

Let's do it together:

Suggestions for Disrupting the 2025 Federal Elections



Disclaimers

This was written by settlers on unceded Wurundjeri Biik to promote ideas of election disruption that have been called for by First Nations activists, resisters and fighters here. We do not claim ourselves to be experts on Decolonisation or Indigenous governance.

Any mention of or allusions to issues of liberalism, ignorance, deprioritisation of Indigenous struggle, etc within the settler left here are critiques of us as the writers too. It is up to every single one of us to fix the shitshow that is our scene's treatment of Indigenous people and disregard for Indigenous struggle.

This was written in 2025. If you are reading at a different time or in a different place, please fact-check any information you intend to rely on.

Why disrupt the election?

The 'Australian' state is a criminal entity that has no right to operate a parliament or governing force on these lands. We cannot claim to stand for First Nations sovereignty while legitimising the occupation by voting in its elections.

A little history

This state occupying the land of over 250 Sovereign nations (size-wise, land equivalent to nearly the whole of Western Europe) was born from genocide, theft and lies. Colonial law and international law are created to make 'legal' whatever the Crown wants to do, but even within their own laws, the legal justification for the occupation crumbles; the myth of Terra Nullius is acknowledged to be null, and even the UN's colonial international law has made acquisition of territory by conquest illegal.

In this way, even a person working solely within a framework of what the colony says is 'legal' should be able to see that 'Australia' has no right to run elections here. (And, pssst, also no right to say what's legal at all)

We would hope anyone reading this already knows that the genocide and displacement continues, with Indigenous people here:

- having no free access to their land (a.k.a. this whole continent, if you've forgotten) or control over what happens to it
- being in intergenerational poverty due to land theft, slavery, and ongoing discrimination

- being the most incarcerated people in the world and 10 times more likely to be targeted for child removal
- having food and water sources poisoned by military testing and mining
- being subject to ongoing abuse and murder from occupation forces (police, military and settlers), and 'slow murder' via systemic restriction of access to food, housing, healthcare, and financial support/work
- having the police and military sent in to violently quash attempts at autonomy

...The list goes on, and the gravity of the crime scene goes much, much deeper than we can cover here alone.

Voting as harm reduction...?

'But,' you may worry, 'if the left boycotts the election or doesn't vote, the Liberals or Dutton will get in and it will just be worse! Voting can't hurt; getting more progressive independent and Greens seats/trying for a hung parliament is kind of damage control/harm reduction!'

Labour governments do not dial back the harm brought in by the Liberal party, but instead add to it; the two work in tandem, playing a good-cop bad-cop routine and constantly pushing politics further right. Looking at history, we can see proof of this in how Labour governments expanded the Northern Territory Intervention after it was introduced by the Liberal Party, and in the introduction of indefinite refugee detention under the Labour government, to name just a couple.

It is clear that Labour is not the 'lesser of two evils' but rather 'a different lipstick on the same pig'. If anything, it can be argued the disguised evil is more dangerous than the honest one.

Even a high number of seats going to the Greens or Independents has never done much to stem the flow of genocidal policy from the government, and the Greens are far from exempt from supporting genocidal policies. Just one of many, many examples of is the Greens' support for imperialist and genocidal military intervention into Libya in 2011.

To be a politician, you are obligated to uphold the genocidal occupation state. No matter how good a settler political party or independent's policies may appear, at the heart of it, this will always be the case.

The colony cannot be reformed - voting is legitimisation, not harm reduction!



Ideas for election mischief

- Have a group or network of groups you can tap into to get a crowd together? Picket your election! Just like the manufacture of weapons, colonial elections are the perpetuation of genocide, and the rooms where they happen can be blockaded. [Thailand 2014, Kenya 2017, others]
- Going solo, or in a group too small for that? Try damaging a place the night before, such that it can't be used or at least makes those using it uncomfortable. You can go as far with this as you have the resources to. Many polling places are schools, but remember that schools are places of indoctrination into colonial thought too. [Papua 2022, Bangladesh 2024, others]
- If you're not confident with that yet but know an election location with gates at every entrance, try locking them with your own locks. Pay in cash or rack the locks and don't put your prints on them. [Just seems like it might work.]
- Solo or with a friend, try dumping ink or a liquid of your choice in a ballot box. You can rush in and rush out, or try walking in like a regular voter and do it on your way out - in unidentifiable grey bloc and without registering your details at the desk, of course. [Russia 2024]
- Rags doused in linseed oil piled up in an enclosed space such as a ballot box have been known to spontaneously catch fire after a few hours. Several people passing through the same station could try dropping these in covertly. Don't leave prints, it

may not catch. Not leaving DNA might be difficult. [Just seems like it might work – use caution]

