

*PRIVATISATION AND SALE OF
GOVERNMENT ASSETS AND UTILITIES
RESOLUTION
ACTU CONGRESS 1997*

- 1 ACTU Congress notes with grave concern the recent report of the Committee of Inquiry into Sale of the NSW Electricity Assets ("the Hogg Report") and its recommendations favouring the privatisation of the NSW electricity industry.
- 2 Congress specifically rejects the key recommendations of that report, finding in particular that the allegations of risk to the public sector are unjustified.
- 3 Congress endorses the submissions of the Labor Council of NSW and the NSW ALP Taskforce to the Hogg Inquiry, and supports the findings of the Minority Report of the Committee of Inquiry in rejecting privatisation of electricity assets as a necessary or beneficial public policy for the people of New South Wales. ACTU Congress reaffirms its total opposition to the sell off of public assets and utilities. Irresponsible Governments who are fixated with short term financial benefits against the long term benefits of higher employment and steady public income are comparable to the fools who "killed the goose that laid the golden egg".
- 4 Congress condemns the stated intention of the New South Wales Labor Premier and Treasurer, to embark on the folly of privatisation of the electricity industry in that State. Having observed the outcome of a similar course of action by a Conservative Government in Victoria, working class people well know what it delivers. The effects of massive job losses, unreliable services and higher costs will not endear any Government to working people. It distresses Congress that some sections of the political arm of the Labor movement have not learned the lesson of distancing themselves from the heartland of Labor voters.
- 5 Congress also questions the proposals put forward by the NSW Health Minister to look at other options to sell NSW public entities.
- 6 Congress calls upon the NSW Government to examine ways other than a fire sale of public assets to fund the economic and social infrastructure it has identified as necessary or desirable for the people of New South Wales. In the event that the NSW Government is not persuaded to alter its position then Congress calls upon all affiliates to actively oppose this obscenity to working Australian both industrially and politically.