

No return to White Australia



STOP THIS DISGUSTING RACIST

RACISM

Debunking Pauline
Hanson's racist lies

UNIONS

Victorian teachers
take the fight to Labor

AI

Data centres, imperialism
and climate disaster

Solidarity WHAT WE STAND FOR

Capitalism is a system of crisis and war

Capitalism is a system of competition, crisis, and war based on exploitation of workers, producing for profit not human needs. Although workers create society's wealth, they have no control over production or distribution. Through environmental degradation and climate change capitalism has become a threat to humanity's future and life on earth.

Workers power and socialism

The working class has the power to challenge the existing system and create a better world. We stand for socialism, a society based on democratically elected workers councils which would control and plan the economy to produce for human need. The authoritarian states like Russia and China are not socialist but forms of state capitalism where workers have no power.

What about elections and parliament?

Parliament, the army, the police and the courts are institutions of the capitalist state that maintain the dominance of the ruling class over the rest of society. The capitalist state cannot be taken over and used by the working class, it must be smashed. Workers need to create their own state based on workers councils.

While parliament can be a platform for socialists, real change doesn't come through parliament. It is won by mass action in strikes, protests and demonstrations.

We are internationalists

The struggle for socialism has no national boundaries. We oppose everything that turns workers from one country against those from another; we campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose borders and immigration controls, and welcome migrants and refugees.

We oppose imperialism and support all

genuine national liberation struggles. We oppose Australian nationalism.

Australia is an imperialist power established through genocide on stolen Indigenous land. We support the continuing struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for land, justice and self-determination.

Oppression and liberation

We oppose sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia. We fight against all forms of discrimination and the oppression of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. We oppose discrimination against Muslims and people from the Middle East.

Linking up the struggles

We are active building movements for environmental and social change and economic equality. We are active in our unions and work to build the organisation and self-confidence of the rank and file. We work to bring activists together to strengthen each movement and build a common struggle against capitalism.

Educate, agitate, organise

Socialism cannot be introduced from above, by parliament or parties. The emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class itself.

Solidarity is an organisation of activists, anti-capitalists and revolutionary socialists committed to socialism from below. We are part of the International Socialist Tendency.

A democratic revolutionary party is necessary to deepen resistance to capitalism and to build a movement to overthrow the system. Solidarity members are beginning to build such a party out of today's struggles against the system.

SOLIDARITY MEETINGS AND BRANCHES

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Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday
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Things they say

I am not going to let them [Iran] charge. If anybody is going to charge, we'll charge We have total control.

Donald Trump, after claiming yet again that Iran wants a deal.

As long as the maritime siege and US actions continue, nothing significant will change in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei.

They'll never build a nuclear weapon under our deal, But I don't know if we're going to have a deal.

Donald Trump at the NATO summit on the art of the deal

This is a woman that's done it tough ... and you think that she's come with a silver spoon? She didn't

Pauline Hanson defends her connection to Australia's richest person Gina Rinehart, who inherited her father's company Hancock Prospecting, worth \$178 million in today's money

Might have let their enthusiasm get the better of their judgment

Tony Abbott plays down NSW ICAC's investigation of illegal developer donations to a right-wing faction of the NSW Liberals

Some other people these days call themselves anti-Zionists... but they're obviously not keep Judaism as it's been practised for thousands of years

Robert Gregory of the far right Australian Jewish Association tells the Royal Commission into antisemitism that support for Israel, a state that has existed for 78 years, is the basis of the "entire Jewish religion"

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Albanese and US hypocrisy over China's Pacific missile launch

By Casey Forsyth and Liam McMullen

MEDIA DELIRIUM followed China's test launch of a nuclear capable inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) across the Pacific.

In the Nine papers on 7 July China hawk Peter Hartcher wrote the test "was an offence against the entire Indo-Pacific". Albanese called the missile test "destabilising", "escalatory" and "provocative".

This is the height of hypocrisy. The US has conducted more than 80 nuclear-capable missile tests across the Pacific Ocean since 2000. In the past two years alone it launched four nuclear-capable ICBM tests into the Marshall Islands.

This is only the second time China has fired a ballistic missile into the Pacific since 1980.

China's rapid military build-up is not making the Pacific any safer. But this arms race is a direct consequence of US imperial aggression.

China first developed nuclear weapons in response to US threats of a nuclear attack against it—first during the Korean war in 1953, and again in 1955 and 1958. China wants to develop submarine-launched missiles like those it tested to be able to retaliate in the event of a US nuclear attack on the Chinese mainland. This is meant to be a deterrent against a US nuclear strike.

The rise of China threatens US dominance over the Pacific.

Labor is doing its utmost to boost

Australia's top paid CEO on \$48 million

AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST paid CEO made \$48 million in the 2025 financial year, almost 500 times the average full-time wage.

Chris Hulls, now living in the US, is executive chairman of Life360, a software and GPS services company. The average CEO pay for the top 100 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange came in at just over \$6 million.

The rest of the top five, ResMed's Mick Farrell, New Corp's Robert Thomson, Sigma Healthcare's Vikesh Ramsunder and Macquarie's Shemara Wikramanayake, all pocketed more than \$30 million.



the US, undertaking the biggest peacetime increase in military spending in Australian history, overseeing increasing integration with US military forces and an expansion of US bases here.

Australia no friend to Pacific

Meanwhile, Labor is engaging in what some senior officials have described as a "daily knife fight" with China in the south Pacific.

China's missile test came just hours after Albanese signed the new "Ocean of Peace" defence agreement with Fiji. It follows a deal with Vanuatu signed in June and similar deals with Tuvalu, Nauru and PNG, while others are in the works with Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

These deals are designed to prevent any Chinese military or security presence.

But Australia is not acting as a friend to the Pacific. Australia supports US militarism because it shares an interest in resisting China's influence in a region that Australia has long seen as its exclusive domain to exploit and plunder.

It is Australia and the US which bear primary responsibility for escalating an unprecedented arms race with China, driving us closer to war in our region.

Indigenous groups condemn NT government on child protection

THE NT Liberal government has forced through new child protection laws that weaken the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

The principle is designed to ensure Indigenous children maintain connections to their family, community and culture when they are removed from their homes.

This is vital considering 74 per cent of Indigenous children in out of home care in the NT are currently placed with non-Indigenous carers.

Aboriginal organisations say weakening the principle is no answer to the crisis in child protection. The government has refused to increase funding to address serious under-resourcing and lack of staff in child protection and other services. "If the NT Government is serious about child safety, it should invest in First Peoples-led solutions, family support and culturally safe care," Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss said.

Albanese dines with 25-year-old millionaire

ANTHONY ALBANESE joined a private dinner at the lavish Point Piper mansion "Mandalay" on 20 July organised by 25-year-old Felix Lee, the son of wealthy property developers. The mansion, described as Sydney's most expensive home when it sold in 2015, went for \$40 million.

Lee secured the Prime Minister's attendance with the promise of a \$1 million donation to Labor, a source told the Financial Review. Others claimed the party would receive a more modest \$100,000 for the PM's time.

Also attending were bankers including Commonwealth Bank CEO Matt Comyn, former Victorian Premier Dan Andrews, multi-millionaire Lowes heir Joshua Penn and retired banking bosses from Commonwealth Bank David Murray and Antony Shaw from HSBC.

Lee is described as an investor who manages family funds through the Lee family office. He took over following his father's investigation by the ATO over claims he deceived authorities in funnelling huge amounts of money from China into Australia to buy property and spend on gambling. He put an astounding \$2.2 billion through Sydney's The Star casino over the course of 15 years. The ATO froze family assets to recover \$272.9 million in tax in 2021.

Bisalloy now helping make US nuclear subs

BISALLOY STEEL in Wollongong has won a contract to produce high-grade steel for US nuclear submarines. The company already supplies armoured steel to Israeli weapons firms including Rafael. Palestine activists have repeatedly picketed the plant to demand an end to its exports to Israel's arms economy.

Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy called the \$2.8 million purchase a "significant AUKUS milestone" saying it was "the first time" that "Australian-made steel will be used in the construction of US Virginia-class submarines".

It will see the company producing submarine-grade HY80 steel through special processing and heat treatment of steel from BlueScope.

EDITORIAL

Fighting racism and anti-worker agenda vital to stop One Nation

PAULINE HANSON'S popularity may have slipped a little. Her appalling comments that domestic violence is a "two-way street", blaming women and saying they just "shouldn't put up with it" drew outrage. Hanson is a long-time supporter of "men's rights" activists and has previously accused women of using domestic violence "as a weapon" in custody disputes in the Family Court.

But One Nation's support remains disturbingly high. Newpoll still has the party on 30 per cent of the vote nationally, level with Labor.

A Redbridge poll of 6500 people for Victorian Trades Hall Council showed the party could win up to 19 seats at November's state election. This would likely see the Liberals forming a coalition with One Nation to take government.

Panicked, Victorian Labor has installed a new leader, Ben Carroll. But Carroll is taking Labor further to the right.

Anthony Albanese says Labor is the only "mainstream" party capable of stopping One Nation. But it is precisely his right-wing, middle-of-the-road approach that is feeding its rise. Labor has presided over declining living standards, rising rents and obscene housing prices.

