

BLOCKADE IMARC 2022 INFO PACK



Zine made by the Blockade IMARC
Outreach Working Group

Contact us at
community@blockadeimarc.com

Whats in this intro pack?

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- joining an affinity group
- how to make an affinity group
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- what you could expect from the blockade imarc festival
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Welcome to the Blockade IMARC Summer Pack!!

IMARC is coming up soon (at the end of January), so we have made this little pack for folks to read before the end of the year! This gives you some background information on what is IMARC and Blockade IMARC, how to get involved, some ideas on what could happen at the end of January.

What is Blockade IMARC?

We fight to protect land, water and life. The International Mining and Resources Conference (IMARC), happening Jan 31st 2021 in Melbourne, destroys them. Bring your voice, creativity and solidarity to stand with us against the destruction of IMARC.

We stand for wellbeing and thriving (bio)diverse communities and ecosystems. We value consent, autonomy and the right to say no. We value solidarity and supporting the resistance of frontline communities.

Check out www.blockadeimarc.com to read our principles and for more info.

What is IMARC (International Mining and Resource Conference)?

IMARC is Australia's largest mining event, happening from the 31st January 2022. It brings together some of the largest names in the mining, investment, and technology industries for three days of deal-making and networking (read: buying and selling things that don't belong to them, destroying land, water and life, and greenwashing their practices in the process).

This is why we Blockade IMARC. We need to be bold and disrupt the infrastructure that causes so much harm in order to build the world we want to see. We join together to dance, share, blockade, build, heal, yell and celebrate resistance to these extractivist industries led by frontline communities across this continent and the world. We call bullshit on their greenwashing. We want to do this collectively as an alliance. We have our different ideas but our main goal is to shut the extractive fuckery down.

why blockade IMARC?

"As Australia's most influential mining event, IMARC creates a global conversation, mobilises the industry for collaboration and attracts some of the greatest leaders in the mining, investment, and technology industries for three days of learning, deal-making and unparalleled networking."
(from IMARC's website)

 **Horrible companies that have caused a lot of destruction are going to be there:**


OceanaGold - destroying country in Didipio, Philippines as communities try to stop it, among many other destructive projects

For more info search for Philippines Australia Solidarity Association - PASA


BHP - one of the world's largest mining companies which has committed countless atrocities around the world

For more info go to <https://rainforestactiongroup.org/bhp/>


and many more!

 IMARC plays a huge part in the **greenwashing** that tries to say we can mine our way out of the climate crisis (which makes mining companies a lot richer and continues to destroy land, water and life)

For more info read the 'Green mining is a myth' report by FoE Europe, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/ylnmlith>

 **IMARC perpetuates extractivist thinking and action** - "Extractivism is an economic and developmental model fuelled by the unsustainable exploitation of Nature- from metals, minerals and fossil fuels to land, water and humans. This model is enabled by the ideological assumption that the Earth, less powerful people, and other-than-human life are resources to be exploited for the benefit of more powerful humans, without limit or consequence."

The definition is derived from The Gaia Foundation's position in Beyond Extractivism.
www.gaiafoundation.org/areas-of-work/beyond-extractivism/

 **Because we have way better ideas and practices** that should take up the time, energy and money that goes into mining and IMARC!!

We will talk about these later :)

and many other reasons!

organising with affinity groups

How can you get involved?

- Make your own with your friends/group! (see below some info on what they are and how to do that)
- Email us and we can find others who you can make one with
(community@blockadeimarc.com)
- If you wanna join the medics/wellbeing affinity groups email us
- Any other way you want :)

What are affinity groups?

An affinity group is a small group of people who come together to prepare for and take direct action. They make decisions together, and support each other during and after action. Sometimes these groups are formed just for one action, but often they are ongoing groups that organise and take part in actions over a number of years.

The 'affinity' between people in the group is something that they have in common. In general, people in an affinity group will be focused on taking action on the same issues, and share aims and tactics. Some affinity groups may also be structured around something else you have in common, such as living in the same place, or sharing a particular skill (e.g. action medics).

