' is undermined by bluster and naked ambition.

Sanctions and coercive Economic Pressures

Since the last Congress, the United States has continued to escalate its use of unilateral and coercive sanctions against its perceived political and economic enemies. Sanctions are a lesser-known weapon used by the West which deserve more exposure in our activities.

Though not well known, the Australian government has joined the United States in sanctioning Zimbabwe along with its governing African liberation movement ZANU-PF, to the detriment of its economy and people. One justifiable sanction would be against Israel but the Australian government and ruling class are avoiding this exposing their complicity in genocide. The CPA strongly supports the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign and sanctions against Israel internationally.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine was met with wide-reaching sanctions on the Russian economy and key figures, freezing billions of dollars' worth of assets and forcing Western divestment.

The Biden regime expressly wished to make Russia bear the consequences of its actions; consequences such as regime change, economic collapse and social tensions. These sanctions, used liberally by the United States to punish its enemies, have not had the intended effect. The Russian economy, which has deepened its connections to the Chinese and other non-aligned or non-Western economies, has not only grown, but diversified.

An internal economy amongst sanctioned states has also developed, trading outside of dollar hegemony. Similarly, the price of the Trump regime's imposition of wide-reaching tariffs – reflecting US concern about the growing non-competitiveness of US industry – are not so much being borne by its targets, but by the US economy itself.

Where next?

Since our 14th Congress in 2022, the internal political structures of many capitalist countries have become increasingly polarised. A global rightward shift – especially in the West – is being borne out in election results and policy-making, including here at home. Far-right, and fascist political groups are emerging across Europe and Western countries.

Governments throughout the West are turning a blind eye to the emerging fascist threat; democratic rights are eroded while increasing powers to silence dissidents, suppress trade unions and popular movements, and expand corporate power are passed by successive governments.

The emergence of the second Trump presidency in the US has seen a considerable deterioration in the US with its adoption of autocratic, reactionary, and fascist positions. The US under Trump continues to support Israeli genocide of Palestinians, targets opponents of Zionism, disappears suspected migrants arrested by masked government agents, has opened mass detention centres both within and outside the USA, and calls for violence and retribution against perceived internal enemies.

Left and progressive organisations and individuals are being increasingly targeted for state repression. Prominent scholars of fascism and genocide have fled the US. Within Australia, the parties of the Coalition contain fascistic sections within their leadership while One Nation provides a platform for the most reactionary and chauvinist sections of the population.

Nazis have been platformed at 'anti-immigration' protests attended by parliamentarians from these parties, while the ideas of these reactionaries are broadcast into communities and legitimised by the Murdoch media. This is especially true in the global periphery, but also in some Western countries; left movements continue to make important gains.

Member parties of our fraternal group, the International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties (IMCWP), are growing. Many are making a presence in society and government, including: the Workers' Party of Belgium, Portuguese Communist Party, Communist Party of Brazil, French Communist Party, and others. In Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Nicaragua, and Sri Lanka progressive forces continue to effectively resist imperialist attacks.

By playing an active role differentiating itself from established political parties, the left has been able to win the confidence of the people and slow the advance of the far-right through electoral victories.

Most importantly, the five countries that are led by communist and workers' parties – China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Laos and Vietnam – continue to make strides in resisting the reactionary forces of the West and advancing the interests of their respective working class. China especially, has emerged as the world's most dynamic major economy while seeking global peace and prosperity.

The DPRK continues to struggle under constant assault by US imperialism. The West will stop at nothing to try to undermine it, including covering up progress made by the DPRK government, its people and army.

Cuba, Vietnam and Laos are making extraordinary gains in socialist construction despite the external interference creating strong headwinds against them. This grouping bonded by their shared and ongoing history of revolutionary class struggle – is an example to the masses the world over, demonstrating the possibilities for socialist governance under all economic and political conditions. Whether through a combination of central planning and the socialist market economy or more orthodox central planning, all have maintained the commanding heights of their economies in the hands of the state and are managing them in the interests of the people.

Socialism is a work-in-progress in these countries and building a socialist society is never easy. These five countries are fighting on multiple fronts – both against imperialist aggressors and to maintain the strength of their systems to ensure the allocation of resources for the people's development. The socialist countries have the burden of resisting imperialist aggression; defeating hostile subversion of their systems; and overcoming historic setbacks owing to the colonial and semi-colonial histories of these countries. The responsibility of these governments to win a better material and cultural life for their people is acute.

They remain a beacon for social justice, holding high the banner of communism and the Communist Party, socialism in power, and Marxism-Leninism in the twenty-first century.

Support for countries whose goal is to build a socialist society should not be a marginal position among activist or workers' movements in the West. It should be a mainstream and popular position in the community. The experiences and approaches taken within socialist countries can inform and inspire us, but the answers to the problems faced by Australia and its own path to socialism lie within Australia. Communist Parties succeed when they adapt the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism to their particular context, identify and seize upon the internal contradictions within their own societies to build mass movements for change, and unite with the people by being fully embedded within the working class at work and in the community.

Our Party's Tasks Ahead

Conditions of the Australian working class

The organised working class has been weakened by the ruling class. This is by design. The working class in Australia constitutes the majority of the population, embracing all cultures, ethnicities, genders, sexualities, faiths, and philosophies.

Within this diversity there is a great capacity for unity. We sell our labour power to the bosses. All workers in Australia are exploited. We work in conditions that are arranged without our say. Under capitalism, our freedom is curtailed the moment we go to work. Under capitalism in Australia, our ability to work does not translate to satisfying our needs. At any moment we could be sacked, left without a salary or a livelihood and without protection. The boss decides too much, their power is too great and needs to be curtailed and ultimately removed.

In 2024 less than 12% of the Australian working class was organised into trade unions. Unions remain the largest organisations of the working class for defence of immediate working conditions, for safety, pay, and a voice in the workplace. The working class today is largely atomised and disorganised. This is a result of a long historical offensive by the Australian capitalist class. The resulting decline in quality of life has been felt which is shown by growing protest movements and discontent.

There is near-limitless potential for jobs which could improve Australia and resolve intractable social, economic and environmental problems. New industries are opening up, from green production – concentrated solar power (CSP) plants, to urgent issues in aged care, robotics, AI, high-speed rail (HSR), taxis, and EV transformation. Unemployment is an unthinkable concept with so much work to do. Yet under the economic reality of capitalism unemployment is seen as essential.

Australia is a vast country with populations concentrated in urban and coastal areas. The strength the working class possesses is in its numbers; that no work occurs without workers. Workers do not need the boss; however, the boss needs the workers. Our strength arises out of a unity based on our common material interest – class interest. Therefore, our unity and organisation is our strength.

Marxism-Leninism as a science is a tool for uncovering the truth, to struggle for a better life and as a guide to action. It unites the working class giving it tools and conviction to control its destiny. Marxism-Leninism and the struggle for living political-ideological education is a struggle to unite the class and provide it with the tools and conviction to take control of its destiny.