And Labor is conceding to One Nation's lies over immigration and fear-mongering over refugees. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke is reportedly preparing a press club speech restricting asylum seekers' work rights and changing migration settings. Hanson is setting the agenda for mainstream politics.

Hanson's true colours were on show as she recently toured Europe. In Britain she called for "mass deportations" and spouted racist lies about Muslims.

On Seven's *Spotlight* program Hanson endorsed the "remigration" plans of far-right party Reform UK, which wants to deport two million people from the UK, saying "I love it" and was "very much on the same page". She later said she wanted to deport immigrants who were unlawfully in Australia.

Remigration is the slogan of European Nazis that has been taken up by March for Australia, which is led by openly fascist sympathisers of the former National Socialist Network such as Bec Freedom.

In Britain, to chat with Nazi and



convicted thug Tommy Robinson, Hanson bemoaned the end of the White Australia Policy, saying it meant Australia "started bringing in the different migrants"—people from outside Europe.

Hanson spewed racist lies, claiming Muslims were "ripping off" the NDIS in Australia, based on a false report claiming the Sydney suburb of Lakemba had a large number of registered NDIS providers.

She then "toured" suburbs including Luton near London, expressing outrage that 30 per cent of the population there are Muslim.

She told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) that, "I see in Australia the problems that you have in Britain. I see immigration is destroying our country as it has destroyed yours." Hanson only wants white European immigrants.

Fighting racism and low pay

Unions in Victoria are running an election campaign "to protect our workplace rights and public services" from the threat of a Liberal and One Nation government.

Trades Hall secretary Luke Hilakari has rightly pointed out that, "Working people would be fundamentally poorer if One Nation and Pauline Hanson had her way", given her history of voting "against things like industrial manslaughter, minimum wage increases" and the fact she has "come out against penalty rates".

But it is not enough to point out Hanson's anti-worker stance, such as

Above: Pauline Hanson sits down with British Nazi Tommy Robinson
Photo: Seven Spotlight

her remarks at the National Press Club about workers being lazy or sponsorship by billionaire Gina Rinehart.

There are two significant ways unions and the left can stand up to Hanson.

The first is to take both the mainstream and Hanson's anti-migrant racism head-on. Both Albanese and Liberal leader Angus Taylor have helped legitimise One Nation through saying they want to cut migration, remarks which have largely gone unchallenged.

Racism and anti-immigration politics are the centre of what Hanson stands for, as her trip to Britain revealed. She is channelling anger about the cost of living against immigrants.

The racist March for Australia rallies on 30 August are calling for "remigration"—these rallies need to be opposed on the widest basis.

The second is to back, and organise, militant struggles to fight the cost of living crisis that Labor is presiding over that has seen wages fall far behind inflation.

Unions and workers must learn from the revolt of rank-and-file Victorian teachers, who have rejected two proposed deals from the state Labor government and pushed their union leaders to call more strikes demanding real improvements on pay and workload.

A serious movement against racism coupled with a real fightback for wage rises is the key to driving back One Nation and building a left-wing alternative to Labor and the bosses' system of crisis they are running.

In Britain Hanson called for "mass deportations" and spouted racist lies about Muslims

Busting Pauline Hanson's racist lies on immigration

By Adam Adelpour

PAULINE HANSON and One Nation have relentlessly scapegoated and demonised migrants for low wages, the housing crisis, stretched services, deteriorating infrastructure and crime. But migrants aren't to blame for any of these problems. The blame lies squarely with the greed of the rich, the right-wing Labor and Coalition governments and anti-worker policies Hanson herself has backed.

Immigration is not 'out of control'

In her National Press Club speech Hanson was beating the anti-migrant drum as loudly as ever, claiming, "Labor has been bringing more than 1375 people per day for the past three years".

Hanson's "mass migration crisis" is a racist fiction. Stupidly, the "1375" figure included population growth from births as well as migration.

Over the past ten years Australia's population has actually grown at the same speed as most of the past century, about 1.5 per cent per year.

In fact, the level of population growth since 2019 is *below* that projected based on the population growth rate in the 2010s, due to lower immigration during the pandemic.

The crisis in housing, infrastructure and wages has been created by successive governments' warped infrastructure and spending priorities, housing policies rigged for investors and industrial relations laws designed to protect profits at workers' expense.

Housing crisis—blame the government and developers

One Nation says that housing pain has been caused by an "immigration catastrophe".

But immigration is not to blame. In the decade to 2025, the population increased by 16 per cent, but the number of dwellings increased by 19 per cent. During COVID, when borders were closed and there was almost no immigration, house prices actually jumped 20 per cent in 18 months.

One Nation wants to direct anger away from the real culprits: greedy property investors and governments that have wrecked public housing instead of building it.

Since tax incentives for housing investors were introduced in 1999 combining negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount, house prices have



Above: Rallying against racism in Sydney last year
Photo: Solidarity

increased 500 per cent while wages only doubled. In Sydney, the cost of the average house was 8.3 times annual average wages in March 2002 but 14.4 times wages by June 2024.

Public and social housing has fallen from 7 per cent of all housing in 1991 to 4 per cent today, equating to the loss of 350,000 homes.

What about cost of living?

Hanson and One Nation fraudulently blame migrants for low wages and cost-of-living pain.

But it is Hanson who is the threat to wages and workers' rights, not migrants. This year she publicly opposed an above-inflation pay increase for the lowest paid workers on the minimum wage. She slandered workers as "lazy" in her Press Club speech and opposed *Same Job, Same Pay* laws among many other anti-worker crimes.

Trump's war on Iran has led to spikes and volatility in petrol prices. Hanson cheered the war and said Australia should "pick up the phone" and become more directly involved.

Lies about Indigenous spending

Hanson has never missed an opportunity to launch vile attacks against Indigenous people. Despite being more than ten times more likely to be incarcerated, homeless or have their children forcibly taken away, Hanson wants people to believe that the Indigenous population is treated better than other Australians.

She has promised to abolish the National Indigenous Australian Agency and claims spending on Indigenous Affairs is "\$30 billion plus a year".

But this figure is just a rough division of all government spending on mainstream public services, like health and education, by the percentage of Indigenous people in Australia.

Estimated total government expenditure on Indigenous specific programs was \$5.3 billion on 2023-24, only 0.77 per cent of the federal government's \$684 billion budget. Attacks on Aboriginal self-determination, which Hanson has led for 30 years, has seen much of this funding shift from Aboriginal-controlled organisations to ineffective non-Indigenous NGOs.

The real crime is the level of government spending on destroying Aboriginal lives—like the more than \$1 million per child per year that it costs to lock up Aboriginal children at the highest rate in the world.

Anti-Muslim hate

Hanson and One Nation have made Muslims their number one target. Hanson has said there are no "good" Muslims, claiming, "Their religion concerns me because what it says in the Koran ... they hate Westerners."

She has ridiculously claimed Lakemba, a suburb in Western Sydney, is unsafe to enter.

The idea that Muslim migrants, and migrants generally, are dangerous is another bigoted lie. The Australian-born population is responsible for the overwhelming majority of crimes.

In a parliamentary submission in 2017 during the height of "Sudanese gangs" hysteria, Victoria police admitted, "The crime rate for the overseas born groups was lower than the crime rate for Australian born."

.....
Over the past ten years Australia's population has grown at the same speed as most of the past century, about 1.5 per cent per year

Victorian teachers strike again due to rank-and-file rage

By Jonathan Sherlock

AEU member and Fight The Crisis activist

VICTORIAN TEACHERS and education support staff took strike action again on 23 July, with schools across the state severely affected. About 20,000 marched in a display of raw anger at conditions in schools.

When they saw the turnout as photos went around on apps, many teachers who hadn't planned to attend rushed to join the lively and militant march.

The pressure to restart strikes and fight for more is a product of relentless rank-and-file organising, pushing the AEU leadership.

After teachers decisively rejected a deal that the leadership argued for in June, the leadership refused to call further action and instead surveyed members about next steps. But rank-and-file group Fight The Crisis immediately began pushing for another strike on 4 August.

Members registered 90 per cent support for another 24-hour strike and 75 per cent support for multiple strikes in the survey.

Shocked, the leadership responded by calling the strike in July. This went ahead after union members rejected a new offer by 51.18 to 48.82 per cent, with about 90 per cent of the membership in Victorian government schools taking part in an electronic vote.

The Department of Education sent the offer to each staff member individually, at the same time as it notified the union. This was a clear attempt to undermine the union's authority and pressure the AEU leadership to accept it.

It was a marginal improvement on the previous offer, rolling in Education Support "annual allowances" into base salaries—something the Department said could not be done.

The AEU leadership put the offer to members without recommending a vote one way or the other at short notice. Many members cited the lack of proper process in deciding to vote No, while for others the deal did not go far enough, still offering the same pay over four years, and no movement on class sizes, support staff job descriptions or face-to-face teaching time.

Strike three

But after the strike, the AEU leadership missed an opportunity to set a deadline



Above: Victorian teachers and school staff march during the strike on 23 July
Photo: Matt Hrkac

for the government to respond by announcing a new strike date.

Fight The Crisis continued to campaign for a strike on 4 August, as a third strike day. More than 40 individual AEU sub-branches passed a motion committing to this, as well as Maribyrnong Region.

