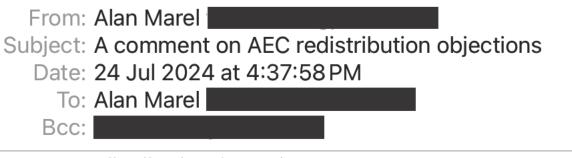




Comment on Objections 112

Alan Marel

2 pages



Dear Redistribution Committee,

I would like to make a short comment on the objection by Kirsty Gold : # 618

I agree wholeheartedly with her comments and would draw the committee's attention to her description of the "remarkable revival of civic engagement in Warringah and North Sydney, uniting thousands of residents from diverse backgrounds and age groups", many of whom were first time participants in this democratic process.

Literally thousands of people in these two electorates volunteered to help with the campaigns that resulted in the successful election of strong, articulate female independent candidates in both Warringah and North Sydney. In the forty years that our family has lived in Warringah we had never seen such engagement politically, nor the grassroots support that arose and grew, for any political candidate. Previously many people did not see any point in voting as the same major political party would always win in these electorates.

These grassroots movements, by the people, for the people, should not be ignored, as they have brought a level of community, unity and pride that has not existed in either electorate before. Both electorates should be rewarded for their political engagement, and as examples of true democracy. If either electorate were to be dissolved it would be a victory for the major political parties, and would diminish the value of the democratic process and the voices and wishes of the constituents in both electorates.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Marel