



THE DRAFT FIGHTING PROGRAM

OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA
(MARXIST-LENINIST)



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Draft Fighting Program of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)

The Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) offers this Fighting Program to empower the people's struggles against corporate attacks on our livelihood, our rights and the environment, in the fight for an independent and socialist Australia.

The Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) acknowledges Australia's First Peoples as the original custodians and defenders of this country and their culture which is recognised as the oldest continuous culture on the planet. We acknowledge that the First Peoples never ceded the sovereignty of their country. They assert it every day of their lives in all they do. First Peoples are in the forefront

of the fight to free Australia from imperialist domination. We stand in solidarity with their long fight.

Australia's natural resources and the environment, the entire country, was stolen from Australia's First Peoples by the British colonial invasion and dispossession of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and continues today under the imperialist domination of this country.

Who creates and who owns the wealth of this country?

Australia is a country of immense wealth and profits created from its natural resources and by the labour of millions of workers in cities and regions.

Australia has a capitalist economy that produces solely for profit. Workers collectively create all the profit which the capitalist class of multinational and local corporations and banks keep for themselves. There is no such thing as “a fair wage” under capitalism. Even if some workers are paid higher wages they are still exploited by the capitalist class who get the profits from the surplus value that these workers produce – unpaid wages.

Working people produce all the wealth and keep industries and our services running.

There’s more than enough to guarantee all people well paid secure jobs and secure incomes, a decent standard of living, affordable housing, high quality free public health, aged care and social services, education and public transport.

Working people have the knowledge, skills and creativity to build and run a society that ends

the present plunder of the natural environment and the exploitation of people. And instead innovates and develops technology, science and culture to benefit people and the environment. A society that will promote a culture and values of collective and individual social and environmental responsibility and well-being. That is the opposite of the present brutal competition and selfish individualism created by the capitalist economic system.

Australia has the resources and the technology to minimise and reverse climate change, protect the natural environment and develop renewable energy and sustainable jobs.

1 Yet, how is it that the immense wealth and profits created by the labour of millions of Australian workers ends up in the pockets of a handful of multinational corporations and the off-shore accounts of the super-rich? At the same time, millions of workers are struggling under the burden of the rising cost of living, intensified exploitation at work, insecure and low-paid jobs, growing debt and financial stress, and housing insecurity.

How is it that with all the wealth and profit generated in this country, more and more people are living on

or below the poverty line and tens of thousands are homeless?

2 Why are workers' wages going backwards at the same time as the profits of multinational corporations and banks are soaring?

3 Why are the hard-won rights of workers and unions to fight for better wages, conditions and job security being wiped out? The ability to strike, to organise on the job, and to protest in the streets are steadily being eroded by the State and Federal governments of both major parties, the courts and the police opening the way for further class repression.

People's democratic rights to speak out, expose and organise against the ruling class injustices, oppression and lies are whittled away as a sign of a trend to fascism.

At the same time there's open slather for corporations and banks to exploit and rip-off workers, crush unions, plunder the environment and suppress the struggles of ordinary people.

4 How is it that multinational corporations – ExxonMobil, Chevron, John Holland, Boral, Citibank, Lockheed Martin, to name just a few - pay little or no tax at all

after making billions off the backs of workers and our natural resources?

5 We were promised lower costs and better services if public health, education, housing, transport, utilities and infrastructure, and other community services were privatised. Yet, how come people are dying on hospital waiting lists, hospitals are overcrowded and there are not enough beds? Why is so little spent on government schools, TAFEs and public universities, while parents struggle to pay basic education costs? Why are governments privatising and cutting spending on public housing at the same time as 116,000 people were homeless on Census night and many others are couch surfing with friends and relatives? And what about the rocketing high prices of privatised power, water and public transport?

At the same time, the bank balances of profit bloated private corporations boom.

6 Why are the mega-profits of multinational fossil fuel and agri-business corporations protected? Isn't urgent action needed to limit and reverse climate change and environmental degradation? In the world's driest inhabitant continent, our precious rivers, lakes and underground aquifers, on which

local communities and the eco-system depend, are diverted to profit-driven mining, fracking, cotton and rice growing corporations.