The AEU had already authorised stop-work action to conduct publicity, leaflet parents and walk off the job if a Labor MP visited the school. Fight The Crisis used this to provide legal cover and contacted sub-branches to organise a walk-off, independently of the AEU leadership.

AEU Victoria branch secretary Erin Aulich came down hard. She sent a letter to every sub-branch that had passed the 4 August motion to strike for a third time, calling the action "unprotected" and "illegal" and telling members they would be subject to \$20,000 fines. The Department of Education also sent letters to Principals threatening that the 4 August strike was unlawful.

This had the intended effect of leaving sub-branches feeling fearful or concluding that now was not the time to confront the anti-union Fair Work Act. The debate came to a head at the Inner City Regional meeting on 29 July where a large number of delegates and members mobilised to decide whether to strike on 4 August.

At that meeting, Aulich announced that AEU leadership would call for a third strike at the branch

council that Friday. This gave cover to Socialists In Schools to support the leadership by amending the motion to remove a commitment to strike on 4 August, with members confident that leadership would call another strike.

With the AEU leadership under pressure from sub-branches and no negotiations since the July strike, it has called a strike for 19 August, four weeks after the last strike. The idea is to give the Victorian Government plenty of time to make a new offer and time for members to consider it before moving to strike again.

But this lifts the pressure from the Victorian government, which can now dictate the pace of negotiations. Ben Carroll, the Education Minister, now also Premier, has made his contempt for school staff absolutely clear throughout this campaign with multiple unacceptable offers to school staff who are burning out and looking for solutions.

Rank-and-file activists are determined to keep up the pressure. Fight The Crisis is campaigning for local, disruptive actions that use the local stop-works authorised by the AEU. This can keep members mobilised at a local level and keep the issue in the media.

Teachers' rank-and-file organising shows how to get the union fightback needed to deal with the crisis over cost of living and conditions at work—and to show there is an alternative to both Labor's failures and One Nation.



Keep in touch through the Fight the Crisis Instagram at the QR code

Royal Commission swallows baseless claims of antisemitism at unis

By Finnian Colwell

THE ROYAL commission into anti-semitism has continued to call witness after witness conflating opposition to Israel and Zionism with antisemitism. This is designed to undermine the widespread support for Palestine built up since 2023.

Antisemitism envoy Jillian Segal, for instance, suggested the ABC and SBS need an oversight committee specifically to monitor their reporting on Israel.

She pointed to the use of Gaza Health Ministry figures of at least 73,000 dead since October 2023, saying they were “grossly inflated”. Yet UN bodies and even officials from the Israeli military accept the figure as broadly accurate.

Much of the discussion on universities focused on student protests and the Gaza solidarity encampments of 2024.

Crackdown

Shamefully, the vice-chancellors from ANU and Sydney University accepted that student protests for Palestine were somehow illegitimate or antisemitic, agreeing that they should have cracked down harder to end the encampments.

Sydney Uni’s Mark Scott testified that the only reason he had not done so was that his “single goal in mind” was ending the encampment without physical violence, but said “our Jewish students and staff paid a price for that” and apologised.

Acting Provost Joan Leach suggested that ANU’s efforts “to bring the encampment to a close peacefully, without violence” might now appear “naïve or inadequate”.

Despite this, Leach admitted that the “eight students accused of misconduct” during the ANU encampment faced “no allegations of antisemitism”. Melbourne Uni VC Glyn Davis also admitted that he was “not aware of any complaint of antisemitism” during its encampment.

Davis said a poster criticising the university’s “academic ties to Israeli universities” was antisemitic, saying it implied “Jewish universities” are responsible for genocide.

But Israeli universities are targeted not because they are Jewish but because of their direct links to the IDF. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for instance, trains soldiers to work in Israel’s Military Intelligence



Above: The student encampment for Gaza at Sydney Uni in 2024

Directorate.

One of the few direct claims of antisemitism associated with the protests came from ANU student Liat, who testified to being called a “baby killer” and “genocide supporter.”

Joan Leach said the remarks were antisemitic, “Because it was asking her, as a member of the Jewish community, to take responsibility for something very many miles away.”

But the student admitted she was a prominent pro-Israel activist on campus who helped organise a counter-demonstration against the encampment and made a point of wearing a badge supporting Israeli hostages.

In other words, she was more than likely accused of being a “genocide supporter” not because she is Jewish but because she was publicly supporting Israel’s genocide.

Psychosocial hazard

The royal commission accepted evidence that pro-Palestine protests made Jewish supporters of Israel “feel unsafe”, despite no evidence of any actual threat.

Mark Scott argued the encampment harmed the “psychosocial” safety of Jewish students and staff, and that he learnt later “just how menacing and threatening” they found it.

This means, as Louise Adler from the anti-Zionist Jewish Council of Australia has argued, that the individual “feelings and anxieties” of supporters of Israel “are established as reality”.

Adler wrote that the royal commission simply accepted this as evidence of “lived experience” that could

not be scrutinised, so that there was no attempt to examine whether “a witness might be ideologically motivated or prone to exaggeration”.

The feelings of Palestinian and Arab students anxious about families facing death from Israel’s bombs did not get the same weight.

One of the few exceptions to all this was the testimony from Yasmine Johnson of Students for Palestine, who is Jewish.

She defended the encampments saying, “We had reached a point in 2024 where Israel had begun to systematically ethnically cleanse Palestinians, to blockade food and water, and we felt there had been no action by the Australian government to do anything about this.

“The universities themselves maintained ties with weapons companies doing research and development, but in some cases also investing in these weapons companies. And [we felt] that we had to do something more.”

But the royal commission essentially ignored the past three years of Israel’s genocidal actions—even though it is not possible to understand why there has been a surge in criticism of Israel otherwise.

The royal commission is preparing the way for more restrictions on free speech and on the Palestine movement, both at universities and elsewhere.

The movement’s response must be to step up opposition to Australia’s complicity with the genocide, the use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism and to campaign to break all ties with Israel.

Melbourne Uni VC Glyn Davis admitted that he was “not aware of any complaint of antisemitism” during its encampment

Opposition grows to Ahpra's attack on free speech on Palestine

By Alex McInnis

ON 17 June the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency (Ahpra) announced they would use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as a reference tool when investigating complaints against practitioners. But opposition in the healthcare sector is growing.

This announcement was released as a joint statement with the Australian Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism (ASECA). Ahpra has taken on the ASECA handbook as an additional tool.

Examples given within both the definition and the handbook conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism and will now be applied to close to one million health workers in Australia.

It has since come to light via the Royal Commission that the definition and handbook will not only be kept as reference tools for investigating complaints, but also for Ahpra's active monitoring of health practitioners' social media for criticism of Israel.

Nurses and midwives in NSW have organised at the grassroots of their union against Ahpra's decision, passing motions to oppose it in 15 branches of the NSWNMA around the state.

Hospital branches rejecting the definition include Liverpool, Auburn, Bankstown, RPA, Nepean, Broken Hill, Bellingen, Ryde and Tweed, as well as Lismore, Shoalhaven, Sutherland and Sydney LHD Mental Health branches.

This helped push the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the union's national body, to release its own statement opposing the move on 10 July. ASMOF NSW, the doctors' union, has now also called on Ahpra to rescind the IHRA definition, as has the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU) in Victoria.

Hundreds of delegates of the NSWNMA also voted up a similar motion at their annual conference in late July, committing the union as a whole to fighting Ahpra's decision and defending members investigated using the new "tools".

In Melbourne, HACSU is helping organise a protest against Ahpra on Friday 14 August, rallying at the State Library at 4pm and marching to the Ahpra offices.



Above: Rally opposing Ahpra's adoption of the IHRA antisemitism definition in Sydney Photo: Solidarity

Nurses and midwives in NSW have organised at the grassroots of their union against Ahpra's decision

Action on Islamophobia not a priority for Albanese

TEN MONTHS after special envoy Aftab Malik released his recommendations on combating Islamophobia, the Labor government finally released their response in July.

Islamophobia has been a scourge for decades, but since 7 October 2023, it has surged as the government and mainstream media worked to help justify Israel's genocide, dehumanise Palestinians and attack the movement for Palestine here.

The envoy's report outlined the rise in Islamophobia, with mosques vandalised and threatened, Muslim women targeted with physical, sexual and verbal violence in public, and Muslim and Arab men violently targeted by racist police in the name of "counter-terrorism."

The recommendations from anti-semitism envoy Jillian Segal were all accepted immediately in principle in July last year. This was an endorsement of her conflation of criticism of Israel with antisemitism, as well as outrageous demands to monitor and strip funding from arts bodies and the ABC if they failed to comply. This, however, suited the government's agenda of continued support for Israel and the US.

In contrast the government has committed only to minor initiatives against Islamophobia.

It will set up an Islamophobia Education Taskforce and review the

Rank-and-file organising in the NSWNMA follows a protracted arbitration process which resulted in a dismal pay outcome earlier this year, with a union election later in the year.

Eighteen months ago, when the union leadership encouraged an end to industrial action for wages and took members down a path of arbitration, the networks of members who have organised together against Ahpra's decision did not yet exist.

Outrage over pay and an ineffective use of industrial power brought members together to argue for a different way forward in the next fight for wages.

