



Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

Media Release

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AEC Referendum Entity Returns

The AEC's recent Entity Returns report has confirmed what many had already begun to suspect; The Voice's Yes campaign was a priority for elites, activists, and corporations, while the No campaign was supported by everyday mums and dads.

Despite the Yes campaign outspending the No campaign more than two to one, hardworking families across the North-West, West Coast and King Island recognised that the Voice would not achieve the practical outcomes for our most marginalised.

Corporate donations to the Yes campaign:

- ANZ Bank (\$2.5m), Woodside Energy (\$2.18m), Commonwealth Bank (\$2m), Westpac (\$2.04m), BHP (\$2m), Rio Tinto (\$2m) and Woolworths (\$1.56m).
- Paul Ramsay Foundation (\$7m), Givia ATF Yajilarra Trust (\$4.4m), City of Sydney Council (\$310,624).
- Australian Education Union (\$1m), the Australian Council of Trade Union spending (\$883,685), The Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union (\$182,335).

Federal Member for Braddon, Gavin Pearce MP, said large corporations around the nation have their focus in the wrong place, especially when Australian's are doing it so tough during this cost-of-living crisis.

“What I'm hearing as I travel around is that families are doing it tough, mum and dad businesses are doing it tough, small and medium sized businesses are doing it tough. Our large corporate businesses have a responsibility that's for sure, but one thing they should stay well clear of is wasting their money funding political campaigns.”

“I can think of endless ways that money could have been invested in our region that would have made a meaningful difference and yielded a return many times over. Pouring it into a political campaign that tried to ram city-based ideology down the throat of regional communities is not one of them.”

The release of these figures, combined with the referendum results, demonstrates that this Albanese Labor Government is of one mind with corporate Australia, while the Liberal National Coalition remains focussed on the priorities of everyday Australians.

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