When Australian communists unite around the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism, the path and direction forward for the self-liberation of the working class and an Australian road to socialism is possible. These universal principles are not abstract or dogmatic theories to be blindly followed, but rather *guides to practical action*. We know they work because they have lifted up people's lives in unprecedented ways in the past, and will do so again in the future. Practice is what has determined the truth of Marxism-Leninism.

Party members learn to apply the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism to the particular situations that present themselves in Australia. Theory without practice withers. Practice strengthens the theory.

Now is not the time for complacency. Now is the time for bold, decisive action. In this era of growing uncertainty and deprivation, we must stand up and embrace our historic task. The time for stepping boldly forward is now, and it is up to us, the Communist Party, to find our leading place.

Growth: recruitment and development of cadres

Amidst this changing domestic and international environment our Party is entering a new era of growth. Branches have been established and have stabilised across most states and territories in the country. There is a renewed drive towards rebuilding a diverse and representative working class party. Comrades from different eras in the Party's history are working together to combine experience with innovation and know-how. The Party's evolution depends on maintaining a diverse and representative membership carrying rich traditions into the future.

All comrades must learn to respect, learn from, and manage social relations with each other. Through uniting and working together more closely and seeking the truth we can better learn from each other's experiences, intensify our collective development, and uncover a richer and more complex reality than could be discovered solely by the individual. A large part of our effort in Branches must be dedicated to fostering diverse and representative unity. Our Party cannot grow without its traditions, and its traditions cannot flourish without new innovations; an apprenticeship that goes both ways. This is the core challenge of our times.

Efforts are necessary to recruit members who are willing to become committed Party members. To add depth, and lay the foundations to expand and grow the Party, it is crucial that there are people who are in the Party for the long term and willing to stay the course through difficult times, defend the Party where necessary, and innovate in areas of weakness.

Party education

Since last Congress Party schools have been conducted in every centre across the country. Led by the Central Committee (CC), the Education Subcommittee, and Executive leaderships within Branches, the effort to ramp up CPA education is far more unified than ever before. An intensive five-day National Cadre School was conducted in April 2025. The role and practice of political education have been elevated to a higher level in party life. Themes covered included putting Marxism-Leninism into practice, raising Marxist theory to the level of a science, First Nations peoples' liberation and the national question, building a party that is seen as attractive to women, working in unions, combatting all forms of opportunism, empowering the mind, and engaging the public with credibility. Emphasis has been placed on revisiting primary texts of Marx, Engels and Lenin, and relating them directly to our work and our immediate contexts, our actions and campaigns.

In the next half decade, the unity and flexibility of CPA education should reach higher levels. Cadre development in education should produce motivated, professional revolutionaries who can think through our struggles, unify the working class, and determine the path of our Party.

The inventiveness, focus, and creativity of our research should be enhanced and our knowledge enriched. Education should motivate, and train members to practically apply organising skills and to put theoretical knowledge into practice, grasp the larger movements of history, and apply this new knowledge to our conditions.

Efforts should be made to obtain and study materials from periods of revolutionary history relevant to our struggle, to gather and disseminate both Australian and international case-studies, discover new works in translation, and delve deeper into texts concerning Marxist-Leninist theory and the practice of socialist governance.

National campaigns

During the recent period a number of successful national campaigns were developed in support of a Yes vote in the Voice referendum, Solidarity with Palestine, CFMEU, and public housing. These campaigns found traction among members not just in the sense of winning the demands. National leaflets and banners were produced. The CC took the initiative to host organising meetings inviting branches to participate in the discussion on campaign strategy. This had a net positive effect. In addition, the Party hosted a national organising conference which was well attended by delegates from around the country. Outcomes from that conference delivered a greater sense of unity, a snapshot of our Party, and perspective as to the enormity of the tasks ahead.

SECTION 2: Way forward

The present tasks

The need for a broad united front in Australia is pressing. Historically, all progressive and democratic sections of society have taken up campaigns against the effects of social and economic crises, the drive to war, and the attacks on democratic rights and living standards.

The united front can be facilitated by agreements between working-class organisations and parties to achieve certain policies. It is desirable that agreements lead to joint action by the workers.

United front work should be undertaken in accordance with the 'principles of unity' in the CPA program. Our Party, the inheritor of over one hundred years of struggle, has played its part in the Australian workers' movement. Over the next three to four years the Party should redouble its efforts to preserve and record its history and present a living document of the Party, with key lessons for future work recorded.

There are overlapping memberships and organisational links existing in contemporary progressive movements which incorporate workers, intellectuals, professionals, and other groups. In the main these remain unstructured. However, they provide a realistic form by which to build a broad and active people's unity in support of left and progressive issues and demands.

In fighting together for a common program, a cohesive democratic unity can develop and be directed against the most reactionary forces. Opposition to emerging forms of tyranny at home is a necessary part of the world movement against corporate tyranny everywhere. One gains momentum from the other.

Building the Party

To build a Party of action, we must develop professional revolutionary cadres, develop strong links with the broader working class, communicate clearly and credibly to the people, insist on the application of Marxist-Leninist science for our analysis, and the fact that socialism is not dead, that socialism exists right now and is rising to challenge imperialism and capitalism like never before.

The following are our most urgent priorities in Party-building:

- **Recruitment diversity:**

  The Australian working class contains considerable internal diversity in race, gender, sexuality, and culture. The Communist Party as a working class party must reflect the diversity of the working class within its membership. Branches should pay special attention to the recruitment of women, expanding women's roles in leadership, and ensuring women are welcome in the Party, and have a strong collective voice in branches. Party bodies in consultation with women members should actively seek

to provide women with opportunities to take up leading roles in party life and provide them with the support to succeed. Branches should be safe spaces for women and queer people in our next period of growth. Women's voices should be heard. Women's voices should be sought out. Branches should seek to make a material difference to the lives of LGBTQIA+ people, directly linking their struggle to the class struggle and the rights of minorities, and branches should make a special effort to mobilise among the multicultural working class.

- **Education:**

  Improvement is needed in the level of ideological and political awareness amongst the membership of the Party, and is a key factor in the building and sustaining of Party unity, discipline, adherence to decisions, and observance of the principles of democratic centralism. Branches should aim for monthly education sessions as a minimum.

- **Finance:**

  Raising funds for the party is a political task. Efforts must be taken to improve the financial position of the party. Pledging must be taken seriously and could be materially effective especially as the Party continues to grow. Also, external sources of funding are critical and branches should be outward-facing in planning fund-raising events.

- **Communication and media strategy:**

  In the struggle for the emancipation of the working class, the party has three essential tasks to accomplish: raising class and political consciousness, organising people, and developing and steering the social, economic and political struggle, by growing the size and influence of the Communist Party.

  To accomplish these three tasks, communication is crucial. Communication is not just about reacting to the news or broadcasting our positions. It is much more than that. We must be able to empathise with people and understand their daily struggles. We have to develop policy and strategy that will resonate with people while communicating in a clear and understandable way.

- **Party media:**

  The *Guardian – The Worker's Weekly* and *Australian Marxist Review* (*AMR*) are central to the progress of our Party in the next period.