Affinity groups are often organised along the principles of non-hierarchy and autonomy. This means that decisions are made directly within the group by all its members, and responsibility and power is shared so that everyone has an equal voice.

Why work in affinity groups?

Participation and direct democracy

The idea of affinity groups is that everyone participates equally in making decisions and taking action together. This is not just an effective way of making sure people feel committed to the actions you're taking, it's also putting the values of equality and direct democracy into practice.

Autonomy

All important decisions are made within the group even if you are participating with others in a larger action. By working closely with a small group of people you can work out what's important for you, and then go out and make it happen. Your affinity group may be part of wider campaigns and networks, but you often only need to depend on yourselves throughout an action. This is especially the case if you work at building up skills within your affinity group, so you can cover the needs of everyone in your group.

Effectiveness

Affinity groups are able to make good use of resources. 10 groups of 10 people taking direct action can often achieve more than 100 people acting on mass. Because affinity groups can make decisions autonomously, they can react quickly and creatively if the situation changes. This also provides an element of uncertainty for the authorities. Many actions can be pulled off effectively with just a few people.

Support and sustainability

Having a group of people looking out for one another throughout actions or during a long and tiring campaign is an effective way to make sure everyone is cared for.

Stress, fear, police repression and campaign setbacks are all dealt with more easily as part of a group than on your own. Sharing needs and paying careful attention to each other's well-being before, during and after actions also helps the group be more sustainable and long lasting.

Security

Planning actions in small groups makes it much more likely they will happen without your action target or the police finding out about it first. Big planning meetings are much less secure than plans made with a small trusted group. Working in affinity groups also helps limit the damage if a movement has been infiltrated by undercover police or industry agents.

For more info -

www.seedsforchange.org.uk/affinitygroups

Ideas for your affinity group to do

Satellite groups taking on simultaneous actions

Blocking the road leading into the venue

Train station inside the venue (may need to be a ticket holder to have that info)

Focus on specific company

Conference beforehand with training in online and personal security

Related actions in lead up to build hype

Puppets, arts and lots of different music - famous musicians – get it pumping

First Nations input really early on regarding what is wanted - local and international

Community building, education

Target Victorian Government complicity

Festival / Carnival atmosphere

Elements of surprise – unexpected actions

Preparation for potential OC spray - training ahead of time

Make sure we have the people attending equipped

Trauma informed approach to actions

Space for debrief/decompress after acknowledging that trauma is cumulative

Lots of people taking footage and organising

Good well supported medics

Introductory leaflet for people joining

More outward looking building public support beforehand

And so much more stuff!!

direct action at blockade imarc '19 - maybe some ideas for tactics!



**This is from 2019 -
maybe an
indication of what
to expect**

(at) the

positive things:

direct action education for participants.

turning away entitled rich dudes.

seeing a genuine diversity of
voices.

staunch and amazing women
leading chants and making things
happen.

making new friends.

making our feelings
known to delegates.

working together to hold the line.

new and excellent chants invented.

perservering despite police violence.



blockade

locking arms and sharing moments
when the group became a
powerful force.

de-arrests and people physically
protecting each other.

the music, singing and slam poetry.

stressful things:

moments of vulnerability with the
line stretched thin.

watching corporate media, pro-cop spin.

feeling personally ineffective in
the moment.

issues with decision-making and strategy.

feeling powerless to get to the
front doors.

police violence and use of pepper
spray, especially after the banner
climb.