These same networks have been strengthened in the process of fighting off the IHRA definition.

Members are continuing to meet to discuss how to escalate their fight, with plans to hold branch-endorsed

school curriculum to "identify opportunities" to strengthen racial and religious tolerance, without committing to doing anything much. And it will expand Australian Federal Police liaison teams that work with the Muslim community as well as setting up a "communications portal" to advise of threats and provide other information.

But it rejected the call to review anti-terrorism laws to investigate any discriminatory effect on the Muslim community, or to hold an investigation or commission into Islamophobia and into anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism through parliament's human rights committee.

This would have run the risk of exposing some inconvenient truths about the government's own role in stoking the flames of racism and Islamophobia.

The Albanese government has continually attempted to demonise supporters of Palestine, implying that the protests were dangerous by saying they were disrupting "social cohesion" and bringing foreign conflicts here.

This has been designed to justify his own complicity in the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza. It is the movement for Palestine that has stood against racism, from the demonisation of Palestinians and Muslims as well as opposition to antisemitism.

Victorian Labor lurches further right under Carroll

By David Glanz

VICTORIAN LABOR has installed Ben Carroll as Premier, replacing Jacinta Allan, in a bid to salvage the state election on 28 November.

Carroll is very much a man of the right—a member of the conservative SDA union and a protégé of Labor right figures like Stephen Conroy, Bill Shorten, Steve Bracks, John Brumby and Simon Crean.

He's also a staunch supporter of Israel, although on that score he's no different to his two nominally left predecessors, Dan Andrews and Allan.

In March 2023, as Minister for Industry and Innovation, Carroll led a delegation to Israel, which he described as “a key strategic partner for Victoria and my first choice of destination”.

Labor is on the nose, level with the Liberals and trailing One Nation in the latest Redbridge poll as the cost-of-living crisis fuels widespread anger.

But Carroll, previously Deputy Premier and Education Minister, has no solutions to offer—as the tens of thousands of public school teachers who are fighting his sub-standard EBA offer know only too well.

His first message to voters—delivered via a video in which he came across as more wooden than the office furniture—promised a “new direction” based on integrity, community safety and a focus on the economy.

Integrity is code for calling a royal commission into corruption in the construction industry. That guarantees union-bashing, with further attacks on a CFMEU already badly weakened by Labor's administration.

Community focus means being “tough on crime”. Allan introduced “adult time for violent crime” last year, boasting that it would mean more children going to jail and for longer.

Now Carroll may well try to placate conservative voters and Murdoch's *Herald Sun* by extending the range of offences for which children can face adult sentences.

He's already promising to reopen police stations.

And when it comes to the economy, *Crikey* reported that Carroll will focus on tackling debt while offering business tax breaks. He's also hinting that he'll weaken new work from home legislation.



Above: New right-wing Labor Premier Ben Carroll

Labor is facing defeat because it has nothing to offer workers in outer Melbourne suburbs who are hurting

From Palestine to AUKUS, Labor conference shuts down debate

LABOR'S RESPONSE to rank-and-file anger over Israel's genocide in Gaza was to shut down debate at its federal conference.

The manoeuvre summed up the event: heavily stage-managed and with little to offer workers angry over the cost-of-living crisis.

The one contested vote came over telehealth access to voluntary assisted dying. The left won support for telehealth but immediately conciliated by agreeing to give MPs a “conscience vote” on the issue.

Backbench MP Ed Husic tried to move a resolution on Palestine that acknowledged the genocide, called for Australians who serve in the IDF to be investigated for breaking international law and called on the government “to withdraw defence cooperation and defence and trade representatives from Australia's embassy in Tel Aviv”.

The right faction responded by threatening to pull support for the modest official policy being put to the conference. In turn, the left faction put enormous pressure on the Maritime Union of Australia and the Electrical Trades Union, both of which had agreed to second the motion.

The unions withdrew their support, killing off Husic's motion before it reached the conference floor. Instead, delegates were treated to a sickly-sweet performance from two Melbourne MPs, Josh Burns (a pro-Israel Jew) and Basem Abdo (a Palestinian),

As *The Australian's* Anthony Galloway argued, “Carroll effectively appropriated much of the Coalition's agenda.”

That means less money for health, education and public transport and more frustration for workers considering voting One Nation.

Labor is facing defeat in November because it has nothing to offer workers in outer Melbourne suburbs who are hurting.

Under Carroll, it will be more of the same—or worse.

It will be the current struggles by teachers, council workers, public hospital doctors and Parks Victoria workers that will be the answer to a right wing Labor government and One Nation.

praising each other's love of peace.

Activist MUA members around the country were angry that their union folded on the issue despite strong policy on Palestine and a track record of action, including participating in a national march on the ports calling for an end to trade with apartheid Israel in 2024.

At union branch meetings, members and annoyed officials made their criticisms clear, with the ALP-aligned leadership generally conceding that what happened was a problem.

An MUA member in Sydney told *Solidarity*, “One good outcome in Sydney seemed to be a renewed commitment to finding some new BDS targets to campaign around.”

The party leadership's determination to shut down Palestine as an issue was also reflected in silence over important issues such as AUKUS or the administration of the CFMEU.

The result was a conference detached from reality. In the session on the NDIS, for example, delegates praised the scheme and called for greater input by people with disabilities—with not one word about the \$38 billion in cuts and the hundreds of thousands who will lose their support.

Labor leaders acknowledged the threat from One Nation. But the conference confirmed that the ALP is committed to business as usual—putting the needs of Australian capitalism ahead of workers.

David Glanz

Burnham's tack left boosts British Labour—will it last?

By Mark Gillespie

NEWLY INSTALLED British Labour Prime Minister Andy Burnham is talking left in an effort to revive the party's fortunes. This has delivered a small boost in the polls, but will it last?

Burnham replaced the unpopular Keir Starmer and has denounced the "four decades of neoliberalism that began in the 1980s". He has promised measures to reduce bus fares and electricity bills and to end rough sleeping.

The UK, like Australia, is suffering a severe cost-of-living crisis, with high inflation, soaring rents and house prices, and stagnant wages.

Burnham's focus on living costs has resonated. For the first time since early 2024, Labour is ahead in the polls.

Starmer won office in 2024 promising to break with years of austerity. But it was not long before he announced cuts to disability benefits and the winter fuel allowance while retaining the Conservatives' two-child benefit cap.

Starmer's failure to tackle the cost-of-living crisis opened political space for the far-right Reform UK Party to blame migrants and refugees. Instead of challenging Reform's scapegoating, Starmer echoed it.

In his infamous "Island of Strangers" speech, he claimed immigration had "damaged" Britain and placed excessive pressure on housing and public services. This too, mirrors Anthony Albanese's response to One Nation.

It failed to halt Labour's collapse and instead legitimised Reform's arguments. Reform surged in last year's local elections, winning about 600 new council seats. Labour also lost support to the Greens, driven by opposition to Labour's support for Israel's war on Gaza, the banning of Palestine Action and Labour's anti-migrant rhetoric.

With Starmer's approval ratings at record lows, commentators were openly speculating about the end of the two-party system and Nigel Farage becoming Britain's next Prime Minister.

Makerfield

Burnham resigned as an MP in 2017 to become Mayor of Greater Manchester, allowing him to distance himself from the factional warfare that destroyed Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.



Above: New British Labour Prime Minister Andy Burnham Photo: Number 10/Flickr

As mayor, Burnham promised to end rough sleeping, donating 15 per cent of his salary to a homelessness fighting fund. He also brought Greater Manchester's buses and trams back under public control.

While Labour declined across many of its traditional northern strongholds, Burnham comfortably won two further mayoral elections, giving him an independent political base.

He won a convincing victory in the Makerfield parliamentary by-election, winning support for his pledge to challenge Starmer for the leadership. Labour's vote increased by 10 per cent and Starmer soon resigned.

Manchesterism

Burnham describes his political philosophy as "Manchesterism", promising the "end of neoliberalism" through what he calls "business-friendly socialism".

In reality, Manchesterism is a repackaged version of the "Third Way" politics promoted by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, which was meant to combine free-market capitalism with social justice. Their rule ended in tears with Blair being forced to resign because of plunging popularity and Brown being thrashed at the next election.

Burnham served as a minister under both Blair and Brown and was never at odds with their priorities. He also voted to send British troops to the very unpopular Iraq war (a decision he now says he regrets).

The problem for Burnham, as it was for Blair and Brown, is that free market capitalism and social justice are incompatible.

Blair and Brown governed during

a period of stronger global economic growth, which gave them revenue to fund some reforms without seriously challenging corporate power. That balancing act collapsed after the 2007 global financial crisis.

Today the world economy is weaker and Western imperialism is in deep crisis, producing growing political instability. Burnham is Britain's seventh Prime Minister in a decade.

His cost-of-living measures are nowhere near enough. His energy price cuts, for example, will save households on average just \$85 a year. Even if he succeeds in reducing rough sleeping, it addresses only one aspect of Britain's housing crisis. Around 400,000 people, roughly half of them children, are homeless.

Addressing these crises requires taxing big business, increasing wages, expanding public housing and cutting military spending. Burnham is not prepared to do this because he wants to reassure corporate Britain that Labour is "pro-business".

