

Alliance Voices

Socialist Alliance Discussion Bulletin

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Draft Minutes of the Third National Conference of Socialist Alliance

SATURDAY, May 8

WELCOME

Presented by Linda Waldron from the Melbourne Conference Organising Committee.

1. PROCEDURAL MOTIONS (Chair: Patrick McLeish)

1.1 CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Procedural motion moved by National Conveners:

That chairpeople be proposed by the National Conveners at the beginning of each session.

Procedural motion carried.

1.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT AGENDA

Amendment to the National Executive agenda moved by National Conveners:

That the amended agenda be adopted.

Amendment carried.

1.3 STANDING ORDERS

1.3.1 Resolution moved by National Executive:

That the following draft standing orders be adopted for the conference:

- a. Presiding committee. That there be a presiding committee of five, to be composed of the National Conveners.
- b. Voting. Voting on reports, resolutions and amendment to be by show of delegate cards. Voting on resolutions and amendments to take place as soon as debate on the resolutions and amendments in question has ended;
- c. Majority required. Decisions to be by simple majority;
- d. Procedure for selecting speakers. Delegates to have voice and vote. Non-delegate members to have voice but not vote. The speaking order to be formed of delegates and non-delegates, but session chairs shall ensure that all delegates who wish to speak get the opportunity to do so. The chair to take speakers in groups of five and aim to ensure balanced representation by gender, delegation and affiliates. Any delegate or non-delegate who has not spoken in the debate to have precedence over any delegate or non-delegate who has already spoken;
- e. Conduct of debate. After two speakers have spoken in favour of a resolution or amendment the next speaker to be a speaker against. If there is no such speaker, debate to lapse and the vote taken. Movers of resolutions or amendments not to have right of reply;
- f. Speaking limit. The speaking limit to be four minutes and speakers to be advised when they have spoken for three minutes. Speakers may ask the conference for extensions;
- g. Procedural motions and dissent in ruling of the chair. In the case of procedural motions and dissent in the chair's rulings only one speaker to be allowed for and against. Procedural motions do not require a seconder;
- h. Motion to gag debate. The motion to gag debate to be put without debate;
- i. Treatment and presentation of resolutions and amendments. Movers of amendments to be entitled to amalgamate and modify amendments at any time until the vote on the matter under debate is taken. All resolutions and amendments to be submitted to the conference presiding committee so as to be able to be projected on screen for delegates.
- j. Media coverage. Conference to be open to the media but any speaker who does not wish to be recorded by the media to so indicate and coverage to be suspended for the duration of the presentation of the speaker in question;
- k. Videoing conference. Art Resistance to be allowed to video conference, but under the same conditions as proposed for the media.

Resolution carried unamended.

1.3.2 Amendments moved by National Conveners:

That the following amendments to the Standing Orders be adopted:

A. That the speaking limits be:

- (i) 4 minutes for movers of resolutions (other than the major resolution in each session) and amendments;
- (ii) 3 minutes for all subsequent speakers to a resolution or amendment

B. That following the reports moving the major resolution in each session, discussion move immediately to deal with amendments.

C. Replace e. from the standing orders to read: Conduct of debate - After one speaker has spoken in favour of a resolution or amendment the next speaker to be a speaker against. A further speaker in favour of the motion will then be accepted and may be followed by a further speaker against. If there is no such speaker, debate to lapse and the vote

taken. Movers of resolutions or amendments not to have right of reply. A vote will be taken after two speakers in favour and two against.”

Amendments carried.

1.4 TELLERS

Procedural motion moved by the National Conveners:

That the tellers of votes be the two people at the front of each entire row of delegate tables.

Procedural motion carried.

1.5 DELEGATE PROXIES

Resolution moved by National Executive:

a. Each delegate may hold only one vote.

b. If they are absent, they may hand their delegate card to a financial member of their branch, or in the case of NE delegates to a member of the affiliate or state they represent.

c. There is no absentee voting.

Resolution carried unamended.

2. NEW AFFILIATES (Chair: Patrick McLeish)

Reporter for National Conveners: Lisa Macdonald

Resolution moved by National Conveners:

That conference ratify the 2003 National Executive decision to affiliate Resistance to Socialist Alliance.

Resolution carried unamended.

GREETINGS PRESENTED BY DEAN MIGHELL, ELECTRICAL TRADES UNION, VICTORIA

3. AUSTRALIAN POLITICS TODAY AND THE TASKS OF THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE (Chair: Patrick McLeish)

Reporter for National Executive: David Glanz

3.1 RESOLUTION MOVED BY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

1) The federal election is shaping up as a referendum on the war in Iraq and Howard's parallel assault on the working class at home. The federal election is the central factor in Australian political life in 2004.

2) Latham's rise to the leadership of the ALP has broken the logjam in parliamentary politics. There is now a widespread sense that the Liberals can be beaten. The Socialist Alliance shares with both Labor and Green supporters the desire to drive Howard out. But we also recognise that Latham is a populist and rightwing leader, who combines audacity over questions like withdrawing troops from Iraq or parliamentary superannuation with conservatism over national security, the US alliance, indigenous affairs, paid maternity leave, etc. The task for the Alliance is to work alongside all those who want an end to Howard while putting forward our own positive, socialist alternative on the questions of the day.

3) The rise of the Green vote is a welcome indicator of the shift to the left of a substantial minority in Australian society. We will seek to work with the Greens, organise joint platforms with them and Labor, and will normally preference them before Labor. At the same time, we have to attempt to win Green supporters to the Alliance, the only party in the election that rejects not just the symptoms of capitalism but the system itself, and that prioritises the needs, demands and campaigns of the working class.

4) The Socialist Alliance commits to running the largest and liveliest election campaign that our resources allow. Our central slogan is "Troops out, Howard out - vote socialist". We need to oppose the two wars that Howard is waging - one against the Iraqis, the other against workers at home. Alliance election material will highlight the waste of military spending, when money could go to rebuilding Iraq and extending Medicare. We need to point to the \$8 billion ACOSS has identified as going to the wealthy in tax breaks and argue for resources to be shifted to free education, from kinder to university. Branches need to identify local issues and integrate them into the broader election campaign.

5) Our aim is to get the highest number of votes possible in the current situation, while using the election campaign to build both the Alliance and the movements. The size of our vote matters to the next layer of union and movement activists considering joining the Alliance, who are searching for a credible alternative.

6) The Alliance election campaign will work only where it is integrated with our broader work in the anti-war, union and other movements. We will want to seek to involve those who have worked with us in such areas in campaigning, fund-raising, etc. We also want in turn to use the election campaign to strengthen the movements, by promoting their activities on our material and at our meetings.

7) Each branch should set a target for recruitment out of this process. The Alliance understands that the key political battles take place between elections, in the workplaces and in the broader society. If we succeed in integrating our election and campaigning work, we will be better placed to build our influence after the election.

8) Given our resources, the Alliance will find it difficult to establish a profile once the election is called. For that reason, conference recommends branches to regard themselves as being on a war footing and to begin active campaigning immediately. Such a campaign should include a range of standard elements such as letterboxing and stalls, doorknocking, coverage of booths, approaches to local unionised workplaces, letters to local papers, campaign launch public meetings, posters, etc. But branches should also plan rallies, pickets, banner drops and street theatre to break through the media blackout.

Socialist Alliance and the anti-war movement

1) The invasion of Iraq represents an enormous gamble by the US ruling class. Whether it succeeds or fails will set the framework for global politics for a generation.

2) The war and subsequent occupation also throw into sharp relief the priorities of the Howard government. Its legitimacy, too, is being decided in Baghdad, Najaf and Fallujah. The war also raises the question of domestic priorities - whether public money should go to health and education, or war and imperialism. Building the anti-war movement is an integral part of driving Howard out at the election.

3) For these reasons, the Socialist Alliance regards the maintenance and strengthening of the anti-war movement of central strategic importance for the entire Australian left and progressive forces.

4) We are for troops out now. The occupation is the problem, not the solution. We are opposed to the involvement of the United Nations, which would simply give a veneer of legitimacy to the coalition of the killing.

5) Mark Latham's support for the withdrawal of Australian troops is to be welcomed. His position makes it easier for anti-war activists to raise and win the debate in the streets and workplaces. But the Alliance rejects Latham's notion that withdrawal from Iraq is linked to a more interventionist role for the Australian military in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We oppose the occupation of Iraq as an act of solidarity with the emerging national liberation movement there, and in order to weaken the Australia-US alliance and the Howard government.

6) The Alliance is for Australia and its allies paying war reparations to the Iraqi people, for them to use according to their own democratic decisions. We are for solidarity with the independent Iraqi union movement and women's movement and will campaign for both to have full, legal rights to organise.

7) The Alliance seeks to be significant, active player in the anti-war movement while recognising that the movement must be open and welcoming to all who want to be active. The Alliance will seek to build broad, united front peace groups as the main vehicle for the growth of the movement. Alliance branches should use this united front method where possible in their work in the refugee solidarity movement and other movements.

8) In the anti-war movement, Socialist Alliance members should be raising key dates for potential mobilisations including June 30 (the so-called hand-over of sovereignty) and September 27 (the anniversary of the Palestinian Intifada).

3.2 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Luke Deer:

Add at end of paragraph 2: "The Alliance also needs to raise demands on Labor, in order to help raise workers' desire for change, and to highlight the gap between what Labor should offer and the Alliance does."

Amendment accepted by National Conveners.

3.3 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Luke Deer:

Amend the second sentence of paragraph 3 to read: "We will seek to work with the Greens, organize joint platforms with them and Labor where the Greens preference Labor before the Liberals."

Amendment accepted by the National Conveners [See 3.12 for amendment to this amendment.]

3.4 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Juliet Edeson:

Add at end of paragraph 8: "In particular, Socialist Alliance members should raise the call for nationwide demonstrations on the weekend before the election around the theme "Troops out, Howard out!"

Amendment accepted by National Conveners.

3.5 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Carlene Wilson:

Delete the first two sentences of paragraph 3 of the "Australian politics today and the tasks of the Socialist Alliance" document and replace it with the following: "The rise of the Green vote is an indicator of a move away from class politics in Australian society. Whilst we will seek to work with the Greens and organise joint electoral platforms with them and Labor, we will preference ALP candidates above the Greens." Then continue with the original paragraph.

Amendment defeated.

3.6 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Sam Pillay:

1) The Australian political situation today is charged with the full import of cataclysmic changes in the international crisis of imperialism. The war of occupation in Iraq is an act that presages revolutionary consequences for all of the Middle East. The fallout, while not predictable in every detail, will be revolutionary and will set the framework of global politics for a generation. The Howard government in particular and the Australian political and economic outlook in general are bound up with it.

2) The United States' resort to mass murder, torture and the widespread use of cluster bombs and depleted uranium warheads on the defiant Iraqi masses is an act of extraordinary but so far futile subjugation. It is not an isolated strategy

and is integral to finance/monopoly capital's drive for global hegemony. It aims to crush political dissent everywhere and enslave the world masses. Imperialism is bent on this manic trajectory because capitalism as a system of production and economic management is nearing the end of a long process of unravelling altogether; it is in its death agony. Nothing else explains the war of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan, the February coup d'etat in Haiti, continuing attempts at sabotage of the Latin American States and insurgency and counter-insurgency on the African continent as well as the South Asian region. Imperialist meddling is evident in the affairs of every nation.

3) There are an estimated 20,000 mercenaries in Iraq. The militarised pursuit of policy by other means has in turn launched Howard on his neo-imperialist policy in the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea and East Timor. Its extension is further draconian attacks on trade unions, the working and middle classes, health, education and social services as the war drive sucks up more and more of national revenue.

4) The US is straining under the yoke of multi-trillion-dollar debts, while the stock markets are mired in unstable gambles on an immense scale. The world market is glutted with commodities, marked particularly sharply by the instabilities of the Far Eastern economies.

5) The major banks - the imperialist financiers whose stupidity governs world politics today - have been in a never-ending crisis since the "oil shock" of the early 1970s. The stock market crash of 1987 and the collapse of the Asian "Tiger economies" were all part and parcel of imperialist decay, held together by band-aid measures. Nations paid for a US bail-out of some of its largest banks in the early 1980s. It was the sole cause of the Hawke Labor government's deregulation of finance banking. The world finance market, as a result, sucked billions of dollars out of the Australian economy as the dollar went chasing lucrative currency deals and tax-free havens. The then Treasurer Paul Keating's "the recession we had to have" was the result.

6) The world masses now rise again despite these repeated attacks, and this influence is clear to see among Australia's working class. The Alliance stands proudly among their ranks, in solidarity and in defence of their undeniable rights.

7) Iraq throws into sharp relief the priorities of the Howard government. Its legitimacy, too, is being decided in Baghdad, Najaf and Fallujah. For the working class, the war raises the critical question of whether public money for health, education and social care should be sacrificed on the altar of military aggression and imperialist greed and brutality.

8) The Socialist Alliance stands in defence of basic rights to health education and social care. It is the reason why it is resolved to maintain and strengthen the anti-war movement. The anti-war movement is of strategic importance for the entire Australian left and progressive forces. It is an integral part of driving out Howard and his clique at the federal election of 2004.

9) We demand, "Troops out now." The occupation is the problem, not the solution. We oppose United Nations involvement. It would not even provide a veneer of legitimacy after President George W. Bush's trampling of its tenuous sovereignty just before he launched the war on March 20 last year.

10) Concurrently, we will not be any part of sowing illusions that a Mark Latham Labor government will or is capable of resolving even the most basic of the demands of the working class and its allied ranks.

11) Latham's support for the withdrawal of Australian troops is to be welcomed. The position meets the demands of all progressive people and anti-war activists who have raised the debate in the streets and workplaces. But the Alliance rejects Latham's notion that withdrawal from Iraq provides the excuse for a more interventionist role in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We oppose the occupation of Iraq and we declare our solidarity with the emerging national liberation struggle there, in Palestine and in all the other oppressed States of the Middle East. Reciprocally, our solidarity is aimed at breaking the Australia-US alliance and the Howard government.

12) The Alliance demands that Australia and its allies decontaminate the Iraqi landscape and pay war reparation to the Iraqi peoples for them to use in accordance with their independent democratic decisions. We declare our solidarity with the Iraqi union movement and women's movement, and will campaign for both to have full, legal rights to organise.

13) The Alliance aims to be a significant and active leader in the anti-war movement while recognising that the movement must be open to all activists. The Alliance seeks to build broad, united front peace groups as the vehicle for the growth of the movement.

14) In the anti-war movement, Socialist Alliance members will raise key dates for mobilisations, including June 30 (the so-called hand-over of sovereignty in Iraq) and September 27 (the anniversary of the Palestinian Intifada). The Alliance the federal election and the anti-war movement:

1) The central factor in the 2004 federal election is, therefore, this international crisis. The Howard Liberal Coalition seeks another term in office to entrench far more sweeping privatisation of utilities and to slavishly back every US military adventure across the world. The Liberal Coalition aim is nothing short of saddling the working class with the privations of bailing out imperialist finance even as the housing bubble in Australia is bloated to bursting. Such an event would be catastrophic for thousands of first-homeowners..

2) Latham leads the Labor Party in this election under the banner of equality of opportunity, "a classic liberal ideology of giving all comers an equal start ... even though some may be driving BMWs" and ignores equality of outcomes, which means "measures that redress systemic disadvantage and entrenched discrimination". (Seeing Red, Ian Watson, Latham's rungs as sticks, p 20, Issue 1, March 2004).

3) The Socialist Alliance shares with both Labor and Green supporters the desire to drive Howard out. But we emphasise that Latham is a populist rightwing leader. He combines audacity over questions like withdrawing troops

from Iraq or parliamentary superannuation with conservatism over national security, the US alliance, Indigenous affairs, and paid maternity leave and a host of other social issues.

4) The task of the Alliance is to work alongside all who want an end to the Howard government, while putting forward our positive, socialist alternative on the questions of the day. We make it explicit that Latham Labor will continue to try to saddle the working class, especially low-income earners with the intolerable burden of an irresolvable glut of commodities, imperialist debt crisis, wars, invasions and occupations.

5) It is clear that attacks on trade union rights will continue, and it is clear from the record of Labor governments in the current period. "[Labor's] new industrial relations policy [for example] doesn't specifically commit a Labor government to repealing the Workplace Relations Act (WRA)." (Green Left Weekly, Sue Bolton, Are Labor governments the friends of unions? p 7, No 578, April 7, 2004). NSW in 2001 lost a number of civil rights in relation to workplace injury, In WA, the Labor government plans to cap compensation benefits and prohibit common law action, in Victoria the Bracks government's Supply Industry Act forced striking Yallourn Energy workers back to work and in Queensland, the Beattie government helped lock out public works employees for taking industrial action. (ibid.)

6) The rise of the Greens vote indicates certain sections of the Australian community are seriously seeking alternatives to Lib-Lab duplicity over the past three decades. We will seek to work critically with the Greens and organise joint platforms with them and Labor. At the same time, we will try to win Greens supporters to the Alliance, the only party in the election that rejects not just the symptoms of capitalism but the system itself, makes a priority of the needs, demands and campaigns of the working class and establishes explicitly that the struggle for a socialist alternative is a class struggle.

7) The Socialist Alliance commits to running the largest and most concerted election campaign that our resources allow. Our central slogan is "Troops out, Howard out, Vote Socialist". We oppose the two wars that Howard is waging - one against the Iraqi people, the other against workers at home. Alliance election material will highlight the waste of military spending, when money could go to rebuilding Iraq and extending Medicare. We will point to the \$8 billion ACOSS has identified as going to the wealthy in tax breaks and argue for resources to be shifted to free education, from kinder to university.