  All Party organisations must focus their work over the next four years around building Branches as centres of political activity and campaigning in the mass movement in the interests of workers for socialism. We must strengthen Party media at all levels. This means strengthening the *Guardian* and the *Australian Marxist Review*,

alongside an expansion of other equally important aspects of party media, such as the party website, pamphlets, books and social media.

This will require visual unity, of symbols, banners, websites, pamphlets, and unity of purpose – a national public-facing media, projecting the CPA as a national-level party with a unified program and unified voice.

Branches should find creative ways to feature, promote and sell the *Guardian*, and contribute to the creation of Party media at local and national levels. The *Guardian* is strongest when it is supported by a broader media apparatus; its content must be shared through digital, social and community channels to reach the widest audience.

Volunteer contributions to the printing, preparation and distribution must be urgently and significantly expanded to safeguard the sustainability of the party press. At the same time, modernising party media should not be the only focus – what matters is sincerity, seriousness, and consistency – celebrating the sheer existence of a CPA workers' weekly; knowing who we want to reach, what sections of society we want to reach out to, grasping why we are disseminating our materials, why our materials matter, and keeping the whole picture of our struggle in mind.

We must develop a sense of duty and ownership – having a newspaper and a journal are essential to building the Party. Cadres in our Party must be aware of the importance of party media as an essential ingredient in the Leninist Party and a practical tool to advance. Party newspapers have played a crucial role in revolutions that, without them, much of communist history may not have taken place. However, in recognising this, it is essential to take a broad view of what party media is. Newspapers were the cutting edge media in Lenin's day, and just as he embraced that form, we must continue to embrace traditional media while building new media efforts as well.

Efforts should be made to improve writing skills and to more closely integrate the work of the *Guardian* collective with the work of branches, streamline solicitation of materials, and develop an article-writing module for education. Comrades willing to contribute should step forward to help with the *Guardian* to ensure the tradition continues into the middle of the twenty-first century.

- **Developing Branch work – importance of discipline and organisation**

  Our Party's immediate tasks are to build our numbers, to strengthen Party unity and activity, and to develop the class struggle.

  We must build the movement to challenge the power of capital. We are committed to fighting for workers' rights, democratic and proletarian internationalism, the preservation of peace and the environment with an overarching perspective of socialism.

  To build the Party into an effective fighting force for the working class, we must build our capacity and improve the quality of our work. Even with limited resources, we can achieve a great deal if every Party member is an organiser who brings their work into the branch. By doing so, the Party is stronger, turning these efforts into

Party work and giving the branch the opportunity to provide comrades with guidance and support. This work must be coordinated, with the aim of building the class struggle and the fight to win a socialist Australia.

Disciplined branch work should unfold with four aspects in mind: Efficiency, Enthusiasm, Collectivity, and Consistency.

1. Efficiency means being able to carry out tasks to the end, whether workshopped or quickly referenced through online communications i.e., carrying out tasks without making things complicated.
2. Enthusiasm means fostering a sense of duty and commitment to building the Party, fostering an optimistic and revolutionary outlook among fellow comrades, and keeping up energy on campaigns and Party business over the long term.
3. Collectivity means looking out for each other, collaborating, being able to carry out duties for and with fellow comrades, rather than just acting in an individual capacity.
4. Consistency means following through on what has been promised, ensuring long-term rhythms and sustainable actions over time, rather than short bursts of work and then exhaustion and burnout.

Party branches should be centres of political activity in the industry or locality in which they work. This means carrying out campaigns, developing contacts with others who are struggling around similar issues in a way that builds each branch into a respected political force in these areas. Campaigns need to be meticulously and collectively planned beforehand – as Lenin said, "measure the cloth seven times before you cut" (*Better Few, But Better*, 1923). Group work should be conducted to look at the campaign from all angles to determine the central task, decide areas of leadership, and divide labour among comrades. Comrades in the branch should learn to coordinate together.

Crucial to making branches more effective is the project of improving party meetings. Key to this is ensuring meetings are well chaired. Comrades given the responsibility of chairing should be disciplined and assertive, making sure to keep order and ensure all members have an opportunity to contribute. Other comrades must ensure they support the chair, refraining from talking over each other. Additionally, meetings should be purposeful.

Branches should meet not only to plan, but also to work together on branch work, run party education sessions, and work on campaigns. The best meetings are conducted regularly, efficiently and in-person to the greatest extent possible.

The Branch Executive leadership should be strong and mature, working closely together. The Executive must lead with stability and calm, foster enthusiasm and show kindness to each other and to the whole branch. The Executive should ensure *everyone* has something to do: a role in campaigns and Party work.

The Executive must also ensure the mutual safety of comrades, and be sensitive to any unsafe behaviour. This means being acutely aware of the importance of the diversity

within the working class. A strong branch structure is absolutely necessary for the growth and health of a branch. It is crucial to retaining membership.

It is also the responsibility of the whole branch to welcome women into the Party. Branches must not be treated as dating pools. Consideration must be given to women having preference for leadership positions. This, since historically they have been excluded from leadership positions, a preferential policy is the necessary corrective action for organising working class women in the Party. They should be afforded the same support that all comrades deserve. If possible, within workload allocations, women should play a role in recruitment, chairing meetings and setting the tone for incoming prospective members.

Building a Party attractive to women is a critical priority for this stage of the class struggle. Our ability to develop a strong and modern Communist Party over the next decade hinges on it. If we cannot mobilise half of the population, we cannot become a Party for the whole working class.

For the Party to achieve its objectives, direction from the CC is essential for large national campaigns, as has been done in the last period. This should not take the place of branches taking up issues according to their own analysis of local or industrial necessity. Branches should plan their activity and report to the CC on their campaigns. This proved very useful during the previous period with campaigns or campaign materials being utilised by the CC and branches.

Campaigns can be of a limited duration such as the Voice referendum campaign but other campaigns require sustained commitment; for instance, 16 years for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, decades for Palestinian State recognition and end to genocide in Gaza, the campaign against the over 60-year blockade on Cuba, 40 years of anti-US Bases struggle, and the 60 years of anti-nuclear weapons struggle.

Commitment to long-term work is something that needs to be developed with new members who come into the Party, often with little experience in campaigning and activism. Whether a campaign is a success or not is not measured solely, or sometimes even partially, in terms of reforms won or material gains achieved. Even if no immediate gains are achieved, a campaign should still be hailed as a success if it results in a raising of class-consciousness on the part of the workers who take part, if it brings previously inactive workers into action, or if it helps to build the labour movement.

Long-term commitment to areas of struggle is important. For example, we can’t be effective if we come into an area of work without building respect and a base of support and consistency of action over a sustained period of time. This is particularly important in building party influence in the trade union movement. Our work should not be seen as seeking to achieve short-term gains but to build long and lasting influence in movements and trade unions.

Deciding on priorities, allocating scarce resources

The allocation of resources is an important issue. To enable the Party to function, we should be able to allocate comrades and provide them with the necessary finances and equipment. This will allow them to carry out their objectives.