His cabinet appointments underline that priority. He has retained prominent right-wing ministers, while promising continued high military spending and signalling support for further North Sea oil and gas extraction.

Burnham may temporarily revive Labour's fortunes but his unwillingness to confront the interests of big business means the social crisis that fuelled Reform's rise will remain.

The changes needed to defeat both austerity and the far right won't be led from Westminster. There will have to be a push from below from Labour's rank-and-file, trade unionists and the wider social movements for priorities that put people before profit.

He has retained prominent right-wing ministers, while promising continued high military spending

India's cockroach movement celebrates win against Modi

By Maeve Larkins

A MASS student revolt in India has claimed victory after a wave of protests against corruption and youth unemployment. Protesters defied a brutal police crackdown and forced a member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet to resign.

The spark for the protests was the cancellation of India's National Eligibility Entrance Exams in May after questions were widely leaked. About 2.3 million students planned to take the exams, competing for just 137,000 spots in one of India's medical and dental schools.

The exams are a critical pathway to a stable income, with youth unemployment at about 40 per cent. Leaks of exam questions, usually to the wealthy and well-connected, have occurred at least 90 times across the last two decades.

Forcing already over-worked students to re-sit the exams pushed some beyond the brink, with at least 21 students taking their own lives.

Shortly afterwards, a member of Modi's BJP party, Chief Justice Surya Kant, publicly insulted the students as "cockroaches" and "parasites" who "don't get any employment".

In response a Boston-based Indian student, Abhijeet Dipke, made a viral post which asked, "What would happen if all the cockroaches got together?" He subsequently formed the "Cockroach Janta Party" (CJP) which described itself as "secular, socialist, democratic and lazy", and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

In early June, the CJP organised rallies that mobilised thousands. They set up a protest camp and several activists began a hunger strike. Solidarity demonstrations erupted across the country.

The CJP planned a march towards the parliament on 20 July. Two nights beforehand, Modi forcibly detained and hospitalised prominent hunger striker Sonam Wangchuk, hoping to quell the movement.

This only deepened students' rage. On the day more than 50,000 protesters gathered.

Modi fell back on brutal repression to stop the march. He sent waves of baton-wielding riot police to bash the protesters. Many were arrested and at least 200 suffered severe injuries.

This only increased the movement's support further.



Above: Part of the protest in Jantar Mantar, Delhi on 23 July Photo: CJP Fan Club

One participant, Gulal, told *Socialist Worker* in Britain, "[We] supported the movement by trying to send food and resources to the protest site. And a lot of gig workers for food delivery firms ... volunteered to help. When the Delhi government stopped trains ... auto-rickshaw drivers offered to take people to the protest for free."

Modi agreed to Pradhan's resignation, withdrew the charges against protesters and agreed to compensation

for the families of students who had taken their lives. The CJP has claimed victory and announced that it "withdraws its nationwide agitation with immediate effect".

The CJP were careful to limit the movement to narrow demands about the exams' cancellation. It will take a much broader campaign to tackle Modi's authoritarian regime. But the movement has shown that mass resistance has the power to defeat him.

Hamas agrees to disarm but Israel not finished killing

DONALD TRUMP'S Board of Peace has announced an agreement with Hamas to disarm, claiming progress towards ending the killing in Gaza.

But rather than "disarm", Hamas agreed to decommission its weapons and place them under the control of a Palestinian National Committee, in a staged process in exchange for gradual Israeli withdrawal.

Under the agreement, Israel first has to fulfil its obligations under last year's ceasefire, to allow aid into Gaza and to halt its ongoing attacks.

In the weekend following the announcement, Israel killed another 26 Palestinians in Gaza in a series of strikes, including a number of families in their homes. It also destroyed a medical warehouse attached to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir el-Balah. Since last year's so called "ceasefire", Israel has now killed over 1250 people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu then reportedly told Trump he had "serious security concerns" about the agreement and Israel would not withdraw beyond the "yellow line" in Gaza, the 53

per cent of the area it occupied at the time of the ceasefire, until Hamas had completely disarmed.

Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza are on-going and Israel hasn't even agreed to allow the Palestinian National Committee supposed to take over control of Gaza to enter.

Israel has never wanted peace with the Palestinians. It wants to expel them from their land, as it continues to do in the West Bank, and to crush any resistance to its occupation.

Israel has no right to insist that Hamas disarm. But Hamas is under immense pressure from states that have previously sponsored it including Qatar and Turkey.

Israel continues to prevent crucial parts and equipment required to repair basic services such as power and sewage into Gaza. And it refuses to allow even the discussion about reconstruction of homes, schools and hospitals until Hamas completely disarms.

The genocide in Gaza continues, as the US, and its allies like Anthony Albanese, arms Israel and allows it to inflict inhuman conditions on its whole population.

Modi sent waves of baton-wielding riot police to bash the protesters

Trump backs down on Iran again but still faces defeat

By James Supple

DONALD TRUMP has again backed down from a major escalation of his war on Iran, saying another deal was close that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump's threat to destroy Iran's electricity infrastructure with "the biggest attack since World War Two" risked the war spreading out of control.

It came after Yemen's Houthis launched attacks on Saudi oil shipments in the Red Sea. This has further choked off global oil supplies, disrupting Saudi Arabia's efforts to get around the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz by re-routing its oil exports.

Saudi Arabia launched airstrikes against Iranian-allied militias in Iraq in response, accusing them of attacking Saudi oil infrastructure, too.

Unwilling to admit that the US has suffered a defeat, Trump has zigzagged between bombing Iran in a hopeless effort to force its capitulation and pausing to return to negotiations.

Iran is determined to hold onto control of the Strait of Hormuz, where it has been able to block one fifth of the world's oil supplies, to force concessions and as a deterrent against future attack. It also wants to charge tolls or service fees on commercial shipping to secure compensation for the damage done through US bombing.

Far from wilting under US attack, Iran itself triggered the collapse of the June memorandum agreement, which was supposed to lead to a final conclusion to the war. Iran targeted oil tankers trying to sail through the Strait which refused to use its designated routes or to co-ordinate with its navy.

This followed the US's effort to skirt the terms of the agreement, which tasked Iran with responsibility to "make arrangements ... for the safe passage of commercial vessels" through the Strait. Instead, the US tried to arrange for ships to transit the Strait using a separate designated route.

Iran ended another period of calm at the end of July when it launched an attack on a US base in Jordan.

Despite Trump's bluster and foul-mouthed tirades, it's clear he still wants a deal.

Problems

The US faces a series of problems.



Above: Donald Trump with Secretary for War Pete Hegseth and General Dan Caine at the Arlington National Cemetery
Photo: Daniel Torok/White House

It is running low on missile interceptors needed to defend US bases and its Gulf allies from Iranian attacks. Iran's use of relatively cheap Shahed drones has forced the US to run through billions of dollars' worth of missiles.

US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth has admitted the war has cost it \$53.6 billion so far.

General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned in late July that another escalation of bombing could dangerously deplete interceptor stocks, the *New York Times* reported.

The US has already suffered extensive damage to its military bases across the region.

Concerted bombing of US bases across Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan early in the war left some "all but uninhabitable", as the *New York Times* put it. At least 20 US military installations across eight countries have sustained damage, the BBC reported in June. Three of only eight THAAD missile defence systems the US operates worldwide have been damaged, it said.

And Iran still retains the ability to fire missiles at these targets, despite US efforts to hunt down and destroy missile launchers and production facilities.

The impact on world oil supplies

will also worsen if the Strait remains closed. In addition to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian oil installations have also reduced its production capacity.

Global stockpiles of oil have been drastically reduced, after many countries released emergency supplies when disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz began in March.

The IMF says they will run out completely at current rates by early next year if it remains closed, sending the price of oil soaring with the next few months.

Trump is running out of options. He has failed to achieve any of the aims he set out at the start of war, such as regime change and the destruction of Iran's military forces.

Iran has suffered enormous damage to its economy through US and Israeli bombing and economic sanctions. But its ability to survive this and maintain the closure of the Strait means it has a stronger hand now than when the war began.

Trump's war has deepened the global cost-of-living crisis through pushing up the price of oil and sent his own approval rating to its lowest ever level, threatening disaster at November's mid-term elections.

And it has only confirmed the decline of US power.

Despite Trump's bluster and foul-mouthed tirades, it's clear he still wants a deal

GAS-FIRED DATA CENTRE BOOM DRIVES WAR AND CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

Paddy Gibson looks at the Albanese government's rush to join the data centre boom, the military connection and the threat they pose to communities and the climate

ON 22 May, 200 people rallied on the access road of a new industrial campus near Moss Vale in the NSW Southern Highlands, opposing plans to build three gas-fired power stations.

With a proposed joint capacity greater than 700 megawatts (MW), these plants would increase gas consumption in NSW by more than 30 per cent, driving global warming and toxic air pollution.

But as local Greens Councillor Heather Champion told the crowd, the project “will not turn on a single light bulb outside of this campus”.

Its purpose is to exclusively power a new “hyper-scale” data centre, filled with thousands of graphics processing units (GPUs) to train and run artificial intelligence (AI) models.

At Marulan, less than 50 kilometres from Moss Vale, EnergyAustralia is planning a colossal 1.43 gigawatt gas-fired plant, the largest in Australia’s history, also in response to data centre development.