8) Socialist Alliance branches will identify local issues as part of our commitment to community priorities and integrate them into the election campaign.

9) We aim for the highest number of votes possible by campaigning intensively in our communities, seeking out their views and highlighting them. Our candidates, workers and supporters will work methodically to get to know each of our territories. And we will campaign at every turn to draw new members to our socialist policies to build the Socialist Alliance as a mass multi-tendency socialist party, as the only alternative in this revolutionary epoch.

10) Each branch will set a recruitment target in cognisance of the fact that our campaign does not cease at the end of the election. Ours is a continuous campaign to win new members over to socialist theory and practice. We recognise that key political battles take place between elections, in the workplaces and in the broader community. Our recruitment drive in tandem with the election campaign is to ensure that we continue effectively to represent our communities whether or not our candidate wins the vote.

11) The Alliance election campaign will integrate our work in the anti-war, union and other progressive movements into our election campaign to give real voice to the demands of the working class and its allies.

12) Conference urges branches to consider themselves as being on a war footing against imperialist politics and policies. Unionised workplaces will be approached, a campaign of issues will be submitted to community newspapers, public meetings will be carefully organised at regular intervals. Letterboxing, doorknocks, coverage of polling booths, rallies, pickets, banner drops and street theatre will form a part of the strategy to beat the capitalist media blackout on and tedious vilification of socialist politics.

Amendment defeated.

3.7 RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL ELECTION

Moved by Socialist Democracy and Workers League:

The primary focus of the Alliance campaign in the federal elections should be on defeating the Howard government. The Alliance should be at the forefront of a broad labour movement campaign against the government, at the same time advocating socialist policies on every issue.

Alliance members should work closely with union, ALP and Green members in coordinating the campaign against Howard and promoting positive alternative policies. The Alliance should welcome every step forward in this campaign by the ALP, Green and union leaderships.

Since the election of Mark Latham as ALP leader there has been a growing feeling that there is a possibility of defeating Howard. In this situation it is likely that there will be a swing to Labor and the Alliance vote will remain low. The fact that Latham is a right-winger and that a future Labor government will be a capitalist government makes no difference to this.

Any attempt to paint the Labor Party as the main enemy in the election campaign will simply serve to cut us off from workers and youth. By focusing on the campaign against Howard we establish the conditions for common work with other forces in the labour movement. That is the best situation to be in to argue for our positions.

No matter how "correct" we are in what we say the vast majority of workers and youth will vote Labor or Green, even if they agree with some of what we say. We need to be constantly working together with people in our union branches and in campaigns to convince them that only socialist policies can resolve the issues that face them. In 2004 the biggest

single issue dominating their thinking is to defeat the Howard government and we should solidarise entirely with this sentiment.

Resolution withdrawn by movers.

3.8 RESOLUTION ON MATERNITY LEAVE

Moved by Alison Thorne and Brigitte Ellery:

This Socialist Alliance National Conference:

- (1) welcomes any proposed increases in welfare payments to low income parents, especially if such increases are funded by taxing big business;
- (2) rejects claims that such payments in anyway address demands by working women and their supporters for fully paid maternity leave;
- (3) resolves to vigorously campaign around our demand for 12 months parenting leave, fully funded by employer contributions to a publicly managed scheme, and to make this one of the priority issues in our upcoming Federal election campaign;
- (4) resolves to campaign within the union movement to popularise the demand for an employer-funded scheme as an industrial entitlement - rather than a taxpayer-funded welfare scheme
- (5) resolves to seek out and build links with others campaigning around this issue.

Resolution carried unamended.

3.9 RESOLUTION ON CAMPUS WORK

Moved by Stuart Munckton:

1. Given that the Socialist Alliance is opposed to the legislation passed by the Senate last year which allows universities to increase HECS by 25% and full fee paying places by 35%, amongst other things, the Alliance supports the campaign by students against attempts by university administrations to implement these attacks, and for the repeal of the legislation and the reversal of funding cuts. Therefore, Socialist Alliance members on campus are encouraged to be involved in this campaign and to find ways to raise Alliance profile in the campaign. Such ways of doing this can include Alliance banners and placards at protests, Alliance statements on the campaign and on-campus public forums on the issue. Ways of coordinating the intervention of Alliance members in this campaign should be explored, such as holding Alliance caucuses where appropriate on a campus or city-wide level.
2. Given that solidarity between staff and students is a critical factor for both the struggles of staff around wages and conditions and students against the attacks they face, the Alliance will look for ways to strengthen staff-student solidarity and collaboration between our staff and student members to this end. Joint staff-student caucuses on a campus or city-wide level should be considered, where appropriate, to strengthen joint work by staff and student members of the Alliance, and in order to help strengthen ties and solidarity between students and staff more broadly.
3. As the coming Federal Elections present an opportunity for the Socialist Alliance on campus to raise our profile amongst students, publicise our support for free education and other issues affecting students, the Alliance should be looking to convince as many students as possible to vote Socialist. Branches should investigate ways to build the Alliance election campaign on campuses, including posterage, leafleting and holding forums with candidates. To this end, the Alliance should produce a poster for the elections aimed at students based on a slogan such as "Books Not Bombs" in order to publicise the Alliance's views on education issues and convince as many students to vote Socialist as possible.
4. That Alliance members on campus attempt to find ways to take the broader campaigns we are involved in, such as anti-war, refugee rights and trade union solidarity, onto campuses to campaign around. That Alliance staff and students on campuses find the ways of coordinating this campaigning on campus.

Amendment moved by Anne Picot:

To add: Socialist Alliance students should work in education collectives and seek to place demands on Labor to abolish up-front fees, cancel the HECS debts and repeal the Nelson Review as part of our campaign.

Amendment accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

1. Given that the Socialist Alliance is opposed to the legislation passed by the Senate last year which allows universities to increase HECS by 25% and full fee paying places by 35%, amongst other things, the Alliance supports the campaign by students against attempts by university administrations to implement these attacks, and for the repeal of the legislation and the reversal of funding cuts. Therefore, Socialist Alliance members on campus are encouraged to be involved in this campaign and to find ways to raise Alliance profile in the campaign. Such ways of doing this can include Alliance banners and placards at protests, Alliance statements on the campaign and on-campus public forums on the issue. Ways of coordinating the intervention of Alliance members in this campaign should be explored, such as holding Alliance caucuses where appropriate on a campus or city-wide level. Socialist Alliance students should work in education collectives and seek to place demands on Labor to abolish up-front fees, cancel the HECS debts and repeal the Nelson Review as part of our campaign.

2. Given that solidarity between staff and students is a critical factor for both the struggles of staff around wages and conditions and students against the attacks they face, the Alliance will look for ways to strengthen staff-student solidarity and collaboration between our staff and student members to this end. Joint staff-student caucuses on a campus or city-wide level should be considered, where appropriate, to strengthen joint work by staff and student members of the Alliance, and in order to help strengthen ties and solidarity between students and staff more broadly.

3. As the coming Federal Elections present an opportunity for the Socialist Alliance on campus to raise our profile amongst students, publicise our support for free education and other issues affecting students, the Alliance should be looking to convince as many students as possible to vote Socialist. Branches should investigate ways to build the Alliance election campaign on campuses, including postering, leafleting and holding forums with candidates. To this end, the Alliance should produce a poster for the elections aimed at students based on a slogan such as "Books Not Bombs" in order to publicise the Alliance's views on education issues and convince as many students to vote Socialist as possible.

4. That Alliance members on campus attempt to find ways to take the broader campaigns we are involved in, such as anti-war, refugee rights and trade union solidarity, onto campuses to campaign around. That Alliance staff and students on campuses find the ways of coordinating this campaigning on campus.

3.10 RESOLUTION ON REDFERN

Moved by Ray Jackson, Alison Thorne & Sam Watson:

This 3rd National Conference of Socialist Alliance expresses condolences to Gail Hickey, April and all the family and friends of the young man from Kamilaroi. We share their passion for justice and their commitment to end the over policing of Redfern and racist targeting of young Aboriginal people. Socialist Alliance stands in solidarity with the family and, if invited by the family, will mobilise our members and supporters to show their solidarity by attending to demand truth and justice on the opening day of the Coronial Enquiry.

Resolution carried unamended.

3.11 RESOLUTION ON ANTI-WAR WORK

Moved by Anne Picot:

Following a resolution passed by the Sydney Central Branch of the Socialist Alliance, it is recommended to National Conference that all branches of the Alliance help build the local peace groups, as well as the city-wide coalitions, as a priority area of work in order to build the anti-war movement, help focus it on defeating John Howard at the federal election, recruit to the Alliance and build its influence as a broad, alternative socialist party.

Amendment moved by Kieran Latty:

After "city-wide coalitions" add the words "or help launch and build peace groups in collaboration with the Greens and ALP where they do not exist".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

Following a resolution passed by the Sydney Central Branch of the Socialist Alliance, it is recommended to National Conference that all branches of the Alliance help build the local peace groups, as well as the city-wide coalitions, or help launch and build peace groups in collaboration with the Greens and ALP where they do not exist, as a priority area of work in order to build the anti-war movement, help focus it on defeating John Howard at the federal election, recruit to the Alliance and build its influence as a broad, alternative socialist party.

3.12 Amendments to NE resolution moved by Janet Burstall:

(i) In point 5. replace "Emerging national liberation movement there" with "Iraqi people". Should now read: Mark Latham's support for the withdrawal of Australian troops is to be welcomed. His position makes it easier for anti-war activists to raise and win the debate in the streets and workplaces.. But the Alliance rejects Latham's notion that withdrawal from Iraq is linked to a more interventionist role for the Australian military in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We oppose the occupation of Iraq as an act of solidarity with the Iraqi people.

(ii) In point 6. cut the resolution after first sentence. Should now read: The Alliance is for Australia and its allies paying war reparations to the Iraqi people, for them to use according to their own democratic decisions.

Add point 7. We will organise solidarity with the independent Iraqi union movement and women's movement and support their demands for secularism, freedom and the right to organise.

Renumber existing points 7 and 8 to become 8 and 9.

Amendment (i) defeated.

Amendment (ii) defeated: For 43, Against 62, Abstentions 7.

3.13 Amendment to NE resolution moved by Peter Boyle, seconded by Luke Deer:

Delete the second sentence of paragraph 3: We will seek to work with the Greens, organize joint platforms with them and Labor where the Greens preference Labor before the Liberals. Replace it with the original paragraph from the NE resolution, and add the words "We will not preference the Greens where they preference the Liberals before Labor."

Amendment carried.

National Executive resolution on Australian Politics Today and the Tasks of the Socialist Alliance, as amended, carried. It now states:

1) *The federal election is shaping up as a referendum on the war in Iraq and Howard's parallel assault on the working class at home. The federal election is the central factor in Australian political life in 2004.*

2) *Latham's rise to the leadership of the ALP has broken the logjam in parliamentary politics. There is now a widespread sense that the Liberals can be beaten. The Socialist Alliance shares with both Labor and Green supporters the desire to drive Howard out. But we also recognise that Latham is a populist and rightwing leader, who combines audacity over questions like withdrawing troops from Iraq or parliamentary superannuation with conservatism over national security, the US alliance, indigenous affairs, paid maternity leave, etc. The task for the Alliance is to work alongside all those who want an end to Howard while putting forward our own positive, socialist alternative on the questions of the day. The Alliance also needs to raise demands on Labor, in order to help raise workers' desire for change, and to highlight the gap between what Labor should offer and the Alliance does.*

3) *The rise of the Green vote is a welcome indicator of the shift to the left of a substantial minority in Australian society. We will seek to work with the Greens, organise joint platforms with them and Labor, and will normally preference them before Labor. We will not preference the Greens where they preference the Liberals before Labor. At the same time, we have to attempt to win Green supporters to the Alliance, the only party in the election that rejects not just the symptoms of capitalism but the system itself, and that prioritises the needs, demands and campaigns of the working class.*

4) *The Socialist Alliance commits to running the largest and liveliest election campaign that our resources allow. Our central slogan is "Troops out, Howard out - vote socialist". We need to oppose the two wars that Howard is waging - one against the Iraqis, the other against workers at home. Alliance election material will highlight the waste of military spending, when money could go to rebuilding Iraq and extending Medicare. We need to point to the \$8 billion ACOSS has identified as going to the wealthy in tax breaks and argue for resources to be shifted to free education, from kinder to university. Branches need to identify local issues and integrate them into the broader election campaign.*

5) *Our aim is to get the highest number of votes possible in the current situation, while using the election campaign to build both the Alliance and the movements. The size of our vote matters to the next layer of union and movement activists considering joining the Alliance, who are searching for a credible alternative.*

6) *The Alliance election campaign will work only where it is integrated with our broader work in the anti-war, union and other movements. We will want to seek to involve those who have worked with us in such areas in campaigning, fund-raising, etc. We also want in turn to use the election campaign to strengthen the movements, by promoting their activities on our material and at our meetings.*

7) *Each branch should set a target for recruitment out of this process. The Alliance understands that the key political battles take place between elections, in the workplaces and in the broader society. If we succeed in integrating our election and campaigning work, we will be better placed to build our influence after the election.*

8) *Given our resources, the Alliance will find it difficult to establish a profile once the election is called. For that reason, conference recommends branches to regard themselves as being on a war footing and to begin active campaigning immediately. Such a campaign should include a range of standard elements such as letterboxing and stalls, doorknocking, coverage of booths, approaches to local unionised workplaces, letters to local papers, campaign launch public meetings, posters, etc. But branches should also plan rallies, pickets, banner drops and street theatre to break through the media blackout.*

Socialist Alliance and the anti-war movement:

1) *The invasion of Iraq represents an enormous gamble by the US ruling class. Whether it succeeds or fails will set the framework for global politics for a generation.*

2) *The war and subsequent occupation also throw into sharp relief the priorities of the Howard government. Its legitimacy, too, is being decided in Baghdad, Najaf and Fallujah. The war also raises the question of domestic priorities - whether public money should go to health and education, or war and imperialism. Building the anti-war movement is an integral part of driving Howard out at the election.*

3) *For these reasons, the Socialist Alliance regards the maintenance and strengthening of the anti-war movement of central strategic importance for the entire Australian left and progressive forces.*

4) *We are for troops out now. The occupation is the problem, not the solution. We are opposed to the involvement of the United Nations, which would simply give a veneer of legitimacy to the coalition of the killing.*

5) *Mark Latham's support for the withdrawal of Australian troops is to be welcomed. His position makes it easier for anti-war activists to raise and win the debate in the streets and workplaces. But the Alliance rejects Latham's notion that withdrawal from Iraq is linked to a more interventionist role for the Australian military in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We oppose the occupation of Iraq as an act of solidarity with the emerging national liberation movement there, and in order to weaken the Australia-US alliance and the Howard government.*

6) *The Alliance is for Australia and its allies paying war reparations to the Iraqi people, for them to use according to their own democratic decisions. We are for solidarity with the independent Iraqi union movement and women's movement and will campaign for both to have full, legal rights to organise.*

7) *The Alliance seeks to be significant, active player in the anti-war movement while recognising that the movement must be open and welcoming to all who want to be active. The Alliance will seek to build broad, united front peace*

groups as the main vehicle for the growth of the movement. Alliance branches should use this united front method where possible in their work in the refugee solidarity movement and other movements.

8) In the anti-war movement, Socialist Alliance members should be raising key dates for potential mobilisations including June 30 (the so-called hand-over of sovereignty) and September 27 (the anniversary of the Palestinian Intifada). In particular, Socialist Alliance members should raise the call for nationwide demonstrations on the weekend before the election around the theme 'Troops out, Howard out!'.

**GREETINGS PRESENTED BY MARTIN KINGHAM, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, CFMEU VICTORIA.
GREETINGS PRESENTED BY CRAIG JOHNSTON, AMWU WORKERS FIRST.**

4. SOCIALIST ALLIANCE'S TRADE UNION WORK (Chair: Alison Thorne)

Reporter for National Executive: Sue Bolton

RESOLUTION MOVED BY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

Goals for Socialist Alliance union work:

1. Defend the militant union current, which has the leadership of some unions in Victoria and Western Australia.
2. Extend the militant union current into other unions and interstate either through the development of Socialist Alliance union caucuses or through Socialist Alliance members working with pre-existing groupings of militants. This means SA unionists taking a lead in building the confidence of workers in our own workplaces to take action in defence of their interests, as well as pushing union leaderships to defend and extend members' interests through the mobilisation of the rank and file.
3. A major goal for Socialist Alliance is to promote the tradition of solidarity in our union work - solidarity with other unions, with other sections of the working class which are under attack such as refugees, and solidarity with the working class of other countries such as the Iraqis. This solidarity shouldn't be limited to supporting specific workers' struggles but also play a key role in supporting campaigns such as the campaign against the war in Iraq.
4. Train and develop SA members as union activists and leaders.

Proposals to achieve goals:

1. BUILD THE CAPACITY OF WORKERS AND UNIONS FOR SOLIDARITY IN EFFECTIVE DEFENCE OF THEIR OWN WORKING CONDITIONS AND INTERESTS.

Working class strength and solidarity begins at home. Workers need unions with clear demands and policies for their own interests, a commitment and determination from leaders and members to campaign for these goals, and union democracy. Therefore the SA aims to build the strength, membership and effectiveness of all unions, especially where SA members work.

