

# PIBCI | Public Interests Before Corporate Interests

*"We Are The People We've Been Waiting For"*

# POLICIES



**Post**  
PO Box 20  
Parkville VIC 3052



**Call**  
0439 395 489



**Web**  
[www.pibci.net](http://www.pibci.net)  
[info@pibci.net](mailto:info@pibci.net)



**Facebook**  
[@PIBCIAU](https://www.facebook.com/PIBCIAU)



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[@PIBCI\\_AU](https://twitter.com/PIBCI_AU)



**Instagram**  
[@stepstoahome](https://www.instagram.com/stepstoahome)



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## **ANIMAL JUSTICE**

The mass incarceration of animals for human consumption is environmentally destructive and unjust.

*“Animals matter to each other and the world. Every individual animal has the capacity to feel joy, fear and pain. And every individual is vital to the survival of their ecosystem. Their world is our world too.” – International Fund For Animal Welfare – IFAW*

PIBCI aims to regulate and finally abolish the exploitation of animals.

Animal justice needs to move from the margins to the mainstream.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the brutality and injustice inflicted by humans on nonhuman animals and expect a society that is just, fair and ethical.

Industrial farming is as incompatible with a sustained future for humans and other species as mining coal.

The vast expanse of pastureland would be better used for rewilding: using indigenous plants for the mass restoration of nature, to reverse the catastrophic decline in habitats and the diversity and abundance of wildlife and the returning forests, wetlands, grasslands and deserts will absorb more carbon than current growing practices.

The industrial farming of animals be replaced with ecological farming practices. This type of farming treats animals with respect. We need to move towards a pre-dominantly plant based diet as supported by science.



## **CO-OPERATIVES AND COLLECTIVES**

Co-operatives and collectives are organisations which are owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits. Seeding funding can be provided for co-operatives and collectives by levying a 1% superannuation tax. This loan would be repaid once the co-operative or collective is profitable. Co-operatives and collectives play a valuable role in a mixed economy. They introduce increased competitive pressures in an economy. An ideal mix would be one third public, one third private and one third co-operatives and collectives.

The Mondragon co-operatives in Spain that arose in 1956 when a handful of workers in a disused factory, using hand tools and sheet metal to make oil-fired heating and cooking stoves is today a massive conglomerate of some 260 manufacturing, retail, financial, agricultural, civil engineering and support co-operatives and associated entities, with jobs for 83,800 workers, and annual sales in excess of \$20 billion US.

As equal co-owners of their workplaces, members enjoy job security together with individual capital holdings, equal sharing of profits on a proportionate basis and an equal 'one-member one vote' say in their governance. Remuneration within the cooperatives is egalitarian.

Members share a unique system of secondary support co-operatives, from which the primary or frontline co-operatives draw resources including financial services, social insurance, education and training and research and development.

The establishment of co-operatives and collectives as a significant economic force in Australia will help to decrease unemployment, increase job security, reduce prices and improve overall job satisfaction. Pride in ownership leads to better quality products and services. Co-operatives and collectives help to create a harmonious stable society.



## **GENDER EQUALITY**

### **PRINCIPLES**

PIBCI believes in retaining and further promoting the rights of people regardless of what gender they identify with, to work and support themselves, to balance career and family life, and to live safely without the fear of abuse or violence.

PIBCI believes it is imperative that the knowledge and experience of people is utilised in all aspects of society regardless of what gender they identify themselves with.

### **POLICIES**

- to teach the principles of gender equity in all education and training facilities.
- to ensure equal pay for equal work regardless of a worker's gender identity or sexual orientation.
- to take specific initiatives in schools, vocational education and universities that increase women's participation and success in traditionally male-dominated careers.
- to further develop and support national anti-violence, including family violence, public education campaigns and programs, including primary prevention and early intervention programs.
- to dedicate adequate funding for services to cater for the whole-of-life health and welfare needs of people with diverse sexuality, gender identities and intersex.
- to ensure sex or gender information in official records only be recorded where necessary. When sex or gender is necessary information to collect in official records, gender markers be available that reflect the diversity of the Australian population.



## **HUMAN CAUSED ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS**

Climate Change or Climate Disruption is the single most important issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century facing humankind and all other living creatures on the planet. Unless drastic measures are undertaken now to address this crisis all life including the lives of our children and our grandchildren will be and are under serious threat from extinction.

All of us, especially governments and corporations must ensure the integrity and protection of biodiversity in all ecosystems, including air, soil, lakes, rivers, wetlands, water tables and oceans.

### **DEFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION**

There needs to be a global concerted effort of all countries, governments and non-government agencies to plan and implement mass reforestation programs and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. To provide resources to protect and expand national parks, marine parks and wetlands.

### **OZONE HOLE REPAIR AND GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ozone depleting chemicals. Stricter regulations and further research required to eliminate chemicals.