The top six publicly-listed US companies at the heart of the global AI boom—Alphabet (Google), Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Oracle and NVIDIA—have a combined market value of almost \$US20 trillion, representing a quarter of the entire US stock market.

They are all making huge capital investments in AI infrastructure, projected by Goldman Sachs to top \$US8 trillion globally over the next five years. These plans have obliterated any lingering rhetorical commitment to climate targets from governments cashing in on the boom.

Gas-fired boom

In the US, gas-fired power station capacity doubled last year, with all new demand coming from data centres.

In Australia, the past 12 months have seen investment in NSW and Victoria driven by data centre development of almost \$300 billion—greater than the \$250 billion invested in WA

and Queensland during the high point of the mining boom in 2012-2013.

Many of the major projects under construction are in suburban working-class areas of Sydney and Melbourne, where residents are now suffering from the constant noise and heat generated by hyper-scale data centres.

At Kurri Kurri in the Hunter, a new publicly-owned 660MW gas-fired power station has already been built and is scheduled to come online next month.

This was initially planned as a peaking facility, operating only 2 per cent of the year to “firm” renewable energy supply. Now there are plans for a data centre that would see the plant running continuously at full capacity.

In the Northern Territory, the Country Liberal Party announced its intention in July to make the NT the “data centre capital of the globe”, inviting companies to burn gas set to be fracked from the Beetaloo Basin to generate the necessary power.

In March, Federal Labor claimed all new data centres would be powered by “100 per cent new renewables” and announced an “expectation” developers would invest in renewable projects to match their draw on the grid.

But by the time Albanese gave his major AI policy speech last month, the language had shifted. While financing new electricity generation will become a legal obligation for data centre developers, Albanese now talks about renewables and firming—code for gas.

Albanese paid lip service to community fears about AI including mass job losses, theft of intellectual property and the environmental impact of data centres that, along with guzzling power, also require huge amounts of water to cool the processors.

His speech was clear, however, that the scramble to establish firm regula-

Labor’s priority is securing profits for big companies and ensuring Australian capitalism maximises its competitive advantage

tions was to “enhance our appeal to international investors by delivering greater clarity and speed for approvals”.

The NSW government has already established a new Investment Delivery Authority to shepherd data centres through development approval processes as quickly as possible, dubbed a “tech bro concierge service” by Greens MP Abigail Boyd.

Labor’s priority is securing massive profits for big companies and ensuring Australian capitalism maximises its competitive advantage through immediate access to AI applications as they emerge.

Imperialism

The extraordinary speed and scale of the AI build out needs to be understood in the context of sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry, particularly between the US and China.

Marxists define imperialism as a global system of competing capitalist states. The underlying dynamics of this system emerged in the late 19th century, described by the Russian revolutionary Lenin as the era of “monopoly capitalism”.

Major industries such as steel, chemicals production and ship building had become dominated by a small number of massive enterprises with operations and supply chains that stretched across the world.

Cut-throat economic competition for investment and market share increasingly spilled over into geopolitical competition between the national states each firm relied on to negotiate and guarantee access to raw materials, finance, trade routes and export markets.

These states also worked to ensure their national economy included the advanced industries needed to produce modern military equipment that kept them competitive on the battlefield.

This saw a fusion between the operations of capitalist enterprises and the major imperialist states—Britain,

France, Germany, Russia, USA and Japan—that had carved up the world into colonies and spheres of influence.

The state became instrumental in planning and co-ordinating production and, in Germany and Japan, both latecomers to industrialisation, state enterprises played a central role.

These rival imperialist powers, today joined by the economic dynamo China, remain locked in competition.

Beneath them sit a host of smaller sub-imperial states similarly eager to build up their military capacity and forge alliances to extend the reach of their own national capitalists—and to exclude rivals.

This system of inter-imperialist competition underpins both the open warfare we see in Ukraine and the Middle East and the AI arms race between the US and China.

All the US tech firms dominating the AI industry have major contracts with the Pentagon and are heavily integrated into the broader US military industrial complex.

While the likes of Amazon, Google or AI firm Anthropic compete, they also invest in and lend to one another and subordinate their competition to the needs of US imperialism, united by a desire to crush the threat posed by China.

As the advantages of AI became clear in 2022, the Biden administration placed export controls on the super-fast computing chips produced by NVIDIA, depriving China and Russia of their economic and military applications.

China in turn has used its dominance in the mining and refinement of rare earths—crucial materials for production of AI infrastructure—for geopolitical ends.

Most recently this has meant export controls on the technology required for refinement, attempting to restrict the capacity of the US and its allies to develop alternatives to imports from China.

AI warfare and US imperialism

The Trump administration has moved from trade restrictions to actively encouraging AI infrastructure development in a select group of countries as a way of consolidating an imperial bloc under its leadership.

In December 2025, the US Department of State announced the “Pax Silica Initiative” in partnership with Australia, Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the UK.

This involves a commitment to deepen co-operation across the entire AI-infrastructure supply chain, from the mining of critical minerals to chip pro-



Above: Demanding an end to data centres in New York
Photo: Food & Water Watch New York

duction to the hosting of data centres using state-of-the-art US technology.

Other countries have joined since, most significantly the UAE and Qatar. Along with Saudi Arabia, these Gulf states have been deliberately fostered by the US as AI-infrastructure hubs.

In May 2025, Trump announced \$2.8 trillion in investment pledges during his tour of the Gulf, including a \$700 billion AI data centre in Abu Dhabi, built in partnership with OpenAI, NVIDIA and Oracle.

In the war with Iran, AI systems have played a crucial role in US-led attacks—developing target lists, assessing battle damage and mapping the likely outcome of different strategies.

Now AI infrastructure has itself become a target—with Iran hitting Amazon data centres in the UAE.

This builds on the experience of Israel during the genocide in Gaza.

Israel’s advanced tech sector sits at the core of its economy. The very existence of this sector is the result of generations of contracts with, and integration into, the US military production system.

Amazon, Google and Microsoft systems all formed part of the AI-tech used to identify and strike thousands of the buildings and people obliterated in Gaza since October 2023.

In Australia, as Albanese explained in his speech, membership of the Five Eyes intelligence sharing arrangement and the AUKUS military alliance underpins the economic opportunity presented by the data centre boom.

The AUKUS agreement includes both Pillar 1—the well-known and widely opposed nuclear submarine

program—and Pillar 2, which includes commitments to jointly develop AI military capabilities.

This connection means Australia can use cutting-edge NVIDIA GPUs and otherwise restricted AI models.

It also led in April to an announcement by the US and Australian governments of more than \$5 billion joint funding to subsidise rare earths mining and refinement in Australia.

Federal Labor’s Industry Minister Tim Ayres told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that government support for data centre and critical minerals development is designed to make the country “indispensable” within the US-led AI ecosystem.

The article also reported comments from security policy experts comparing this with the US Pine Gap spy base, which has been similarly indispensable for US imperialism.

Local communities like Moss Vale are just starting to recognise and protest against the threat that data centres pose to health and to the environment.

These centres also need to be seen as part of the infrastructure of the US-led empire responsible for genocide in Gaza and threatening unending war and climate catastrophe.

In the USA, community resistance to data centres is intensifying and has blocked or stalled an estimated \$US170 billion worth of development.

On 14 July, New York became the first US state to declare a moratorium on new data centre development.

A moratorium on hyper-scale data centres is also urgently needed in Australia, to block the roll-out of these factories of death torching the future.

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF SEXISM AND OPPRESSION

Sophie Cotton reviews a new book on Marxism and women's liberation that reasserts the centrality of the family in shaping sexism and the history of struggles for liberation

IN THEIR new book, *Breaking Our Chains*, British socialists Sarah Bates, Judy Cox and Sally Campbell deliver a lucid account of today's nuclear family as "every bit as manufactured and symbolic of the system as McDonald's or the combustion engine".

The book addresses a post-MeToo generation, in which the far right and anti-abortion movements spur on a "new" sexism.

An IPSOS survey across 29 countries earlier this year found that 52 per cent of the 23,000 respondents thought gender equality had "gone far enough". Some 57 per cent of Gen Z men, aged 16 to 29, believed women's equality had gone so far "that we are now discriminating against men".

There has been some official consternation about this "new" sexism. Anthony Albanese, when not making sexual remarks about the Japanese prime minister and Kylie Minogue, has proclaimed online misogynists like Andrew Tate a "global problem" and banned social media for young people.

Before being deposed, British PM Keir Starmer proclaimed that the hit TV show *Adolescence* should be shown in schools.

But the book sets out that sexism is more than reactionary ideas. It has a real material basis.

This is not merely an era of TikTok but of economic malaise and attacks on public service-provision that doubly impact women as workers and carers, entrenching women's material inequality.

The family

Marxism is also known as "historical materialism". An account of sexism must explain the material structures that reproduce women's oppression and the historically dynamic ways this is articulated within capitalism.

The book explains how the nuclear family was embroiled into the rise of class society.

It critically defends Friedrich Engels' *The Origin of the Family, Private*

Property and the State. Despite flaws, including a rigid interpretation of stages of development, the authors explain the ongoing relevance of Engels' insight that the rise of class society produced the "world historic defeat of the female sex".