decentralised direct action

like a flock of birds, we're stronger together

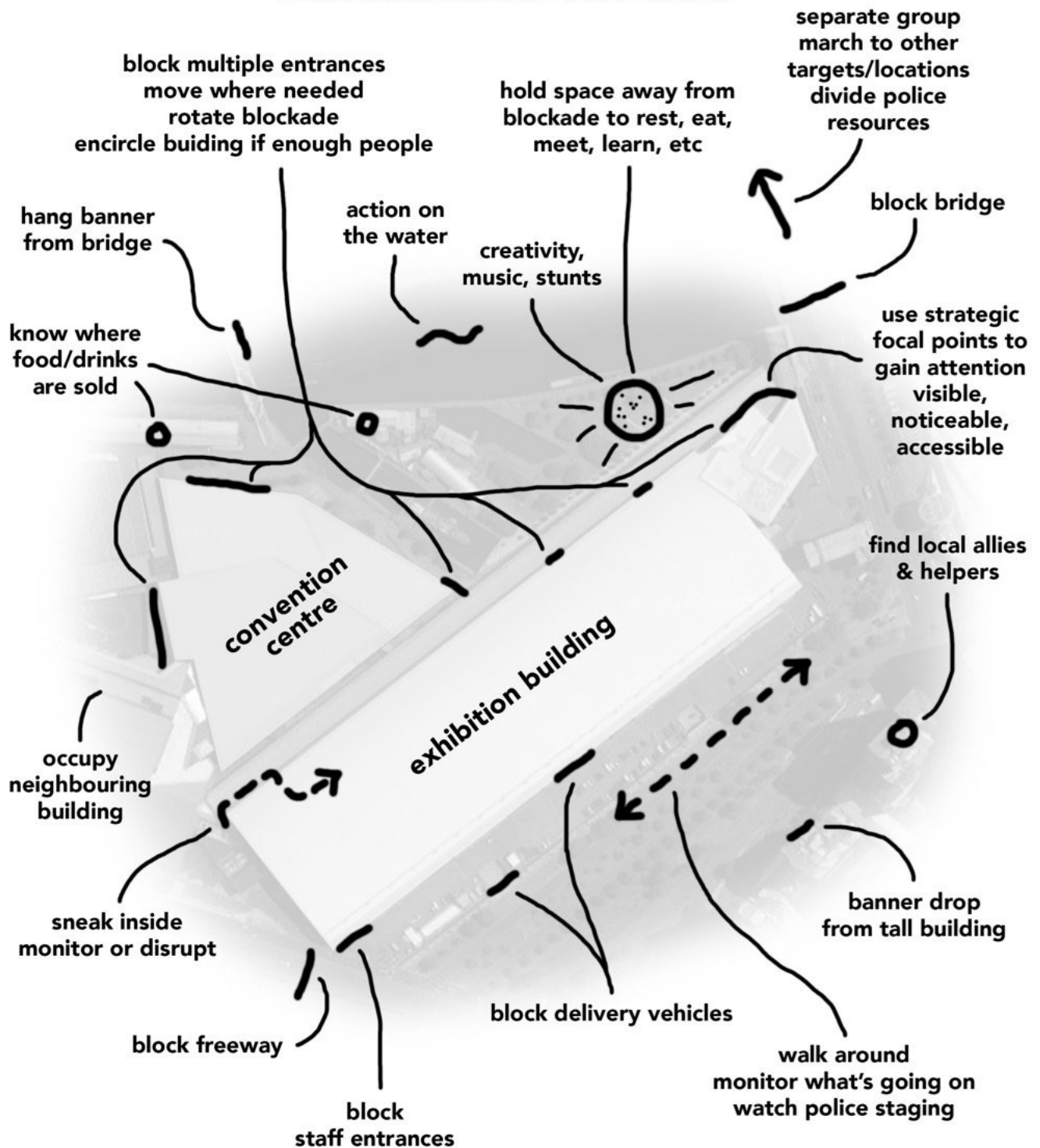


direct action against environmental destruction, colonialism, the state, capitalism, private property, etc, is defensive. property destruction is not violence. direct action works when it disrupts or blocks & forces power holders & hegemonic systems to concede to your demands or dreams. stop work, strike, blockade, picket, sit-in, sabotage, culturejam, hack, live alternatives, educate, share, support, care & collectivise!