Why are profit-hungry foreign and local mining corporations and banks allowed to destroy the livelihoods of struggling farmers, loot the natural environment and send the profits out of the country?

7 Why are First Peoples of this continent and its islands denied a veto against mining or fracking on their own lands, except in the Northern Territory where divide and conquer is used instead? Why do laws and state officials imprison, abuse and drive so many young people to take their own lives? Why are there so many deaths in custody of First Peoples? Why are there so many First Peoples homeless? Why are there so many First Peoples and communities, living in poverty and conditions worse than in many developing countries? Who drives the policies that continue to remove Aboriginal children from their families? Who designed the Community Development Program that enslaves Aboriginal workers? Or Basics Cards which humiliate and impoverish them? Or turn off water supplies and demolish communities?

Above all, why are First Peoples

denied control of their own affairs? Australia's First Peoples never ceded their sovereignty. For 230 years of resistance and struggle against colonisation they have continued their fight for self-determination. They are recreating their own inter-clan treaties in accordance with their Law and custom to strengthen unity.

8 Imperialist globalisation drives intensified exploitation of workers and directs the movement of the lowest paid workers around the world. Imperialism demands more global plunder of natural resources and the environment, slashing of corporate tax rates, and the allocation of more resources and ordinary people's taxes for their imperialist wars. The competition between imperialist powers for control of resources and markets foments wars, proxy-wars, coups, sanctions and increasing international tensions.

9 Why doesn't Australia have an independent and peaceful foreign policy that most Australian people want? Why are the two main parliamentary parties subservient to US demands, assisting and rubber stamping its imperialist wars, invasions, occupations, interference and coups against sovereign countries that refuse to bend to imperialists' control?

Why do the two main parliamentary parties, act as U.S. deputy sheriff, dutifully complying with US orders, turning Australia into a US military base and a launching pad for its imperialist wars? Australia hosts thousands of US marines in Darwin and major US military intelligence bases at Pine Gap in Alice Springs and North West Cape in Western Australia that threaten Australia's peace, security and sovereignty.

Why do Australian governments spend billions of ordinary people's taxes on multinationals' offensive weapons and U.S. wars of aggression, instead of funding public health, education, public transport, public housing and services for our communities?

Australia's foreign policies, military industries and armed forces are deeply enmeshed in the US imperialist military economy and political system. We are a vassal state of the US.

What are the costs of US-Australia alliance to the people of Australia economically, socially, politically, culturally, environmentally? And what does it mean to our sovereignty?

10 What and who is behind the rise of white supremacy and racism? How is the rise of neo-

fascism and racism connected to the economic crisis of capitalism, imperialist wars and imperialist globalisation that impoverish, alienate and marginalise the people? Is it not the politicians and media monopolies and promoters of imperialist globalisation who fuel hatred, scapegoat refugees, Asian, African and Muslim people to divert attention from capitalism and imperialism, which is the real cause of unemployment and the growing economic hardship for working people? Is it not big business and imperialist globalisation that demand the increased exploitation and movement of the lowest paid workers around the world?

Who holds the power and controls Australia?

The most important sectors of Australia's economy and centres of political power are controlled by multinational corporations, mainly from the U.S, and a few local monopolies and banks. They set the economic, industrial, financial and social policies of this country, solely to exploit for their own profiteering.

The Business Council of Australia (BCA) is the local headquarters of the most powerful multinational and local corporations. It drafts imperialism's global agenda

in Australia. The BCA tries to manufacture and promote a softer image of capitalism and imperialism as tactics to divide and conquer the people. It shapes the country's economic and industrial policies and pressures parliaments and governments to implement them. It relentlessly pushes privatisation, industrial laws like the ABCC, the courts and tribunals like the Fair Work Commission and the Registered Organisations Commission, all to crush unions. Its agenda is casualisation, slashed penalty rates, outsourced labour and suppressed wages and conditions, cutting public spending to community and public services.

This same ruling class of multinational corporations and banks is imposing the imperialist globalisation that's almost destroyed Australia's manufacturing, shipping and maritime industries and jobs.

The Business Council of Australia is the core of the capitalist ruling class in Australia. Its members own and control the wealth and power in this country and manage the system of capitalism and imperialist domination.