He writes that women are "degraded and reduced to servitude ... a slave of [a man's] lust and a mere instrument for the production of children. This degraded position of women ... has gradually been palliated and glossed over and sometimes clothed in a milder form; in no sense has it been abolished".

This material relegation of women has been repeatedly transformed as capitalism confronts crisis after crisis of its own making.

Following drastic declines in child survival rates in the Industrial Revolution, Britain brought in Factory Acts, which set out a higher male "family wage". Rather than seeing this as an act of a patriarchy that unites misogynist male trade unionists and capitalists, the authors of *Breaking Our Chains* suggest a more contradictory dynamic wherein the family can be a heart in a heartless world.

There were some bigoted men who saw the family wage was a way of keeping women in the home. But for other workers, like strike leaders Ann and Margaret Fletcher during a lockout of 18,000 textile workers in the 1850s, the demand that their husbands be paid enough so that married women did not have to work was a way of redistributing bosses' profits towards the capacity to care for their family.

Two decades later, through the Contagious Diseases Acts, the state coordinated arrest, plainclothes kidnapping and humiliating medical examination of working class women who appeared too "boisterous" or wore bright clothes, branded sex workers.

Working-class women fought back through riots, protests and a

If actually paid for, household work and care would cost \$688 billion per year

dramatic mass refusal to attend court or submit to examinations in 1870 in Davenport.

Marxism understands the nuclear family as a dynamic and contradictory structure, which can be contested by working class struggle.

Although women make up 48 per cent of Australian workers, they continue to disproportionately perform the unpaid work of reproducing the next generation of workers that capitalism relies on.

If actually paid for, household work and care would cost \$688 billion per year according to economist Leonora Risse. Women do 69 per cent of this work.

Despite many changes in the nuclear family, including more queer relationships, single parenting, divorce rates and lower numbers of children, this care work that capitalism depends upon has continued.

Indeed, these changes can make re-asserting the ideology that women are supposed to have a caring nature more urgent for the ruling class, as we see with the resurgence of anti-trans and anti-abortion movements.

The family also underlies the pay gap, superannuation gap and why women are relegated to insecure and part-time work.

It is impossible to understand the oppression of women without these economic facts.

But it is equally impossible to understand it without conceptualising the visceral, embodied detail of women's oppression within the family, as seen in *Breaking Our Chains'* account of motherhood.

The standard of the ideal perfect mother, against which all women are judged, is every year augmented with new expectations.

Parenting has been "professionalised", with women expected to "educate, interact with and entertain our children every waking moment".

Labour-saving inventions have not freed women from domestic work but facilitated heightened expectations

of cleanliness and nutritional variety, while individualising this work more than ever.

Every year, new reports demand women breastfeed for longer and monitor everything from their children's consumption of online content to microplastics. Popular psychology expands even further what mothers can be blamed for failing to have provided.

One longitudinal study found that in 2012, women spent an average of 104 minutes per day with their children, up from 54 minutes in 1965. For men, it had increased from 16 to 59 minutes.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates the unpaid work of women at 4 hours and 53 minutes per day.

While wealthy women can “outsource elements of motherhood” to paid domestic workers, “working-class women can spend every waking moment wiping snotty noses, wiping sticky hands and wiping other people's shit off the toilet bowl”.

The joy and love within the family is “squeezed” out through the dynamics of women's oppression.

Trans rights and liberation

No book does everything. The chapter on violence leaves much unsaid about domestic violence and the contradiction between the family as “an environment of unbridled joy or one dominated by abuse and neglect”.

The chapter on trans rights is also disappointingly abstract.

It suggests trans people make social change simply through their gender expression. “The more people who choose to live outside the gender binary, the more they contest and erode binary ideas of gender which limit and restrict our lives.”

The authors go on, “Every trans+ person, every non-binary person, who chips away at the prison walls of gender makes life better, richer and less rigid for everyone.” If only it were that easy!

As Australian sociologist Raewyn Connell argues in *Trans Lives*, “Treating cisgender people's lives as conformity to role norms, while treating transgender as non-normative” simplifies gender and paints “far too rosy a picture” of alignment for non-trans people.

Non-trans women and men find themselves within the prison walls of gender every day.

Many people try to build intimate relationships that break away from



Above: NSW nurses are still battling against the refusal to address the historical undervaluing of their work

the brutally sexist expectations of our society. Many parents resist rigid sex-stereotypes in their parenting.

There is nothing wrong with individual subversion, but without the material reorganisation of the “private” reproductive work of the family, which underpins the very idea of a gender binary, trans and non-trans women will remain oppressed.

Trans people have done far more than request unions encourage the “they” pronoun, as discussed in the book. Far more transformative struggles include striking against employers for gender affirmation leave, public protests to win self-identification reform and street-based collective action.

None of this can be reduced to individual gender presentation.

These issues come from a misunderstanding of transphobia as resting on the ideological basis of “biological determinism”.

Trans oppression does not arise in a separate ideological sphere. It is bound up in the same social relations in the family that underpin the reproduction of labour-power for the capitalist system and also give rise to sexism and homophobia.

These deficiencies are tempered when one remembers the toxic anti-

transgender tendencies within British politics, including sections of the left like Counterfire or anti-trans feminists in Labour. Celebrating trans existence is infinitely preferable but it artificially limits the capacity of trans people to lead class struggles.

Marxism

Without erecting artificial barriers with the intellectual tradition of feminism, *Breaking Our Chains* lays out Marxism as a unique and distinctive theoretical framework.

The book refreshingly celebrates women leaders of the socialist movement like Rosa Luxemburg, Clara Zetkin and Alexandra Kollontai for their role as revolutionary theorists and actors, rather than through an awkward, ahistorical rebrand as palatable feminists.

It provides a vivid and inspiring history-from-below of working-class women's struggles. In the 1818 Peterloo massacre, women carried the banner “Let us die like men and not be sold like slaves”. Lesbian socialist couple Esther Roper and Eva Gore-Booth organised a mass petition for suffrage in 1900.

Millions of women joined the German socialist party and struggled not against “the men of her own class” but “capitalist society”.

Against male privilege, intersectionality and social reproduction theory, classical Marxism understands women's oppression as bound into a single unitary system of capitalism, imperialism, colonialism and the nuclear family.

It offers a blueprint for fighting this as it unfolds in a single historical process, from the racist origins of obstetrics to the struggles of migrant domestic workers.

The struggles of today pitch us against this sexist system. NSW nurses are up against the industrial court's ruling that addressing wage inequality is unaffordable. Anti-racists fighting One Nation contend with anti-abortion and anti-trans politics. Anti-war activists fighting Albanese stand in solidarity with the Palestinian women who bear the brunt of Israeli occupation, violence and apartheid.

Breaking Our Chains deserves to be read and debated by these activists, and the struggle against sexism integrated consciously into this work.

As French-Russian revolutionary Inessa Armand writes, “If women's liberation is unthinkable without communism, then communism is unthinkable without women's liberation.”

WHY CAPITALISM IS ADDICTED TO OIL

Tess Worley explains why oil has become so central to capitalism, and the imperialist scramble for control of the Middle East

THE WAR on Iran and subsequent closure of the Strait of Hormuz has revealed a fundamental reality of contemporary capitalism—its addiction to oil.

As the conflict escalated, oil's centrality to the global economic system was increasingly exposed. About one third of the world's seaborne oil trade passes through this critical chokepoint and disruptions to shipping have led to surging transportation costs and increased the price of fuel, fertiliser, food and essential goods across the supply chain.

Some 90 per cent of Australia's refined petroleum is imported, with the vast majority coming from South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

In 2024, 84 per cent of crude oil that moved through the Strait of Hormuz went to the Asian market. South Korea, which accounts for more than 30 per cent of Australia's oil imports, almost entirely relies on exports from the Middle East.

As one columnist wrote, "The Indian Ocean is the artery; Hormuz is the heart valve; the patient is the Indo-Pacific economy." In other words, the strait is not only an oil checkpoint, but a valve of globalised production so that when it fails, the entire circulatory system is subject to collapse.

Most critically, about one third of the world's fertiliser trade also passes through the strait, with the oil derivative sulphur a key component. This disruption to the world's global agricultural supply chain, according to the UN, puts an estimated 45 million people at risk of acute starvation, with low-income regions to be hit the hardest.

The war has been a stark demonstration of oil's centrality to the industries which enable capitalism to carry out its aim of accumulation, including transport, construction and agriculture.

But how and why has oil become

so deeply woven into the fabric of capitalist infrastructure? And how is it critically wedded to colonialism and imperialism?

Why oil?

Oil's centrality stems from its convenient properties—including that it can be transported and used everywhere. This makes it a powerful fuel for capitalism.

As academic Elmar Altvater noted, "There is a congruence of fossil energy's physical properties with the socioeconomic and political logics of capitalist development."

In his book, *Crude Capitalism*, Palestinian socialist Alex Hanieh argues that oil saturates and shapes all aspects of our society in three key ways: as fuel for electricity production, industry and heating; for petroleum-based transport; and petrochemicals.

First, oil's role in enabling mass electrification had a powerful impact on capitalist profitability and the dynamics of consumption.

As households gained access to electricity, a range of new markets opened up for consumer goods such as dishwashers, televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and electric cookers. In industry and manufacturing, the introduction of electrical machinery helped drive the growing automation of post-war European factories.

