

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

For the past four decades subsequent Governments have proceeded to sell off public assets and privatise public utilities in the belief that the free market will provide competition resulting in cheaper costs to the consumer and a more efficient service. The reality is the consumer has seen a steady increase in the cost of those utilities and a decline in both services and maintenance.

Public Interests Before Corporate Interests (PIBCI) advocate:

- To re-establish a publicly owned People's Bank and subsequent financial advice service.
- Return all public transport (Bus, Rail, Trams) back to public ownership. This would also extend to major airports as well as ports.
- Supply of water, power, gas to be nationalised.
- Buyback of Telecommunications sector.
- Resist any attempts to privatise public assets.
- Resist any attempts to privatise crown lands.
- Incorporate the ownership of public assets into the Australian Constitution (to prevent future Governments arbitrarily privatising public owned assets).

Public ownership of services and infrastructure allows for greater control over the price and accessibility of essential services, including in remote areas, and consequently ensures equality of accessibility regardless of ability to pay.