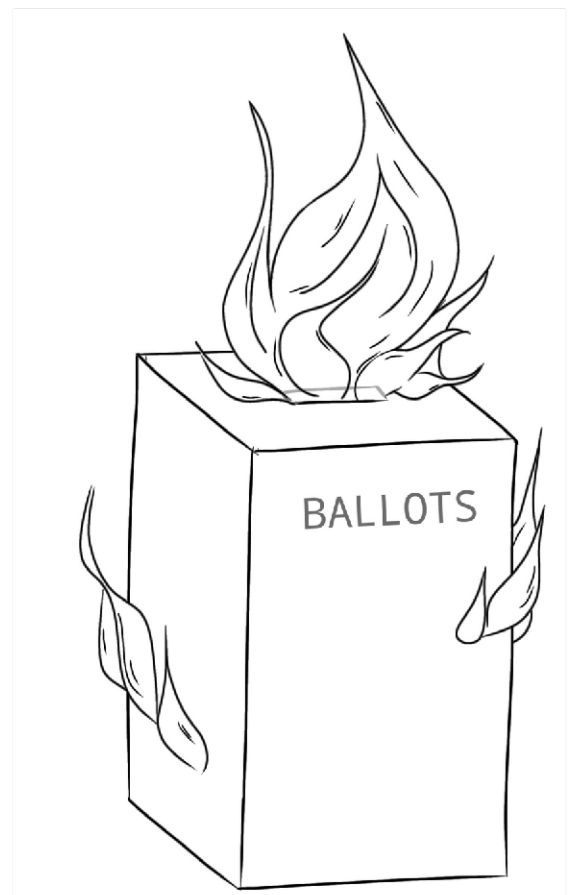
- Polling places often cast a wide net for hiring staff for the day. Getting hired or having a friend working your location on the day may open up more possibilities for you. [Just seems like it might work – use caution]
- Get creative! These are by no means the be-all and end-all of ways to disrupt unauthorised, criminal colonial elections.

Note:

Examples of overseas attempts are not an endorsement of them in their context, we're just stealing tactics. For example, it's not unusual for Western powers like the US to back genuine local grievances in other countries to destabilise the country, twist the situation to their own benefit, etc and it wouldn't be surprising if that was behind some of these examples.

These ideas are based on what has been tried internationally, and some that just seem like they could logically work. Please consider for yourself whether any given tactic is likely to apply well to your location.

Many of these are best suited to polling places with few or zero security personnel and lower levels of surveillance (or surveillance cameras that have been cut or painted over the night before).



Intended results

It's good to be skeptical of whether an action is effective or just for show - and it's true that in the infancy of the tactic, with a limited number of people with limited experience to draw on, attempts to disrupt the election are likely to do little in the way of actual disruption of the voting process overall*.

We run the risk of co-opting the term 'disruption' by using it here, but we truly do want to see tactics tried out and their successes and failures analyzed so that in future years a tangible disruption can be possible.

These are the outcomes that we think make it worth it and are achievable for this year:

Educational - Platforming the colony's illegitimacy:

- To get sympathetic but uninformed parties to understand that:
 - Not only is this government genocidal, it is also legally illegitimate (even under colonial law), a criminal occupying force, and has no jurisdiction and no right to operate here.
 - Not only is Sovereign First Nations governance (in the form each occupied Indigenous nation decides upon for their own

*Though, we would love to be proven wrong. We haven't written about large-scale election boycotts, strikes and street protests as it is not our forte, but we'd love to see hundreds or thousands of people shut down the city or each of their suburbs on election day. We haven't written about the sabotage of ballot-storing or vote-processing locations as we are not currently aware of where those are, but we'd love to see that information come to light and be used effectively. Just as a couple of examples.

land) possible, viable and beneficial for all life on this continent; is the *only* morally, legally and environmentally viable governance system for this continent.

- To combat the prevailing ideas amongst 'progressives' that the government just needs to be reformed, or replaced with a settler-run socialist government.
- To say loud and clear 'If you want to see work take place towards resolving issues like the artificial scarcity of food, healthcare and housing; climate change; destruction of land and species; this

colony's involvement in genocide worldwide; etc - you should be fighting for land back and Indigenous liberation. Indigenous people are invested in these issues and have been fighting to resolve them for years (and doing so with very little in the way of resources).'