This includes:

- a) Making the top priority of all SA trade unionists to be effective advocates, organisers and delegates for the interests of our fellow workers and union members, especially in our own workplaces, including recruiting union members. From this work flows the credibility to conduct all other union work.
- b) Developing a Workers' Charter which identifies the issues facing workers and how they can unionise effectively. This includes taking stock of declines in union membership, changes in the nature of work, the workforce and family life over the last 2-3 decades, analysing the various perspectives for developing comprehensive proposals for solving the problems of working life.
- c) Being in the forefront of campaigns to unionise unorganized workers, especially young workers and casuals. Where possible, assist workers who are trying to unionise their workplaces.
- d) Helping members in non-militant unions develop as workplace delegates and develop unionism in the workplace.
- e) SA unionists seeking to win positions as delegates in order to advance the position of building militant unionism.
- f) Building alliances with other members of our unions to develop militant union currents to campaign for strong policies in defence of members, for rank and file control, democracy and accountability.

2. DEFEND THE EXISTING MILITANT UNION LEADERSHIPS

While the militant current of unions is small and restricted to Victoria and WA, their emphasis on rank and file control and militant defence of members' interests have inspired the development of militant caucuses in other unions and interstate.

The example of the militant unions taking militant action without the sky falling in has inspired individual unionists in other unions and interstate that it is worthwhile to become more active in their unions. Some of the militant unions which are facing attack at the moment include Workers First in the Victorian AMWU, the AMWU printing division in Victoria, the WA MUA, the Victorian and WA CFMEU and the Victorian postal union and the Victorian TCFU.

- a) The Alliance will defend all unionists attacked for defending their members' rights and workers' rights more generally.
- b) Campaign for the charges against Craig Johnston to be dropped, and build a nationwide campaign to free him if he's jailed. Immediately, this means a big SA contingent at the 10 May demonstration on the first day of his trial.
- c) Support the campaign by the CFMEU and other construction unions against the recommendations of the Cole royal commission.
- d) Defend other militant unionists who come under attack, regardless of whether they are attacked by employers, governments or opponents within the union movement.

3. COORDINATING THE SA TRADE UNION EFFORT

The work of coordinating the Alliance trade union effort has been assisted by the decisions of the 2003 Conference and follow up actions. This can be further developed.

a) Socialist Alliance members in each union should caucus and assess existing rank and file caucuses, the prospects for broader caucuses and work as a SA caucus within the broadest framework possible for pursuing the immediate needs of union members. This means consolidating the existing SA union caucuses and developing new caucuses where necessary.

b) Develop better interstate collaboration between SA unionists in the same union.

c) In some cases the Alliance may support groups contesting union elections. The decision on which groups to support will be taken by the SA members in that union in consultation with the National Executive and National TU Committee.

d) Continue with the National Trade Union Committee but seek to involve more of the participants in-between meetings. The National Trade Union Committee will coordinate links between Alliance members, the development of a unionists' education program and assist in the production of pamphlets and leaflets.

e) SA branches or districts to organise trade union seminars and educational programs regarding the history of struggles, debates in the union movement, and organizing methods as well as strategy, tactics and critical analysis skills.

f) Publish more pamphlets taking up issues of concern to militant trade unionists. Two pamphlets which are currently being worked on are one on new unionists getting organised and one on protectionism.

g) Build a big profile for Socialist Alliance's election campaign amongst unionists through getting SA candidates and members to address union meetings, and seeking the endorsement of unionists and financial contributions for our campaign. Through the campaign, seek new members for SA.

h) Later in 2004, SA needs to make an assessment as to whether a national conference of unionists is feasible. Considerations will include:

- the number and strength of militant caucuses in unions which would be committed to such a conference
- the strength of the campaign to repel the attack on militant unionists
- other trade union struggles which emerge and the need for national solidarity.

4. EXTEND THE TRADITION OF SOLIDARITY TO OTHER WORKERS

On the basis of the understanding of solidarity that union members gain from being part of an effective union or unionised workplace, we advocate extension of the principles of solidarity to other struggles:

a) Supporting all struggles by workers and unions in defence of jobs, wages and conditions, and union rights wherever possible. For example, organising solidarity when there are outbreaks of struggle such as the NSW rebel train drivers

b) Seek to win support among workers for the campaign against the Iraq war as well as seeking to build solidarity with the genuine unions in Iraq.

c) Campaign within the union movement to popularise the demand for 12 months' parenting leave fully paid by employer contributions to a publicly managed scheme rather than a taxpayer-funded welfare scheme.

d) Build links with militant unionists overseas, especially in Asia, where many Australian companies operate.

e) Promote the Aboriginal stolen wages campaign

f) Campaign against policies which foster racism in the working class, such as the ALP's proposal for an ID card for overseas workers or the dobbing in of "illegal" workers to the immigration department. Instead, unions should seek to unionise all workers and involve them in union campaigns without asking questions about their background.

Amendment moved by Melanie Lazarow:

To add: 4. g. "Socialist Alliance should actively support any sections of the union movement who go into struggle by sending messages of support in its name."

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendments moved by Riki Lane:

(i) Replace "goals for SA union work" section with:

Socialist Alliance has interrelated industrial and political goals in the unions. The political context is that militant union leaderships face major attacks. The industrial context is that our members are mostly in unions that do not have a militant tradition or work in poorly unionised areas.

Our industrial goals are based on building the strength of the unions from the ground up. Through long term rank and file work with other militants, we can help build strong workplace and delegate structures and create the conditions to build militant union leaderships. The central industrial goals are:

SA unionists taking a lead in building the confidence of workers in our own workplaces to take action in defence of their interests;

training and developing SA members as union activists and leaders; and improving the effectiveness of SA union work.

Our central political goals are to:

* defend the existing militant union leaderships that are under attack; and

* promote the tradition of solidarity - with other unions, with other sections of the working class which are under attack such as refugees, and with the working class of other countries such as the Iraqis. This solidarity shouldn't be limited to

supporting specific workers' struggles but also play a key role in supporting campaigns such as the campaign against the war in Iraq.

(ii) Add an extra point at the end of section 1:

Reclaiming the traditional union slogan "in unity is strength". We need to seek and propose unity in struggle as widely as applicable in each union and across unions, in order to allow the rank and file to call officials to account. The responsibility for divisions and consequent weakness in the union movement should not be seen to be that of SA members or militant activists, but due to the actions and politics of leaders who will not fight. This will increase understanding of the need for a leadership that will fight for the wages and conditions of the membership.

(iii) Replace the first paragraph of section 2 with:

Some union leaderships, including Vic AMWU Worker's First, WA MUA and Vic CFMEU, are better at building rank and file control and militant defence of their members interests. They also have taken the argument to their members on unpopular political issues such as opposition to the war on Iraq and support for refugees. Their emphasis on rank and file control and militant defence of members' interests have inspired individual unionists in other unions and interstate that it is worthwhile to become more active in their unions and the development of militant caucuses. It is an important political task for the SA as a whole to campaign to defend them against attacks made by governments and bosses.

Amendment moved by Riki Lane to his original amendment:

First line should read "Replace the first two paragraphs of section 2 with...".

This amendment was incorporated into Riki Lane's amendment.

Procedural motion moved by Brian Webb:

That Riki Lane's motion is noted for further discussion in the Alliance.

Procedural motion defeated.

Amendment (i) defeated.

Amendment (ii) accepted by mover.

Amendment (iii) defeated.

National Executive resolution on Socialist Alliance's Trade Union Work, as amended, carried. It now states:

Goals for Socialist Alliance union work:

- 1. Defend the militant union current, which has the leadership of some unions in Victoria and Western Australia.*
- 2. Extend the militant union current into other unions and interstate either through the development of Socialist Alliance union caucuses or through Socialist Alliance members working with pre-existing groupings of militants. This means SA unionists taking a lead in building the confidence of workers in our own workplaces to take action in defence of their interests, as well as pushing union leaderships to defend and extend members' interests through the mobilisation of the rank and file.*
- 3. A major goal for Socialist Alliance is to promote the tradition of solidarity in our union work - solidarity with other unions, with other sections of the working class which are under attack such as refugees, and solidarity with the working class of other countries such as the Iraqis. This solidarity shouldn't be limited to supporting specific workers' struggles but also play a key role in supporting campaigns such as the campaign against the war in Iraq.*
- 4. Train and develop SA members as union activists and leaders.*

Proposals to achieve goals:

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Working class strength and solidarity begins at home. Workers need unions with clear demands and policies for their own interests, a commitment and determination from leaders and members to campaign for these goals, and union democracy. Therefore the SA aims to build the strength, membership and effectiveness of all unions, especially where SA members work.

This includes:

- a) Making the top priority of all SA trade unionists to be effective advocates, organisers and delegates for the interests of our fellow workers and union members, especially in our own workplaces, including recruiting union members. From this work flows the credibility to conduct all other union work.*
- b) Developing a Workers' Charter which identifies the issues facing workers and how they can unionise effectively. This includes taking stock of declines in union membership, changes in the nature of work, the workforce and family life over the last 2-3 decades, analysing the various perspectives for developing comprehensive proposals for solving the problems of working life.*
- c) Being in the forefront of campaigns to unionise unorganized workers, especially young workers and casuals. Where possible, assist workers who are trying to unionise their workplaces.*
- d) Helping members in non-militant unions develop as workplace delegates and develop unionism in the workplace.*
- e) SA unionists seeking to win positions as delegates in order to advance the position of building militant unionism.*
- f) Building alliances with other members of our unions to develop militant union currents to campaign for strong policies in defence of members, for rank and file control, democracy and accountability.*

g) Reclaiming the traditional union slogan "in unity is strength". We need to seek and propose unity in struggle as widely as applicable in each union and across unions, in order to allow the rank and file to call officials to account. The responsibility for divisions and consequent weakness in the union movement should not be seen to be that of SA members or militant activists, but due to the actions and politics of leaders who will not fight. This will increase understanding of the need for a leadership that will fight for the wages and conditions of the membership.

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a) The Alliance will defend all unionists attacked for defending their members' rights and workers' rights more generally.

b) Campaign for the charges against Craig Johnston to be dropped, and build a nationwide campaign to free him if he's jailed. Immediately, this means a big SA contingent at the 10 May demonstration on the first day of his trial.

c) Support the campaign by the CFMEU and other construction unions against the recommendations of the Cole royal commission.

d) Defend other militant unionists who come under attack, regardless of whether they are attacked by employers, governments or opponents within the union movement.

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b) Develop better interstate collaboration between SA unionists in the same union.

c) In some cases the Alliance may support groups contesting union elections. The decision on which groups to support will be taken by the SA members in that union in consultation with the National Executive and National TU Committee.

d) Continue with the National Trade Union Committee but seek to involve more of the participants in-between meetings. The National Trade Union Committee will coordinate links between Alliance members, the development of a unionists' education program and assist in the production of pamphlets and leaflets.

e) SA branches or districts to organise trade union seminars and educational programs regarding the history of struggles, debates in the union movement, and organizing methods as well as strategy, tactics and critical analysis skills.

f) Publish more pamphlets taking up issues of concern to militant trade unionists. Two pamphlets which are currently being worked on are one on new unionists getting organised and one on protectionism.

g) Build a big profile for Socialist Alliance's election campaign amongst unionists through getting SA candidates and members to address union meetings, and seeking the endorsement of unionists and financial contributions for our campaign. Through the campaign, seek new members for SA.

h) Later in 2004, SA needs to make an assessment as to whether a national conference of unionists is feasible. Considerations will include:

- the number and strength of militant caucuses in unions which would be committed to such a conference
- the strength of the campaign to repel the attack on militant unionists
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a) Supporting all struggles by workers and unions in defence of jobs, wages and conditions, and union rights wherever possible. For example, organising solidarity when there are outbreaks of struggle such as the NSW rebel train drivers

b) Seek to win support among workers for the campaign against the Iraq war as well as seeking to build solidarity with the genuine unions in Iraq.

c) Campaign within the union movement to popularise the demand for 12 months' parenting leave fully paid by employer contributions to a publicly managed scheme rather than a taxpayer-funded welfare scheme.

d) Build links with militant unionists overseas, especially in Asia, where many Australian companies operate.

e) Promote the Aboriginal stolen wages campaign

f) Campaign against policies which foster racism in the working class, such as the ALP's proposal for an ID card for overseas workers or the dobbing in of "illegal" workers to the immigration department. Instead, unions should seek to unionise all workers and involve them in union campaigns without asking questions about their background.

g) Socialist Alliance should actively support any sections of the union movement who go into struggle by sending messages of support in its name.

GREETINGS PRESENTED BY IAN BRAY, MUA WA

GREETINGS PRESENTED BY JOE McDONALD, CFMEU WA

5. PUBLICATIONS (Chair: Phil Andrews)

A. NEWSPAPER

Reporter for National Executive: Austin Whitten

5.1 RESOLUTION ON NEWSPAPER MOVED BY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The Socialist Alliance notes the successful completion of the trial editorial role undertaken by the Socialist Alliance since January this year.

The alliance reaffirms the establishment of the editorial board, as specified in the SA National Executive motion of December 12, 2003, to secure access for SA members and affiliates to Green Left Weekly, to solicit material and oversee the public presentation of SA within GLW (including adjudicating any issues regarding publication of SA material that may arise in the GLW editorial team), and notes its success in doing so.

The Socialist Alliance decides to continue the relationship developed in the trial period, including the functioning of the editorial board in the capacity spelled out in its original charter motion of 12 December 2003 and with the additional charge of increasing collaboration with the GLW editorial team with a view to increasing the Socialist Alliance's editorial input into, and involvement in the production of, Green Left Weekly.

All material organised by the board for GLW will be available to all affiliate newspapers or public publications.

The editorial board is to consist of 11 members elected by slate at the national conference, including the GLW editor, a DSP representative, a representative of the other affiliates and an NE representative who is specifically assigned to liaise with the board. The NE is authorised to fill temporary or permanent vacancies on the board by appointment. The Board will meet as often as it deems necessary.

The board will be accountable to the National Conveners and the National Executive, and report quarterly.

The conference agrees this process will be conducted under the protocols established between Green Left Weekly and the Socialist Alliance.

The progress and work of the board should be reviewed in six months time by the National Executive.

Amendment moved by Michael Morphet, seconded by Kieran Latty:

As part of the Socialist Alliances newspaper coverage, the SA editorial board shall source edit and oversee the production of a regular insert.

This should be a regular insert of between 1-4 pages in broadsheet form. This would enable it to be published in GLW and SW. Additionally, the content shall be made available to all affiliate publications.

If included in an affiliates publication this insert shall constitute the official SA coverage.

This does not exclude affiliates independently sourcing their own coverage or exclude existing provisions, i.e. Our Common Cause for coverage if the insert does not appear in a particular issue.

Any necessary resources required to ensure the production of this insert should be placed at the disposal of the board, i.e. Layout, editing etc.

Amendment defeated: For 36, Against 85, Abstentions 3

National Executive resolution on the Newspaper carried unamended: For 93, Against 33, Abstentions 7. [see 10.1 below for amended version.]

5.2 RESOLUTION ON NEWSPAPER MOVED BY ANNE PICOT:

The Socialist Alliance needs a variety of publications to get our message across, build support for our electoral work, support our campaigns and movement work, and to recruit to a credible left alternative to the ALP.

- While conference endorses the goal of developing our own Socialist Alliance paper, conference notes the limited results of the SA Green Left Weekly trial. Conference believes that for the Alliance to make progress towards having its own paper, it needs an editorial board that is not limited by a unilateral relationship with the publication of one affiliate.

- The incoming SA editorial board needs to take responsibility for editing all SA contributions, which in turn are available to all affiliate publications.

- The basic principle of any publication representing the Socialist Alliance is that it is owned and controlled by the Socialist Alliance. This is consistent with seeking the broadest possible input and support for our publications from the membership as a whole. This principle has been endorsed by the branches and members who have supported the open letter "A paper of the Alliance, for the Alliance".

- The SA GLW trial period has shown that the development of an Alliance paper cannot be artificially hastened. Such a development depends on growth of membership, political cohesion and resources. By contrast, the successful launch of Seeing Red shows what is possible when the Alliance acts together on a publishing project which is within its capabilities.

- Conference therefore agrees to build on the experience of the trial period with GLW by:

- * electing an eight-person SA editorial board to solicit, edit and make available SA material, including the column "Our Common Cause", to all affiliate publications;
- * directing the National Executive, in collaboration with relevant working groups, to produce at least four broadsheets a year. These should be offered as inserts in GLW and Socialist Worker, as articles to other affiliate publications, and printed separately for use on stalls, at rallies, letterboxing etc;
- * placing a high priority on the production and sale of Seeing Red.

Amendment to Anne Picot's resolution moved by Brian Web, seconded by Greg Noon:

In the last dot point change the first line to: "Conference therefore agrees on:". Remainder of dot point unchanged.

Amendment accepted by Anne Picot.

Amended resolution moved by Anne Picot defeated: For 39, Against 90, Abstentions 2

5.3 RESOLUTION ON NEWSPAPER MOVED BY SAM PILLAY:

Conference notes the political difficulties posed in the collaboration between the editorial staff and editorial board to date. It further notes that Alliance contributions have not been as numerous as might at first have been expected.

It is of the view, however, that Alliance contributions should continue to be encouraged in accordance with socialist objectives and the statutes of the Socialist Alliance. It recognises Green Left Weekly as the transitional newspaper of the Alliance and that a working group investigates whether there is a viable alternative to be discussed in six months.

In view of this, conference votes for a simple interim device designed to cause the least upheaval. It, therefore, proposes a strap adjacent to the masthead that declares GLW to be the organ of the Alliance.

Conference proposes that in accordance with easing the tensions of collaboration with between two large bodies with divergent views, that the size of the editorial board be reduced to a panel of five.

That the proposed panel of five acts in a consultative capacity with the editorial staff and acts also as a liaison to seek out and encourage contributions from Alliance branches.

That the editorial staff be constituted as a political body and encouraged to act independently day-to-day in deciding content, and that both teams work in collaboration with NE where necessary, with the proviso that NE may at discretion inquire into progress and direction of delineated work.

