



Take Back Control of Our Planet

It isn't news that global warming is killing the planet.

Governments are unwilling to make the dramatic changes required to salvage an already desperate situation. But even more importantly they can not change things even if they wanted to.

Huge multinationals and multi-billion dollar companies like Chevron, ExxonMobil and BP have immense power independent of any government. Their operations are governed by a system that requires continuing growth and profit. Coal production, for instance, continues to rise despite the consequent rise in greenhouse gasses, the local environmental damage caused by the mining itself, the local deadly air pollution caused by burning it and the tremendous damage done to the lives and health of workers employed in the industry.

Since these companies can not change themselves, and their owners either as fabulously wealthy individuals or collections of large shareholders have shown no practical desire to do so, how can we bring the necessary changes about?

Ownership of all the major mining and energy companies must be taken away from the capitalists who have used them to enrich themselves at the cost of the planet.

Instead of being privately owned the state must compulsorily acquire them. They must become state owned and run by their workers according to the needs of society and not to make profits.

Compensation should be on a sliding scale based on need. There is no need to compensate the richest of their former owners – they have had more than their share already – and the money saved can be used to compensate the little investors and pension fund shareholders.

Companies run in such a way as to safeguard human and planetary life and health and safety instead of for profit would help us shift production from throwaway goods to the things that people really need. Coal mines will be progressively closed. Mining and energy workers have the skills and knowledge to rehabilitate the scars left by their previous operation and to develop new clean energy industries. Energy consumption will fall, jobs will be preserved, and work will become safer. Without the lure of profit a more equitable and rational sharing of the world's resources and products can be achieved.

Now as we watch the oncoming disaster and the inability of capitalist companies and governments to deal with it, state ownership and worker control have become more necessary than ever before.

Workers power can save the planet



**australia asia
worker links**
workers change the world

australia asia worker links
po box 45 carlton south, victoria 3053 australia
tel: (61 3) 9663 7277
email: aawl@aawl.org.au
web: globalpicketline.org/AAWL
October 2019