Demonstrative - Starting out somewhere:

- To start to get activists, actionists, fighters etc thinking and talking about elections as a disruption target.
- To dispute amongst our communities the common fears around how 'We can't protest or disrupt or boycott elections, if we do that the right/Liberal party/Peter Dutton will just win and that will be worse'.
- To demonstrate how it can be done, and learn from the experience for future years; the hope being that eventually, with enough people and enough experience of what works, we actually *can* achieve significant disruption to a colonial election's operations.

Possible charges

This info is provided purely to save you research time, and to weigh risk/reward.

When the risk to reward ratio is looking like it might not be worth it, (e.g. charges very high and chances of getting away with it very low) **it's important to try not to back out of action completely**. Instead, see if a more effective action can be achieved with the same level of risk.

Penalties provided are the maximum. At the time of writing, actual penalties for getting caught will not usually reach the maximum amount and could be a mere fraction of it.

There will be additional penalties for criminal damage, arson, public nuisance etc depending on your method which we have not included here because it would be too long of a list.

There are also different penalties for those hired as polling location workers if you take that route, which you can find at aec.gov.au/about_aec/publications/backgrounders/polling-places-offences.htm (use Tor/VPN)

VIC Law:

296 (1)	Open sealed envelope containing ballot paper; break ballot box seal; deal with ballot papers etc - Indictable offense Max penalty: 600 penalty units (\$118,554) and/or 5 yrs
297	Infringement of secrecy of voting Max penalty: 120 penalty units (\$23,711) and/or 1 yr
299	Interference with postal ballot materials - Indictable offense Max penalty: 600 penalty units and/or 5 yrs

301 (1)	Hindering/interfering with free exercise of political rights - Indictable offense Max penalty: 600 penalty units and/or 5 yrs
301 (3)	Influencing vote by violence or intimidation -Indictable offense Max penalty: 600 penalty units and/or 5 yrs
301 (7)	Interfere with voter marking his or her ballot paper Max penalty: 120 penalty units and/or 1 yr
303 (3)	Impersonation of an election manager or election official Max penalty: 10 penalty units (\$1976)

AEC:

327	Interference with political liberty A person must not hinder [voting by] violence, obscene or discriminatory abuse, property damage and harassment or stalking Max penalty: 100 penalty units (\$19,759) and/or 3 yrs
339 (1)	Other general offenses in relation to ballot papers Includes 'doing an act that results in the unlawful destruction of, taking of, opening of, or interference with, ballot boxes or ballot papers' No penalty units or years jail listed - unknown
340	Canvassing near polling booths & pre-poll voting places Includes 'inducing any elector not to vote for any particular candidate' and 'inducing any elector not to vote at the election' and the highly vague 'exhibiting any sign or notice (other than an official notice) relating to an election' Max penalty: 5 penalty units (\$988), with an extra 5 if you're using a loudspeaker and the activity is audible within 6m of the entrance to the polling booth
348	Max penalty: Extra 5 penalty units for not leaving when asked to by election officials.

Operational Security Resources/Things You Should Know Before You Plan Further:

Get rid of this zine and anything else suspicious in your house before actually doing anything to disrupt! If you have things you can't get rid of permanently such as illicit substances or resources you want to keep, see if an uninvolved friend can keep them for you for a bit.

Always use Tor browser when researching.

Message anyone you're working with using Signal, but where possible don't message at all – speak in person away from tech.

Rack materials or buy them with cash, and ideally wear something that hides your identifiable features and that you wouldn't usually wear when doing so.

Have your exit planned. Many exits consist of running into a bit of dense bush, a sparser park if it's night, or just anywhere without cameras and prying eyes, and changing clothes there. Wearing things that can be layered can help.

Don't bring your phone on the actual day you're going to be doing things.

Wear fully covering, unidentifiable clothes – in some places, people have dressed in black bloc*/like ninjas, but if you need to look normal for a bit, just make sure your clothes fully cover your features (long sleeves, long pants, face covered with sunnies and a mask, forehead covered with a cap), and are something you've never been seen in before and won't be seen in again.

*Fully black clothes, including a balaclava or a shirt wrapped around your head so that only your eyes are visible – cover your forehead!

Get rid of any clothes you wore and any materials you used as soon as possible. Burning them is best, or ditching them somewhere they're not likely to be found if that's not an option. If you're ditching anything, make sure to wipe it down well with alcohol beforehand – for a quick ditch, have the item/s already wiped down and print-free beforehand and wear gloves while using them.