Further, that GLW introduces a new concept of frontage headlines incorporated into the present style of artwork, with spills that lead the reader into a set number of international, national and regional news. It is proposed that the new concept replaces the slogan as headline in order to impart to each edition the urgency of new developments.

That, with the cooperation of the Alliance, some branch secondment is encouraged to help with the creation of news "rounds"; a given comrade being put in charge of covering a given area, namely, local government, politics, economics, finance, community affairs and so forth.

Conference acknowledges a wealth of experience and talent on the editorial staff and asserts its confidence that given goodwill in the priority of building the Socialist Alliance, the entire project could move smoothly forward in accordance with the stated aims of the Socialist Alliance.

Resolution moved by Sam Pillay defeated: For 3 (rest of the count abandoned).

5.4 RESOLUTION ON NEWSPAPER MOVED BY BRIAN WEBB:

An Alliance paper will not be possible without the resources of GLW and other affiliate publications. But it will also not be possible without a process of thorough debate within the Alliance about what kind of paper it needs.

In order to frame such a debate, conference suggests that, at a minimum, an Alliance paper would need to:

- * have a socialist name;
- * promote the Alliance, its positions and its campaigns; and
- * be sustainable from within the Alliance's own resources, without making selling the paper a requirement of membership.

Resolution moved by Brian Webb defeated: For 38, Against 88, Abstentions 3

5.5 RESOLUTION ON NEWSPAPER MOVED BY RIKI LANE:

Conference recognises that the Australian publications Green Left Weekly, Socialist Worker, Freedom Socialist Bulletin, Workers' Liberty and Workers' Power all promote the building of SA. This is recognised by the 2003 conference decision to sell them all on SA stalls. In this sense they are all "SA publications". However, Seeing Red is the only official publication of SA. All SA members are therefore urged to sell Seeing Red. There is no expectation placed upon SA members to sell the other publications, except at SA stalls.

Amendment moved by Riki Lane:

To replace the sentence "However, Seeing Red is the only official publication of SA." with "However, Seeing Red is currently the only regular official publication of SA".

Amendment incorporated into Riki Lane's resolution.

Amended resolution moved by Riki Lane defeated: For 39, Against 79, Abstentions 0

Amendment moved by Michael Morphett, seconded by Juanita Feldbauer:

That there should be no expectation in the Alliance that branches will participate in fundraising for GLW.

Amendment defeated.

B. SEEING RED

5.8 RESOLUTION ON SEEING RED MOVED BY SEEING RED EDITORIAL BOARD

Reporter for Seeing Red Editorial Board: Rosemary Webb

Conference resolves:

1. To endorse the work of the National Executive in forming the Seeing Red Editorial Board;
2. To confirm its support to the method of formation and work of the Editorial Board (including right of co-option and right to offer invitations to individuals to become contributing editors); and
3. To confirm Dick Nichols as managing editor.

Resolution on Seeing Red carried unamended.

C. BOOK ON SOCIALISM

Report on progress by Dick Nichols on behalf of the NE book on socialism working group. No motions put to conference.

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM THE SCOTTISH SOCIALIST PARTY.

6. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY (Chair: Phil Andrews)

6.1 RESOLUTION ON DAVID HICKS AND MAMDOUH HABIB

Moved by Raul Bassi:

In view of the situation of David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib and the hundreds of illegal detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are being held by the United States military in inhumane conditions, with no access to legal courts and in a clear violation of all conventions including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

* The Socialist Alliance demands the freedom of all prisoners and their return to their countries of origin, and the immediate closure of Camp X-Ray and the base.

* The Socialist Alliance also calls on all political, community and social organisations in Australia to support and take part in all activities organised with this aim.

Amendment moved by Raul Bassi, incorporated into resolution:

To replace "all conventions including", with "all human rights conventions including".

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

In view of the situation of David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib and the hundreds of illegal detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are being held by the United States military in inhumane conditions, with no access to legal courts and in a clear violation of all human rights conventions including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

** The Socialist Alliance demands the freedom of all prisoners and their return to their countries of origin, and the immediate closure of Camp X-Ray and the base.*

** The Socialist Alliance also calls on all political, community and social organisations in Australia to support and take part in all activities organised with this aim.*

6.2 RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR

Moved by Ken Davis:

That alongside anti-war and elections campaigning in the next year, Socialist Alliance branches give priority to joining with the churches, unions, Greens, NGOs, and other solidarity activists in the campaign against Australia's grab of East Timor's oil, gas and maritime resources through making permanent an unfair boundary in the Timor Sea.

Amendment moved by Vanessa Hearman, seconded by Lalitha Chelliah:

To insert at the beginning: "The Socialist Alliance condemns the Australian Government's theft of East Timor's oil and gas resources by refusing to abide by international law in the determination of maritime boundaries between the two countries and by continuing to exploit the disputed oil fields in the Timor Sea."

Amendment accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

The Socialist Alliance condemns the Australian Government's theft of East Timor's oil and gas resources by refusing to abide by international law in the determination of maritime boundaries between the two countries and by continuing to exploit the disputed oil fields in the Timor Sea.

That alongside anti-war and elections campaigning in the next year, Socialist Alliance branches give priority to joining with the churches, unions, Greens, NGOs, and other solidarity activists in the campaign against Australia's grab of East Timor's oil, gas and maritime resources through making permanent an unfair boundary in the Timor Sea.

6.3 RESOLUTION ON KILLER COKE

Moved by Carlene Wilson:

That the 2004 Socialist Alliance Conference resolves to continue its support for the campaign to Stop Killer Coke by providing appropriate resources for organizing the second International Day of Action to Stop Killer Coke on July 22 2004 and that this Conference sends a further letter of solidarity to Coca Cola workers in Colombia.

Resolution carried unamended.

6.4 RESOLUTION ON AUSTRALIA-US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Moved by Jess Spate:

Conference rejects the proposed Australia-US free trade agreement as an exercise in driving down the social wage and job security of both Australian and US workers. It is also an attempt by the Howard government to cement the Australia-US military alliance.

Socialist Alliance will support rallies, public meetings and other initiatives designed to frustrate the passing of enabling legislation through federal parliament, in order to block the FTA.

Socialist Alliance will raise opposition to the FTA in the anti-war movement, arguing that this is part of weakening the military alliance with Washington.

Socialist Alliance will promote the values of international solidarity, and of international trade based on human need and democratic planning.

Resolution carried unamended.

6.5 RESOLUTION ON LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY

Moved by Raul Bassi, Roberto Jorquera and Jorge Jorquera:

(i) That Socialist Alliance organise a national tour of a trade union leader from Venezuela. The tour shall aim to work with as many Australian trade unions, Labor Councils and individual unionists as possible. The organisation of the tour should be a matter for the SA National Executive to coordinate in conjunction with a specifically established working group and involving also the SA national trade union working group. The tour shall be self-financing.

(ii) In the face of the latest developments in Venezuela the Socialist Alliance:

1) Reaffirms its support for the Venezuelan people's struggle for social justice, national liberation and against all the actions of the Venezuelan ruling class;

2) Opposes any intervention of the US against Venezuela, direct or indirect, being through the OAS or with the complicity of the reactionary Uribe government of Colombia;

3) Calls on all left and progressive organisations to support all the activities in solidarity with Venezuela and in defense of the peoples struggle.

(iii) Considering the ongoing and escalating struggles not only in Venezuela but in Bolivia, Brazil and elsewhere throughout the continent, Socialist Alliance shall aim to carry out ongoing solidarity work with movements in the region. As part of this Socialist Alliance endorses the annual national Latin American Solidarity Conference organised by the Committees in Solidarity with Latin America and the Caribbean and other Latin American solidarity groups.

Resolution carried unamended.

6.6 RESOLUTION ON AUSTRALIA: THE REGIONAL BULLY

Moved by Josephine Cox:

Conference notes that the Australian government is using the pretext of the "war on terror" and the danger of "failed states" to aggressively assert and extend its imperialist domination of the region.

Australia is the economic and military giant of the region. The Howard government:

* has turned East Timor into a virtual colony for Australian business interests while denying its government and people their fair share of the Timor Sea oil;

* has sent troops and senior public servants to take control of the Solomons;

* is attempting to do the same in PNG;

* has used PNG and Nauru as dumping grounds for asylum-seekers; and

* is supporting the Indonesian government's campaign to frustrate the national liberation movement in Papua.

Conference condemns Australian foreign policy towards its neighbours. The Socialist Alliance is opposed to Australian domination. We are for:

* the abolition of Australian debts incurred by poor nations in the South Pacific and south-east Asia;

* the extension of aid programs under the democratic control of the local population;

* international boundaries in the Timor Sea which favour the East Timorese claim over the Timor Gap seabed;

* solidarity with genuine national liberation movements and trade unions in the region;

* the extension of Australian citizenship to Pacific islanders displaced by global warming;

* the withdrawal of Australian troops from countries in the region.

Amendments moved by Vanessa Hearman, seconded by Iggy Kim:

(i) Add to the sentence "is supporting the Indonesian Government campaign to frustrate the national liberation movement[s] in Papua" the words "and Aceh".

(ii) Change "international boundaries in the Timor Sea which favour the East Timorese claim over the Timor Gap seabed" to "maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea in accordance with international law which would favour the East Timorese claim over the Timor Gap seabed".

Amendments accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

Conference notes that the Australian government is using the pretext of the "war on terror" and the danger of "failed states" to aggressively assert and extend its imperialist domination of the region.

Australia is the economic and military giant of the region. The Howard government:

** has turned East Timor into a virtual colony for Australian business interests while denying its government and people their fair share of the Timor Sea oil;*

** has sent troops and senior public servants to take control of the Solomons;*

** is attempting to do the same in PNG;*

** has used PNG and Nauru as dumping grounds for asylum-seekers; and*

** is supporting the Indonesian government's campaign to frustrate the national liberation movements in Papua and Aceh.*

Conference condemns Australian foreign policy towards its neighbours. The Socialist Alliance is opposed to Australian domination. We are for:

** the abolition of Australian debts incurred by poor nations in the South Pacific and south-east Asia;*

** the extension of aid programs under the democratic control of the local population;*

** maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea in accordance with international law which would favour the East Timorese claim over the Timor Gap seabed;*

** solidarity with genuine national liberation movements and trade unions in the region;*

** the extension of Australian citizenship to Pacific islanders displaced by global warming;*

** the withdrawal of Australian troops from countries in the region.*

SUNDAY, MAY 9

(Chair for first session: Sue Bull)

Procedural motion moved by National Conveners:

That the agenda be revised to:

9.10-9.30 International solidarity continued

9.40-10.30 NAC WG resolution

10.30-10.45 Resolution from Riki Lane

10.45-11.15 NE resolution on Constitution

11-11.45 NE resolution on by-laws

11.50-12.10 SA Building report

12.10-12.25 Amendment from Sam Pillay

12.25-12.45 Open discussion

12.45-1 Resolution for Austin Whitten

1pm Lunch

2-4 Policy session

4-5 Elections

Procedural motion carried.

6.7 RESOLUTION ON ASIA PACIFIC SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

Moved by John Percy:

That the Socialist Alliance sponsor the 3rd Asia Pacific Solidarity Conference 2005, March 25-28, 2005, in Sydney, and publicise and support it where possible.

Resolution carried unamended.

6.8 RESOLUTION ON APARTHEID WALL IN PALESTINE

Procedural motion moved by Greg Adler:

To suspend standing orders to allow a new resolution to be put to the conference.

Procedural motion carried.

Resolution moved by Greg Adler, seconded by Ken Davis:

Conference notes that a new level of oppression of the Palestinian people has been brought about by the building of the Apartheid Wall by the Zionist occupiers of Palestine and calls for a halt to building of that wall; the destruction of what

has been built and to make the international solidarity campaign against the wall a priority of Socialist Alliance's international work.

Resolution carried unamended.

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM THE CHILEAN POPULAR AND INDIGENOUS NETWORK.

7. LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND CONSTITUTION CHANGES (Chair: Kerry Williams)

Reporter for Non-Aligned Caucus Working Group: Louise Walker

7.1 NAC WORKING GROUP RESOLUTIONS ON LEADERSHIP BODIES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SA CONSTITUTION

Moved by Louise Walker:

(i) Leadership bodies:

The National Executive and National Conveners will strive to create a positive team-working environment. National Conveners will head areas of work and encourage all NE members to participate in one of the working bodies. Special effort will be made to include as many Socialist Alliance members in those working bodies as possible.

(ii) Constitutional amendments:

1. To amend 6.3 to read:

6.3. National Conference shall elect a National Executive, and any National Officeholders.

2. To add new paragraph 6.4 to read the following, and renumber subsequently:

6.4 National working groups and other bodies may be formed by National Conference or the National Executive.

3. To amend existing 6.4 (new 6.5):

6.4. The National Officeholders shall be five National Conveners, at least two of whom shall not belong to an affiliate organisation. The National Conveners, to be elected out of the incoming National Executive, shall be elected by the slate method. Proposed slates for the National Conveners can only be nominated after the election of the incoming National Executive.

4. To amend existing 6.5 (new 6.6):

6.5. The National Executive shall be composed according to the following formula:

* From affiliated organisations, one representative for every 50 Socialist Alliance members or part thereof, with declared Socialist Alliance tendency figures subject to scrutiny by National Conference on request;

* Unaffiliated State and Territory representatives: The total number of unaffiliated State and Territory representatives shall match the total number of affiliate representatives, plus one to create an odd-numbered National Executive with an unaffiliated majority;

* Each State or Territory shall have at least one unaffiliated State or Territory representative, with the remainder of the total number distributed proportionally among State and Territories in accordance with the total State and Territory membership at the time of the Third National Conference;

* If an unaffiliated member cannot be found to represent a particular state or territory a casual vacancy shall exist and shall be filled through election at a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive;

* Between conferences, if necessary, proxies to the National Executive may be:

(i) appointed by the affiliated group, in the case of a representative of an affiliated group, or

(ii) in the case of a representative of a state or territory, be elected by a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive. State and Territory representatives can proxy to any member of that State or Territory.

* State delegations shall submit their list of provisional State or Territory National Executive representatives to National Conference, including, if necessary, by meeting at national conference and electing by proportional representation, subject to ratification at their next State or Territory conference;

* Unaligned State or Territory representatives shall be responsible to their respective State or Territory Conference, and will be subject to full right of recall;

* Any new organisations affiliating to the Socialist Alliance after the Third National Conference, at the invitation of the National Executive, shall be accorded representation on the National Executive according to the formula for existing affiliates as above.

* If further organisations affiliate to the Socialist Alliance, the extra State or Territory representatives needed to maintain an unaligned majority on the National Executive shall be distributed to States and/or Territories according to membership at the time of the Third National Conference, and elected by the succeeding appropriate State and/or Territory Conferences.

* National Conference shall ratify the list of National Executive candidates submitted by affiliates and State and Territory delegations prior to election of the National Conveners. Affiliates and State/Territory delegations shall submit their list of provisional National Executive candidates by 6pm on the first day of National Conference.

5. To amend existing 6.6 (new 6.7):

6.6. The following method shall apply for the election of the National Conveners:

* The National Conveners shall be elected by slate;

* Nominations of slates shall be open from the morning session of the last day of conference and close at the end of lunch;

- * Any conference delegate shall be eligible to present a slate;
- * Nominees may decline nomination if they so wish;
- * All slates nominated shall be available for scrutiny by conference;
- * Voting shall be by show of hands;
- * If no slate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the slate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one slate gains a majority.

6. To adopt the following addition to the Constitution:

9.8 State or Territory conferences shall:

- * ratify their unaligned State/Territory representatives on the National Executive;
- * elect any additional National Executive representatives from their State/Territory as required;
- * take reports from their State/Territory representatives on the National Executive.

Amendments to NAC WG resolution (ii) moved by Louise Walker:

1. To delete in the last dot point of 6.5 the last sentence reading: "Affiliates and State/Territory delegates shall submit their list of provisional NE candidates by 6pm on the first day of National Conference."

2. To change the second dot point in 6.6 to read:

"Nominations of slates shall be open from the time of ratification of National Executive by conference and close at the beginning of the final session of conference."

Amendments incorporated into the resolution.

Procedural motion foreshadowed by David Glanz:

Put the NAC constitutional changes on the table but not vote on them at this conference.

Procedural motion moved by Louise Walker:

To suspend standing orders to allow open discussion on the NAC WG resolution.

Procedural motion carried.

Open discussion.

Procedural motion moved by Greg Adler:

To maintain strict adherence to time limits due to the important nature of the discussion.

Procedural motion defeated.

Open discussion continued.

Amendment moved by Anne Picot, seconded by Ken Davis:

Add to motion reconstructing the National Executive the requirement that the incoming National Executive meet "Face to Face" quarterly (Amending 7.5 of the constitution).

Amendment defeated.

NAC WG resolution (i) carried unamended.

David Glanz's procedural motion defeated.

NAC WG resolution (ii), as amended, carried. It now states:

1. To amend 6.3 to read:

6.3. National Conference shall elect a National Executive, and any National Officeholders.

2. To add new paragraph 6.4 to read the following, and renumber subsequently:

6.4 National working groups and other bodies may be formed by National Conference or the National Executive.

3. To amend existing 6.4 (new 6.5):

6.4. The National Officeholders shall be five National Conveners, at least two of whom shall not belong to an affiliate organisation. The National Conveners, to be elected out of the incoming National Executive, shall be elected by the slate method. Proposed slates for the National Conveners can only be nominated after the election of the incoming National Executive..