The branch plan developed at AGMs is an important resource for solving the problem of membership being too scattered to be able to develop local campaigns. The plan should be realistic, focus on local, workplace or industry issues, and prioritise. Its implementation should be carefully discussed before it is adopted. The branch should use it as a guide for action throughout the year, just as this Political Resolution should be a guide until the next Congress.

All Party members are activists!

Every member must commit time to Party activity. It is important that Party members regularly attend branch meetings and educational sessions. This is crucial for strengthening branches and harmonising branch work. The purpose of these regular meetings should be to expand external campaigns, to turn education into action and planning into reality.

Learning must translate into external working class action. This can take many forms such as being active in your trade union and in targeted social movements as well as increasing visual presence in the city streets through postering which increases potential for recruitment from a larger part of the population.

Careful planning, discussion and agreement on priorities, and flexibility among comrades can all contribute to a locality or area branch becoming effective around important local issues. This can assist branches in coordinating comrades from wide areas becoming active in campaigns and to start building centres of political activity.

We should be aiming to develop *Party members into Party cadres*, professional revolutionaries who can bring branch work and national Party work to another level. Let us develop love for the Party, and service to the people.

SECTION 3:

Campaigning

The CC has previously adopted an approach to provide more specific and detailed guidance to the party branches. Being involved in campaigning is the most effective way to become centres of political activity. A campaign is a planned struggle to achieve a specific objective.

Public campaigning is a powerful forum for the Party to be active and effective in the battle of ideas. Campaigns allow us to bring our explanations, our analysis, and our solutions to the people. We must win support among the people, and build the movement. In the context of campaigns, the Party's ideas are likely to be more effective since they are concrete and specific, directed at a relatively narrow set of problems and attached to actionable proposals.

There are different kinds of campaigns. They can be national – like the campaign for the Voice which the CC adopted in 2023. They can be local – like the campaign against plans for a rubbish dump adopted by one branch. They can be popular campaigns, uniting a wide range of forces – the protests against attacks on workers' rights and coal seam gas are good examples. They may initially not be popular – like an effort by one branch to support the establishment of a halfway house for women prisoners. They can also involve things that working people rely on every day, like campaigns for better or more reliable public transport.

Every local or Party-wide campaign should have a plan. Campaign plans must pay attention to our aims and objectives, what we can realistically hope to achieve, feasibility, relevance to the working class, the Party and the broader political context. Stages and phases in the development of a campaign plan should also identify the desired long-term and short-term victories.

Once preparations are made, the Branch, State Committee or CC can then allocate resources to it. Attention must be paid to communication, especially with National campaigns led by the CC. This should enable a collective leadership approach to be taken. Work must be shared and coordinated. It is important that the task of boosting activity and engagement be approached not simply as a matter of pushing members harder. Rather it is the responsibility of party bodies to build the capacity of their members and develop stronger, more effective and collective methods as a group.

Each stage of a campaign should have a central goal with demands that resonate to win support. Branches are encouraged to adopt an annual campaign based on the core aims of the 15th Congress, i.e. a campaign around unions, peace, or First Nations liberation.

Our campaigns should place demands on corporations, bosses or governments (State, Federal, local) and mobilise people to raise their voices in support of such demands. Campaigns are the main vehicle for the Party branch to become known and recognised as an influential and respected political force in a community, industry or workplace.

Campaigns can utilise a variety of tools and tactics: letters, leaflets, posters, stalls, public meetings, rallies, pickets, demonstrations, badges, radio interviews, letters in

newspapers, industrial actions, and so on. The most effective campaigns will employ a number of these over their duration. Campaigns should be based around various campaign elements taking into account communications, social elements, political, legal, and industrial factors, finances and targets with clear aims and objectives. Campaigns can cover international, national and local issues.

Campaigns are much more than just handing out propaganda. We aim to popularise the CPA's policies and strengthen the links between the Party and the people. Campaigns help to maximise our impact and put the CPA on the map. Where possible they should lead to victories, even if small, that concretely change peoples' lives. These are the campaigns that win trust and respect.

Movement building: working with other organisations

For a branch to become known and influential it must be where the people are. Branches need to give more attention to local organisations and issues of all types, deciding which ones to concentrate on. Branches should allocate members to work in or with the organisation, and giving assistance and guidance to those comrades on a regular basis.

Turning our branches into centres of political activity means many more comrades will have to become active in organisations (most importantly trade unions) concerned with local problems and needs. It is especially vital now for the Party to reach out to multicultural communities, as a growing proportion of the Australian working class is now composed of immigrants, skilled migrants, international students, and refugees from the Global South, especially the Subcontinent.

The key focus of our work in partner organisations is to build and strengthen them and help them to achieve their aims. We will be campaigning for reforms, but that doesn't mean that our perspective is limited. As communists we are introducing more developed ideas and winning support for our position.

In this work it is important that we avoid two common mistakes:

1. We must never adopt a sectarian approach. Our actions show that we are not just in there to push our own barrow and recruit members for our own party. The sectarian approach also means trying to foist unrealistic advanced demands on the organisation thereby narrowing its base of support.

2. The other mistake is to enter an organisation and just drift along with it, hiding the Party's face and never trying to develop the group's political perspective. We often hear of comrades working in groups or community organisations but too often this means that the comrade just happens to be a member of a community, peace, environmental or union committee with little or no Party impact.

When Party members become involved, they must show their value through their commitment and discipline. It means being actively involved, not just turning up. Comrades

must help with setting up and packing up, must engage with other organisers and attendees, not maintaining a cluster where we just talk to each other.

Our Constitution calls on us to help those organisations fulfil their objectives and strengthen the work of the organisation and the influence of the Party among the members of the organisation concerned.

Our way of working should be to unite the political tendencies within a group working around what is the main issue and at the same time arguing for our political viewpoint – but never at the expense of the group or organisation.

Nationally, local groups against AUKUS have been set up and the Party has been there along with other parts of the peace movement and in some cases played an important role in establishing these groups.

The CPA remains committed to international relations and initiatives that prevent and avoid conflicts, interventions, militarisation and threats of war. It is crucial that the working class and the youth commit to the struggle against imperialism and war. It is necessary also from the perspective of the climate crisis. The Party can play a role in joining these dots.

We should set winnable objectives in a campaign, but always point out the limitations of capitalism and the two-party system, and raise the need for alternative political forces to unite and build the movement together.

If we win leadership in an organisation, it has to be because we've played a good role in that group, not because we've dominated that movement with numbers of people and pushed out others who don't have the same views as us. Arrogant, self-serving or destructive behaviour will not favour the Party – we must demonstrate worth in our involvement, character, and what we do.

The importance of unity

Unity is one of the most important questions facing the working class movement as a whole, including our Party.

Communist Party branches must, as a matter of priority, work to draw together all the local forces and organisations in campaigns around issues that are important to local communities. We should strive to unify the working class and ensure *unity* among our own ranks. We must unify our branches and support the CC. Unity is power; "Unity in Action" is our rallying cry. A unified worker's party is absolutely necessary to build unity across the working class.