**This is from 2019, imagine what can be done at the
Melbourne Showgrounds in 2022!**

blockading a building

decentralised direct action tactics



**make plans & backup plans, be adaptable, change when needed,
hold ground when strategic, be fluid when strategic, think critically and
autonomously and collectively, assess effectiveness, imagine big ideas,
take care of yourself & those around you, take breaks, rotate roles,
never talk to police (unless acting as police liaison)**

SUPPORTING

1

PREPARING AND PASSING AROUND FOOD, WATER, MASKS, AND SUNSCREEN.



2

DECONTAMINATION AND FIRST AID.

People guided protestors who were pepper sprayed by the police away from the blockade and to the volunteer medic station - where they stayed until they recovered.



DE-ARRESTING EACH OTHER.

3

People intervened when police targeted individuals at the blockade, making arresting people more difficult and often preventing arrest entirely.



EACH OTHER

ARRESTEE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY.

4

The arrestee support team kept track of everyone apprehended, and ensured that there were people waiting at the cop shop for their release. Arrestee solidarity continued for months, with people showing up en masse to each others court hearings.



DEBRIEFING.

5

Days ended with all-in debriefs and debriefs between affinity groups. This allowed people within and across collectives to emotionally support each other and share experiences, tactics and learnings from the day.

DE-ESCALATORY ACTIONS.

6

Many creative and playful actions were used to diffuse hostility, quell police brutality, and keep activists' energies high.



DEALING WITH PEPPERSPRAY

Protecting yourself and your friends from cop tactics

Get goggles to protect your eyes



Get a mask, to protect your face and prevent you from breathing it in



You can get your goggles and mask from a local hardware store

Also, you can hold a sign in front of your face to protect from pepperspray



What happens when you dont wear and mask and goggles?

Pepperspray burns your skin on contact and can last for hours. It gets in your eyes, causing burning pain, making it hard to open your eyes, which can cause people to panic

Decontamination

What to do if you get sprayed

Let the people around you know that you've been sprayed with pepperspray



Get someone to walk you over to the activist run street medic area, or call out for a medic if you can't find it.

Keep your hands by your side. Do not touch your face, or your eyes.

Once in the medic space, sit down with your hands flat out in front of you, touching the ground and wait for the medic's advice.

The street medics will decontaminate your eyes by wiping and flushing them with saline. They will then wipe off any other traces of the pepperspray. Listen to their instructions



Once decontaminated, please sit and relax for a while, to allow the effects of the pepperspray to completely wear off.

If you'd like to help and be part of the awesome street medic crew, please let the street medics know. You'll be trained up so you can help

self & collective care

taking care of ourselves and others is really important! here are some things you could do after the blockade...



journal
& reflect



do some
gardening



meditate or
listen to music



do some exercise



cry (if
you need!)



talk with friends & comrades

keep on
protesting &
organising!



see your
therapist



eat some
choccie



get some rest!

Invitation for dialogue (draft in progress)

Millions of people have been asking for change to protect land, water and life for a long time. As we observed most recently at COP26, governments and corporations are not listening.

The Protecting Land, Water and Life Coalition have drafted a non-exhaustive summary of the changes necessary to prevent the destruction caused by mining and extractive industries and create a healthier world, and how we can achieve them. We want to use this as an invitation to engage in dialogue.

Government and corporations hold the power to end this destruction. Realistically, while we would love to see governments and corporations enact these changes, we can't rely on them to do right by us because of the profit and growth focused ways they operate. To the governments and corporations: we invite you to prove us wrong.

Therefore we're also focusing on what everyday people, the 99%, can do to make this change a reality. We will create the world we know is possible when everyday people take power back into our own hands. This is why we're creating an expanded version of these objectives including ideas and examples from people who are already creating this new world, and ways that individuals and groups can be part of the change. (Contact us to help!)

We invite everyone, from the government, to the IMARC delegates, and anyone who agrees, disagrees with us or anywhere in between, to come on the 30th of January to start the dialogue with us. Then we can see who's serious about creating the change needed to stop the destruction and build something better.

Our non-exhaustive/draft objectives

Shut IMARC Down

- Close down the IMARC conference, and replace it with a conference working alongside communities on the frontline of mining, environmental protectors and those who attend IMARC.