4. To amend existing 6.5 (new 6.6):

6.5. The National Executive shall be composed according to the following formula:

* From affiliated organisations, one representative for every 50 Socialist Alliance members or part thereof, with declared Socialist Alliance tendency figures subject to scrutiny by National Conference on request;

* Unaffiliated State and Territory representatives: The total number of unaffiliated State and Territory representatives shall match the total number of affiliate representatives, plus one to create an odd-numbered National Executive with an unaffiliated majority;

* Each State or Territory shall have at least one unaffiliated State or Territory representative, with the remainder of the total number distributed proportionally among State and Territories in accordance with the total State and Territory membership at the time of the Third National Conference;

* If an unaffiliated member cannot be found to represent a particular state or territory a casual vacancy shall exist and shall be filled through election at a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive;

* Between conferences, if necessary, proxies to the National Executive may be:

(i) appointed by the affiliated group, in the case of a representative of an affiliated group, or

(ii) in the case of a representative of a state or territory, be elected by a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive. State and Territory representatives can proxy to any member of that State or Territory.

* State delegations shall submit their list of provisional State or Territory National Executive representatives to National Conference, including, if necessary, by meeting at national conference and electing by proportional representation, subject to ratification at their next State or Territory conference;

* Unaligned State or Territory representatives shall be responsible to their respective State or Territory Conference, and will be subject to full right of recall;

* Any new organisations affiliating to the Socialist Alliance after the Third National Conference, at the invitation of the National Executive, shall be accorded representation on the National Executive according to the formula for existing affiliates as above.

* If further organisations affiliate to the Socialist Alliance, the extra State or Territory representatives needed to maintain an unaligned majority on the National Executive shall be distributed to States and/or Territories according to membership at the time of the Third National Conference, and elected by the succeeding appropriate State and/or Territory Conferences.

* National Conference shall ratify the list of National Executive candidates submitted by affiliates and State and Territory delegations prior to election of the National Conveners.

5. To amend existing 6.6 (new 6.7):

6.6. The following method shall apply for the election of the National Conveners:

* The National Conveners shall be elected by slate;

* Nominations of slates shall be open from the time of ratification of National Executive by conference and close at the beginning of the final session of conference;

* Any conference delegate shall be eligible to present a slate;

* Nominees may decline nomination if they so wish;

* All slates nominated shall be available for scrutiny by conference;

* Voting shall be by show of hands;

* If no slate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the slate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one slate gains a majority.

6. To adopt the following addition to the Constitution:

9.8 State or Territory conferences shall:

* ratify their unaligned State/Territory representatives on the National Executive;

* elect any additional National Executive representatives from their State/Territory as required;

* take reports from their State/Territory representatives on the National Executive.

7.2 RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Moved by Riki Lane:

All national Working Group or Committee meetings (trade union, anti-war, elections, etc) are open to all financial members of the Alliance. To facilitate participation:

i) all meetings of the WGs will be advertised on the web site and in *Socialist Campaigner* with details of how to become involved;

ii) e-lists for meeting notification, discussion, etc be maintained.

Resolution carried unamended.

GREETINGS PRESENTED BY GARY PRICE, CWU POSTAL DIVISION VICTORIA.

7.3 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Reporter for National Executive: Lisa Macdonald

That conference adopt the following six amendments to the Constitution:

1. Change the second sentence in 3.1, which presently reads: "The Alliance also seeks to build campaigns around the demands of the action platform", etc to read: "The Alliance also seeks to build campaigns around the demands of the action platform and policy as adopted", etc.

2. Change 8.7. which presently reads: "Providing their material does not contradict the core Alliance platform, local Alliance groups shall be free to raise additional, specific demands within their material" to read: "Providing their material does not contradict the Alliance platform and policy as adopted, Alliance branches shall be free to raise additional, specific demands within their material".

3. Change the last sentence of paragraph 11.1, which presently reads: "The pre-selected candidate shall be the person with the most votes" to read: "The pre-selected candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes. If no candidate

receives an absolute majority in the first round of voting, the candidate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one candidate gains an absolute majority.”

4. Change the first sentence of 14.1, which presently reads: “The Socialist Alliance may be dissolved by a special conference called for this purpose by the National Executive, or by one third of the membership” to read: “The Socialist Alliance may be dissolved by a special conference called for this purpose by the National Executive, or by one quarter of the membership”.

5. To change clause 6.3, which presently reads: “National Conference shall elect a National Executive, and any National Officeholders and national bodies” to read: “National Conference shall elect the National Executive”.

6. Change the second sentence in section 8.1, which presently reads: “A branch shall have at least seven members and will be organised on the basis of federal electorates” to read: “A branch shall have at least seven members. Each new branch must be ratified by the National Executive taking into the location of other branches, including in relation to federal and state electoral work.”

Noted that the amendment originally proposed by the NE to change the second last point in 6.5, which presently reads: “If in case (ii) no unaffiliated member can be found to act as proxy a member of an affiliated group may be elected, who shall have voice but not vote at meetings of the National Executive” to read: “That in the event of a non-aligned member of the National Executive being unable to attend a particular NE meeting, they be empowered to appoint a proxy with voice and vote for that meeting from among all financial members of Socialist Alliance, and that the National Conveners be advised of the proxy in writing or in person by the NE member before the NE meeting concerned” has lapsed as a result of conference adopting the Constitutional amendments moved by the Non-Aligned Caucus Working Group earlier in this session.

Procedural motion moved by Alison Maxwell:

To vote separately on each proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Procedural motion defeated.

National Executive resolution on Constitutional changes carried unamended.

7.4 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION ON RATIFICATION OF BY-LAWS

Reporter for National Executive: Lisa Macdonald

That conference ratify the following by-laws adopted by the National Executive since the 2003 National Conference:

- * International representative guidelines
- * Broadsheet authoring policy
- * National office arrangements
- * Code of Conduct
- * Staff employment guidelines
- * Policy working group guidelines.

National Executive resolution on by-laws carried unamended.

7.5 EMERGENCY MOTION ON ALLOCATION OF NON-ALIGNED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Procedural motion moved by National Conveners:

To suspend standing orders to allow a new motion on the procedure for electing non-aligned representatives to the NE.

Procedural motion carried.

Procedural motion moved by National Conveners:

Conference agrees to resolve whether the ACT or South Australian delegation receives the final non-aligned position on the NE for 2004-2005 by a public toss of the coin.

Amendment moved by Peter Murray:

To resolve it by drawing out of a hat.

Amendment defeated.

Procedural motion carried.

The coin was tossed with the result that South Australia was allocated the additional National Executive representative.

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM THE SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN AUSTRALIA.

8. BUILDING THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE (Chair: Sarah Stephen)

8.1 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION ON BUILDING THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

Reporter for National Executive: Lisa Macdonald

1. RECRUITMENT

The last year has been one of growth and consolidation of the Socialist Alliance. The Alliance now has more members, more branches and a greater public profile than ever before. In order to continue this growth, conference encourages all branches to:

- (i) set membership recruitment targets for the federal election campaign;
- (ii) continue the practice begun on March 20 of setting and organising to achieve recruitment targets for all major movement mobilisations;
- (iii) strengthen their membership organisation by ensuring that the branch stays in regular contact with all members, with particular attention to renewal of memberships, in ways consistent with members' different levels and types of involvement.

In light of the growing number of "at large" members (members resident outside a branch area), conference encourages State =

Committees/Executives to strengthen the organisation of "at large" members in their state/territory by:

- (i) nominating a membership secretary responsible for administering and staying in regular contact with at large members;
- (ii) as part of the Alliance's federal election campaign, organising regional tours to meet and help organise activities with at large members.

2. BRANCH ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION

In the last year, both the internal political life of the Socialist Alliance and its active involvement in local and national campaigns/movements has developed significantly. To further strengthen the Socialist Alliance's internal democracy and political activity, conference encourages all branches to strive to increase members' participation in the Alliance by:

- (i) ensuring that all SA activities are as well-publicised and accessible as possible;
- (i) responding wherever possible to local and national political developments by organising local public forums and street actions, using the local media, and extending SA's community networking;
- (ii) ensuring that all branch members have timely access to Socialist Campaigner, Alliance Voices and all local newsletters/bulletins.

3. DISCUSSION AND EDUCATION

The Socialist Alliance's attractiveness as a forum for discussion of socialist ideas has increased with the launching of Seeing Red, "Our Common Cause" column in Green Left Weekly, and more frequent state-wide and local forums and conferences. To extend the Alliance's ideological influence in the broader left and the working class, and to strengthen members' participation in this work, conference encourages all branches/states to:

- (i) organise a "Socialist Ideas" conference as early as possible this year and taking into account possible election dates, with the aims of raising SA's profile and attractiveness to those interested in socialist ideas, promote broader participation in Seeing Red, and provide a forum for more membership discussion of politics and Alliance policy;
- (ii) organise regular "Introduction to Socialist Alliance" sessions with the aims of recruiting new members and engaging them in the discussions and activities of the Alliance;=20
- (iii) organise regular opportunities for all members to discuss and debate socialist ideas.

4. FINANCES

As the Socialist Alliance's membership, and weight and responsibilities in Australian politics grow, it must professionalise its finances at every level. This is especially so in the context of the Alliance's biggest and most serious election campaign yet. To establish a firm foundation for the Alliance's financial health and political growth, conference resolves:

- (i) to encourage and, through the National Executive, provide assistance to branches to establish effective budgets and book-keeping and to more effectively solicit donations from more affluent SA members and supporters;
- (ii) to implement the national pledge system from June 1, 2004, following negotiations with each branch about the pledge to be paid;
- (iii) to cease each branch's payment to the national account of 25% of membership dues as soon as its national pledge payments at least equal its average 2003 dues payments to the national account;
- (iv) to affirm the National Executive objective of achieving, as soon as possible, a sufficient and sustainable national income to employ a national administrator;
- (v) that SA commence payment of the national office telephone line costs from June 1, 2004;
- (vi) to accept the National Treasurer's report for the 2002-03 financial year and the first three months of 2004.

Amendment to NE resolution moved by Sam Pillay:

That the following clause be included at the head of the three points that follow the section headed Branch activity and participation: "organise regular study groups on socialist theory and history - dialectical materialism and the materialist conception of history as an integral part of the work of branches".

Amendment defeated.

Procedural motion moved by Louise Walker:

To adopt the following standing order regarding the election process for the non-aligned representatives on the National Executive:

Nominations open at the end of the Constitution session

Nominations close at 1.30pm

All nominations to be submitted to the National Conveners

If an election is necessary the branch delegates only (not current NE members) shall meet immediately to carry out an election. This election shall be supervised by a member of the Conference Arrangements Committee who is not based in that state/territory.

Amendment to procedural motion moved by Riki Lane:

All members of each state delegation, including NE members, be able to vote in the NE representatives elections.

Amendment defeated.

Procedural motion moved by Louise Walker carried.

Procedural motion moved by Lisa Macdonald:

To allow open discussion on the Building Socialist Alliance resolution until 11.45pm, then proceed to the resolution from Austin Whitten.

Procedural motion carried.

Open discussion.

National Executive resolution on Building the Socialist Alliance carried unamended.

8.2 RESOLUTION MOVED BY AUSTIN WHITTEN:

A prime focus of the Socialist Alliance has been to reach out to the broad left audience for recruiting purposes and to promote broad left unity. Our success can be measured in the number of non-aligned members that now make up the alliance. As our membership has broadened and increased, it is logical that our activities should also widen to include projects that offer more outlets for social and political engagement within the community and that tap into the talents and interests of our new members, making use of their abilities as well as creating a place for them within the alliance.

Understandably, in the current situation, our attentions are drawn to important international and national issues - Iraq, Palestine, economic globalization, support for refugees. We play a significant role in consciousness-raising, acting as a catalyst for change by organising and promoting public rallies and meetings, through our subcommittee work in support of trade unionism and anti-war activities, and with participation in committees in the community and through our political campaigns.

As our membership has grown and broadened, we are now in a position to engage in a wider range of grassroots and community oriented activities. Socialist Alliance's recent participation in Sydney's municipal elections highlighted a number of possibilities.

It is time to start thinking about and addressing another outreach program - within Socialist Alliance itself - to members who are willing to play a more active role within the alliance in areas that tend to get crowded off the agenda due to lack of human resources.

This resolution proposes that Socialist Alliance branches consider initiating an outreach program to branch members who have been less active within the alliance in order to ascertain their areas of interest and to identify opportunities for new branch activities and projects.

For this purpose, it is proposed that branches, where possible and appropriate, appoint a person to be in charge of the membership outreach program at their branch with an immediate goal of identifying and putting in place at least one new project within the branch that will be supported by members who have had limited involvement in branch activities up to this point. Preferably, the person in charge of the outreach program would come from the group being reached out to as active branch members are fiendishly over-committed to the many tasks at hand.

As we continue to attract new members with wider interests, activities and focuses, it is important to make a place for them within the alliance not only to retain their membership but also to make use of what they have to offer. The Scottish Socialist Party can act as a model and guiding beacon for keeping sight of both the bigger and the more community-oriented issues.

Resolution carried unamended.

Procedural motion moved by National Conveners:

To open nomination slates for the SA Editorial Board at 1pm, and leave open until the vote is taken. That when nominations for the state-elected NE members close at 1.30pm, the Conference Arrangements Committee announces which states need to have elections and those states' delegates then meet in different parts of the hall. The elections to be completed by 2pm.

Procedural motion carried.

GREETINGS PRESENTED BY JEREMY HUTTON, VICTORIAN GREENS.

9. DEVELOPING SOCIALIST ALLIANCE POLICY (Chair: Riki Lane)

Reporter for National Elections Working Group: Jorge Jorquera

9.1 RESOLUTIONS FROM NATIONAL ELECTIONS WORKING GROUP ON POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

(i) That the Policy session begin with a brief introductory report and discussion on the eight areas prioritised by the NEWG due to their importance in our current election campaign. This does not exclude comrades raising discussion on any policy areas they think warrant our attention at the conference.

Resolution carried unamended.

(ii) Socialist Alliance Charters:

a. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive work with Resistance and SA comrades in the education unions and student campus members to produce an Education Charter. This Charter should be based on existing SA education policy and have the purpose of popularising the socialist view of education among students, educators and parents who oppose the neo-liberal recipes of Liberal and Labor.

b. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Health Charter, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda against privatisation and for a socially owned and run health system.

c. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive work with the national trade union committee to produce a Charter for Workers Rights, based on existing SA policy. The purpose of the Charter shall be as both a federal election campaigning tool in the labour movement and a general propaganda tool for recruitment and political agitation among workers.

d. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Charter Against Poverty and for Welfare Rights, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for social justice.

e. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Charter For Refugee Rights, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

Procedural motion moved by Jorge Jorquera:

That there be 15 minutes of open discussion before proceeding to policy resolutions.

Procedural motion carried.

Amendment moved by Alex Bainbridge, seconded by Linda Seaborn:

To add to (ii): f. That the SA NE establish a working group to produce an environment charter based on policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the charter will be to promote a socialist approach to solving environmental problems as part of the federal election campaign and general propaganda.

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Peter Murray, seconded by Alison Thorne:

To add after paragraph f: That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a charter for Indigenous Rights based on policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Amendment accepted by mover.

National Elections Working Group resolution (ii), as amended, carried. It now states:

Socialist Alliance Charters:

a. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive work with Resistance and SA comrades in the education unions and student campus members to produce an Education Charter. This Charter should be based on existing SA education policy and have the purpose of popularising the socialist view of education among students, educators and parents who oppose the neo-liberal recipes of Liberal and Labor.

b. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Health Charter, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda against privatisation and for a socially owned and run health system.

c. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive work with the national trade union committee to produce a Charter for Workers Rights, based on existing SA policy. The purpose of the Charter shall be as both a federal election campaigning tool in the labour movement and a general propaganda tool for recruitment and political agitation among workers.

d. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Charter Against Poverty and for Welfare Rights, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for social justice.

e. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a Charter For Refugee Rights, based on the policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the Charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

f. That the SA NE establish a working group to produce an environment charter based on policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the charter will be to promote a socialist approach to solving environmental problems as part of the federal election campaign and general propaganda.

g. That the Socialist Alliance National Executive establish a working group to produce a charter for Indigenous Rights based on policies adopted at this and previous conferences. The purpose of the charter shall be to facilitate SA agitation and propaganda for the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Procedural motion from the National Conveners:

To suspend the policy session to deal with the National Executive list so that nominations for National Conveners can be opened.

Procedural motion carried.

Motion from National Conveners:

That conference endorse the following list for the National Executive.

Non Affiliates elected from states/territories:

NSW: Raul Bassi, Austin Whitten, Michael Morphett, Andrew Watson, Julie Sloggett

Victoria: Tony Dewberry, Louise Walker, Lalitha Chelliah

Tasmania: Linda Seaborn

Northern Territory: Ray Hayes

South Australia: David Scrimgeour, Tom Bertuleit

Western Australia: Chris Cain, Joseph Karunaratne

Queensland: Sam Watson, Dave Riley

ACT: John van der Velden

Affiliates' representatives:

Freedom Socialist Party: Alison Thorne

Democratic Socialist Perspective: Lisa Macdonald, Peter Boyle, John Percy, Sue Bolton, Pip Hinman, Jorge Jorquera

International Socialist Organisation: Brian Webb, Juliet Edeson, David Glanz

Workers Power: Carlene Wilson

Workers Liberty: Riki Lane

Workers League: Greg Adler

Socialist Democracy: Ken Davis

WCPI: vacant

Resistance: Aaron Benedek

Motion carried.

Nominations were then declared open for National Conveners slates from the list of NE members.