The power of unity and developing core strength also unleashes the power of diversifying working relationships. Real success in branches has often been their ability to build local alliances, some formal, some informal, with a broad range of groups and individuals. Diverse groups can develop productive working relationships.

Our campaigns have involved and will involve working with people with conservative attitudes, religious people as well as small business people and small farmers. Our work

has managed to advance the thinking and attitudes of those we work alongside. We aim to help others to look at issues in a more progressive way.

United, strong, and effective movements must be built to challenge the power of monopoly capital and to start to make fundamental changes in Australian society. United campaigns at local and community level can make a significant contribution beyond the resolution of local issues by helping to build a united national movement. They can also provide good lessons for Party members in unity building.

Priorities for the coming period

People's campaign for Trade Unions

The trade unions are still the largest organised bodies of the working class despite being diminished in size and scope since the Prices and Incomes Accord introduced by the Hawke government in 1983 with the support of the ACTU.

CPA members must be active in their unions and build the union, in organised and unorganised workplaces. Members can win leadership through establishing trust and respect of their fellow workers and propel themselves to a stronger position in the building of the trade union movement, having greater influence in the policies and direction of the union. The Party must develop the best practice trade union activist skills education and roll it out as a core feature of our Party program.

Low union density must be reversed on the basis of unions prepared to fight employers for better wages and conditions. There are too many unions that base themselves primarily on their allegiance to the ALP. The members should be put first and this politicisation of unions around social democracy has been a part of the negative and downward trend of union density. Unions that fight grow. Unions that don't wither.

CPA members must be trade unionists and promote the development of a campaigning and a struggle-based approach within unions. Likewise, unions should be more than economic fighters dealing with bread and butter issues in workplaces and industries. Unions should also be a voice for peace, the environment, and social justice and fight around political issues that are in the interests of the working class.

Since the attacks on the CFMEU our work in unions has become more urgent. The Party has identified that defending the CFMEU can't just be left to the CFMEU. All workers and unions are on the chopping block under the "administration" approach adopted by the Labor Government which will be escalated under conservative governments. A broad community movement must be built to counter these anti-worker attacks as well as the building of maximum solidarity for the CFMEU. Party members can play an important role in this campaign. This issue transcends the CFMEU administration, and we can expect that right-wing governments will again learn from and extend upon the negative policies adopted by the ALP. The movement to protect workers' organisations must continue despite any outcome in relation to the CFMEU.

Comrades working in unions can push their own unions towards solidarity with the CFMEU. Rank and file support for the CFMEU should be communicated to union

leaderships and fought for. It is important for branches to select, plan and organise their trade union campaigning carefully and effectively as well as for State Committees and the CC to organise trade union fractions or at least have these issues dealt with at Party meetings.

Objectives

- Members should get involved in their unions, work to achieve victories for their fellow workers, and encourage people in their workplaces to become involved in union campaigns.
- Members should look to play leadership roles in unions by working hard and winning trust, gaining confidence and building on the presence and influence of the Party across Australian unions to reconnect unionism and communism, i.e. to find a path forward from mere "trade union consciousness" (Lenin).
- Members should campaign for national level solidarity against attacks on militant unionism.
- Members must continue to campaign for the right to strike and the abolition of employer right to lock out workers.
- Members should campaign for democratic rights within unions and democratic responsibility in union leadership, while not motivated by sectarianism or disruption for disruption's sake.
- Develop international trade union unity through global federations and organisations with industry or trade links.
- Develop class and political consciousness.

Opposing war and imperialism:

The tendency towards imperialism and war is inherent to capitalism. At the outbreak of World War I Lenin saw five fundamental characteristics of imperialism that remain strikingly relevant today: "(1) the concentration of production and capital has developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life; (2) the merging of bank capital with industrial capital, and the creation, on the basis of this 'finance capital', of a financial oligarchy; ((3) the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance; (4) the formation of international monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves, and (5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers is completed." (*Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*)

The new US-led Cold War against China is a threat to peace throughout the world. It leads to the militarisation of entire societies, which will also happen at the expense of democratic spaces for combative trade unions and progressive movements. Moreover, a Cold War swallows up masses of money and what goes into military spending does not go into social spending. In short, it is the working class that pays for the interests of the ruling class. It is worth mentioning that this is a Cold War waged by one side only

– China has resolutely opposed protectionism and militarism, and does not intend to wage war with the West or any other country or region in the world.

Objectives

- The Party's role in this area is to undermine US imperialism by undercutting the 'need for the US alliance' through promotion of a policy and ethos of independence and self-reliance.
- We must campaign to raise awareness about US bases on Australian soil and the role some of these bases have played in, for example, the genocide in Gaza and war in Iraq, against the will of the Australian people; and campaign for the closure of all US bases on Australian soil.
- We must draw attention to how the US alliance negatively affects our lives by spending money as per US interests rather than on genuine Australian security and on our social sector.
- Disengage Australia from support for war and genocide, including the manufacture of weapon parts, campaign to expel Israeli diplomats, and push for a non-aligned foreign policy and peaceful engagement in our region.
- Expose all attempts by the US and its allies, including our own government, to engage in regime change and political meddling in other countries' affairs.
- We must campaign for the decision to go to Parliament before going to war and the removal of Cabinet's power to make that call.

Environment:

Climate change represents an active threat to all of humanity. Even with immediate action, we can expect devastating consequences that are already affecting workers in Australia and around the world. Nevertheless, urgent action must be taken. This reality should not drive us into despair, rather it should compel us to mobilise, for there is much we can do, and many we can save.

The liberation of the working class is directly linked to overcoming climate change. The existence of all life now depends on whether humanity can defeat climate change.

Without the emergence of highly organised, planning-oriented, and scientific socialist governments across the world, defeating climate change becomes so much more difficult. To defeat climate change – not just to achieve low emissions but to maintain biodiversity in the process – requires intense, high levels of planning and organisation on a state level, as well as the broad support of working people.

Too often we are presented with individualist or reformist solutions focused on individual consumer behaviour, when the issues are caused entirely by private corporations and governments. The only effective way to oppose climate change is to build an organised opposition, focused not on liberal notions of 'raising awareness' but rather on organised united front efforts combining the tactics of political pressure, industrial action and direct action.

It is also important to develop a compelling and effective socialist vision for the world economy. Questions of how to transform production in a just, comprehensive and planned way are not spoken about enough, and must be comprehensively studied.

We have seen that highly planned and organised countries and governments are best equipped to overhaul production with low levels of carbon appropriate for atmospheric carbon reduction. Disorganised and chaotic governments, like that of the United States, are either unequipped or unwilling to do anything to comprehensively defeat climate change on a global scale.

Countries that follow climate science; update their systems; embrace the new green advanced productive forces; engage in ecological development; educate the populace to prepare for a just transition; and tie production and work to sustainability are better able to achieve an ecological civilisation of all life on earth.