You can find more in-depth guides and resources here:

<https://www.notrace.how/>

<https://www.torproject.org/>

<https://www.anarsec.guide/>

<https://anonymousplanet.org/guide/>

Well, that's all! Best of luck, and we hope to see your work out there! Here's some resources to learn more and stay in the loop.

Further Reading/Listening:

Aboriginal Sovereign Manifesto of Demands -

<https://nationalunitygovernment.org/content/aboriginal-sovereignty-manifesto-demands>

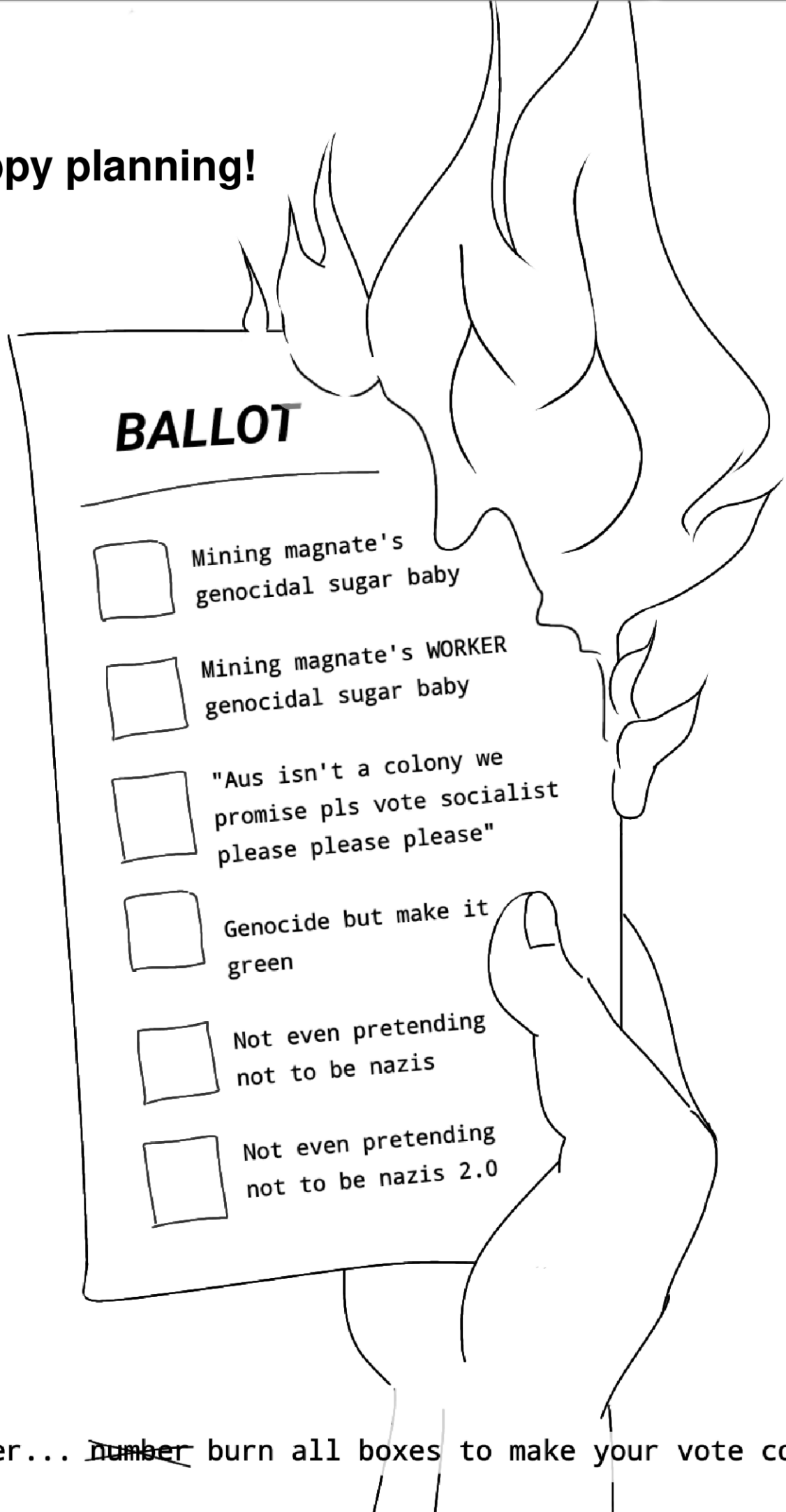
Crime Scene Australia - crimesceneaustralia.com

Yillamin - 3CR

Bunjil's Fire - 3CR

Radio RATA - Instagram

Happy planning!



Remember... ~~number~~ burn all boxes to make your vote count!