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM: CAM WALKER, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH; MICHELE O'NEIL TCFUA; AND JIM REID AMWU PRINTING DIVISION, VICTORIA.

9.2 RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Moved by Sarah Stephen:

1)End the policy of mandatory detention, close all detention centres, and free all asylum seekers imprisoned within them

2)End the Pacific Solution: close the detention centres on Nauru and PNG's Manus Island and grant all asylum seekers

3)Abolish the concept of a "safe third country" which is used to screen out those who would otherwise be assessed as refugees

4)Return Christmas Island, Ashmore and Cartier islands, and Cocos (Keeling) islands to Australia's migration zone

5)Establish a category of complementary protection for those not found to be refugees under the UNHCR definition, but who face persecution if they were to be returned to the country they fled from

6)Abolish temporary protection visas

7)End all deportations

8)Immediately restore the annual refugee resettlement quota to its pre-1990s level of 20,000

9)Immediately resettle all UNHCR-assessed refugees stranded in Indonesia, which is not a signatory to the UN refugee convention

10)Recognise as grounds for refugee status gay and lesbian discrimination and violence against women, where the government in question condones or permits it

11)Abolish the Refugee Review Tribunal; replace with a fully independent merits review tribunal for refugees to appeal against adverse decisions

- 12) Restore access to all levels of judicial appeal; allow adverse decisions to be appealed on matters of substance as well as matters of law
- 13) Remove the rule which prohibits asylum seekers in the community from working or receiving social security if they submit a claim more than 45 days after they arrived in Australia
- 14) Extend funding and specialist services for settlement, including assistance with recognition of skills
- 15) Free and widely available English classes for all migrants and refugees
- 16) Full citizenship rights, including the right to vote, for all migrants and refugees
- 17) Abolish the pro-business points system which favours skilled and wealthy business migrants
- 18) Abolish the requirement for sponsors to pay an up-front bond
- 19) Abolish the two-year waiting period for new migrants to access social security payments
- 20) End unequal treatment for gay men, lesbians and transgendered people in immigration; recognition of same sex relationships
- 21) Remove HIV status from health tests for visas
- 22) Give preference to places for migrants from poor countries, especially countries in the Asia-Pacific region
- 23) Abolish all family reunion waiting lists, and remove the quota restriction so that partners, siblings, parents and extended families can be reunited in Australia if they choose.

Resolution carried unamended.

9.3 RESOLUTION ON ENVIRONMENT

Moved by Jim Green and Alex Bainbridge:

(i) Amend the Socialist Alliance Platform section "For ecological Sustainability" from:

- * Extend and socialise public transport, not freeways.
- * Effective action on greenhouse gas emissions; develop renewable energy sources;
- * No uranium mining, no reactor; no logging old growth forests; no genetically engineered organism (GE) crops or field trials.
- * Worker-community-green alliances to counter profiteering developers.
- * Fund public housing.

replace with:

- * Extend and socialise public transport, not freeways.
- * Effective action on greenhouse gas emissions; develop renewable energy sources.
- * No uranium mining, no nuclear reactors, no radioactive waste dumping.
- * No logging of old growth forests.
- * No genetically engineered organism crops or field trials.
- * Worker-community-green alliances to counter profiteering developers.

(ii) Cease the vandalism of the environment

Capitalist globalisation is destroying the earth. We live under the reign of a class willing to jeopardise our lives and those of future generations for quick cash.

Capitalism destroys habitat and renders species extinct, yet the survival of animal and plant life is essential for human progress and should not be counterposed to so-called "development". We are bombarded with chemicals in our food, water and air. We are assailed by poisons at work, at home and in our communities. In our hands, technology will be used for human progress; in the hands of capitalists, it is used to plunder our world. The destruction of the once-mighty Murray-Darling river system, the mobilisation of megatonnes of salt which threatens not only agriculture but many rural towns (and, in time, cities); the lunacy of open-cut and acid leaching uranium mines; the huge volume of asbestos released from decaying cement sheeting and insulation - these are disasters which may take centuries to rectify, even in a socialist Australia.

"Capitalism" and "sustainability" are mutually exclusive concepts. Only socialism is sustainable. But it is necessary to stop the destruction of our world now, as a matter of urgency. Socialist Alliance demands the commencement of a comprehensive environmental restoration and employment program, fully funded by a tax on corporate bank transactions; including full training and award wages for all workers; preference to be given to displaced timber and agriculture workers, rural unemployed, Indigenous communities and displaced small farmers.

This restoration and employment program should include the following:

FORESTS

- * Ban logging in old growth forests and other high conservation value native forests.
- * Ban the export of woodchips from native forests.
- * Initiate public-sector plantation programs giving high priority to employment and ecological sustainability.
- * Replant forests in dry-land and other salt-affected regions.

LAND MANAGEMENT

- * Phase out agribusiness farming in the Murray-Darling basin; stop all new farming and commercial development in salt-affected regions.
- * No Genetically Engineered Organisms - ban all importation of GEs and their production in Australia. Compulsory labelling of all genetically engineered products.
- * Strict controls on land clearing.
- * No mining or mineral exploration in national parks and other areas of high conservation value.

- * Reconstruction of salt-damaged infrastructure.
- * Mandated humane treatment of animals and full protection of endangered species and habitats.

WATER

- * Replace of open irrigation channels with pipes.
- * Removal of exotic species such as willow and carp from river systems.
- * Reduce water use by steeply increasing prices to big companies; Mandate the use of recycled water for all industrial purposes.
- * End the confiscation of Indigenous land for mining and agribusiness;

ENERGY

- * No new coal-fired power stations. Construct renewable energy infrastructure instead.
- * Subsidise solar heating and solar electricity in domestic dwellings.
- * Stop and reverse privatisation of energy/electricity industries.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- * Ratify the Kyoto Protocol.
- * Establish an industry-funded 10% renewable energy target by 2010.
- * Fund public transport not the spiral of more-roads-more-cars-more-roads. Establish limits on emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants for all new vehicles. Abolish the tax subsidies which encourage production and use of petrol-guzzling large vehicles.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

- * No new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights (or anywhere) and shut down the HIFAR reactor currently operating; invest in cleaner, safer technologies such as cyclotrons.
- * No dumping of radioactive waste; waste producers to manage their own waste in secure, monitored facilities at their own expense.
- * No nuclear waste dump for international commercial use in Australia;
- * Close the operating uranium mines (Ranger, Roxby Downs, Beverley) and no new mines to be approved.
- * No Australian support for the US government's missile 'defence' program and renewed, active support for non-proliferation agreements in place.
- * No nuclear power plants.

WASTE

- * Force manufacturers of electronic equipment, whitegoods and various other products to initiate recycling programs.
- * Prohibit the export to Third World countries of electronic and whitegood wastes under the guise of 'recycling'.
- * Establish comprehensive recycling systems for all wastes.
- * Mandated container deposits.
- * Remediate contaminated industrial sites.

Amendment moved by Alex Bainbridge, seconded by Linda Seaborn:

Amend the Forest section to:

- * Replace first dot point which current reads "ban logging in old growth forests and other high conservation value native forests" to read: "End logging in old growth forests. End clearfelling in all other native forests".
- * Replace third dot point which currently reads: "Initiate public sector plantation programs giving high priority to employment and ecological sustainability" to read: "for a publicly owned timber industry based on sustainable plantations with access to specialty timbers ensured for crafts people (subject to ecological considerations)."

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Emma Murphy, seconded by David Scrimgeour:

Addition to clause (ii) after "indigenous communities and displaced small farmers" to read: "Where possible and appropriate, such restoration programs should be established in consultation with traditional owners and/or local Indigenous communities".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Peter Murray, seconded by Alison Thorne:

Change "Genetically Modified Organisms" to "Genetically Engineered Organisms" wherever this term appears. Change all abbreviations (GMOs) to GEs wherever appearing.

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Luke Weyland:

To add: Encourage Socialist Alliance members to become actively involved in campaigns and get involved in the June 30 campaign.

Amendment defeated.

Resolution on environment policy, as amended, carried. It now states:

(i) Amend the Socialist Alliance Platform section "For ecological Sustainability" from:

- * *Extend and socialise public transport, not freeways.*
- * *Effective action on greenhouse gas emissions; develop renewable energy sources;*
- * *No uranium mining, no reactor; no logging old growth forests; no genetically engineered organism (GE) crops or field trials.*

- * *Worker-community-green alliances to counter profiteering developers.*

- * *Fund public housing.*

replace with:

- * *Extend and socialise public transport, not freeways.*

- * *Effective action on greenhouse gas emissions; develop renewable energy sources.*

- * *No uranium mining, no nuclear reactors, no radioactive waste dumping.*

- * *No logging of old growth forests.*

- * *No genetically engineered organism crops or field trials.*

- * *Worker-community-green alliances to counter profiteering developers.*

(ii) *Cease the vandalism of the environment*

Capitalist globalisation is destroying the earth. We live under the reign of a class willing to jeopardise our lives and those of future generations for quick cash.

Capitalism destroys habitat and renders species extinct, yet the survival of animal and plant life is essential for human progress and should not be counterposed to so-called "development". We are bombarded with chemicals in our food, water and air. We are assailed by poisons at work, at home and in our communities. In our hands, technology will be used for human progress; in the hands of capitalists, it is used to plunder our world. The destruction of the once-mighty Murray-Darling river system, the mobilisation of megatonnes of salt which threatens not only agriculture but many rural towns (and, in time, cities); the lunacy of open-cut and acid leaching uranium mines; the huge volume of asbestos released from decaying cement sheeting and insulation - these are disasters which may take centuries to rectify, even in a socialist Australia.

"Capitalism" and "sustainability" are mutually exclusive concepts. Only socialism is sustainable. But it is necessary to stop the destruction of our world now, as a matter of urgency. Socialist Alliance demands the commencement of a comprehensive environmental restoration and employment program, fully funded by a tax on corporate bank transactions; including full training and award wages for all workers; preference to be given to displaced timber and agriculture workers, rural unemployed, Indigenous communities and displaced small farmers. Where possible and appropriate, such restoration programs should be established in consultation with traditional owners and/or local Indigenous communities.

This restoration and employment program should include the following:

FORESTS

- * *End logging in old growth forests. End clearfelling in all other native forests.*

- * *Ban the export of woodchips from native forests.*

- * *for a publicly owned timber industry based on sustainable plantations with access to specialty timbers ensured for crafts people (subject to ecological considerations).*

- * *Replant forests in dry-land and other salt-affected regions.*

LAND MANAGEMENT

- * *Phase out agribusiness farming in the Murray-Darling basin; stop all new farming and commercial development in salt-affected regions.*

- * *No Genetically Engineered Organisms - ban all importation of GEs and their production in Australia.*

Compulsory labelling of all genetically engineered products.

- * *Strict controls on land clearing.*

- * *No mining or mineral exploration in national parks and other areas of high conservation value.*

- * *Reconstruction of salt-damaged infrastructure.*

- * *Mandated humane treatment of animals and full protection of endangered species and habitats.*

WATER

- * *Replace of open irrigation channels with pipes.*

- * *Removal of exotic species such as willow and carp from river systems.*

- * *Reduce water use by steeply increasing prices to big companies; Mandate the use of recycled water for all industrial purposes.*

- * *End the confiscation of Indigenous land for mining and agribusiness;*

ENERGY

- * *No new coal-fired power stations. Construct renewable energy infrastructure instead.*

- * *Subsidise solar heating and solar electricity in domestic dwellings.*

- * *Stop and reverse privatisation of energy/electricity industries.*

CLIMATE CHANGE

- * *Ratify the Kyoto Protocol.*

- * *Establish an industry-funded 10% renewable energy target by 2010.*

- * *Fund public transport not the spiral of more-roads-more-cars-more-roads. Establish limits on emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants for all new vehicles. Abolish the tax subsidies which encourage production and use of petrol-guzzling large vehicles.*

NUCLEAR ISSUES

** No new nuclear reactor at Lucas Heights (or anywhere) and shut down the HIFAR reactor currently operating; invest in cleaner, safer technologies such as cyclotrons.*

** No dumping of radioactive waste; waste producers to manage their own waste in secure, monitored facilities at their own expense.*

** No nuclear waste dump for international commercial use in Australia;*

** Close the operating uranium mines (Ranger, Roxby Downs, Beverley) and no new mines to be approved.*

** No Australian support for the US government's missile 'defence' program and renewed, active support for non-proliferation agreements in place.*

** No nuclear power plants.*

WASTE

** Force manufacturers of electronic equipment, whitegoods and various other products to initiate recycling programs.*

** Prohibit the export to Third World countries of electronic and whitegood wastes under the guise of 'recycling'.*

** Establish comprehensive recycling systems for all wastes.*

** Mandated container deposits.*

** Remediate contaminated industrial sites.*

9.4 RESOLUTION ON HEALTHCARE

Moved by Dave Riley:

The Socialist Alliance bases its policy on health promotion, disease prevention and timely treatment of illnesses and includes promoting good health. It aims to encourage a healthy community in a healthy environment and reduce health risks. Health includes the physical, mental and social well being of the community. It is a resource used by individuals on a daily basis.

A healthy life depends on a healthy environment, safe working conditions and enabling people to increase control over this improvement process. It will be based on the concept of hope and community control.

But access to healthcare is progressively being removed from the poor, and many so-called "high-paid" workers. The public health system is failing, and many in rural and outer metropolitan areas have limited access to even basic general practice medicine. Hospital waiting lists are overcrowded, with too many nights where emergency wards are on ambulance bypass. Meanwhile the private health system benefits from billions of dollars in direct and indirect government subsidies, on top of the semi-compulsory private health insurance rip-off, where working people who can "afford" it pay huge premiums for little return. Where the public system, even in its damaged state, is relatively efficient, the private sector is a black hole for money, with little useful health outcome. In the face of the health crisis, the Howard government is cutting funding to public hospitals and wants to dismantle Medicare. Working people and the poor have a basic right to universal, free, quality health care.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL RESTORE AND EXTEND MEDICARE

The Socialist Alliance endorses the principle of universal health insurance which underlies Medicare, and emphasises that Medicare is not just a "safety net". If Australia is to have comprehensive universal health insurance, paid for by progressive taxation and ensuring equitable access to health care for all, there is no need to have private health insurance. Currently, private health insurance is massively subsidised by the Australian government, and it contributes little to total health expenditure. By abolishing the tax rebate for private health insurance, \$2.5 billion could be freed to provide more resources for public hospitals.

Private health insurance encourages a two-tier health system. The Socialist Alliance would phase out private health insurance so that all Australians would have the same level of health insurance and the same access to health care.

The coverage of Medicare would be extended to include dental care and appropriate ancillary services such as physiotherapy and psychological counselling as well as dental, aged care, prosthetics, rehabilitation, alternative therapies, dental, optometry, speech, dietetics, auditory and preventative services. The Medicare rebate paid to doctors would be increased to an appropriate level, to ensure that doctors receive adequate remuneration for bulk-billing. The Medicare levy would be increased by an average of 1%, to help fund these policies. However, rather than a flat tax, currently 1.5% of taxable income, the levy should be a progressive tax, like income tax, where the percentage of taxable income which would constitute the Medicare levy would increase with increasing income.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WOULD MAKE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMMUNITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES THE CORNERSTONE OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM.

The Socialist Alliance would ensure the availability of adequate funding for Community Health Centres (CHC) providing comprehensive primary health care, focussing initially on areas of greatest need. Funding would be made available to general practitioners working in poorer areas to convert their practices to community health centres, with the doctors and other health professionals working in salaried positions within the public service.

Democratic joint committees of medical professionals, other health workers and members of the community will be established to coordinate the CHCs. The community will be fully involved in the process of establishing and administering the CHCs.

The Socialist Alliance will establish Women's Health Centres providing access to contraception, abortion and cancer screening facilities.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WOULD ENSURE THAT ESSENTIAL PHARMACEUTICALS ARE AVAILABLE ACCORDING TO NEED.

The Socialist Alliance would retain the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and legislate to ensure that it is quarantined from any trade agreement and any undue influence of pharmaceutical companies. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories would be re-nationalised, and given the specific task of producing cheap generic drugs.

The Socialist Alliance will lobby in international forums to overturn the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which maximises pharmaceutical company profits by allowing 20-year patents, whilst denying millions of people access to life-saving drugs.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ADEQUATELY FUNDED

The prevalence of mental health issues is well known in the community, and it is predicted that depression will become the major cause of morbidity in the next decades. There is also a stigma attached to these conditions. Major primary intervention strategies, education and service networks will be established at workplaces, schools, and within communities to tackle these issues.

Counselling, psychological and psychiatric services will be made available free of charge in CHCs.

Facilities will be established to assist the reversing of the prevalence of the current trend especially towards wide-scale depression. It is the view of the Socialist Alliance, however, that the predicted increased prevalence of depression is related to the effects of neo-liberal economic policies, and it can be expected that implementation of a broad range of Socialist Alliance policies will help to reduce the prevalence of depression.

The Socialist Alliance will legislate to protect the right of access to free, quality mental health care, without pressure to conform to traditional gender roles or other social stereotypes.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT FUNDING AND STRUCTURING OF HEALTH SERVICES EMPHASISE PREVENTION AND EQUITY

Prevention of ill health will be primary in our policies. The promotion of healthy living styles will be promoted by special campaigns.

Schools will be funded to promote healthy eating and providing healthy food for children by establishing a free lunch time meal program in all schools.

Strategies for reduction of stress levels and accidents at work places will be formulated.

Free, quality health education and screening programs will be fully funded.

The prevention of ill health will reduce the cost of treatment in the long run. The inclusion of the community in the decision-making processes will also assist in this process. The fact that the community and individuals take responsibility for their health will boost the type of healthy community we envisage.

