

No campaign uses age-old tactic of fear

The No campaign's dependence on fear and untruths suggests the workings of an ancient human response to crisis - scapegoating ("Why Dutton could be the Yes saviour", August 4). The No campaign's main champion, the Coalition, is saddled with a history of hubris, fraud, poor leadership and ineptitude.

Solution to this electoral crisis? Deflect attention and find unity by blaming, attacking or dragging someone else down. The fingers must point to someone not inclined to revenge, someone vulnerable and the Indigenous peoples fit the bill. Feed the public with accusations that they will wreck our system and steal our money and, once again, it's the scapegoat to the rescue. How low can you go?

Susan Connelly, Lakemba

Whatever the merits associated with the Voice, it was appalling to watch the vitriolic debate between Dutton and Anthony Albanese on the floor of parliament. The whole exercise has just become a slanging match. Even if the Voice referendum is successful, it is hard to see how there will be a civil debate in the parliament when it comes to legislating the details of the make-up and powers of the Voice.

Phil Peak, Dubbo

The insincerity of the Coalition is displayed by the fact that not one of the federal opposition's

shadow front bench will attend the Garma Festival ("Dutton, PM get fiercer on Voice agenda", August 4). Peter Dutton and his "No-alition" claim to be in touch with regional First Nations people, yet despite invitations to attend Garma to listen, they refuse. There's no doubt who wants to racially divide this nation and it's Dutton and his party of colonial white privilege.

Mark Berg, Carlingbah South

Can the PM answer a question? How will a politically appointed group of Indigenous representatives in Canberra give voice to a community in Kununurra and its elders? Stop focusing on Dutton and start answering the questions most are asking.

Brian Barrett, Padstow

If October 14 is to be the date of the referendum, it couldn't have a better historical context ("The PM should fire the starting gun on referendum date", August 4).

The Battle of Hastings occurred on that date in 1066. When William landed at Pevensey on the coast, he slipped over in the sand. A bad omen, his soldiers thought. On getting up, William scooped up a handful of sand. "Look," he shouted, "I have England in my hand already." Let's hope Australians see the Voice as the remarkable opportunity it is, to forge a future we can be proud of.

Bob Sellinger, Eastwood