The Soviet Union pioneered nature conservation, with nature sanctuaries set up by decree two days after taking power in 1917. Stalin continued Lenin's vision of nature preservation into the 1930s. This has advanced significantly with contemporary Marxist-Leninist governance; Cuban reforestation began in the Sierra del Rosario region in 1968, with the revolutionary government working hand-in-hand with local villagers on the plan.

China today is leading the world in Carbon Intensity Reduction schemes, biodiversity preservation, Green Belt construction (to stop desertification), and Solar and Electric Vehicle production.

The climate crisis is the major crisis of capitalism and human civilisation; it is also a major radicalising factor moving people toward action. It follows that environmental work is not isolated into a sector, but is part of work in the broader struggle.

In Australia, the environmental movement is linked to the National Question of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, their national and cultural rights, and continuing connection to land and country. Developments by extractive industries and agriculture have directly led to the destruction of sacred sites and erasure of the Indigenous culture.

In struggling for environmental and climate gains we also find we are involved in a struggle for making progressive gains for and with Australia's national minorities. The Party must develop environmental campaigns tied to union activities.

Objectives

- Build union and workplace campaigns around the impact of climate change on workers. Push for demands such as safe working conditions during heatwaves and fires, protections against unsafe air quality, and union-led plans for renewable energy jobs under public ownership.
- Develop Party capacity by researching climate issues, studying local industries and energy systems, and training comrades with environmental knowledge and organising skills.

- Volunteer in efforts to assist victims of climate-linked natural disasters, where possible under the banner of the Party. Where this is not yet possible, work to build the Party's capacity to carry out such relief in future.
- Use Party media to expose the role of fossil fuel companies, banks, and developers in driving climate destruction, and link this exposure to calls for public ownership and socialist planning of energy and resources.
- Link climate work with the anti-imperialist struggle by showing how militarism and the war industry drive emissions and waste resources that could fund renewable energy and public infrastructure.
- Organise public forums, cultural events, and education sessions on climate issues that connect with working class communities. Use these as opportunities to recruit activists to the Party and to show that only socialism can deliver a safe climate.
- Campaign for environmental internationalism.

Rights for First Nations Peoples: a primary question for Australia

First Nations peoples, their cultural practices and civilisational knowledge continue to grow, survive and thrive but successive Australian governments have failed Aboriginal and Torres Strait people across the country. Despite continuing repression and neglect from Australian governments, First Nations peoples continue to assert and champion their rights, knowledge and cultural practices. One of the foremost concerns of urban and regional First Nations communities is the incarceration and custodial death rates far exceeding the population of First Nations people proportionally.

We have also seen a significant setback in the struggle for Indigenous rights since the failed referendum on the Voice. There have been experiences of increased racism and attacks on First Nations people since the No result in the referendum for a Voice to Parliament. Since the passage of the No vote, acknowledgement and welcome to country ceremonies have been subjected to a reactionary campaign to remove them and any mention of First Nations within Australian political and cultural life.

Conservative forces are attempting to reverse previous gains and remove the struggle for truth-telling and treaty.

A new political force, led by Indigenous groups themselves and which rallies support from across the majority working class, is now the only avenue to change the situation. Only such a united and sincere-minded political force can bring First Nations peoples' 65,000-year-old civilisation to the centre of the idea of a sovereign nation on the continent. Only such a force can push for First Nations' national liberation. This requires treaty, truth-telling, and an end to deaths in custody and police violence against First Nations peoples across the country. The history of the Stolen Generations is not over; First Nations children are being disproportionately removed from their parents, not to mention the ongoing intergenerational trauma from this crime.

Supporting truth-telling is an urgent task today. Telling the truth about First Nations People provides a way forward through the setback and reaction that arose from the No vote. In particular, Communists should support telling the truth about: First Nations'

survival of a colonial and genocidal project that sought to erase them. Australians are often unaware of the nations, languages, cultures, and laws that inhabited the places where they live. Telling the truth about the experiences of First Nations people provides a way forward through the setbacks and reaction that arose from the No vote. Communists must enthusiastically support land rights, the process of truth-telling and development of treaties.

We must address colonialism in Australia. The working class and First Nations in Australia must fight for the dismantling of the colonial system through the transformation of our country into a socialist one. Our vision is a dictatorship of the proletariat and full representation for First Nations people. Aboriginal national liberation begins as a material necessity, and yet is also a cultural and historical question; a question of national identity and nationwide cultural reckoning of how this country will see itself in the future, and how it will make sense of its past.

Efforts must be made to assist in campaigning for land rights and self-determination and to reach out to Indigenous communities and elders where appropriate to join in their struggle. Special attention should be given to Land Councils and First Nations political organisations in the ongoing battle for sovereignty and Country.

Objectives

- Identify and work with local Indigenous organisations that can be constructive allies. Where possible, volunteer time and labour to assist with their day-to-day work, building credibility and progress through consistent effort.
- Make contact with Indigenous community leaders and activists, and build trust by showing up to support political campaigns, rallies, and cultural events.
- Recruit and develop Indigenous members and leaders to the Party, and ensure their voices shape our approach to the national question.
- Develop the Party's capacity to assist Indigenous struggles by offering practical organising support, free services and workplace solidarity, and by covering their struggles in Party media.
- Engage with Indigenous and Blak sovereignty media and use Party media to amplify Indigenous voices and campaigns.
- Link Indigenous struggles with working-class struggles by developing joint campaigns around housing, land, health, education, and workers' rights.
- Raise demands such as treaty, truth-telling, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as tools for agitation and mobilisation, through union campaigns, industrial action, community protests and demonstrations, and through agitation and propaganda.

Crises of capitalism and its contradictions – housing, health, education

Housing crisis:

The Australian housing crisis is a product of a decades-long policy approach to turn houses from homes for people and their families into a means of storing and expanding wealth. The private sector cannot build secure and affordable housing because the objective of property developers is to obtain maximum profits, not meet people's needs. Public housing has been simultaneously privatised and restricted to people with high needs for social support. Previously public housing housed workers and their families. This has seen the hollowing out of public housing, insufficient maintenance to keep public housing liveable, and long wait lists for access to public housing that can be decades in length.

Public housing should be built and managed by the public sector. Using private developers has repeatedly failed the needs of the people.

Housing for the most vulnerable has remained a persistent issue in Australia for decades, and today with increasing costs has become a problem for millions more. There are serious shortages in the supply of suitable housing in cities and rural and regional Australia.

Findings of the 2025 Everybody's Home report revealed four in five renters are in housing stress, home ownership is in decline with mortgage stress adding to the downward trend. Homeless services are unable to meet demand. The report found 74% of those accessing services are women and children. These people are not just statistics, they are workers and families, pensioners, carers and those currently out of work. with homelessness the leading impact of the housing crisis.

The Communist Party of Australia recognises housing as a basic human right, a right enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. In a modern, industrialised and relatively wealthy nation like Australia there is no excuse for homelessness or people being forced to live in sub-standard conditions. Even the idea of a free home provided for by the state should not be beyond discussion in a country like ours.

