

Aotearoa Not For Sale To local or foreign Capitalists!



Workers Party members are actively supporting the “Aotearoa is not for sale” hīkoi. Indeed, we believe we need to go further than just keeping assets in public hands, we want to push forward for workers’ and users’ control of those assets.

Whilst a number of political parties have pledged their support for the campaign, we must be on guard that the campaign does not become side tracked by an excessively Parliamentary focus. The ongoing struggle of the Auckland wharfies against casualisation (the first step towards privatisation) shows the most effective way to oppose the government’s asset sales plan. The last thing capitalist investors want to deal with is a bolshy workforce. The campaign by Glen Innes residents against

state housing sell-offs is another inspiring example.

We must also guard against the strong element of xenophobia around “foreign ownership”, particularly against Chinese ownership of NZ assets. We in the Workers Party are socialists and internationalists, and regard the arguments about “foreign ownership” as a dangerous distraction that threatens to undermine our struggle against privatisation. The problem is private capitalist ownership of public utilities, whether those capitalists are New Zealanders or “foreigners”.

Furthermore, there is a particularly nasty history of anti-Chinese racism in New Zealand, which dates to the development

of immigration controls in this country. Immigration controls originated from a “White New Zealand Policy” that was initially concerned with keeping out Chinese people.

(For more information, see our pamphlet: <http://workerspartynz.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/open-borders-pamphlet-v5.pdf>)

We support the actions of Ngāti Rereahu who occupied one of the Crafar farms in February, demanding the return of their ancestral whenua. But we would have supported the action regardless whether the land was in NZ private, “foreign” or Crown ownership.

What is the Workers Party?

The Workers Party of New Zealand is a socialist political party active in campaigns nationwide.

We aim to build a new political movement based on the interests of workers in New Zealand and internationally.

Our activities include organising in workplaces, campaigning against imperialism and fielding candidates in local and general elections.

We support Mana and are actively involved in the Mana Movement.

The Workers Party stands on the following platform:

- 1. Opposition to all New Zealand and Western imperialist intervention in the Third World and all Western imperialist alliances.**
- 2. Secure jobs for all with a living wage and a shorter working week.**
- 3. For the unrestricted right of workers to organise and take industrial action and no limits on workers’ freedom of speech and activity.**
- 4. For working class unity and solidarity – equality for women, Maori and other ethnic minorities and people of all sexual orientations and identities; open borders and full rights for migrant workers.**
- 5. For a working peoples’ republic.**

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