Land Back

- Give land from mining companies back to indigenous people, and put an end to the practice of paying off 'Aboriginal corporations' and specific individuals from communities to gain land access. Communities also deserve justice and compensation for the wrongs done to them.
- Support developing nations who've been plundered by imperialism, cancel all Global South debt, and be responsible to those affected for the damage we've caused. Support communities and workers both dependent on extractivism and harmed by it to live and thrive sustainably.

Protect Land, Water and Life

- All of us, especially governments and corporations, need to move beyond extractivist thinking (thinking that anyone is entitled to extract land, water and/or life for profit), and learn from indigenous knowledge.
- Keep fossil fuels in the ground, decarbonise the economy and reduce methane emissions. Build ecologically-sustainable small-scale not for profit renewables.
- Stop all mining where frontline communities are opposed and/or it's damaging ecosystems. If we need minerals for projects that benefit people (not profit) we can mine the cities (if those living there agree to such mining). Link with 12 red lines.

- Understand what living sustainably and equitably actually means (i.e. tell the truth about the climate and ecological emergency), especially for those of us surrounded by and engaged in overproduction and overconsumption, and live this in practice.
- Make sustainable choices, easy choices. E.g. redistribute not growth, prohibit planned obsolescence, eliminate redundant trade, reduce the average working week (without decreasing wages), increase sharing, reduce car dependency, strictly regulate advertising, corporations, financial trading, usury, and commercial banking, ensure the right to repair, and ensure everyone has access to basic necessities.
- Ensure workers in destructive industries are given options for livelihoods that enhance community well-being, and that everyone is supported to develop and act on an understanding of the negative impacts of extractivism on country and culture.

End Corporate Immunity and Interference

- Eliminate for-profit mining and disband all mining companies that have been implicated in any human rights and/or environmental disasters or built projects without the consent of communities affected. Ban the directors of these companies from managing corporations.
- End greenwashing. Stop the lies of 'green growth' and 'green mining'. Reject false solutions that are displacing real, people-first solutions to the climate crisis.
- Recognise that communities have the Right to Say No to extractivist projects.
- End the privatisation of public resources and places, reduce/limit private debt and reduce rent extraction/distribute assets.

- Acknowledge GDP isn't a measure of wellbeing and that we need to stop our economy and policy makers' dependence on growing it.
- Build well-being focused, growth agnostic, democratic resilient communities.

What would you add or change to these objectives?

How are you part of working towards them?

How could you be part of making this better world we know is possible?

We got a lot of our information and inspiration from the:

People's demands for climate justice

Key recommendations from the 'Green mining' is a myth report

Principles towards a just transformation in the Lithium

Communique #1: On the Frontlines of Lithium Extraction by Yes to Life No to Mining

Societal Transformation Scenario staying below 1.5C report

Links to good summer readings:

Why we don't make demands - Crimethinc -

<https://crimethinc.com/2015/05/05/feature-why-we-dont-make-demands>

Blockade IMARC 2019 zine -

<https://blockadeimarc.com/zine-we-have-a-world-to-win/>

Green mining is a myth report -

<https://friendsoftheearth.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Green-mining-myth-report.pdf>

We can't mine our way out of climate crisis, article in the Ecologist by Hannibal Rhoades and Andy Whitmore, 25th May 2021-

<https://theecologist.org/2021/may/25/we-cant-mine-our-way-out-climate-crisis>

Videos about challenging greenwashing and extractivism from the Peoples Climate Summit that happened during COP26 -

<https://yestolifenotomining.org/latest-news/ylnm-at-cop26/>

Mememes we made about the Mines and Money conference 2021

(which is a conference connected to IMARC)



Your next task is to prioritise the wellbeing and autonomy of frontline communities endangered by mining and the climate crisis



What we are fighting for:

Shut IMARC Down

Land Back

Protect Land, Water and Life

End Corporate Immunity and Interference

The world needs you to get involved!

**See you at the
end of Jan 2022**