Objectives

- Work to build and join tenants' organising efforts, with the aim of developing the capacity for collective action for better conditions and stronger protections for renters.
- Recruit members with practical skills and community contacts to strengthen Party capacity to work with public and social housing tenants, and to build their ability to advocate for themselves.
- Build the Party's capacity to provide assistance for the financially vulnerable by mapping local services and where possible campaigning for more services in areas of need.

- Develop a sophisticated analysis of the local economy and housing issues, and use this analysis to guide Party campaigns that meet the real conditions facing working class communities.
- Establish practical campaigns for helping communities, such as housing support initiatives or anti-eviction work, to strengthen the Party's presence and reputation at a local level.
- Run candidates in local government where this can raise the profile of the Party, link community struggles to socialist politics, and oppose both reactionary and reformist political currents.

Health:

General practice forms the foundation of the health care system. Medical staff increasingly report unsustainable workloads, burnout, mounting administrative burdens, and inadequate remuneration. It has become increasingly difficult to find a bulk-billing GP and in some parts of Australia, regional and rural in particular, there are none.

In 2024, 10,000 nurses and midwives walked off the job after a pay dispute with the NSW government, and over 200 specialist psychiatrists in public hospitals resigned in 2025 after a pay dispute with the government. Levels of trust between medical professionals and the government are at an all-time-low.

Pharmaceuticals are another area where urgent reforms are needed. Australia's reliance on overseas-produced medicines is high. Over 90% of its medicines are imported, making it vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and shortages. The shortage of intravenous fluids is an example of this and caused delay in many surgeries.

The government could support and develop off-patent medicines, manufacturing focussed on those medicines most used in Australia. Additionally, combative pharmaceutical trade partners see domestic policy as constraining their potential profits. A domestic industry could reduce these pressures.

A multi-faceted approach is required to address the crisis in the public health system. Funding is critical; this could come from a reduction in the trillion-dollar (over twenty years) defence budget alongside up to $368 billion on nuclear-powered submarines. Also, billions in fossil fuel subsidies cannot be justified and should be diverted to the interests of all Australians.

Australia should be leading the world in healthcare and medical research, but successive Labor and Liberal governments have begun decimating what could have been a strong and expanding healthcare system. A clear example of this is seen in Queensland, with the LNP taking away the ability of trans youth to receive necessary healthcare through the public system.

Objectives

- Recruit health workers into the Party and into militant union activity. Link workplace struggles in health care to the broader fight for socialism.

- Work within health unions by building rank-and-file organisation, encouraging militancy, and connecting members across hospitals and clinics.
- Campaign to resist privatisation, demand better pay and conditions, and to defend the right of health workers to strike.
- Use Party media to expose unsafe and unsuitable conditions in hospitals and other healthcare workplaces, highlighting the consequences for both workers and patients.
- Build Party activity on campuses training future health professionals. Link student struggles in health education with the struggles of workers in hospitals and clinics.
- Real wage rises for nurses; standardised nurse-patient ratios in all hospitals must be increased
- Work to win government policy that guarantees fully public, universal and free healthcare, including mental and oral health funded by redirecting subsidies from private hospitals and by creating an Australian state-owned pharmaceutical industry to provide essential medicines free of charge.
- Campaign for these measures through union campaigns, industrial action, organising protests and demonstrations, and through agitation and propaganda.
- Campaign to stop the incentivisation of private health insurance, and end the rebate.

Education:

There is a significant disparity in educational outcomes in public and private schools throughout Australia across all levels – primary, secondary and tertiary. Funding for education must be prioritised to deliver inclusive, quality, public education for all. Australia should take pride in its public education system and end the degradation now.

The situation in public schools is dire. There is a massive ongoing exodus from public education. Both teachers and students are leaving the system in droves. We live in a country that doesn't have a plan to save primary and secondary public education.

The solution begins with bigger spending, and setting targets to end unequal access to high-quality education due to postcode. It is also a cultural issue. We need ambition and pride in the public system, starting from the top, the government.

Urgent priorities we must support are calls for higher pay, smaller class sizes, quality resources, and better buildings. The guiding principle and aim of the education system must be the provision of free, universal, and secular public education for all children from pre-school to tertiary levels, and to produce a knowledgeable and cultured society with strong critical thinking abilities. There should be revitalisation of bilingual and multilingual education based on community needs including revival of Indigenous languages.

Socialism has historically proven its capacity for success in this area. Socialism treats education as paramount to the progress of the working class, and a crucial ingredient in the fostering of a future socialist society.

Australian universities are in decline due to lack of funding and poor regulation. Their managements are also in the hands of corporate and defence contractors. There is evidence of criminal nepotism and neoliberalism leading to a profligate waste in the sector. Yet the government does nothing. Money should be spent on staff and students and expanding courses and support, not on consulting firms, car parks, new impractical buildings, business-class travel for management higher-ups, and even in one case, a private yacht. Vice Chancellors should not be making million-dollar salaries. Students and staff should retain the right to protest, to put up posters, and to challenge the corporate dictatorship in universities.

Objectives

- Work to build progressive student and youth organisations that link the struggle for education with the broader fight for socialism.
- Work to recruit staff and workers on school, TAFE, and university campuses, and strengthen ties between students and education workers through campaigns and union activity.
- Support and work within teachers' unions to resist cuts to education and defend the rights of workers and students.
- Develop the Party's capacity to attract and recruit students by running events, forums, and cultural activities that are accessible and relevant to student life.
- Aim to bring students into the Party by offering support to working students and prioritising engagement that builds class struggle, rather than being distracted by student representative government programs unless involvement serves broader organisational goals.
- Push for government policy that guarantees free, public, secular, and universal education at all levels, and redirects resources away from private schools into public education through union campaigns, industrial action, organising protests and demonstrations, and through agitation and propaganda.
- Campaign for free before and after school programs catered for in public schools.
- Free breakfasts and lunches to be provided at schools.

International solidarity

A new International is emerging which is seeing renewed growth in Communist and Workers' Parties around the world. Decades on, the idea and reality of communism has undeniably survived the fall of the Soviet Union and is now entering an era of reconstruction. Some of these new forces are based on better and more clear-sighted materialist analysis of the international relations situation and the nature of Western imperialism in the contemporary era.

Many forces in the IMCWP (International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties) are experiencing moderate to rapid growth through local campaigns and localised initiatives.

In the contemporary environment it has become necessary for the working class and communist movement to grasp an understanding of local and international campaigns. The communist movement is never an either-or, but a both-and: we need to step up both international and local campaigns.

We have seen for instance how Palestinian and First Nations activists have drawn similarities between their movements, and we have seen how the cost-of-living crisis, a crisis brought about by capitalist profit, is not experienced in any one country alone; the working class around the world is experiencing acute cost-of-living and housing crises, even and especially in countries whose governments on the world stage are capitalist and imperialist, like the United States, the UK and Australia.

An international working class coalition is essential; with the goal of establishing dominant workers' or peoples' power. In short, a coalition to overthrow the capitalist system by replacing it with a socialist system, a workers' government firmly on the socialist road. Leadership by workers for workers is positive, no matter in which country or what stage of development it is at.