The second dimension, transport, was first revolutionised by use of petroleum during the First World War. Sir John Fisher, the commander-in-chief of the British Mediterranean fleet, had written to a journalist in 1901 that, "Oil fuel will absolutely revolutionise naval strategy. It's a case of 'WAKE UP ENGLAND'."

In 1914, Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, recognised the immense military advantage of shifting naval fleets from coal to oil.

As oil became integral to capitalism, countries fought to control oil reserves, pipelines and shipping lanes

Oil-fired ships were lighter, faster and required less storage, meaning they could carry more weapons and crew.

Ten days after the European armistice of 11 November 1918, Lord Curzon presided over a celebratory gathering of the Inter-Allied Petroleum conference, saying "We might say the allies floated to victory on a wave of oil."

Finally, the rise of petrochemicals provided, as Hanieh argues, "feed-stock—the raw material of commodity production itself". This development can't be overstated as it meant oil would become central to other industries.

Take food production, which was revolutionised by chemical fertilisers, pesticides, defoliants and herbicides, new synthetic products all ultimately derived from oil.

From the 1950s, a wide array of naturally derived substances were displaced by plastics, synthetic fibres, detergents and other petroleum-based chemicals. Today, while up to 85 per cent of crude oil is refined into fuel, the remaining portion acts as the raw material for more than 6000 everyday products. It's in everything from synthetic fabrics to toothbrushes, makeup and food additives.

Over the past four decades, China has become the world's manufacturing hub, and today is the world's largest importer of crude oil. Much of that oil comes from the Middle East. This makes access to stable oil supplies a major strategic priority for the Chinese state.

Oil, empire and global conflict

As oil became integral to capitalism, countries fought to control oil reserves, pipelines and shipping lanes. Control of oil was a principal factor in the post-First World War carve up of the Middle East. It was keenly recognised that substantial reserves existed across Iran and the former Ottoman

territories.

Churchill said Britain's oil policy was to become, "The owners, or at any rate the controllers at the source, of at least a proportion of the supply of natural oil which we require ... and to draw our oil supply, so far as possible, from sources under British control or British influence."

In 1918, a report by Admiral Sir Edmond Slade argued that, "In Persia and Mesopotamia lie the largest undeveloped resources at present known to the world ... if this estimate is anywhere near the truth, then it is evident that the power that controls the oil lands of Persia and Mesopotamia will control the source of supply of the majority of the liquid fuel in the future.

"These advantages are very great and we cannot expect to enjoy them without making some sacrifices for them and we must be prepared to defend our claim against everybody."

As the US emerged as a super-power following 1945 the State Department described Middle East oil as, "A stupendous source of strategic power and one of the greatest material prizes in world history."

And the US set out to ensure it had control—using brutal violence whenever necessary.

US efforts to dominate the Middle East have produced a string of invasions and interventions, including the coup in Iran in 1953 against Mohammad Mossadegh, who sought to nationalise Iran's oil industry which had previously been dominated by the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil company.

The US war on Iraq in 1991 was fought partly to show the US's willingness to guarantee Saudi Arabia's security.

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein had invaded Kuwait and fired missiles at Saudi Arabia.

According to US state department official Robert Kimmitt, the broader aim was to ensure the "free, uninterrupted flow of oil from the Gulf". He added, "If Kuwait grew carrots, we wouldn't give a damn."

Before the 1970s, a handful of US and European companies known as the "Seven Sisters" controlled 85 per cent of world oil production. They worked together to exploit the oil fields of Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The seven companies later merged into four: BP (British Petroleum), Royal Dutch Shell, Exxonmobil and Chevron.

Their dominance in the Middle



Above: An oil well in Iraq Photo: rawpixel.com

East ended when the oil-producing countries established the OPEC consortium and took control of oil for themselves in 1973.

Today, state-owned oil companies are some of the world's biggest producers. Saudi Aramco's profits alone surpass those of the five largest Western oil companies combined—in 2022, it made \$US200 billion, the largest corporate profit ever.

Leverage over China

Today, the rise of China and relative erosion of American power is reflected in the Middle East's importance to US imperialism.

The US is the world's largest producer of oil but is still concerned to control the flow of oil from the Middle East because it gives it leverage over China—as well as allies like Japan—who are dependent on Middle East oil. Control means it can guarantee oil supplies to its allies and potentially cut them off to adversaries in the event of war.

Australia is one of those US allies that relies on oil from the Middle East.

That's one reason Australia joined the US in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and why Anthony Albanese was one of the first world leaders to support the US-Israeli attack on Iran. In the name of "defence", Australia sent an E7-A Wedgetail aircraft and advanced medium range air-to-air missiles to its closest Gulf partner, the

UAE. Data from the Wedgetail spy plane was almost certainly used to target UAE strikes on Iran.

To come back to the wider geopolitics of the region, Hanieh argues that the US had two major pillars of influence and power in the Middle East.

One was Saudi Arabia and the Gulf monarchies, and the second was Israel, particularly after the 1967 war. And what the US has tried to do over the last couple of decades is bring these two pillars together: to normalise relationships between the Gulf and Israel under American hegemony.

This dynamic helps account for the United States' ongoing support for Israel, which is its most reliable ally in the region, with the power to punish states that step out of line.

Ultimately, the war on Iran and the genocide in Gaza are both symptoms of a system that prioritises profit and extraction, driven by competition. The Middle East is a critical prize for Western imperialist powers and their goal to control oil and its associated products.

Capitalism and oil are fundamentally linked. Fossil fuels cannot be peeled away from capitalism and leave the system intact; they are embedded in every aspect of it.

We cannot extricate ourselves from oil's pervasiveness—certainly not at the pace necessary to halt runaway climate change—while remaining within capitalism.

HUNDREDS DESCEND ON PINE GAP TO EXPOSE BASE'S ROLE IN GENOCIDE

By Angus Dermody

AROUND 400 activists protested outside the Pine Gap spy base on 20 July, as part of the Close Pine Gap Sacred Land Back convergence.

The three-day convergence, the largest against Pine Gap since 1987, saw people travel from across the continent to Arrernte Country in Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

The convergence threw a spotlight on the active complicity of Australia in the continuing genocide in Gaza.

Activists successfully disrupted the operations of Pine Gap. They are now planning for a nationwide escalation of efforts to confront the imperialist war machine being expanded by the Albanese government as part of its commitment to the AUKUS alliance.

Protesters organised a convoy from town of over 100 vehicles before marching up to the gate of the facility.

The march was led by the Hayes family, the Traditional Owners of Kuyunba, the sacred land on which Pine Gap was built without their consent. The family delivered a letter demanding the return of Kuyunba and the closure of Pine Gap, compensation for the decades of occupation and compensation for families in Gaza.

The letter reads, in part: "Since the base was built, we've been locked out of our own sacred land ... We're suffering because we can't take our next generation to that place.

"We feel sorry for the families around the world whose lives have been taken away by that base ... We're not the ones controlling that facility, but we feel guilty that it's coming from our land."

The base is considered to be the most important US intelligence facility outside the US itself, feeding information to the US military used for identifying targets for military strikes.

Intelligence collected at Pine Gap is also shared with Israel for use in Gaza and its wars across the region—showing the deep complicity of the Albanese government with Israel.

Convergence organiser and activist with Mparntwe For Falastin, Jorgen Doyle, told *Solidarity* that the organis-



Above: The protest at the gates of the Pine Gap spy base. Photo: Sarah Dalglish

ers had not expected to get so close to the base.

Doyle said, "It felt good to be right in front of the base and to be able to see the American and the Australian flags and have our flags in confrontation with those flags."

Messages of solidarity with the Hayes' family's struggle were delivered from other First Nations activists and Palestinian activists, as well as Greens Senator David Shoebridge, who was part of the delegation to the gate.

A statement from the Maritime Union of Australia Sydney branch, which donated to help send Sydney activists to the convergence, was also read out. It reaffirmed the union's opposition to AUKUS and support for boycotts and sanctions on Israel, concluding, "Unions have a critical role to play and we stand with you."

US bases

There is a rapid expansion of US bases happening across the country as preparation for war on China. Over the two days before the protest, participants heard from First Nations activists fighting against the impacts of the military build-up on their land.

A busload of activists also travelled to Irrkerlantye (Whitegate)

Town Camp where many of the Traditional Owners of the land where Pine Gap was built live. The community has been denied running water and electricity for decades while billions have been poured into the spy base that occupies their land.

Another of the convergence organisers, Anti Militarism Action Network (AMAN) activist Nat Farah, told *Solidarity* that the convergence was a "real step up".

"We are building a stronger anti-war movement that brings the strength of the pro-Palestine movement together with the fight against militarism happening here," Farah said.

Doyle said that the task now was to "find ways to take the work that we've done here together to wherever it is that we're going back to".

One outcome of the convergence was a call to back a national day of action against AUKUS on 20 September.

As Farah told *Solidarity*, "The US is on a path of destruction. There is real fear about what that aggression would mean in the Pacific. It seems like they are not slowing down when we look at what is happening in Iran.

"But that fear can turn into action. We need everyone there on 20 September and for whatever comes after."

Protesters organised a convoy of over 100 vehicles before marching up to the gate of the facility

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