The costs of health policies will be achieved by, amongst other things, abolishing government subsidies for private health insurance, and by a major reduction in the defence budget.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT PATIENTS' RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED

The Socialist Alliance will guarantee patients' control by legislating the right of access to all information required for informed consent; the right to appoint a legal guardian of a patient's choice; the right to choose or refuse medical treatment; the right to die and the right to assisted suicide. Hospitals to be forced to admit their surgical, pharmacological and other nosocomial mistakes as a matter of due process.

A no-fault medical indemnity insurance system (similar to the system currently available in New Zealand) will be introduced which will ensure that patients are fully compensated for medical mishaps, without the necessity for adversarial court cases, whilst ensuring that patients can expect medical care of the highest possible quality.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN ADEQUATE HEALTH WORKFORCE TO MEET THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF ALL AUSTRALIANS

The Socialist Alliance will expand student positions in tertiary health education faculties to overcome the shortage of health workers in nursing, aged care and general practice, particularly in rural areas.

Amendment moved by Kamala Emanuel:

At the end of the second last section on "the SA will ensure that patients' rights are respected" add: "This indemnity will be extended to cover midwives providing care outside hospitals".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Dave Riley, seconded by David Scrimgeour:

Delete the sentence: "The Medicare levy would be increased by... increasing income".

Also delete the words: "the right to die and the right to assisted suicide".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Alison Maxwell, seconded by Luke Weyland:

Add to the point reading "The SA will ensure that patients' rights are respected" at the end of the first sentence the words "the right to choose contraception appropriate to the patient and abortion as required".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

The Socialist Alliance bases its policy on health promotion, disease prevention and timely treatment of illnesses and includes promoting good health. It aims to encourage a healthy community in a healthy environment and reduce health risks. Health includes the physical, mental and social well being of the community. It is a resource used by individuals on a daily basis.

A healthy life depends on a healthy environment, safe working conditions and enabling people to increase control over this improvement process. It will be based on the concept of hope and community control.

But access to healthcare is progressively being removed from the poor, and many so-called "high-paid" workers. The public health system is failing, and many in rural and outer metropolitan areas have limited access to even basic general practice medicine. Hospital waiting lists are overcrowded, with too many nights where emergency wards are on ambulance bypass. Meanwhile the private health system benefits from billions of dollars in direct and indirect government subsidies, on top of the semi-compulsory private health insurance rip-off, where working people who can "afford" it pay huge premiums for little return. Where the public system, even in its damaged state, is relatively efficient, the private sector is a black hole for money, with little useful health outcome. In the face of the health crisis, the Howard government is cutting funding to public hospitals and wants to dismantle Medicare. Working people and the poor have a basic right to universal, free, quality health care.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL RESTORE AND EXTEND MEDICARE

The Socialist Alliance endorses the principle of universal health insurance which underlies Medicare, and emphasises that Medicare is not just a "safety net". If Australia is to have comprehensive universal health insurance, paid for by progressive taxation and ensuring equitable access to health care for all, there is no need to have private health insurance. Currently, private health insurance is massively subsidised by the Australian government, and it contributes little to total health expenditure. By abolishing the tax rebate for private health insurance, \$2.5 billion could be freed to provide more resources for public hospitals.

Private health insurance encourages a two-tier health system. The Socialist Alliance would phase out private health insurance so that all Australians would have the same level of health insurance and the same access to health care.

The coverage of Medicare would be extended to include dental care and appropriate ancillary services such as physiotherapy and psychological counselling as well as dental, aged care, prosthetics, rehabilitation, alternative therapies, dental, optometry, speech, dietetics, auditory and preventative services. The Medicare rebate paid to doctors would be increased to an appropriate level, to ensure that doctors receive adequate remuneration for bulk-billing. However, rather than a flat tax, currently 1.5% of taxable income, the levy should be a progressive tax, like income tax, where the percentage of taxable income which would constitute the Medicare levy would increase with increasing income.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WOULD MAKE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMMUNITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES THE CORNERSTONE OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM.

The Socialist Alliance would ensure the availability of adequate funding for Community Health Centres (CHC) providing comprehensive primary health care, focussing initially on areas of greatest need. Funding would be made available to general practitioners working in poorer areas to convert their practices to community health centres, with the doctors and other health professionals working in salaried positions within the public service.

Democratic joint committees of medical professionals, other health workers and members of the community will be established to coordinate the CHCs. The community will be fully involved in the process of establishing and administering the CHCs.

The Socialist Alliance will establish Women's Health Centres providing access to contraception, abortion and cancer screening facilities.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WOULD ENSURE THAT ESSENTIAL PHARMACEUTICALS ARE AVAILABLE ACCORDING TO NEED.

The Socialist Alliance would retain the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and legislate to ensure that it is quarantined from any trade agreement and any undue influence of pharmaceutical companies. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories would be re-nationalised, and given the specific task of producing cheap generic drugs.

The Socialist Alliance will lobby in international forums to overturn the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which maximises pharmaceutical company profits by allowing 20-year patents, whilst denying millions of people access to life-saving drugs.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ADEQUATELY FUNDED

The prevalence of mental health issues is well known in the community, and it is predicted that depression will become the major cause of morbidity in the next decades. There is also a stigma attached to these conditions. Major primary intervention strategies, education and service networks will be established at workplaces, schools, and within communities to tackle these issues.

Counselling, psychological and psychiatric services will be made available free of charge in CHCs.

Facilities will be established to assist the reversing of the prevalence of the current trend especially towards wide-scale depression. It is the view of the Socialist Alliance, however, that the predicted increased prevalence of depression is related to the effects of neo-liberal economic policies, and it can be expected that implementation of a broad range of Socialist Alliance policies will help to reduce the prevalence of depression.

The Socialist Alliance will legislate to protect the right of access to free, quality mental health care, without pressure to conform to traditional gender roles or other social stereotypes.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT FUNDING AND STRUCTURING OF HEALTH SERVICES EMPHASISE PREVENTION AND EQUITY

Prevention of ill health will be primary in our policies. The promotion of healthy living styles will be promoted by special campaigns.

Schools will be funded to promote healthy eating and providing healthy food for children by establishing a free lunch time meal program in all schools.

Strategies for reduction of stress levels and accidents at work places will be formulated.

Free, quality health education and screening programs will be fully funded.

The prevention of ill health will reduce the cost of treatment in the long run. The inclusion of the community in the decision-making processes will also assist in this process. The fact that the community and individuals take responsibility for their health will boost the type of healthy community we envisage.

The costs of health policies will be achieved by, amongst other things, abolishing government subsidies for private health insurance, and by a major reduction in the defence budget.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT PATIENTS' RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED

The Socialist Alliance will guarantee patients' control by legislating the right of access to all information required for informed consent; the right to appoint a legal guardian of a patient's choice; the right to choose or refuse medical treatment; the right to choose contraception appropriate to the patient and abortion as required. Hospitals to be forced to admit their surgical, pharmacological and other nosocomial mistakes as a matter of due process.

A no-fault medical indemnity insurance system (similar to the system currently available in New Zealand) will be introduced which will ensure that patients are fully compensated for medical mishaps, without the necessity for adversarial court cases, whilst ensuring that patients can expect medical care of the highest possible quality. This indemnity will be extended to cover midwives providing care outside hospitals.

THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WILL ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN ADEQUATE HEALTH WORKFORCE TO MEET THE HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF ALL AUSTRALIANS

The Socialist Alliance will expand student positions in tertiary health education faculties to overcome the shortage of health workers in nursing, aged care and general practice, particularly in rural areas.

9.5 RESOLUTION ON INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION

Moved by Ray Jackson and Alison Thorne:

The territory of Australia was invaded by the British in 1788. Since then, European authorities have staged a genocidal campaign against the Indigenous

Nations of this continent. Socialist Alliance notes that none of the land stolen from its original owners was ever ceded and considers that there can be no justice in Australia without a just settlement for Indigenous people. Socialist Alliance unconditionally recognises the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and acknowledges the racist repression that continues to destroy their communities and denies them basic services.

* Recognise Indigenous Nations - negotiate a treaty.

* Compensate the Stolen Generations.

* Repeal the Native Title Act and abolish all racist land laws; allow full control for traditional purposes.

* Stop racist sentencing. Immediate implementation of the 339 Royal Commission recommendations from the 1991 Report into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

* Access to services for all Indigenous communities, equivalent to all other Australian communities.

* End genocide by neglect - full health care for Indigenous peoples.

* Abolish work for the dole - employ all workers in Community Development Employment Programs on award wages. Pay back the decades of stolen wages in full.

* Defend and extend Indigenous programming on the ABC, SBS and community broadcasters; an end to the racist and destructive portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities in some sections of the media.

* Indigenous control of all Indigenous affairs.

Amendments moved by Alison Thorne:

1. In dot point "Repeal the native title act..." delete all words after "racist land laws".

2. Remove the dot point beginning "Access to services..."

3. Amend the dot point "End genocide by neglect..." to read: "End genocide by neglect - extend and improve indigenous health and other community needs through fully funded targeted services controlled by Indigenous Australians and their communities".

4. Amend the dot point "Abolish work for the dole" to insert the words: "locally negotiated" before "award wages".

5. Amend dot point "indigenous control..." to read: "No to mainstreaming of Indigenous services. For a national, regionally based Indigenous policy and service delivery body to provide Indigenous control of Indigenous affairs".

Amendments accepted by mover.

Amendment moved by Alison Maxwell, seconded by Luke Weyland:

Add to the final dot point: "Defend indigenous representative bodies against racist attacks by the labor and Coalition parties."

Amendment withdrawn after discussion.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

The territory of Australia was invaded by the British in 1788. Since then, European authorities have staged a genocidal campaign against the Indigenous

Nations of this continent. Socialist Alliance notes that none of the land stolen from its original owners was ever ceded and considers that there can be no justice in Australia without a just settlement for Indigenous people. Socialist Alliance unconditionally recognises the sovereignty of Indigenous Nations and acknowledges the racist repression that continues to destroy their communities and denies them basic services.

** Recognise Indigenous Nations - negotiate a treaty.*

** Compensate the Stolen Generations.*

** Repeal the Native Title Act and abolish all racist land laws.*

** Stop racist sentencing. Immediate implementation of the 339 Royal Commission recommendations from the 1991 Report into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.*

** End genocide by neglect - extend and improve indigenous health and other community needs through fully funded targeted services controlled by Indigenous Australians and their communities.*

** Abolish work for the dole - employ all workers in Community Development Employment Programs on locally negotiated award wages. Pay back the decades of stolen wages in full.*

** Defend and extend Indigenous programming on the ABC, SBS and community broadcasters; an end to the racist and destructive portrayal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities in some sections of the media.*

** No to mainstreaming of Indigenous services. For a national, regionally based Indigenous policy and service delivery body to provide Indigenous control of Indigenous affairs.*

9.6 RESOLUTION ON FULL EQUALITY FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUALS AND TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE

Amended resolution moved by Alison Thorne (amendments in italics):

We live in a society which attempts to dictate sexual preference and gender identity through *promoting the gender stereotypes and homophobic attitudes which underpin the heterosexual nuclear family, and by promoting marriage and the nuclear family as the only legitimate model for relationships.* Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people suffer oppression because their lives *are a challenge to the nuclear family which is an economic cornerstone of capitalism.* The Socialist Alliance opposes all attempts to shoehorn people into sexual and gender conformity. We believe it is a basic democratic right that a persons' self-definition of sexual preference and gender identity should be recognised. Heterosexism exists at almost every level in this society, and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is entrenched in all of the key institutions of society - education, health, the law, the media, family, church and state.

The Socialist Alliance supports politically independent and self-organizing social movements that fight the oppression of women, lesbians and gay men, transgendered people, people with HIV and sex workers through mass action, public demonstrations, lobbying, voting and by building alliances with the broader working class, feminist, and anti-capitalist movements.

We oppose sexism, racism, ageism, and discrimination against people with disabilities within the lesbian and gay communities, as we do in the broader community.

In government the Socialist Alliance will:

** Enact enforceable anti-discrimination legislation to protect lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, people living with HIV/AIDS and transgendered people. We will remove existing exemptions for private schools, religious organisations, the insurance industry, the tax system, superannuation etc; legislate for the right of transgendered people to be issued with passports, drivers licences and other documents specifying the gender of their choice.*

** Legislate full social, legal, Trade union and industrial recognition of same sex relationships. This would include extending to same sex relationships equal status with heterosexual de factos in superannuation, immigration, taxation, family law, industrial relations and any other laws and regulations; ensure the right of gays and lesbians to choose to marry if they so wish; provide independent incomes [Newstart, Pensions, etc] for all regardless of relationship status - this will end state-enforced economic dependency.*

** Guarantee the right of gay men and lesbians to adopt or foster children and end discrimination against gay men and lesbians in child custody cases;*

** Legislate against use of non-violent homosexual "advance" as a defence of "provocation" in violent crime.*

** Provide full state funding for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth programs including refuges and housing services, health services, coming out, self-esteem and suicide prevention programs;*

** All public funding for education, youth, aged, health, employment and welfare to be directed through non-discriminatory government and/or secular non-profit community organizations. Education in schools to incorporate positive material on homosexuality and transgender.*

** Support Pride Marches, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, film and video festivals and other queer community events; defend and extend gay, lesbian and transgender programming on the ABC, SBS and community*

broadcasters; work vigorously for an end to the vicious and destructive portrayal of gay men, lesbians and transgender people in some sections of the media.

* Support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered workers; promote strong policies within unions to defend gay, lesbian and transgendered workers; support the establishment of gay and lesbian caucuses within trade unions.

Resolution, as amended, carried.

9.7 RESOLUTION ON THE BAN ON THE HIJAB

Moved by Melanie Lazarow:

Conference condemns the rise of racism in Australia against people of Muslim belief or Middle Eastern background, especially since 9/11. Muslim women who wear the hijab or burqa have been attacked or harassed. Only last month, a woman soccer player in Melbourne was barred by a referee from playing because she was wearing a hijab.

Conference condemns the recent introduction of a law in France banning the wearing of prominent religious items, including the hijab, in state schools or the public service. While the law was ostensibly to defend secularism, its real target was France's Muslim minority.

Conference rejects the false argument that banning the hijab is about promoting women's liberation. Many of those who support such a ban show no such concern over sexist advertising or women's low pay. Only Muslim women can make the decision to wear or not to wear the hijab.

Conference agrees to campaign against any proposals to ban or limit by law the wearing of the hijab or burqa, and against informal discrimination in our workplaces and communities.

Amendment moved by Janet Burstall, seconded by Melanie Sjoberg:

Addition before last paragraph: We also support the right of women to decide to refuse to wear the burqa or hijab, recognizing that this refusal is an act of self-liberation and defiance of the power of clerics by many woman.

Amendment defeated.

Resolution carried unamended.

9.8 RESOLUTION ON THE MILITARY

Moved by Alan Woodcraft:

The Alliance is for the legalisation of trade unionism in the armed forces.

Procedural motion moved by Joseph Karunaratne:

That the resolution lay on the table.

Procedural motion defeated.

Amendment moved by Wade Macdonald:

Delete resolution entirely, and replace with: "The Alliance supports trade unionism within the armed services".

Amendment accepted by mover.

Resolution, as amended, carried. It now states:

The Alliance supports trade unionism within the armed services.

9.9 RESOLUTION ON EUREKA ANNIVERSARY

Moved by Hamish McPherson:

The uprising on the Victorian goldfields in 1854, which culminated in the Eureka Stockade, was an important part of the fight for democratic rights in Australia. The rebellion helped achieve the first extension of the franchise and set the scene for the introduction of the eight-hour day.

Socialist Alliance encourages members to attend the commemoration being supported by the CFMEU on December 3 in Ballarat. Conference instructs the National Executive to produce a leaflet for the event, which highlights the role of struggle from below in gaining and defending democratic rights, and encourages branches to hold public meetings on this theme.

Resolution carried unamended.

9.10 RESOLUTION ON CHANNEL 31

Procedural motion moved by Simon Taylor:

To suspend standing orders to allow a resolution on Channel 31 to be considered.

Procedural motion carried.

Resolution moved by John Gauci, seconded by Tim Doughney:

That the conference recognise the valuable work carried out by Actively Radical TV in Sydney. ARTV has been an active supporter of progressive campaigns and groups (Including the Socialist Alliance) for more than ten years.

The conference notes with disappointment the recent suspension of broadcasting by Channel 31 in Sydney. The conference signals its support for the community campaign, which seeks to ensure that transmission continues while the new management prepares its programming schedule.

The conference also signals its support for ARTV in its negotiations for airtime with the new license holders.

Resolution carried unamended.

9.11 RESOLUTION ON ROMA PEOPLE

Procedural motion moved to Carlene Wilson:

To suspend standing orders to allow another resolution to be considered.

Procedural motion carried.

Resolution moved by Carlene Wilson:

That this conference of the Socialist Alliance opposes the continued racism of the Slovakian state against the Roma people. In particular we send our greeting to Mario Bango, a young Roma jailed for 12 years for self-defence.

We agree to send a letter of protest to the Slovakian government.

Resolution carried unamended.

10. ELECTIONS (Chair: Riki Lane)

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL AND THE RED-GREEN ALLIANCE (DENMARK).

10.1 ELECTION OF SA EDITORIAL BOARD

Motion from by Dave Riley, Austin Whitten, Juanita Feldbauer, Peter Boyle, Anne Picot, Alison Dellit, David Scrimgeour:

Previous editorial board members present at the convention would like to move that due to the interest in the editorial board - highly welcomed - we would like to move that the incoming National Executive be authorised to add addition members to the board at the discretion of the NE.