The Minerals Council of Australia and the Murdoch media monopoly are amongst the most ruthless and

reactionary sections of the ruling class in Australia. They are the naked face of imperialism in Australia.

On the other side is the overwhelming majority of the population, the working class, professionals, small business people, family farmers, the unemployed. It is only the united and mobilised people who can defeat exploitation, and stop the march to imperialist war and further repression.

These class contradictions between labour and capital are fundamental to the economic system of capitalism and imperialism. These class contradictions and conflicts can never be resolved in the interest of ordinary people while capitalism exists. The struggle between the two main classes, workers and capitalists, never ceases. No amount of fiddling on the edges of the system or parliament will end the exploitation and relentless attacks on the people. The system must be overthrown and replaced.

Building alternative people's power

To build and advance the people's mass movement for fundamental change the people have to organise and take control of our own independent organisations

in workplaces, communities, unions, schools, neighbourhoods, environment groups, social and sports clubs and in cultural organisations fighting for the interests of the people.

As the economic and political crisis of capitalism and imperialism intensifies and attacks on the people escalate, struggle will sharpen and seemingly separate and isolated issues and struggles will come together in a broad people's democratic mass movement with a common agenda for fundamental change. Only a people's movement and struggle on the ground, independent of parliament and parliamentary political parties, can empower the working class and the people. Only the strength of a mass movement can defend the people and bring about real change.

This is why we call for an independent working class agenda and movement embraced by workers, fighting unions, community organisations, environment, peace and anti-war groups around which the working class can mobilise and unite the people and lead the fight.

Working class demands and mass action based in workplaces and communities, and not tied to parliamentary parties and reliance

on parliament, has enormous capacity and power to organise, unite and mobilise the working class and communities to fight back the big business assault and advance the interests of all working people.

The independent working class agenda will build broad unity and mobilise the working class, city and rural communities, farmers and environmentalists. It will unite people from all walks of life who are under attack by the capitalist economic crisis.

An independent working class agenda and movement will strengthen people's capacity to fight, make some immediate gains and push back attacks by multinational corporations and monopoly capital. Major victories have always come on waves of militant struggle on the job, in communities and in the streets.

The establishment of people's own independent mass organisations, struggles and genuine democratic structures and organs will inspire and empower working people to continue the anti-imperialist independence struggle to socialism.

Uniting and empowering the people

The Fighting Program of the CPA (M-L) arises from the reality of economic, political and military domination of Australia by imperialism and people's struggles and resistance to it.

It fights for the immediate and long-term interests and democratic rights of people, and strengthens working people's organisations and struggles against the attacks and plunder by imperialism and its agents in parliament and the capitalist courts.

The fight to free Australia from imperialist domination and place key industries in the hands of the people flows into the struggle for an independent and socialist Australia led by the working class.

Long experience repeatedly shows that parliament and its main political parties will not solve the many problems working people and the country are facing.

Neither parliament nor the ALP in power can or will ever challenge the capitalist system and the corporate ownership of this country's wealth and the power of capital. Capitalism only ever works against the ordinary people and the environment.

It's clear that the only real alternative for the working people of the world is to replace capitalism, to be able to live decent lives and for earth to survive.

Only the working class can lead a united people's movement capable of organising and mobilising the vast majority of Australian people to resist, to defy and to overthrow imperialist domination.

Fighting Program of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)

Our rallying call is organise and build a powerful and united people's movement to fight for Australian independence and socialism. These fighting demands have emerged from people's struggle in current conditions. Their implementation requires enormous effort to unite, organise and mobilise the people and the working class in particular. Our Party members place great importance on mass work. In other words this means immersing ourselves among the masses. It means listening and learning from the people. It means active involvement in people's struggles and having deep connections with the people and their struggles, to develop a full understanding of concrete conditions.

