

AEU Fed Exec 31st Aug decision

That AEU notes the decision on the AEU's opposition to AUKUS, endorsed by Federal Executive in March 2023.

As this resolution states, 'The AEU is deeply committed to peace, opposes militarism and asserts that war should never be used to resolve international conflict. There have been too many times in history when warmongering and armaments build-up have led to international conflict, death and destruction.'

Further to the announcement about the AUKUS security pact, AEU Federal Executive notes with deep concern the recent launch by the Defence Department of a 'Nuclear-Powered Propulsion Challenge' in Australian schools, under the guise of providing students with opportunities in the area of STEM.

The AEU condemns this program, and the use of Australian schools by the Defence Department, in drawing secondary students into the government's development of new industries focused on armament manufacture and industries associated with warfare. A politicised pro-AUKUS curriculum has no place in our schools, alongside other private industries who attempt to use schools as a vehicle for promotion of their own products and profits hidden behind spurious educational benefits for students.

The AEU reaffirms our commitment to continue to work with the anti-war, peace and broader union movement to expose and oppose the threat inherent in this rise in militarism and growing nuclear proliferation, as well as a focus on peace education and role of unions in this movement over many years.

The AEU determines that:

- a. A working party of representatives from Branches and Associated Bodies and the federal office to discuss these issues, and develop where appropriate, updated policy for consideration by the AEU;
- b. all Branches and Associated Bodies write to Education Ministers conveying our condemnation and opposition to the Nuclear-Powered Propulsion Challenge, and demanding they do not promote this program to schools;
- c. our opposition to AUKUS and the Nuclear-Powered Propulsion Challenge be conveyed to members, and that we call on members not to publicise, encourage or refer students to this program;
- d. AEU Federal Office write to the Federal Education Minister conveying our opposition to the Nuclear-Powered Propulsion Challenge, and demanding they do not promote this program to schools, and calling on the Minister to raise our concerns with the Defence Minister, and convey the AEU's demand that government discontinue this 'competition'.