We would like to strongly motivate NE to add Sam Pillay and Brian Sketchley the editorial board. Both comrades have volunteered their names and we feel they will be valuable addition to the editorial board team.

Sam Pillay indicated he was not available for the Editorial Board and the motion was amended to remove reference to him.

Motion, as amended, carried. It now states:

Previous editorial board members present at the convention would like to move that due to the interest in the editorial board - highly welcomed - we would like to move that the incoming National Executive be authorised to add addition members to the board at the discretion of the NE.

Procedural motion moved by Peter Murray:

To recommit the previously carried NE resolution on the newspaper to allow changes to be made to the number on the Editorial Board.

Procedural motion carried.

Amendment to resolution on the newspaper moved by Peter Murray:

To change from 11 to 12 the size of the Editorial Board.

Amendment carried.

Amended resolution on SA GLW Editorial Board carried. It now states:

The Socialist Alliance notes the successful completion of the trial editorial role undertaken by the Socialist Alliance since January this year.

The alliance reaffirms the establishment of the editorial board, as specified in the SA National Executive motion of December 12, 2003, to secure access for SA members and affiliates to Green Left Weekly, to solicit material and oversee the public presentation of SA within GLW (including adjudicating any issues regarding publication of SA material that may arise in the GLW editorial team), and notes its success in doing so.

The Socialist Alliance decides to continue the relationship developed in the trial period, including the functioning of the editorial board in the capacity spelled out in its original charter motion of 12 December 2003 and with the additional charge of increasing collaboration with the GLW editorial team with a view to increasing the Socialist Alliance's editorial input into, and involvement in the production of, Green Left Weekly.

All material organised by the board for GLW will be available to all affiliate newspapers or public publications.

The editorial board is to consist of 12 members elected by slate at the national conference, including the GLW editor, a DSP representative, a representative of the other affiliates and an NE representative who is specifically assigned to liaise with the board. The NE is authorised to fill temporary or permanent vacancies on the board by appointment. The Board will meet as often as it deems necessary.

The board will be accountable to the National Conveners and the National Executive, and report quarterly.

The conference agrees this process will be conducted under the protocols established between Green Left Weekly and the Socialist Alliance.

The progress and work of the board should be reviewed in six months time by the National Executive.

SA EDITORIAL BOARD NOMINATIONS (one slate was presented):

Andrew Watson, Dave Riley, Humphrey McQueen, Austin Whitten, Paul Kringas, Juanita Feldbauer, Alex Miller, DSP representative, Affiliate representative, GLW representative, Linda Seaborn, Brian Sketchley.

This slate was declared elected.

GREETINGS READ OUT FROM MATTHEW MCGOWAN, NATIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION.

10.2 ELECTION OF NATIONAL CONVENERS

Slate 1 - Nominated by Louise Walker, seconded by Raul Bassi:

1. Lisa Macdonald (DSP)
2. David Glanz (ISO)
3. Louise Walker (Unaligned)
4. Raul Bassi (Unaligned)
5. Lalitha Chelliah (Unaligned)

Slate 2 - Nominated by David Glanz, seconded by Anne Picot:

1. Louise Walker (Unaligned)
2. Lisa Macdonald (DSP)
3. Raul Bassi (Unaligned)
2. David Glanz (ISO)
5. Michael Morphet (Unaligned)

Procedural motion [no record of mover]:

To open discussion on a basis of one for one against.

Procedural motion defeated.

Slate 1 was elected: For 83, Against 38, Abstentions 0

11. CONFERENCE CLOSE

Motion of thanks from National Conveners to the Melbourne and Sydney conference organising committee members, conference chairpeople and minuters, and all participants was carried by acclamation.

Singing of the Internationale.

Constitution of the Socialist Alliance

As amended by the Third National Conference, May 8-9, 2004

NAME

The name of the organisation shall be the Socialist Alliance, hereinafter referred to as "the Alliance".

DEFINITIONS

2.1. *Financial Member.* A financial member is a member of the Socialist Alliance who has paid the membership dues for that year.

2.2. *Oppressed Group.* An oppressed group is any broadly defined section of the population that suffers discrimination within capitalism based on race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age and/or disability.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Alliance is a coalition of socialist parties and socialist individuals supporting a common action platform for the purpose of endorsing candidates to contest elections for local and state government representatives and for the

federal House of Representatives and the Senate. The Alliance also seeks to build campaigns around the demands of the action platform and policy as adopted, involving trade unions and communities, in order to fight for the resources and services that workers, unemployed, women, pensioners, Aborigines, and migrants really need.

3.2. The Socialist Alliance stands candidates to give a voice to working-class struggle, and meet the need for working-class political representation.

3.3. The Alliance seeks to build a movement for change by developing policies, campaigns, industrial struggles and co-operation with all workers, environmental, anti-racist, and other social movements and to put forward an alternative to corporate control of society. A sustained mass campaign of total opposition to the ruling class offensive can bring together the forces to replace capitalism with a socialist society, based on co-operation, democracy and ecological sustainability.

3.4. In parliament, Socialist Alliance representatives use their positions to support workers' struggles and social movements, fight reactionary policies and promote the mass campaigns that can defeat the attacks on jobs and living standards.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOCIALIST ALLIANCE PARLIAMENTARIANS

4.1 The Socialist Alliance does not allow its parliamentarians or local councillors to exercise a conscience vote. As they have been elected on the basis of the Socialist Alliance platform they are required to vote in accordance with that platform and publicly advocate it.

4.2.1 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councilors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the Branch that covers the electorate except that if their electorate is covered by more than one branch or their electorate is not covered by any branches they shall be subject to specific direction by their state organisation.

4.2.2 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the National Executive where such directions relate to Alliance platform or national policy, which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation.

4.2.3 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councilors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the National Conference which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation or the National Executive.

4.3 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be accountable to the National Conference of the Socialist Alliance, and in between conferences, parliamentarians shall be accountable to the National Executive.

4.4 If elected, Socialist Alliance candidates shall pledge any income above the average of a skilled worker to the Alliance to help fund its work.

4.5 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be required to gain the consent of the body they are accountable to in Section 4.2.1 to be able to employ persons to work in their office(s).

MEMBERSHIP

5.1. Any individual who broadly agrees with the aims and objectives of the Alliance and agrees to participate in the non-sectarian, co-operative spirit of the Alliance is eligible to join.

5.2. The Socialist Alliance encourages full participation of all members as activists and leaders at local, state and national levels of the organisation and as candidates and branch officers. The Alliance actively encourages working class women, indigenous people, immigrants, queers, people with disabilities and young people to take on leadership roles within the Alliance.

5.3. The Socialist Alliance is politically pluralistic and encourages all individuals and perspectives to participate fully in our struggle for a socialist society and in our way of working as an alliance. Members of other parties, organisations and groups who join the Socialist Alliance are expected to be able to keep their identity as members of these organisations whilst participating fully in the development of the Alliance. Any individual or affiliate organisation shall have the right to form a political tendency for the purpose of influencing Alliance policy and activity.

5.4. To further this end, membership assumes a commitment to a non-sectarian and co-operative way of working, looking to build unity, positively supporting and encouraging the notion of alliances and ensuring that any critical debates are conducted in a positive manner and without personal attacks.

5.5. Once decisions have been taken by the elected bodies of the Alliance all members are expected to present that decision as the position of the Alliance, both in public and in dealings with other political organisations. At the same time, individual Alliance members and affiliate organisations are free to indicate their agreement or disagreement with any Alliance decision.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

6.1. Policy shall be decided democratically by a National Conference, which shall normally be held annually but at least every two years, or by Special Conference. These conferences shall be open to all members but decisions shall be made by delegates proportionally representing the membership of local Alliances. Conference decisions shall be by show of delegate cards and by simple majority vote.

6.2. Delegate ratios shall be decided by the National Executive (or in the case of the inaugural National Conference, the National Liaison Committee) after consultation with local branches and district and statewide bodies.

6.3. National Conference shall elect a National Executive, and any National Officeholders.

6.4. National working groups and other bodies may be formed by National Conference or the National Executive.

6.5. The National Officeholders shall be five National Conveners, at least two of whom shall not belong to an affiliate organisation. The National Conveners, to be elected out of the incoming National Executive, shall be elected by the slate method. Proposed slates for the National Conveners can only be nominated after the election of the incoming National Executive.

6.6. The National Executive shall be composed according to the following formula:

From affiliated organisations, one representative for every 50 Socialist Alliance members or part thereof, with declared Socialist Alliance tendency figures subject to scrutiny by National Conference on request;

Unaffiliated state and territory representatives: The total number of unaffiliated State and Territory representatives shall match the total number of affiliate representatives, plus one to create an odd-numbered National Executive with an unaffiliated majority;

Each State or Territory shall have at least one unaffiliated State or Territory representative, with the remainder of the total number distributed proportionally among States and Territories in accordance with the total State and Territory membership at the time of the Third national Conference.

If an unaffiliated member cannot be found to represent a particular state or territory a casual vacancy shall exist and shall be filled through election at a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive;

Between conferences, if necessary, proxies to the National Executive may be (i) appointed by the affiliated group, in the case of a representative of an affiliated group, or (ii) in the case of a representative of a state or territory be elected by a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive. State and Territory representatives can proxy to any member of that State or Territory.

State delegations shall submit their list of provisional State or Territory National Executive representatives to National Conference, including, if necessary, by meeting at National Conference and electing by proportional representation, subject to ratification at their next State or Territory conference.

Unaligned State or Territory representatives shall be responsible to their respective State or Territory Conference, and will be subject to full right of recall.

Any organisations affiliating to the Socialist Alliance after the Third National Conference shall, at the invitation of the National Executive, be accorded representation on the National Executive according to the formula for existing affiliates as above.

If further organisations affiliate to the Socialist Alliance, the extra State or Territory representatives needed to maintain an unaligned majority on the National Executive shall be distributed to States and/or Territories according to membership at the time of the Third National Conference, and elected by the succeeding appropriate State and/or Territory conferences.

National Conference shall ratify the list of National Executive candidates submitted by affiliates and State and Territory delegations prior to the election of the National Conveners.

6.7. The following method shall apply for the election of the National Conveners:

The National Conveners shall be elected by slate;

Nominations of slates shall be open from the time of ratification of the National Executive by conference and close at the beginning of the final session of conference;

Nominations for the positions of representatives of affiliate organisations on the National Executive shall be made by the affiliate organisations and made known by the opening of conference;

Any conference delegate shall be eligible to present a slate;

Nominees may decline nomination if they so wish;

All slates nominated shall be available for scrutiny by conference;

Voting shall be by show of hands;

If no slate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the slate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one slate gains a majority.

6.8. If one quarter of the paid-up membership requests it by petition to the National Executive, a Special Conference of the Alliance shall be called in addition to National Conferences.

6.9. The implementation of policy and new activities between Conferences, and the organisation of annual and any other Conferences, shall be carried out by the National Executive, and any national body constituted by the National Conference.

6.10. The National Officeholders and National Executive shall be accountable to the National Conference and to any Special Conference called for the purpose of considering their actions.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND NATIONAL OFFICEHOLDERS

7.1. The National Officeholders and National Executive shall be responsible for the running of the organisation and for finance, membership, arrangements of meetings, communications with local groups and individuals, national bulletin production and distribution, liaison with other groups and organisations, and arrangements for seeking and enabling electoral registration and compliance with electoral laws; and any other matters delegated to them by the Alliance as a whole.

7.2. The National Executive has the power to appoint other officers of the Alliance where required to fulfil its duties as outlined in this constitution.

7.3. The National Treasurer shall be appointed by the incoming National Executive after each National Conference.

7.4. The National Executive has the duty to both canvass the broadest possible consensus within the Alliance and to initiate and lead political discussion throughout the Alliance to clarify and resolve differences on all important matters whilst continuing to take decisions on behalf of the Alliance on immediate decisions consistent with the platform and decisions of the National Conference.

7.5. The National Executive shall meet, in face or by phone, at least every two months. It shall coordinate election campaigns nationally and shall allocate specific national tasks such as media liaison and the development of draft policy documents in specific areas.

7.6. Individuals acting on behalf of the Socialist Alliance nationally, or the National Executive, should regularly report the substance of their work to the National Executive.

LOCAL BRANCHES

8.1 The basic unit of the Socialist Alliance is the local branch. A branch shall have at least seven members. Each new branch must be ratified by the National executive taking into account the location of other branches, including in relation to federal and state electoral work.

All Alliance members will be assigned to a branch by the appropriate district organising committee (see below) or, in the case of remote regions, by the National Conveners. Members will normally live in the area covered by their branch, but alternatively may indicate the branch in which they will be active to the district organising committee or the National Conveners.

8.2. A branch meeting shall be properly convened if it is held on a regular scheduled day (or days) of the month, or else called by authorised branch officers or on receipt of a petition by 25 per cent of branch members to branch officers, and notified by mail or email with at least seven days notice to each branch member.

8.3. Each branch meeting shall have a chair and a minutes secretary. The approved minutes shall be forwarded to the relevant State, District or City Organising Committee, and branch members as requested.

8.4. A properly convened branch meeting which achieves a quorum can make decisions for the branch. Decisions shall be made by show of hands by simple majority vote. The quorum at a properly constituted branch meeting is 5 members or 10 per cent, whichever is the greater.

8.5. Branches shall elect office bearers, including a Convener, Treasurer and Returning Officer, at least annually. Office bearers can be voted out at any properly convened branch meeting. Office bearers shall be subject to the specific direction of the branch.

8.6. Branches shall be responsible for ensuring a political discussion at branch meetings, carrying out campaigns in their area in support of workers' and social movement struggles, and for the running of election campaigns.

8.7. Providing their material does not contradict the Alliance platform and policy as adopted, Alliance branches shall be free to raise additional, specific demands within their material.

8.8 Where branch meetings will conduct elections for office bearers, delegates or candidate pre-selections (except where a public election called at short notice makes this notice impossible), then 28 days' notice of the meeting and the intended ballot should be given to all members. Nothing in this section removes the responsibility of branch officials to carry out directions/policies of the state or national conference as appropriate.

STATES AND DISTRICTS

9.1. There shall be an Annual State or Territory Conference in every state or territory where Socialist Alliance has Branches.

9.2. States and districts shall elect their own executives and office bearers, as required, and shall have control of all campaigns at their corresponding level. Such committees shall usually be formed on the basis of one delegate per branch, with affiliate organisations who are not represented by branch-elected delegates also eligible to nominate a representative.

9.3. All financial members of Socialist Alliance who reside in the relevant state or territory shall have the right to vote at a State or Territory conference, unless a previous state or territory conference properly constituted establishes that future conferences shall be delegated.

9.4. The quorum at a properly constituted State conference is 5 members or 10 per cent of the financial membership, whichever is the greater.

9.5. Two or more branches may decide to form a district.

9.6. A Special State or District conference shall be called if the State or District executive decides, if at least one branch in the state or district demands it or if 25% of the membership of the state or district petition for a state conference. In the case of a conference called for by a branch or petition the conference must be held within 30 days.

9.7 States or districts, or two or more neighbouring branches, may choose to have organizing committees to coordinate campaigns across branches and to coordinate state electoral campaigns.

9.8. State and Territory conferences shall:

Ratify their unaligned State/Territory representatives on the National Executive;

Elect any additional National Executive representatives from their State/Territory as required;

Take reports from their State/Territory representatives on the National Executive.

CAUCUSES

10.1. Any oppressed group within the Alliance shall have the right to form a caucus. All members of the Alliance who are part of a particular oppressed group shall have the right to participate in a caucus if it is formed.

10.2. Any individual member or affiliate organisation shall have the right to form a caucus for the purpose of influencing Alliance policy and activity. As far as possible caucus meetings shall be open and transparent. However, once Alliance policy and campaigning priorities are decided, caucuses are expected to abide by them and not organise public campaigns in opposition to Alliance policy.

10.3. Caucuses, groups or affiliates within the Alliance have the right to produce and circulate literature publicly.

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND PRE-SELECTION

11.1. Branches shall pre-select the candidate or candidates for their electorate(s). Nominations shall be called 14 days before a scheduled branch meeting. The Returning Officer shall supply candidates for pre-selection with a list of all branch members eligible to vote. Candidates shall be given equal time of at least five minutes each to speak to the branch meeting. The pre-selected candidate must receive an absolute majority of votes. If no candidate receives an absolute majority in the first round of voting, the candidate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one candidate gains an absolute majority.

11.2. Branches shall also be responsible for their own election campaigns, including raising finances, to nominate candidates and production of material (above and beyond whatever common election material is provided centrally). They shall also be responsible for fulfilling any local legal requirements and providing necessary information to the National Executive for the purposes of complying with the election legislation (records of membership, donations, etc.)

11.3. Senate, state upper-house and city-wide candidates shall be preselected by state or city-wide conferences of the Alliance called for this purpose with 14 days' notice.

11.4. In the event of disputes about candidates within or between branches or affiliate organisations the National Executive shall have the final say.

AMENDMENTS

12.1 Amendments to this Constitution shall be made by simple majority vote of the National Conference.

BY-LAWS

13.1 Interim by-laws dealing with matters pertaining to the structure and functioning of the Alliance not set down in this Constitution may be adopted by the National Executive. Such by-laws shall be submitted to the following National Conference or Special Conference for ratification.

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

14.1 The Socialist Alliance may be dissolved by a special conference called for this purpose by the National Executive, or by one quarter of the membership (as above). Any assets of the Socialist Alliance will be distributed to any organisation or organisations having aims consistent with those of the Socialist Alliance as determined by such a special meeting or conference. The delegate ratio for such a special conference may be no less than the delegate ratio used for the last properly constituted National Conference.