Nationalise Multinational Corporations and Use the Profits to Serve the People

- Nationalise Australia's key industries – mining and resources; power and water; maritime, shipping and shipping industries; telecommunications; information technology; public transport; banking and finance, military and defence industries
- Nationalise to empower the workers and use profits to benefit all working people; to pay reparations to First Peoples, to support improved wages, safety and conditions for working people, to fund public education, health, transport, housing, community services, child care and aged care services, repair and strengthen the natural environment and to build an independent, sustainable economy and industries

First Peoples

- Relations based on acknowledgement that sovereignty was never ceded and comes out from, and is held in, Country
- Reparations, repatriation and compensation for past, present, and future loss to Peoples and Country to strengthen culture including language and to create economic independence and healthy communities
- End corporate divide, conquer and oppression of First Peoples
- Right to veto all unwanted economic activity in their Lands

Workers' Rights

- Organise and mobilise the working class and communities to resist and defy the ABCC, and anti-union, anti-worker laws
- Abolish the ABCC
- Rights to strike, to organise and to act in solidarity with all workers and communities in struggle for a better life
- Rights to organise and fight in workplaces, communities and in the streets
- Higher wages, workplace safety, better conditions and a guaranteed decent and secure standard of living for all workers
- Fight for migrant workers' rights and conditions
- Workers, unions and communities united and working together in struggle for social justice, public housing, people's services, protection of the environment and against imperialist wars

People's Democratic Rights

- Rights for workers and communities to protest against injustices and oppression, racism and discrimination
- Oppose anti-democratic laws and resist the trend to fascism in all its disguises
- Oppose the erosion of democratic rights under the guise of the "war on terror" and "national security"

Education

- Free universal, secular education from early childhood to tertiary level
- End public funding of private education
- Fund public education and develop curriculum to meet all students' needs
- Reinstate TAFE
- Keep corporations and foreign imperialist interference out of education

Health

- Increase funding of public health care and hospitals
- Reverse privatisation of hospitals and services
- End public funding of private hospitals and health care
- Reinstate and expand Medicare for all services

Community and Social Services

- Increase funding for public community services – child care, community health, disability, mental health and aged care
- End privatisation of community services
- Increase all pensions and benefits
- Fund affordable, secure and decent housing for all
- Bring social services and community services back into public ownership
- End profiteering in essential services
- Reduce high cost of power, water and services

Building an Independent Economy

- Build an independent, self-reliant and sustainable economy, including agriculture, value added and manufacturing industries
- Protect local jobs
- Fund research and development into science, technology and sustainable industries
- Fund and promote people's culture

Environment and Climate Change

- Immediate action to limit and reverse climate change
- Develop alternative sustainable industries and jobs transitioning from fossil fuel to renewables
- Ban coal seam gas mining and gas exports
- Phase out cotton and rice growing
- Phase out thermal coal mining and coal fired power stations
- Develop alternatives to coking coal for steel production

Women's Rights

- Equal pay for equal work and work of equal value
- Increase Early Childhood Educators' pay
- Increase Single Parents' Benefits
- Prioritise and substantially increase government funding for affordable government and community run child care and kindergartens
- Priority funding for emergency housing and support services for women and children living in or fleeing domestic violence
- Implement and enforce anti-discrimination legislation across society
- Government funded mandatory education programs and practices in schools, workplaces and communities promoting equality and respect for girls and women and condemning abuse, sexism and violence against women
- Ban commercial profit-driven culture that commodifies women as sex objects, domestic slaves and subservient to men

An Anti-Imperialist Independent Foreign Policy

- Independent Australian foreign policy from all big powers
- Withdraw from the US-Australia military alliance
- Remove all foreign military bases and troops
- No involvement or support for imperialist wars
- Build government owned sovereign self-defence of Australia, including government defence industries for self-defence, people's civil defence, coastal and air defence
- End public funding of multinational weapons' manufacturers and the military-industrial complex
- Solidarity with people's struggles against imperialism and oppression in other countries
- Promote Fair Trade that upholds the sovereignty of countries, benefits the people and protects the environment



Information about the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) can be found at www.cpaml.org, contact info@cpaml.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/vanguard.cpaml

Twitter www.twitter.com/cpaml_vanguard

Link to the **General Program of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist)** www.cpaml.org/programme.php The General Program of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) sets out the Party's ideological standpoint, basic aims, analysis and revolutionary strategy.



This version of the Fighting Program of the CPA (M-L) is current as of November 2019. Updates will be made from time to time as circumstances and developments dictate. Please see website, www.cpaml.org/demands.php for updated versions. info@cpaml.org