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING**

Implement nationwide refund system for glass and plastic bottle packaging. Increased taxes on plastic packaging and manufacturing – to reduce and recycle.

Scientific development to find alternatives to plastic, to develop actual biodegradable plastics.

### **ENERGY CONSUMPTION**

To give financial and tax incentives to renewable and sustainable technologies, products and manufacturing.

### **WATER MANAGEMENT**

A major review to be undertaken regarding use of water for corporate owned coal mining, gas fracking and agriculture in all Australian states.

Implement rural rehydration methods retain water runoff and reduce rate of water flow to oceans to enhance vegetation growth.

### **REDUCING MEAT AND DAIRY CONSUMPTION**

Tax and financial incentives for farmers to decrease animal farming for slaughter and promote and support transition to sensitive ecological agriculture.

Stronger regulations enforced to reduce environmental impacts from water use, land clearing and waste effluent.



## **PUBLIC HOUSING, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION**

### **PUBLIC HOUSING**

Public housing is a right, not a privilege. Public housing gives people who cannot afford to rent privately or buy a home the opportunity to enjoy stable secure housing.

PIBCI believes that having a strong, mixed economy in the housing sector will not only reduce public housing waiting lists, it would help create secure housing. This would put downward pressure on an overinflated property market.

- All new and hitherto built public housing should remain under state management and oversight, with rental rates not exceeding 25% of resident's income.
- The money raised from property stamp duty should be used to spot purchase and build new public housing accommodation
- 20% of metropolitan developments with over 30 dwellings should be automatically handed over to the state (with compensation as independently assessed) to manage as public housing.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Quality universal healthcare is a right and a necessity for a healthy society.

- Bulk billing needs to be encouraged and spread across all medical practices.
- The government should cease subsidising private health insurance, and instead subsidise public hospitals and doctors to treat or perform operations over \$300 and pay all costs for citizens who cannot afford to pay.
- A commission should be setup to investigate action required to improve and increase efficiency in the public hospital sector and establish ideal hospital to population ratios, GP to population ratios, patient nurse hospital ratios, supported accommodation nursing ratios and nursing home nurse and staff ratios.

### **EDUCATION**

Public education of a high standard is a universal right, and must be upheld through government support.

- The government adequately fund all public schools and universities, to ensure free education is upheld as a right.
- Private and religious schools should be fully self- funded.
- Early childhood, primary and secondary teachers be required to pass national teaching standards.
- Land be put aside in all new suburbs for public early childhood, primary and secondary schools.



## **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.



## TREATY

Public Interests Before Corporate Interests (PIBCI) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have lived on the Australian mainland and surrounding Islands for over 60,000 years.

We acknowledge they have never ceded their sovereign rights to their traditional lands.

We acknowledge Australia is soaked in the blood of its traditional owners.

We acknowledge the unfinished business that exists between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the rest of the nation has and continues to have a significant impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders today.

We fully support and accept the **Uluru Statement from the Heart** that was issued by the 2017 National Constitutional Convention by delegates from most of the 220 independent sovereign nations that existed before colonisation began, when their delegates gathered at Uluru to call for a First Nations voice to be heard by Australian governments and the Australian public.

Public Interests Before Corporate Interests supports their call to:

- A.** Establish a First Nation voice enshrined in the Australian constitution.
- B.** Establish a Makarrata Commission (the coming together after a struggle) to supervise a process of agreement-making between Governments and First Nations to tell the truth about this country's history.
- C.** Establish a Treaty Commission to explore the possibility of drawing up a treaty / treaties between First Nations People and Governments at the local, state and federal level.

We fully support their call to “*seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country*”.



## **UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME**

A Universal Basic Income is the foundation stone of economic freedom / independence and personal security in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The policy is designed to overcome the structural inequalities that exist under the current economic system.

The introduction of a universal basic income is an effective answer to the problems caused by rapidly disappearing jobs in an increasingly automated society.

The level of what is a universal basic income would be determined yearly by an independent tribunal established by the whole of Federal Parliament, not just the government of the day. The way this tribunal would be selected mirrors the process used to establish current parliamentary committees.

Tax policy would be used to ensure only those who require assistance would benefit from this policy.

Individuals earning the universal basic income, would pay no tax.

Individuals earning more than four times the universal basic income would pay it back in full when they pay their tax bill. Those that earn between these two figures would pay it back on a sliding scale when they pay their tax. Extra allowances would be paid for dependent children for people on the Universal Basic Income.

Such a system drastically reduces the expenditure required to process and regulate a system based on means testing to determine who needs assistance.

This policy can be funded by a new radical approach to taxation that ensures those who currently do not pay their fair share of tax, pay tax. Over 150 billion dollars can be generated by introducing:

- a 1% stock market turnover tax
- a 1% turnover company tax
- a 1% financial services tax
- the removal of GST tax deductions for companies that have a yearly turnover greater than 5 million

Every citizen and permanent resident would receive a universal basic income when they turn 18.