To strive for this aim is impossible without drawing together local and international campaigns, and stepping up solidarity with existing socialist countries. It requires the support of national liberation movements that serve the interests of the local working class and progressive forces.

The international working class must firmly unite around the clear-sighted goal of ending capitalism and imperialism, in an era when capitalist states have never been more ruthless, both to the Third World, *and* to their own citizens.

We recognise that Australia not only has an exploited working class internally, but also plays a crucial role in the global imperialist order and is a colonial entity built upon the expropriation of the First Nations. It is crucial that we recognise this dual character of the Australian state. We must struggle to abolish the colonial regime at home to abolish imperialism overseas. This is a primary task of the Australian working class.

Capitalism knows no boundaries – our solidarity effort must unite around the international goal to bypass, subdue and overthrow it.

Objectives

- Cuba: expose and condemn the illegal Blockade, explain and clarify the function of US sanctions and win the public and Australian government to non-cooperation with US sanctions.
- Palestine: continue the campaign for an independent Palestinian state and against Australia's complicity in Israel's occupation and genocide.
- DPRK: stand in solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for an end to sanctions and threat of the resumption of war on the Korean peninsula.
- Continue to campaign for a peaceful and friendly relationship between Australia and China, as well as other major trading partners.

- Promote genuine proletarian internationalism, and strive to ensure that support for the concrete progress of socialist countries is not a minority position on the left, but a respected and majority position among progressives.
- Educate comrades and the general public about the importance of establishing workers' power in government and why a working class led government is both good and necessary.

Building a progressive electoral alternative for the working class

Australia needs a socialist society with an economy democratically planned by the working class. An economy beholden to the working class is not just concerned with rebuilding Australia's productive forces – it is also about building an economy suited to our national conditions.

Capitalism will never deliver on the false premise that naturally and in time it will bring positive changes for people and in our workplaces. The levers of the state and of production must be held by the people. It is becoming evident that none of this is possible without *public ownership on a large scale*. More and more it is becoming evident that this is impossible to achieve without a Party that is managed by the workers and acts solely in the interests of the people.

We need to create an economic system that works for all people, an economic system run by a force that knows the people well; a people-led and worker-managed economy.

This struggle requires the working class to organise itself independently, without relying on capitalist parties or on the institutions that exist to protect the interests of the wealthy. This struggle is at an early stage of development.

Part of our current struggle is to build a progressive electoral alternative that puts the majority working class on the ballot box; sending ranks from the working class to Parliament, so that the democratic process can include voices from the majority, not just professional politicians who are out of touch with the people. This will require unity among left and progressive groups around a platform based on areas of common agreement. Differences can be dealt with within the various groups and should not become the vehicle for failure.

Therefore, the Communist Party of Australia is committed to using every tool available, including elections, as a platform to spread our message and to challenge three dangers: those who want only small reforms within the system; those who defend the capitalist system; and those on the far right who seek to divide and weaken the workers. At the same time, we recognise that the Party's mission of transforming Australia from capitalism to socialism, as set out in our Constitution, cannot be achieved through elections or gradual reforms alone.

Building influence through elections is only one part of the broader struggle. Our larger task is to strengthen the working class movement in every field of life, so that we create both the practical experience and the clear political understanding needed to establish a genuine socialist government. This will provide a practical basis for the construction of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Objectives

- Strengthen the ideological and political resilience of Party cadres to prepare for popular and united front work.
- Develop and get involved in campaigns which can draw together broad parts of the community.
- Where possible, develop networks and work alongside other groups or political movements while ensuring the focus is kept on the shortcomings of the current two-party system and the corporate monopoly.
- Do the ground work to build multicultural, multi-gendered, multi-generational coalitions on the left to unite the most advanced sections of the working class.
- Approach action not as an end in itself, but as a means to strengthen the Party's capacity, expand its influence, and prepare the ground for greater struggles ahead.

CALL TO ACTION PLAN

We campaign for:

- **An economy planned by and built for the majority of the people.**

- **First Nations justice and land rights:**

  Support for First Nations people in their struggle for truth-telling, treaty, land rights, and self-determination, as the core foundation for lasting sovereignty on the continent, and to honour their more than 65,000 years of continuing civilisation. The liberation of the working class and the liberation of First Nations peoples are inseparable, and both are necessary to build a socialist future.

- **Public housing**

  Call for an end to the cost-of-living and housing crises through campaigns for state-built public housing on a large-scale. This campaign requires a large union argument and push. Unionists need to clearly state the necessity for public housing and should be used to build it.

- **Diverse membership**

  Building a working class, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic Communist Party with committed long-term members and diverse gender representation within Party membership and branch leadership.

- **Unions and building unity**

  Unions are essential to building working class unity. The establishment of a popular/United Front of working class, trade union, First Nations, migrant, feminist, queer, and community groups that can take the challenge to the political duopoly of the Labor and Coalition parties and introduce a new, people-centred political landscape. Party cadre should be active in unions and united front activity.

- **Climate**

  The Party should work for climate justice, a just transition from primarily fossil fuels to a biodiverse, sustainable future for working people. We are for the development of productive forces which serve working people by provision of quality jobs. We are against the 'rights' of capitalist organisations to destroy our environment for profit, and against a 'green imperialism' whereby the adoption of advanced technologies at home is the excuse for destruction of countries overseas.

- **Peace and Opposing Imperialism**

  Work in mass movements for peace and for tearing up the AUKUS agreement. For an end to US military bases on this continent and to commence a foreign policy of non-alignment, peace and cooperation with all nations, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **A free and independent media**

  To end the stranglehold of the reactionary and capital-centric narrative in Australian media by offering a viable alternative to national media and journalism. As such, we must renew our efforts to develop a unified communication strategy for the CPA, centred around a national media network with a vibrant social media and a modern public-facing presence.

- **Public education**

  Ending public funding of private schools and ensuring that education is evenly distributed across the country, rather than quality being determined by post code.

  We also call for the end the austerity and neoliberal rot in the higher education/vocation sector by expanding funding commensurate with population growth.

- **Public health**

  Will campaign for universal and free healthcare including mental health, abolish the commercialisation of health, advance free dental and mental health care, and expand the building of public hospitals and medical research facilities according to need. It should be built evenly throughout the country, so as not to neglect outer suburbs or regional and remote areas.

- **Public Transportation**

  We will campaign for development of public transportation infrastructure to advance the struggle against climate change, improve economic conditions and further democratic participation.

Onward for a Socialist future

We seek all opportunities to put forward our policies based on the solid foundations of socialism, communism, and Marxism-Leninism. In a world gripped by crisis, we declare that the future will not be won by lofty words but by conscious struggle.

We must stand as a disciplined force, uniting the working class and directing its energy toward victory. We face hardship, sacrifice, and unrelenting opposition, yet we do not flinch.

Our path is clear: to organise, to fight, to seize every opening until the banner of communism is raised over a world remade. This is not a dream but a task, and it is ours to fulfil.