

Electoral Commissioner

Dear Members and Senators,

Referendum 2023 – Print specifications for Yes/No cases pamphlet

I am writing to provide information regarding the arrangements and role of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in relation to the referendum pamphlet, should the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 Bill be passed by Parliament.

The *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (the Act) sets out the requirements for the preparation and distribution of the pamphlet (referendum pamphlet) containing the arguments for and against the proposed law to change the Constitution.

As outlined in Section 11 of the Referendum Act, the Yes or No cases will be prepared by Members of the Parliament who voted for or against the proposed law and desire to forward such an argument. The AEC is not responsible for the authoring of the Yes or No cases; this is a matter for Parliament. The AEC is responsible for the printing and distribution of the referendum pamphlet to all addresses on the electoral roll no later than 14 days before polling day.

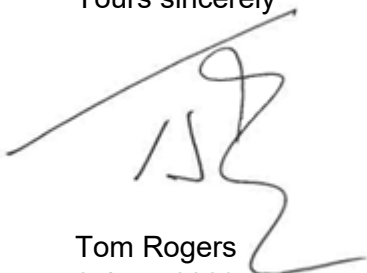
To assist in the smooth submission of the Yes or No cases to the AEC, I will write to Parliamentarians immediately following the passage of the Bill to provide detailed specifications for the referendum pamphlet. The specifications will include information about the process, word count, how to authorise and submit a case and a sample layout of the referendum pamphlet.

There are some key points that I would like to draw your attention to in preparing each case:

- The AEC must receive the Yes or No case(s) by 11:59pm AEST on the 28th day following the passage of the Bill to be included in the referendum pamphlet.
- The Yes or No cases must be no more than 2,000 words. If a case is more than 2,000 words, it cannot be accepted.
- The AEC does not have the authority to edit or amend a Yes or No cases. Should a case be submitted with a typographical error, it will be published with the typographical error.
- Market research commissioned by the AEC indicates a strong preference for the use of simple, respectful language in plain English. This will also assist in translating each case.

The AEC looks forward to engaging proactively with you to support the preparation and distribution of the referendum pamphlet.

Yours sincerely



Tom Rogers
8 June 2023